

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SITE A (LEIGH SINTON)
MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

**Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
SITE A (LEIGH SINTON)
MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

Grade/Subgrade	ha	% of site
3b	1.8	100

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in October 1995. An Agricultural Land Classification survey was undertaken according to the guidelines laid down in the "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land" (MAFF 1988).
- 2.2 The 1.8 ha site is situated immediately to the south of Leigh Sinton. The land to the north, east and west of the site is predominantly in urban use. The land to the south is being used to grow christmas trees.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with Malvern Hills District Local Plan.
- 2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a detailed grid survey at 1:10000 with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The attached map is only accurate at the base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.
- 2.5 At the time of the survey the site was planted with young christmas trees.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 780507) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	681
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1448

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	151
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	103
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	94

4 SITE

4.1 Three site factors of gradient, micro relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.

4.2 These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of the land.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Mudstones. This is overlain with deposits of loamy drift - Soils of Worcester and the Malverns district - Soil Survey of England and Wales.

5.2 The soils derived from the parent material have a clay loam texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 1.8 ha (100%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class IV.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

6.2 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area
3b	1.8	100
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Totals	1.8	100
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