

2011/097B/93

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**SWALE LOCAL PLAN (FAVERSHAM)  
SITE 9: NORTH OF ABBOTS ROAD  
AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
ALC MAP AND SUMMARY REPORT  
JULY, 1993**

## SWALE LOCAL PLAN (FAVERSHAM)

### SITE 9: NORTH OF ABBOTS ROAD, FAVERSHAM

#### AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

##### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. In December 1990, a detailed Agricultural Land Classification, (ALC), survey was carried out on approximately 69 hectares of land at Abbey Farm, Faversham. The work was undertaken in response to MAFF being consulted on the Faversham Local Plan. In May 1993, ADAS was commissioned by MAFF's Land Use Planning Unit to determine the quality of agricultural land for part of the same site now under consideration for inclusion in the Swale Borough Local Plan.
- 1.2. The 1990 survey was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team, ADAS, Reading at an observation density of approximately one boring per hectare. The site was graded in accordance with MAFF's revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land (MAFF, 1988). These guidelines provide a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long term limitations on its use for agriculture.

New survey work was not necessary to determine the land quality of site 9  
Information has simply been extracted from the previous survey.

- 1.3. The distribution of the grades and subgrades is shown on the attached ALC map an extract from the map of the larger survey of 1990. The area and extent of grades are given in the table below. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:5000. It is accurate at this scale, but any enlargement may be misleading.

Table 1 : Distribution of Grades and Subgrades

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Area (ha)</u>	<u>% of Agricultural Area</u>
3a	7.79	100
Total agricultural area	<u>7.79</u>	<u>100</u>
Total area of site	<u>7.79</u> ha	

- 1.4. A general description of the grades and land-use categories identified in this survey is provided as an appendix. The grades are described in terms of the type of limitation that can occur, the typical cropping range and the expected level and consistency of yield.

- 1.5. The site has been assigned to grade 3a, good quality agricultural land. The land has been worked for brickearth in the past and soils were found to show evidence of disturbance. The occurrence of brick, rubble, sand lenses and stones in otherwise well drained, fine loamy soils results in a soil droughtiness limitation such that grade 3a is appropriate.

July 1993

MAFF Ref: EL 20/245

ADAS Ref: 2011/40/90

Resource Planning Team  
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