

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
MALVERN HILLS LOCAL PLAN  
CAMP SITE (16/006)**

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## **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR MALVERN HILLS LOCAL PLAN, CAMP SITE (16/006)**

### **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
4	15.5	68
5	4.1	18
Other land		
Urban	3.0	14

- 1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Grade 4 are soil depth and soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 5 is soil depth.
- 1.4 The site has been disturbed in the past due to its previous use as a military camp site. Exposed foundations and rubble are still visible in various parts of the site.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in June 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 22.9 ha site is situated to the east of Malvern Wells and the Three Counties Showground. The majority of the land immediately surrounding the site is predominantly in agricultural use. However, land immediately adjoining the site in the south west and north east is being used as business parks.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the malvern Hills 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 under grass which was being grazed by horses from the riding school in the west of the site.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 798424) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	688
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1462

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	155
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	105
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	97

### 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 geology of the area is comprised of mudstones and drift (Head ) from the Malvern Hills.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a clay loam texture.

## **6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

**6.1 Grade 4 - occupies 15.5 ha (68%) of the survey area.**

**6.1.1** These soils typically have a clay loam texture overlying concrete foundations at depths of 15 to 20cm. There are variable amounts of rubble in the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 4. This unit also contains auger borings of Grade 5 and Subgrade 3b quality, but these cannot be shown separately at this scale of mapping.

**6.1.2** The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are soil depth and soil droughtiness.

**6.2 Grade 5 - occupies 4.1 ha (18%) of the survey area and is found mainly in the south west of the site.**

**6.2.1** The soil has a clay loam or a sandy loam texture over concrete foundations at depths of up to 15cm.

**6.2.2** The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil depth.

**6.3** This land has been disturbed to varying degrees by its previous use as a military camp site. Exposed foundations and rubble are still visible in parts of the site.

**6.4** Other land includes urban which occupies 3.3 ha (14%) of the survey area as old access routes, demolished buildings and the riding school.

## 6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

<b>Grade/Sub-grade</b>	<b>Area in Hectares</b>	<b>% of Survey Area</b>	<b>% of Agricultural Land</b>
4	15.5	68	80
5	4.1	18	20
Other land			
Urban	3.3	14	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>