

**REPORT OF THE MAFF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SURVEY (1988) -  
WORCESTER ROAD/NORTH END LANE MALVERN**

**Summary:**

The land has been classified following the Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land (MAFF, 1988). All the agricultural land surveyed is classified as sub-grade 3b. Land primarily in non-agricultural use includes woodland and agricultural buildings.

**1 Introduction**

The survey work was carried out 11, 12 and 16 January 1990. A auger boring survey on a 100 m grid was completed and soil pits were dug as required.

**2 Climatic Limitations:**

The main parameters used in the assessment of the climatic limitations are average annual rainfall (AAR), as a measure of overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (ATO), as a measure of the relative warmth of the locality. The figures of AAR and ATO indicate that there are no climatic limitations on this site.

**3 Site Limitations:**

The assessment of site factors is primarily concerned at the way in which topography influences the use of agricultural machinery and hence the cropping potential of the land. There are no site limitations affecting the use of the land.

**4 Soil Limitations:**

The main soil properties which affect the cropping potential and management requirement of land are texture, structure, depth, stoniness and chemical fertility. These may act as limitations separately, in combination or through interactions with climate or site factors. The physical limitations which result from interactions with climate or site are soil wetness, droughtiness and erosion. Soil wetness, which expresses the extent to which excess water imposes restrictions on crop growth, is the main interactive limitation affecting the grading on this site. Soil wetness is assessed in the field by identifying the depth to any slowly permeable soil horizon, defined in terms of soil texture of the top 25 cm. Combining the soil wetness class and the field capacity days (FCD) a land classification grade is arrived at. Reference will be made to this limitation in Section 7.

5 **Background information:**

No detailed geological information is available.

The underlying geology is mapped as Keuper Marl in the vicinity of this site (Geological Map of the UK, scale 1:625 000).

6 **Agricultural Land Use:**

At the time of the survey, January 1990, the land under cereals, grass, Brussel Sprouts, or had been ploughed.

7 **Agricultural Land Quality (Appendix I)**

Sub Grade 3b: the soil typically has either a heavy clay loam or heavy silty clay loam texture overlying clay at depths of between 28 and 50 cms. Observations of the depth to the slowly permeable layer and gleying combined with a field capacity day figure of 154 and topsoil texture indicate either wetness class IV or where the slowly permeable layer is lower down the profile wetness class III and a classification of sub-grade 3b.

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

Non-Agricultural Land: This includes woodland areas and buildings.

MALVERN - AGRICULTURAL LAND QUALITY

GRADE/ Sub-grade	ha	as % of total area	as % of agricultural area
3b	70.0	95	100
Non-agricultural:			
Woodland and other land	3.1	4	
Buildings	0.5	1	
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	73.6	100	
 TOTAL		100	100

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Wolverhampton  
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