

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
MALVERN HILLS LOCAL PLAN, POST OFFICE LANE, KEMPSEY
18/38/G/12**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
MALVERN HILLS LOCAL PLAN, POST OFFICE LANE, KEMPSEY, 18/38/G/12**

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
3a	0.8	11.9
3b	5.9	88.1

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

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in May 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 6.7 ha site is situated to the east of Kempsey, between Post Office Lane and Hatfield Brook. The land is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with Malvern 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 cereals with a strip of land along Hatfield Brook in Set Aside.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 857 492) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	633
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1490

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	136
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	111
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	105

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 a reddish clayey material passing to mudstone at depth. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary loamy drift.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 0.8 ha (11.9%) of the survey area and is found in the central south of the site bordering Post Office Lane.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam or clay loam over clay and mudstone to depth with few or no stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils into Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 5.9 ha (88.1%) of the survey area and is found over the remaining site area.

6.2.1 The soils have a clay loam texture over clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils into Wetness Class IV.

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

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	0.8	11.9	11.9
3b	5.9	88.1	88.1
Totals	6.7	100.0	100.0