

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATIONBASINGSTOKE AND DEANE BOROUGH LOCAL PLANSITE 1: LAND ADJACENT TO OLD KEMPSHOTT LANE (KITE HILL), BASINGSTOKE1. Summary

1.1 ADAS was commissioned by MAFF's Land Use Planning Unit to provide information on land quality on 22 sites around Basingstoke in Hampshire. The work forms part of MAFF's input to the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Local Plan.

1.2 Approximately 11 hectares of land relating to site 1 at Old Kempshott Lane (Kite Hill), Basingstoke, Hampshire was surveyed during March 1993. The survey was undertaken at a detailed level of approximately one boring per hectare. A total of 12 soil auger borings and two soil inspection pits were described 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 agricultural use.

At the time of survey the land was in a ploughed state.

1.3 The distribution of the grades and sub-grades is shown on the attached ALC map and the areas 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.

Distribution of Grades and Sub-grades

	<u>Area(ha)</u>	<u>% total agricultural land</u>
Grade 2	10.4	95.4
3a	<u>0.5</u>	<u>4.6</u>
Total agricultural area	<u>10.9</u>	<u>100</u>

1.4 Appendix 1 gives a general description of the grades and sub-grades and land use categories.

1.5 The majority of the site has been classified as grade 2. Fine loamy and clayey soils are well drained but typically suffer from a slight droughtiness limitation due to a combination of soil textures and profile stone content.

1.6 To the extreme south soft pure chalk is found beneath the topsoil and land is limited by moderate droughtiness imperfections to sub-grade 3a.

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