

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
MALVERN HILLS LOCAL PLAN
BIGHT FARM, KEMPSEY
(18/38/G/01 & 18/38/01/02)**

**M J W WOOD
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
MALVERN HILLS LOCAL PLAN, BIGHT FARM, KEMPSEY
(18/38/G/01 & 18/38/01/02)**

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
2	4.5	54
3a	3.8	46

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.

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 8.3 ha site is situated to the south of Kempsey, near Worcester. The land immediately to the north east and north west of the site is predominantly in urban use. The land to the south and south west is in agricultural use.
- 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 maize and vegetables.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 852458) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	634
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1492

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)	112
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	106

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 Quaternary glaciofluvial deposits.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 4.5 ha (54%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam or sandy clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam, loamy sand and sand to depth, with few to common stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2. Occasionally sandy clay or clay may be present below 80cm.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 3.8ha (46%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soil has a sandy clay loam or sandy loam texture over loamy sand and sand to depth, with few to common stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

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

6.3 A strip of land (approximately 2m wide) has been planted to form a line of young trees in the north west part of the site. This cannot be shown accurately at this scale of mapping.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area
3a	4.5	54
3b	3.8	46
Totals	8.3	100