

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
MALVERN HILLS LOCAL PLAN  
MALVERN WELLS (16/008)**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR  
MALVERN HILLS LOCAL PLAN, MALVERN WELLS (16/008)**

**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
3b	7.0	100

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b 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 7.0 ha site is situated to the east of Malvern Wells. The land immediately to the north, south and west of the site is predominantly in urban use. The land to the east 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 grass.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 778425) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	705
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1411

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	159
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	99
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	89

### 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 very stony drift (Head) material on the eastern flank of the Malverns.

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

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 7 ha (100%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a sandy silt loam texture overlying sandy loam or sandy clay loam over loamy coarse sand to depth. The profiles have many stones in the topsoil and become very to extremely stony in the subsoil. The moisture balance places these soils in to Subgrade 3b.

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

### 6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area
3b	7.0	100
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<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>100</b>
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