

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SITE B (CRADLEY)
MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

**Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
SITE B (CRADLEY)
MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

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	1.5	88
3b	0.2	12

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

1.3 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 October 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 1.7 ha site is situated to the west of Cradley. The land to the north east is in urban use. The land to the south and west is in agricultural use.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with Malvern Hills District 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 under various horticultural crops and fallow.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 733469) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	696
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1422

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	161
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	102
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	91

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 head deposits - Soils of Worcester and the Malverns district, Soil Survey of England and Wales.

5.2 The soils developed from this parent material have a clay loam texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 1.5 ha (88 %) of the survey area and is found mainly in the west of the site.

6.1.1 The soil has a clay loam texture over silty clay to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer, place these soils in Wetness Class III. Occasionally soil profiles may have sandy silt loam textures within them.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 0.2 ha (12 %) of the survey area and is found in the east of the site.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam to 45 cm depth, with many stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils in Subgrade 3b.

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

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area
3a	1.5	88
3b	0.2	12
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Totals	1.7	100
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