

**A1
Canterbury Local Plan
RUR 2: Land Between
Bridge Village And A2
Agricultural Land Classification
ALC Map and Report
May 1995**

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT

CANTERBURY LOCAL PLAN LAND BETWEEN BRIDGE VILLAGE AND A2

1. Summary

- 1.1 ADAS was commissioned by MAFF's Land Use Planning Unit to provide information on land quality for a number of sites in the Canterbury district of Kent. This forms part of MAFF's input to the preparation of the Canterbury Local Plan.
- 1.2 During March 1995 13 hectares of land between Bridge village and the A2, near Canterbury, in Kent was surveyed. The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey was undertaken at a detailed level of approximately one boring per hectare. A total of 10 auger borings and one soil inspection pit were assessed 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 use for agriculture.
- 1.3 The work was carried out by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Guildford Statutory Group of ADAS.
- 1.4 At the time of survey the majority of the agricultural land was under Oilseed Rape, however, at the south eastern end the site was under permanent grassland. The Non-Agricultural land that has been mapped comprises a recreation ground with an area of hard standing shown as Urban. Adjacent to the A2 a small area of woodland was also present.
- 1.5 The distribution of grades and subgrades is shown on the attached ALC map and the areas are given in Table 1 below. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:10,000. It is accurate at this scale, but any enlargement would be misleading. This information supersedes any previous ALC information for this site.

Table 1 : Distribution of Grades and Subgrades

Grade	Area (ha)	% of Site	% of Agricultural Land
1	7.3	56.1	73.7
2	2.6	20.0	<u>26.3</u>
Non-Agricultural	2.2	17.0	100% (9.9 ha)
Urban	0.6	4.6	
Woodland	<u>0.3</u>	<u>2.3</u>	
Total area of site	13.0	100%	

- 1.6 Appendix I gives a general description of the grades, subgrades and land use categories identified in the survey. The main classes are described in terms of the type of limitation that can occur, the typical cropping range and the expected level and consistency of yield.

1.7 The majority of the site has been classified as Grade 1 (excellent quality) land with an area of Grade 2 (very good quality) in the south east. The soils on the Grade 1 land are derived from Head Brickearth and as such comprise deep, very slightly or slightly stony, freely draining silt loams over silty clay loams. The Grade 2 land comprises profiles of similar texture and drainage status which are slightly to moderately stony and are thus subject to a slight soil droughtiness limitation.

2. Climate

2.1 The climatic criteria are considered first when classifying land as climate can be overriding in the sense that severe limitations will restrict land to low grades irrespective of favourable site or soil conditions.

2.2 The main parameters used in the assessment of an overall climatic limitation are average annual rainfall, as a measure of overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (day degrees Celsius, Jan-June), as a measure of the relative warmth of a locality.

2.3 A detailed assessment of the prevailing climate was made by interpolation from a 5km gridpoint dataset (Met. Office, 1989). The details are given in the table below and these show that there is no overall climatic limitation affecting the site. However, climatic factors do interact with soil properties to influence soil wetness and droughtiness limitations. At this locality the crop adjusted soil moisture deficits are relatively high (in regional terms) thus increasing the likelihood of a soil droughtiness limitation.

2.4 No local climatic factors such as exposure or frost risk are believed to affect the site.

Table 2 : Climatic Interpolation

Grid Reference	TR 185 545
Altitude (m)	25
Accumulated Temperature (day degrees, Jan-June)	1469
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	713
Field Capacity (days)	148
Moisture Deficit, Wheat (mm)	118
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes (mm)	115
Overall Climatic Grade	1

3. Relief

3.1 The land on this site is relatively flat, lying at approximately 25-30m AOD. Nowhere on the site does altitude or relief impose limitations to agricultural land quality.

4. Geology and Soil

- 4.1 The relevant geological sheet (BGS, 1982) maps the north west of the site as head brickearth and the south east as alluvium. The Upper Chalk underlies these drift deposits and is shown to outcrop at either end of the site.
- 4.2 The most recently published soil information for the site (SSEW, 1983) shows the Coombe 1 soil association across the site with the Hamble 1 association mapped nearby. The Coombe 1 soils are described as 'Well drained calcareous fine silty soils, deep in valley bottoms, shallow to chalk on valley sides in places. Slight risk of water erosion.' (SSEW, 1983).
- 4.3 The Soils of Kent (1980), however, show the Hamble soil series in association with the brickearth and the Newchurch series over the alluvium. The former are described as 'Silty soils in brickearth associated with loamy soils in Thanet and Woolwich Beds; free drainage, locally with slight impedance.' (SSEW, 1980). The latter are 'Calcareous clayey marshland soils affected by fluctuating groundwater.' (SSEW, 1980).
- 4.3 Detailed field survey broadly confirms the existence of soils similar to those described as the Hamble 1 association over the brickearth and those closer to the Coombe 1 association in the south east. The soils of the Newchurch series were not identified on the site.

5. Agricultural Land Classification

- 5.1 Table 1 provides the details of the area measurements for each grade and the distribution of each grade is shown on the attached ALC map.
- 5.2 The location of the soil observation points are shown on the attached sample point map.

5.3 Grade 1

Land classified as Grade 1 (excellent quality) has been mapped across the north west of the site. Pit 1 represents the soils in this mapping unit. These profiles comprise very slightly or slightly flinty (1-10% total stone & 1-2% >2cm) silt loam topsoils over moderately structured upper subsoils of similar texture and stone content. At between 50-70cm depth a stoneless medium silty clay loam lower subsoil, with similar subsoil structural conditions, occurs and continues to depth. These profiles are deep and free draining, thus, under favourable climatic conditions, the land will experience little or no limitations to agricultural land use.

5.4 Grade 2

Land of Grade 2 (very good quality) occurs in the south east of the site, adjacent to the Nail Bourne.. The soil profiles comprise slightly flinty (8-10% & 2-3% >2cm) calcareous, silt loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils over similar upper subsoils, in most instances. At between 30-65cm from the surface a calcareous medium silty clay loam subsoil occurs containing 2-45% chalk fragments. Most borings become impenetrable to the soil auger at this point though some comprise deeper horizons containing up to 60% chalk fragments.

Others possess deeper silt loam upper subsoils over chalky gravel at 65cm depth. Where the profiles become impenetrable it is thought that the chalk bedrock may occur. This land also appears to be a little disturbed as the horizons are slightly mixed. At borings 9 and 10 the horizons have been somewhat generalised for ease of recording but are actually a complicated mixture. This is not believed to adversely affect agricultural land quality as the soil are light in texture and show no signs of compaction. However, the chalk and flint content throughout the profiles slightly reduce the amount of profile available water for plants and thus slightly inhibit crop growth and yields. In this relatively dry climatic regime this land is subject to a minor soil droughtiness limitation.

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Resource Planning Team
Guildford Statutory Group
ADAS Reading

SOURCES OF REFERENCE

British Geological Survey (1982), Sheet No. 289, Canterbury, 1:50,000 Scale (solid & drift edition).

MAFF (1988), Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales : Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land.

Meteorological Office (1989), Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification.

Soil Survey of England and Wales (1980), Bulletin No. 9, Soils of Kent and accompanying maps at 1:250,000 scale.

Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983), Sheet 6, Soils of South East England, and accompanying legend.

APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRADES AND SUBGRADES

Grade 1 : Excellent Quality Agricultural Land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

Grade 2 : Very Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural or horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land of this grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1 land.

Grade 3 : Good to Moderate Quality Land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, the timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. When more demanding crops are grown, yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

Subgrade 3a : Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops.

Subgrade 3b : Moderate Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass, or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year.

Grade 4 : Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or the level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (eg. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

Grade 5 : Very Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.

Urban

Built-up or 'hard' uses with relatively little potential for a return to agriculture including: housing, industry, commerce, education, transport, religious buildings, cemeteries. Also, hard-surfaced sports facilities, permanent caravan sites and vacant land; all types of derelict land, including mineral workings which are only likely to be reclaimed using derelict land grants.

Non-agricultural

'Soft' uses where most of the land could be returned relatively easily to agriculture, including: private parkland, public open spaces, sports fields, allotments and soft-surfaced areas on airports. Also active mineral workings and refuse tips where restoration conditions to 'soft' after-uses may apply.

Woodland

Includes commercial and non-commercial woodland. A distinction may be made as necessary between farm and non-farm woodland.

Agricultural Buildings

Includes the normal range of agricultural buildings as well as other relatively permanent structures such as glasshouses. Temporary structures (eg. polythene tunnels erected for lambing) may be ignored.

Open Water

Includes lakes, ponds and rivers as map scale permits.

Land Not Surveyed

Agricultural land which has not been surveyed.

Where the land use includes more than one of the above, eg. buildings in large grounds, and where map scale permits, the cover types may be shown separately. Otherwise, the most extensive cover type will be shown.

APPENDIX II

FIELD ASSESSMENT OF SOIL WETNESS CLASS

SOIL WETNESS CLASSIFICATION

Soil wetness is classified according to the depth and duration of waterlogging in the soil profile. Six soil wetness classes are identified and are defined in the table below.

Definition of Soil Wetness Classes

Wetness Class	Duration of Waterlogging ¹
I	The soil profile is not wet within 70 cm depth for more than 30 days in most years. ²
II	The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for 31-90 days in most years or, if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80 cm depth, it is wet within 70 cm for more than 90 days, but only wet within 40 cm depth for 30 days in most years.
III	The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for 91-180 days in most years or, if there is no slowly permeable layer present within 80 cm depth, it is wet within 70 cm for more than 180 days, but only wet within 40 cm depth for between 31-90 days in most years.
IV	The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for more than 180 days but not wet within 40 cm depth for more than 210 days in most years or, if there is no slowly permeable layer present within 80 cm depth, it is wet within 40 cm depth for 91-210 days in most years.
V	The soil profile is wet within 40 cm depth for 211-335 days in most years.
VI	The soil profile is wet within 40 cm depth for more than 335 days in most years.

Soils can be allocated to a wetness class on the basis of quantitative data recorded over a period of many years or by the interpretation of soil profile characteristics, site and climatic factors. Adequate quantitative data will rarely be available for ALC surveys and therefore the interpretative method of field assessment is used to identify soil wetness class in the field. The method adopted here is common to ADAS and the SSLRC.

¹The number of days specified is not necessarily a continuous period.

²'In most years' is defined as more than 10 out of 20 years.

APPENDIX III

SOIL PIT AND SOIL BORING DESCRIPTIONS

Contents :

Soil Abbreviations - Explanatory Note

Soil Pit Descriptions

Database Printout - Boring Level Information

Database Printout - Horizon Level Information

SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTIONS : EXPLANATORY NOTE

Soil pit and auger boring information collected during ALC fieldwork is held on a computer database. This uses notations and abbreviations as set out below.

Boring Header Information

1. **GRID REF** : national 100 km grid square and 8 figure grid reference.
2. **USE** : Land use at the time of survey. The following abbreviations are used.

ARA : Arable	WHT : Wheat	BAR : Barley
CER : Cereals	OAT : Oats	MZE : Maize
OSR : Oilseed rape	BEN : Field Beans	BRA : Brassicae
POT : Potatoes	SBT : Sugar Beet	FCD : Fodder Crops
LIN : Linseed	FRT : Soft and Top Fruit	FLW : Fallow
PGR : Permanent Pasture	LEY : Ley Grass	RGR : Rough Grazing
SCR : Scrub	CFW : Coniferous Woodland	DCW : Deciduous Wood
HTH : Heathland	BOG : Bog or Marsh	FLW : Fallow
PLO : Ploughed	SAS : Set aside	OTH : Other
HRT : Horticultural Crops		

3. **GRDNT** : Gradient as estimated or measured by a hand-held optical clinometer.
4. **GLEY/SPL** : Depth in centimetres (cm) to gleying and/or slowly permeable layers.
5. **AP (WHEAT/POTS)** : Crop-adjusted available water capacity.
6. **MB (WHEAT/POTS)** : Moisture Balance. (Crop adjusted AP - crop adjusted MD)
7. **DRT** : Best grade according to soil droughtiness.
8. If any of the following factors are considered significant, 'Y' will be entered in the relevant column.

MREL : Microrelief limitation **FLOOD** : Flood risk **EROSN** : Soil erosion risk
EXP : Exposure limitation **FROST** : Frost prone **DIST** : Disturbed land
CHEM : Chemical limitation

9. **LIMIT** : The main limitation to land quality. The following abbreviations are used.

OC : Overall Climate	AE : Aspect	EX : Exposure
FR : Frost Risk	GR : Gradient	MR : Microrelief
FL : Flood Risk	TX : Topsoil Texture	DP : Soil Depth
CH : Chemical	WE : Wetness	WK : Workability
DR : Drought	ER : Erosion Risk	WD : Soil Wetness/Droughtiness
ST : Topsoil Stoniness		

Soil Pits and Auger Borings

1. **TEXTURE** : soil texture classes are denoted by the following abbreviations.

S :	Sand	LS :	Loamy Sand	SL :	Sandy Loam
SZL :	Sandy Silt Loam	CL :	Clay Loam	ZCL :	Silty Clay Loam
ZL :	Silt Loam	SCL :	Sandy Clay Loam	C :	Clay
SC :	Sandy Clay	ZC :	Silty Clay	OL :	Organic Loam
P :	Peat	SP :	Sandy Peat	LP :	Loamy Peat
PL :	Peaty Loam	PS :	Peaty Sand	MZ :	Marine Light Silts

For the sand, loamy sand, sandy loam and sandy silt loam classes, the predominant size of sand fraction will be indicated by the use of the following prefixes:

F :	Fine (more than 66% of the sand less than 0.2mm)
M :	Medium (less than 66% fine sand and less than 33% coarse sand)
C :	Coarse (more than 33% of the sand larger than 0.6mm)

The clay loam and silty clay loam classes will be sub-divided according to the clay content: **M** : Medium (<27% clay) **H** : Heavy (27-35% clay)

2. **MOTTLE COL** : Mottle colour using Munsell notation.
3. **MOTTLE ABUN** : Mottle abundance, expressed as a percentage of the matrix or surface described.

F : few <2% **C** : common 2-20% **M** : many 20-40% **VM** : very many 40% +

4. **MOTTLE CONT** : Mottle contrast

F : faint - indistinct mottles, evident only on close inspection
D : distinct - mottles are readily seen
P : prominent - mottling is conspicuous and one of the outstanding features of the horizon

5. **PED. COL** : Ped face colour using Munsell notation.
6. **GLEYS** : If the soil horizon is gleyed a 'Y' will appear in this column. If slightly gleyed, an 'S' will appear.
7. **STONE LITH** : Stone Lithology - One of the following is used.

HR :	all hard rocks and stones	SLST :	soft oolitic or dolimitic limestone
CH :	chalk	FSST :	soft, fine grained sandstone
ZR :	soft, argillaceous, or silty rocks	GH :	gravel with non-porous (hard) stones
MSST :	soft, medium grained sandstone	GS :	gravel with porous (soft) stones
SI :	soft weathered igneous/metamorphic rock		

Stone contents (>2cm, >6cm and total) are given in percentages (by volume).

8. **STRUCT** : the degree of development, size and shape of soil peds are described using the following notation:

degree of development **WK** : weakly developed **MD** : moderately developed
 ST : strongly developed

ped size **F** : fine **M** : medium
 C : coarse **VC** : very coarse

ped shape **S** : single grain **M** : massive
 GR : granular **AB** : angular blocky
 SAB : sub-angular blocky **PR** : prismatic
 PL : platy

9. **CONSIST** : Soil consistence is described using the following notation:

L : loose **VF** : very friable **FR** : friable **FM** : firm **VM** : very firm
EM : extremely firm **EH** : extremely hard

10. **SUBS STR** : Subsoil structural condition recorded for the purpose of calculating profile droughtiness : **G** : good **M** : moderate **P** : poor

11. **POR** : Soil porosity. If a soil horizon has less than 0.5% biopores >0.5 mm, a 'Y' will appear in this column.

12. **IMP** : If the profile is impenetrable to rooting a 'Y' will appear in this column at the appropriate horizon.

13. **SPL** : Slowly permeable layer. If the soil horizon is slowly permeable a 'Y' will appear in this column.

14. **CALC** : If the soil horizon is calcareous, a 'Y' will appear in this column.

15. Other notations

APW : available water capacity (in mm) adjusted for wheat
APP : available water capacity (in mm) adjusted for potatoes
MBW : moisture balance, wheat
MBP : moisture balance, potatoes

SOIL PIT DESCRIPTION

Site Name : CANT LP,RUR 2,NR BRIDGE Pit Number : 1P

Grid Reference: TR18355477 Average Annual Rainfall : 713 mm
 Accumulated Temperature : 1469 degree days
 Field Capacity Level : 148 days
 Land Use : Oilseed Rape
 Slope and Aspect : 02 degrees SE

HORIZON	TEXTURE	COLOUR	STONES >2	TOT.STONE	LITH	MOTTLES	STRUCTURE	CONSIST	SUBSTRUCTURE	CALC
0- 25	ZL	10YR43 00	1	3	HR					
25- 40	ZL	10YR43 00	0	5	HR		MDCSAB	FR	M	
40- 55	ZL	10YR44 54	0	1	HR		MDCSAB	FR	M	
55-120	MZCL	10YR54 56	0	0			MDCSAB	FR	M	

Wetness Grade : 1 Wetness Class : I
 Gleying : cm
 SPL : No SPL

Drought Grade : 1 APW : 181mm MBW : 63 mm
 APP : 145mm MBP : 30 mm

FINAL ALC GRADE : 1
 MAIN LIMITATION :

SAMPLE NO.	GRID REF	ASPECT USE	GRDNT	--WETNESS--		-WHEAT-		-POTS-		M.REL		EROSN EXP	FROST DIST	CHEM LIMIT	ALC	COMMENTS
				GLEYS	SPL	CLASS	GRADE	AP	MB	AP	MB					
1	TR18305480	OSR			1	1	170	52	134	19	1				1	
1P	TR18355477	OSR SE	02		1	1	181	63	145	30	1				1	
2	TR18405480	OSR SE	02		1	1	131	13	135	20	2				1	Imp 80 Flints
3	TR18305470	OSR SE	02		1	1	174	56	138	23	1				1	
4	TR18405470	OSR SE	02		1	1	180	62	144	29	1				1	
5	TR18405460	OSR SW	01		1	1	183	65	147	32	1				1	Chalky
6	TR18505460	OSR SW	03		1	1	180	62	144	29	1				1	Chalky
8	TR18405450	OSR			1	1	189	71	155	40	1				1	Chalky
9	TR18505450	PGR			1	1	115	-3	111	-4	3A			DR	2	Imp 90 Chalk
10	TR18575455	PGR SE	02		1	1	173	55	137	22	1			DR	2	Q S1 Distrubed
12	TR18505440	PGR SE			1	1	127	9	140	25	2			DR	2	Imp gravelly

SAMPLE	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	----MOTTLES-----			PED COL.	----STONES----			STRUCT/ CONSIST	SUBS					
				COL	ABUN	CONT		GLEY	>2	>6		LITH	TOT	STR	POR	IMP	SPL
1	0-30	z1	10YR43 00					2	0	HR	10						
	30-50	z1	10YR44 00					0	0	HR	15					M	
	50-120	mzc1	10YR54 00					0	0		0					M	
1P	0-25	z1	10YR43 00					1	0	HR	3						
	25-40	z1	10YR43 00					0	0	HR	5	MDCSAB	FR	M			
	40-55	z1	10YR44 54					0	0	HR	1	MDCSAB	FR	M			
	55-120	mzc1	10YR54 56					0	0		0	MDCSAB	FR	M			
2	0-30	z1	10YR43 00					2	0	HR	10						
	30-60	z1	10YR44 00					0	0	HR	15					M	
	60-80	mzc1	10YR54 00					0	0	HR	8					M	
3	0-30	z1	10YR43 00					2	0	HR	8						
	30-50	z1	10YR44 00					0	0	HR	10					M	
	50-120	mzc1	10YR54 00					0	0		0					M	
4	0-35	z1	10YR43 00					1	0	HR	3						
	35-50	z1	10YR44 00					0	0	HR	3					M	
	50-120	mzc1	10YR54 00					0	0		0					M	
5	0-35	z1	10YR43 00					1	0	HR	1						
	35-50	z1	10YR43 00					0	0		0					M	
	50-120	mzc1	10YR56 00					0	0		0					M	
6	0-35	z1	10YR42 00					1	0	HR	2						
	35-50	z1	10YR42 00					0	0	HR	3					M	
	50-80	mzc1	10YR56 00					0	0	HR	3					M	
	80-120	mzc1	10YR56 00					0	0		0					M	
8	0-30	z1	10YR42 00					1	0	HR	2						
	30-70	z1	10YR42 00					0	0	HR	1					M	
	70-120	mzc1	10YR54 00					0	0		0					M	
9	0-30	mzc1	10YR42 00					3	0	HR	10						Y
	30-50	mzc1	10YR43 00					0	0	CH	40					M	Y
	50-70	hzc1	10YR54 00					0	0	CH	25					M	Y
	70-90	hzc1	10YR54 00					0	0	CH	60					M	Y
10	0-35	z1	10YR42 00					2	0	HR	10						Y
	35-50	z1	10YR44 00					0	0	HR	8					M	Y
	50-120	mzc1	10YR56 00					0	0	CH	2					M	Y
12	0-30	z1	10YR32 00					2	0	HR	8						Y
	30-40	z1	10YR32 00					0	0	HR	12					M	Y
	40-65	z1	10YR32 00					0	0	HR	5					M	Y
	65-68	mzc1	10YR42 00					0	0	CH	45					M	Y