

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
MALVERN HILLS LOCAL PLAN
BANNUT HILL, KEMPSEY
(18/38/G/7)**

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

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
MALVERN HILLS LOCAL PLAN, BANNUT HILL, KEMPSEY (18/38/G/7)**

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 | 6.9 | 85 |
| 3a | 1.0 | 12 |
| Other land | | |
| Non-Agricultural land | 0.2 | 3 |

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

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in May and June 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 8.1 ha site is situated to the south east of Kempsey, near Worcester. The land immediately to the north, east and south of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. The land to the north west of the site is in urban 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 cereals.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 857484) :

| | |
|--|------|
| Average Annual Rainfall (mm) | 637 |
| Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C) | 1481 |

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Field Capacity Days (days) | 137 |
| Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm) | 111 |
| Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm) | 104 |

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 glaciofluvial deposits.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 6.9 ha (85%) of the survey area and is found over the majority of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam or a sandy clay loam texture overlying sandy loam, loamy sand and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2. Occasionally clay may be present at depths below 80cm.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 1.0 ha (12%) of the survey area and is found in the south east corner of the site.

6.2.1 The soil has a sandy clay loam texture over clay loam and clay to depth, with few stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

6.3 Other land includes non-agricultural land which occupies 0.2 ha (3%) of the survey area as a trackway.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

| Grade/Sub-grade | Area in Hectares | % of Survey Area | % of Agricultural Land |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 | 6.9 | 85 | 87 |
| 3a | 1.0 | 12 | 13 |
| Other land Non-Agricultural | 0.2 | 3 | - |
| Totals | 8.1 | 100 | 100 |