

Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Statistics

These ALC statistics derive from the digital 1:250,000 scale Provisional ALC map, originally published as a regional series of paper maps in 1977, and Ordnance Survey Boundary Line 2003. It should be noted that the Provisional ALC map was designed to provide general strategic guidance on land quality and not for identifying the agricultural quality of individual parcels of land. It is based on reconnaissance surveys, rather than detailed field surveys, and has a minimum mapping unit of approximately 80 hectares. The maps were created prior to the sub-division of Grade 3 into Sub-grades 3a and 3b. Consequently, there may be limitations to the statistics which reflect the limitations of the maps from which they are derived.

Further details about ALC can be found in the [Leaflet explaining Agricultural Land Classification](#)  (193 KB). The maps themselves can be viewed on the website www.magic.gov.uk or purchased from Defra Publications (tel: 08459 556000 or www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/publications/pubcat/map.htm).

The statistics can be viewed at National, Government Office, County, Unitary Authority or District level using the links below. They are presented in hectares as well as a percentage of total land area.

England

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	354,562	2.7
Grade 2	1,848,874	14.2
Grade 3	6,290,210	48.2
Grade 4	1,839,581	14.1
Grade 5	1,100,305	8.4
Non Agricultural	655,856	5.0
Urban	951,424	7.3

East Midlands Government Office	Contents	Statistics
Eastern Government Office	Contents	Statistics
London Government Office	Contents	Statistics
North East Government Office	Contents	Statistics
North West Government Office	Contents	Statistics
South East Government Office	Contents	Statistics
South West Government Office	Contents	Statistics
West Midlands Government Office	Contents	Statistics
Yorkshire and The Humber Government Office	Contents	Statistics

Grade 4	11,315	3.3
Grade 5	1,426	0.4
Non Agricultural	12,523	3.6
Urban	23,371	6.7

Hertfordshire County

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	0	0.0
Grade 2	31,331	19.1
Grade 3	98,888	60.2
Grade 4	2,391	1.5
Grade 5	41	0.0
Non Agricultural	9,259	5.6
Urban	22,394	13.6

Luton

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	0	0.0
Grade 2	310	7.2
Grade 3	410	9.4
Grade 4	4	0.1
Grade 5	0	0.0
Non Agricultural	541	12.5
Urban	3,070	70.8

Norfolk County

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	45,529	8.4
Grade 2	88,398	16.4
Grade 3	299,449	55.4
Grade 4	45,662	8.5
Grade 5	112	0.0
Non Agricultural	49,294	9.1
Urban	11,644	2.2

Southend-On-Sea

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	656	15.4
Grade 2	0	0.0
Grade 3	143	3.4
Grade 4	8	0.2
Grade 5	0	0.0
Non Agricultural	158	3.7
Urban	3,289	77.3

Suffolk County

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	4,568	1.2
Grade 2	95,686	25.1
Grade 3	195,314	51.3
Grade 4	47,143	12.4
Grade 5	1,164	0.3

Grade 1	29,174	20.3
Grade 2	31,920	22.2
Grade 3	60,669	42.1
Grade 4	10,978	7.6
Grade 5	47	0.0
Non Agricultural	9,291	6.5
Urban	1,874	1.3

Luton

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	0	0.0
Grade 2	310	7.2
Grade 3	410	9.4
Grade 4	4	0.1
Grade 5	0	0.0
Non Agricultural	541	12.5
Urban	3,070	70.8

Maldon District

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	310	0.9
Grade 2	5,657	15.6
Grade 3	26,221	72.3
Grade 4	2,066	5.7
Grade 5	824	2.3
Non Agricultural	811	2.2
Urban	376	1.0

Mid Bedfordshire District

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	2,779	5.5
Grade 2	15,775	31.4
Grade 3	23,008	45.8
Grade 4	2,355	4.7
Grade 5	0	0.0
Non Agricultural	5,227	10.4
Urban	1,140	2.3

Mid Suffolk District

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	0	0.0
Grade 2	15,947	18.3
Grade 3	67,931	78.0
Grade 4	2,404	2.8
Grade 5	0	0.0
Non Agricultural	510	0.6
Urban	316	0.4

North Hertfordshire District

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	0	0.0
Grade 2	9,838	26.2

Grade 3	24,363	64.9
Grade 4	257	0.7
Grade 5	0	0.0
Non Agricultural	408	1.1
Urban	2,671	7.1

North Norfolk District

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	9,093	9.4
Grade 2	22,985	23.6
Grade 3	51,596	53.1
Grade 4	2,352	2.4
Grade 5	0	0.0
Non Agricultural	10,106	10.4
Urban	1,063	1.1

Norwich District

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	0	0.0
Grade 2	0	0.0
Grade 3	491	12.1
Grade 4	258	6.4
Grade 5	0	0.0
Non Agricultural	501	12.3
Urban	2,806	69.2

Rochford District

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	2,352	13.8
Grade 2	2,417	14.2
Grade 3	9,488	55.6
Grade 4	728	4.3
Grade 5	263	1.5
Non Agricultural	398	2.3
Urban	1,407	8.3

South Bedfordshire District

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	0	0.0
Grade 2	1,513	7.1
Grade 3	14,861	69.8
Grade 4	1,058	5.0
Grade 5	0	0.0
Non Agricultural	1,921	9.0
Urban	1,928	9.1

South Cambridgeshire District

Grade	Hectares	%
Grade 1	1,739	1.9
Grade 2	59,036	65.5
Grade 3	24,518	27.2
Grade 4	1,558	1.7