APPENDIX 11B: SOIL WETNESS CLASSIFICATION

APPENDIX 11B: SOIL WETNESS CLASSIFICATION

11B.1.1 Soil wetness is classified according to the depth and duration of waterlogging in the soil profile. Six revised soil wetness classes (MAFF (1988) Ref 11.15) are identified and are defined below.

Table 11B.1: Definition of Soil Wetness Classes

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

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

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

11B.1.2 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.