

1a Soils - Spatial Distribution

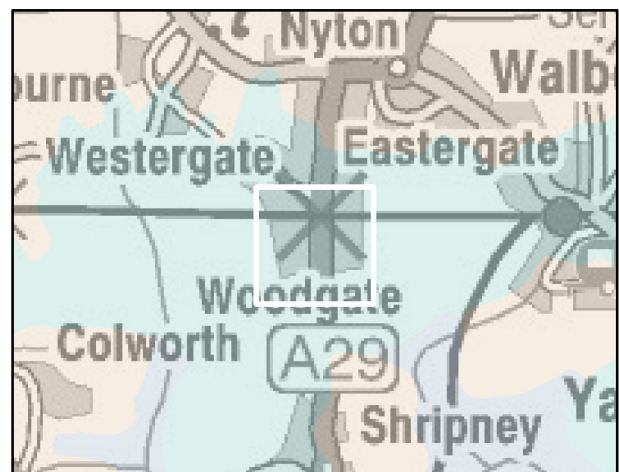
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Soils - Spatial Distribution Key



841e PARK GATE

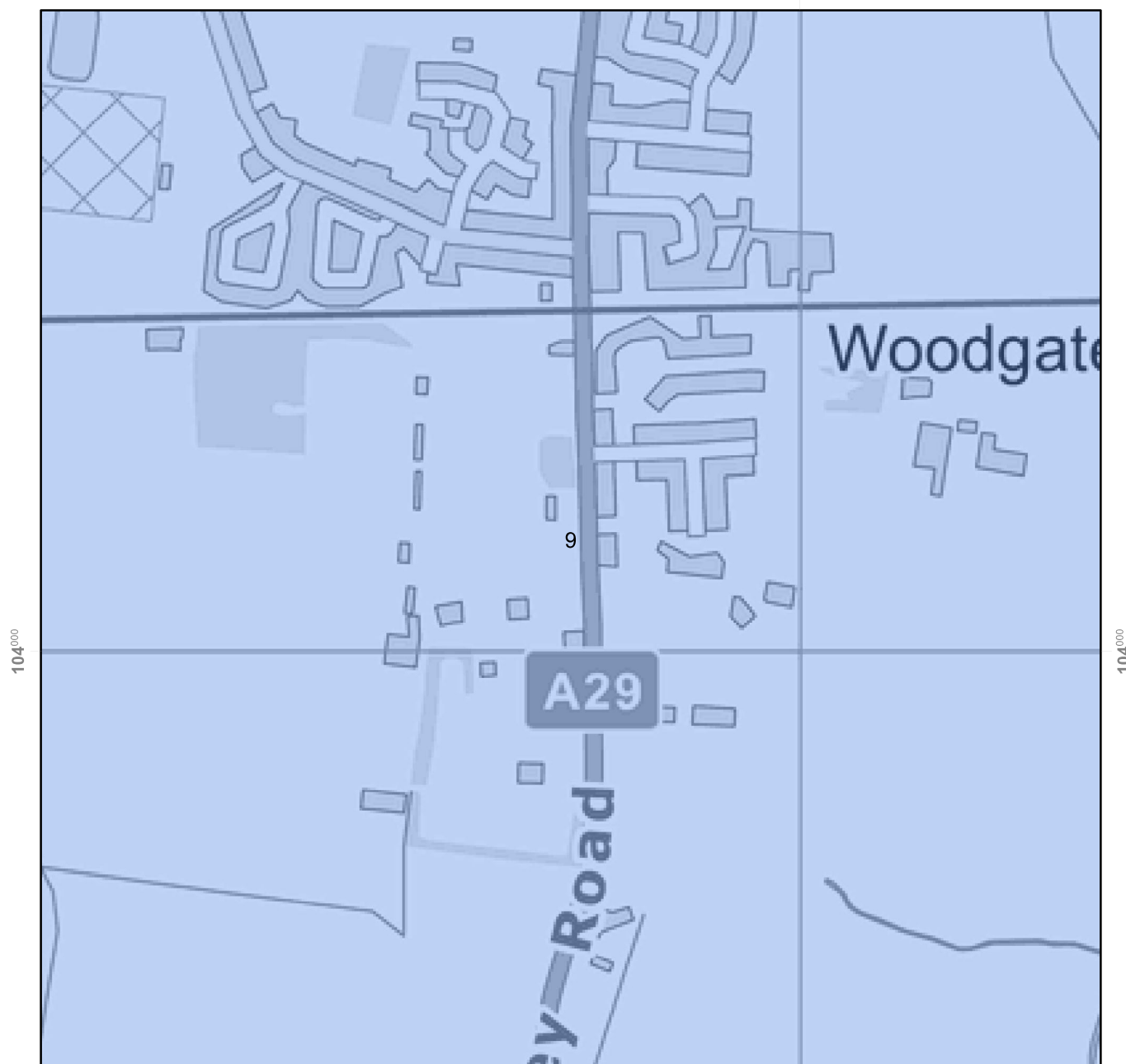
Deep stoneless silty soils variably affected by groundwater.

SOIL ASSOCIATION DESCRIPTION

Soil associations represent a group of soil series (soil types) which are typically found occurring together, associated in the landscape (Avery, 1973; 1980; Clayden and Hollis, 1984). Soil associations may occur in many geographical locations around the country where the environmental conditions are comparable. For each of these soil associations, a collection of soil types (or soil series) are recorded together with their approximate proportions within the association. Soil associations have codes as well as textual names, thus code '554a' refers to the 'Frilford' association. Where a code is prefixed with 'U', the area is predominantly urbanised (e.g. 'U571v'). The soil associations for your location, as mapped above, are described in more detail in Section 2: Soil Association Descriptions.

1b Hydrology of Soil Type (HOST)

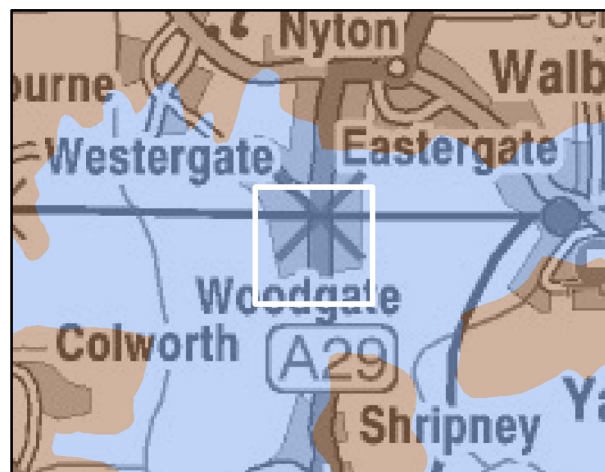
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Hydrology of Soil Type (HOST) Key



9 Soils seasonally waterlogged by fluctuating groundwater and with relatively slow lateral saturated conductivity

HOST CLASS DESCRIPTION

The Hydrology of Soil Types (HOST) classification describes the dominant pathways of water movement through the soil and, where appropriate, the underlying substrate. Eleven drainage models are defined according to the permeability of the soil and its substrate and the depth to a groundwater table, where one is present (Boorman et al, 1995). These are further subdivided into 29 HOST classes to which all soil series have been assigned. These classes identify the way soil water flows are partitioned, with water passing over, laterally through, or vertically down the soil column. Analysis of the river hydrograph and the extent of soil series for several hundred gauged catchments allowed mean values for catchment hydrological variables to be identified for each HOST class. The HOST classification is widely used to predict river flows and the frequency and severity of flood events and also to model the behaviour of diffuse pollutants (Hollis et al, 1995).

1c Ground Movement Potential

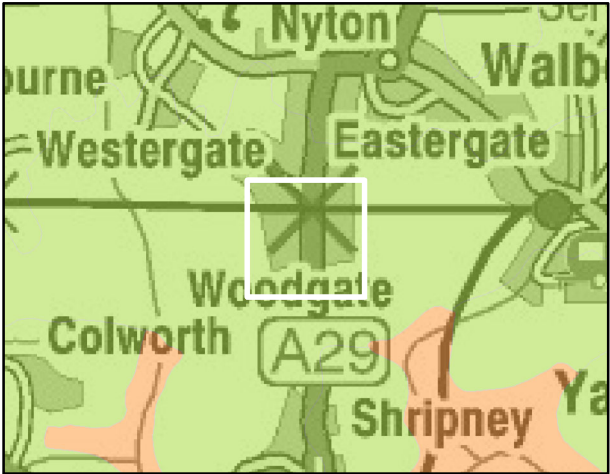
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Ground Movement Potential Key



2 Low

* If a High class is starred, a Very High ground movement potential is likely to be achieved if these soils are drained to an effective depth of at least two metres.

GROUND MOVEMENT POTENTIAL DESCRIPTION

Clay-related ground movement is the most widespread cause of foundation failure in the UK and is linked to seasonal swelling and shrinkage of the clay. The content of clay within the soils of your selected area has therefore a direct bearing upon the likelihood of ground movement.

Among the inorganic particles that constitute the solid component of any soil, clay particles are the smallest and defined as being less than 0.002 mm - equivalent spherical diameter (esd) in size. Clay particles occur in most kinds of soil but they only begin to exert a predominant influence on the behaviour of the whole soil where there is more than 35 per cent (by weight) of clay-sized material present.

Because clay particles are very small and commonly platy in shape they have an immense surface area onto which water can be attracted, relative to the total volume of the soil material. In addition to surface attraction or inter-crystalline absorption of water, some clay minerals, those with three layers of atoms (most other kinds of clay have only two layers of atoms) are able to absorb and hold additional water between these layers. It is these types of clay mineral, which are widespread in British soils and commonly known as smectites that have the greatest capacity to shrink and swell.

In a natural undisturbed condition, the moisture content of deep subsoil clay does not change greatly through the year and consequently there are no changes in volume leading to shrinkage and swelling. However, when clays are exposed at or near the ground surface and especially when vegetation is rooting in them seasonal moisture and volume changes can be dramatic. Plants and trees transpire moisture from the soil to support their growth and transfer necessary nutrients into their structures. Surface evaporation also takes place from soil and plant structures, and the combination of evaporation from surfaces and transpiration by plants and trees is termed evapotranspiration. Thus, the layer of soil material down to 2m depth into which plants will root is critical when assessing the vulnerability of land to subsidence.

Whenever soil moisture is continuously being replenished by rainfall, the soil moisture reserves will be unaffected by the removal of moisture by plants as there is no net loss. However, in many parts of Britain, particularly in the south and east, summer rainfall is small and is exceeded by evapotranspiration. Water reserves are then not sufficiently replenished by rainfall and so a soil moisture deficit develops. The water removed from a clayey soil by evapotranspiration leads to a reduction in soil volume and the consequent shrinkage causes stress in the soil materials leading in turn to stress on building foundations that are resting in the soil (Hallett, et al, 1994).

The foundations themselves may then move and thus cause damage to building structures. This problem can be exacerbated by the fact that the soil beneath the structure may not dry out uniformly, so that any lateral pressure exerted on the building foundation is made effectively greater. This assessment identifies the likelihood of soil conditions being prone to ground movement given these other factors.

1d Flood Vulnerability

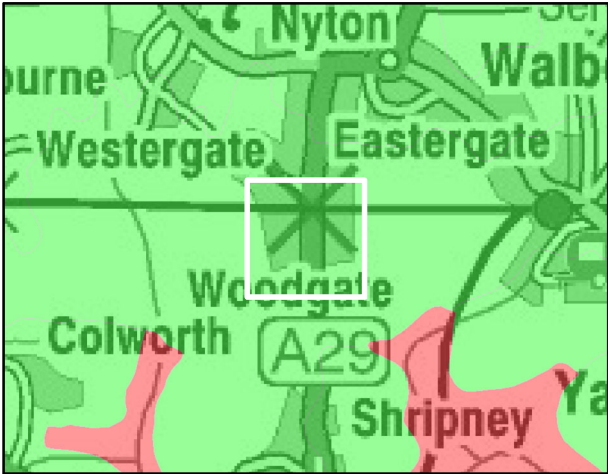
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Flood Vulnerability Key



1 Minor risk

FLOOD VULNERABILITY DESCRIPTION

The inundation of properties by flood water can occur in a number of circumstances. Surface run-off can collect on low-lying land from upslope following heavy rainfall. More commonly rivers, lakes and/or the sea extend beyond their normal limits as a result of prolonged or intense rainfall, unusually high tides and/or extreme wind events. Water damage to properties and their contents is compounded by the deposition of sediment suspended in the flood waters. The spatial distribution of such waterborne sediment (or alluvium as defined in soil science) is one basis upon which land that has been subject to historical flooding can be mapped, and this forms a basis for present-day flooding risk assessment.

Both riverine and marine alluvium are identified as distinct soil parent materials within the British soil classifications. Combining soil map units that are dominated by soil series developed in alluvium across Great Britain identifies most of the land that is vulnerable to flooding. This assessment does not account for man-made flood defence measures, showing instead the areas where once water has stood.

1e Risk of Corrosion to Ferrous Iron

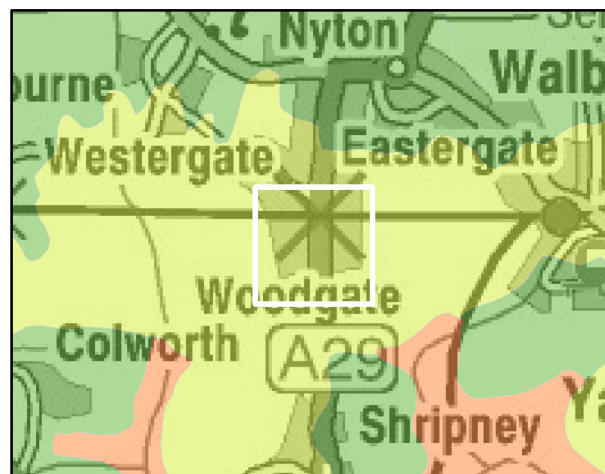
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Risk of Corrosion to Ferrous Iron Key



3 Moderately Aggressive

* If a class is starred, it is assumed that there are moderate amounts of sulphate in the soil. If there is abundant sulphate present, the soil may be one class more aggressive. Conversely, if there is very little sulphate, the soil may be one class less aggressive to buried ferrous iron.

RISK OF CORROSION TO FERROUS IRON DESCRIPTION

Buried iron pipes and other infrastructure corrode at rates that are influenced by soil conditions (Jarvis and Hedges, 1994). Soil acidity, sulphide content, aeration and wetness all influence the corrosivity of the soil. These factors are used to map 5 major classes of relative corrosivity.

1f Pesticide Leaching Risk

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Pesticide Leaching Risk Key



H1vi Slowly permeable soil; groundwater at very shallow depth (60cm)

PESTICIDE LEACHING CLASS DESCRIPTION

The natural permeability and water regime of soils are influential in determining the fate and behaviour of pesticides applied to the crop and soil surface (Hollis et al, 1995). A system of vulnerability assessment was devised as part of the national system for Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater. This divided soils into three primary vulnerability classes.

H - Soils of high leaching capacity with little ability to attenuate non-adsorbed pesticide leaching which leave underlying groundwater vulnerable to pesticide contamination.

I - Soils of intermediate leaching capacity with a moderate ability to attenuate pesticide leaching.

L - Soils of low leaching capacity through which pesticides are unlikely to leach.

The primary classes have been further subdivided into nearly forty subclasses. These subclasses, with their descriptions, are mapped above. These classes do not account for differences in land cultivation, which can also have a significant impact on pesticide behaviour.

1g Pesticide Runoff Risk

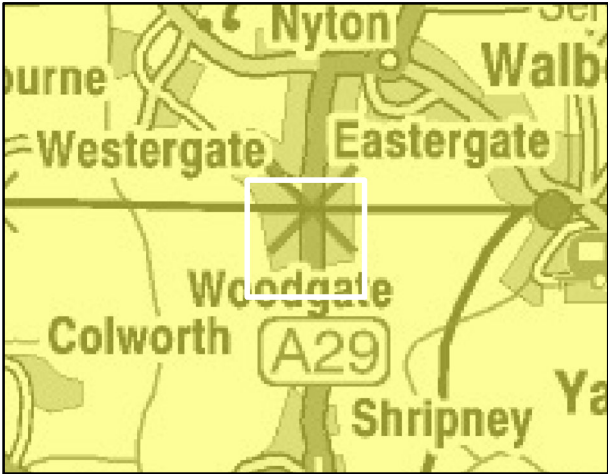
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Pesticide Runoff Risk Key



S3 Moderate run-off potential.

PESTICIDE RUNOFF RISK DESCRIPTION

The physical properties and natural water regime of soils influence the speed and extent of lateral water movement over and through the soil at different depths (Hollis et al, 1995). As a result, soils can be classed according to the potential for pesticide run-off. Five runoff potential classes are identified for mineral soils and a further two for peat soils.

1h Potential for Pesticide Adsorption

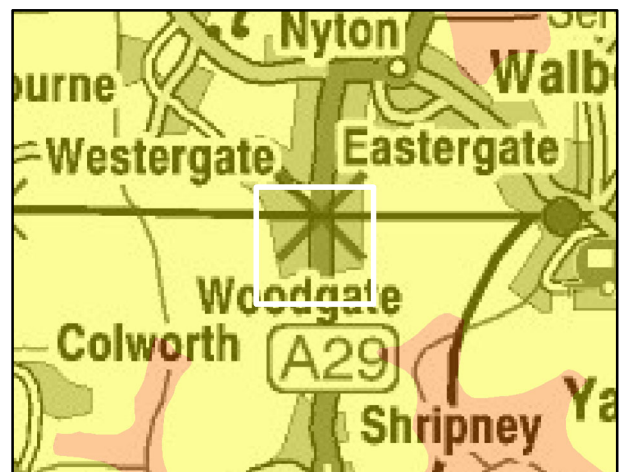
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Potential for Pesticide Adsorption Key



I Low adsorption potential.

POTENTIAL FOR PESTICIDE ADSORPTION DESCRIPTION

The physical properties and natural water regime of soils influence the speed and extent of lateral water movement over and through the soil at different depths (Hollis et al, 1995). The mineral soil classes are further subdivided according to their potential for pesticide adsorption.

1i Hydrogeological Rock Type

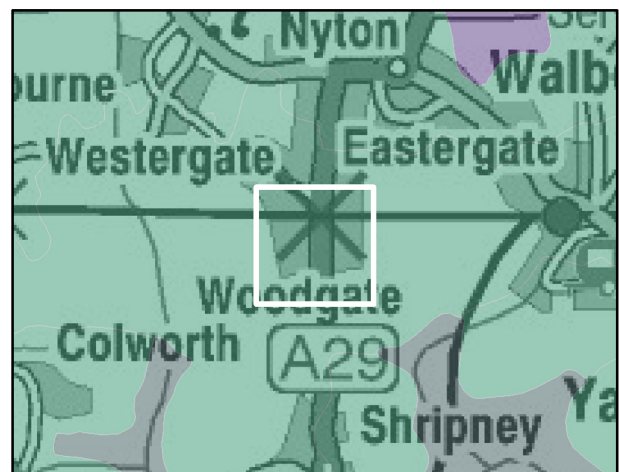
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Hydrogeological Rock Type Key



20 coverloam

HYDROGEOLOGICAL ROCK TYPE DESCRIPTION

The hydrogeological classification of the soil parent materials provides a framework for distinguishing between soil substrates according to their general permeability and whether they are likely to overlie an aquifer. Every soil series has been assigned one of the 32 substrate classes and each of these is characterised according to its permeability (being characterised as permeable, slowly permeable or impermeable). For further information, see Boorman et al (1995).

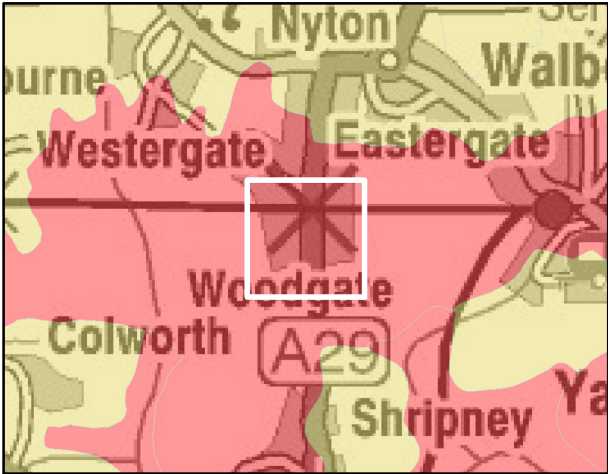
1j Ground Water Protection Policy (GWPP)

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Ground Water Protection Policy (GWPP) Key



H1 Soils of high leaching potential, which readily transmit liquid discharges because they are either shallow, or susceptible to rapid bypass flow directly to rock, gravel or groundwater

GWPP LEACHING CLASS DESCRIPTION

The Ground Water Protection Policy classes describe the leaching potential of pollutants through the soil (Hollis, 1991; Palmer et al, 1995). The likelihood of pollutants reaching ground water is described. Different classes of pollutants are described, including liquid discharges adsorbed and non-adsorbed pollutants.

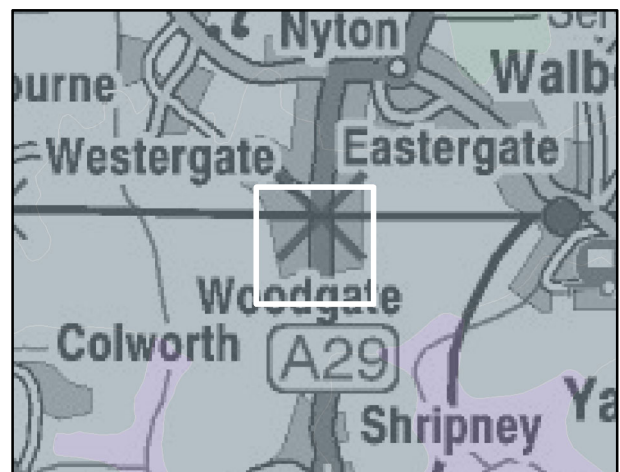
1k Soil Parent Material

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Soil Parent Material Key



6 Aeolian silty drift

SOIL PARENT MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

Along with the effects of climate, relief, organisms and time, the underlying geology or 'parent material' has a very strong influence on the development of the soils of England and Wales. Through weathering, rocks contribute inorganic mineral grains to the soils and thus exhibit control on the soil texture. During the course of the creation of the national soil map, soil surveyors noted the parent material underlying each soil in England and Wales. It is these general descriptions of the regional geology which is provided in this map.

11 Expected Crops and Land Use

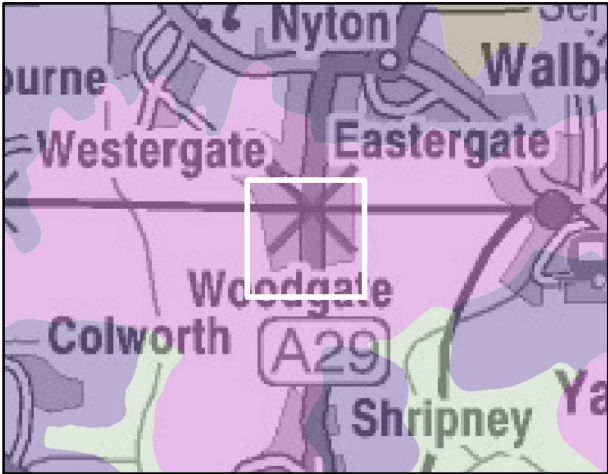
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Expected Crops and Land Use Key



55 Cereals, potatoes and field vegetables; glasshouse crops in West Sussex.

EXPECTED CROPS AND LAND USE DESCRIPTION

Individual soils are commonly associated with particular forms of land cover and land use. Whilst the soil surveyors were mapping the whole of England and Wales, they took careful note of the range of use to which the land was being put. This map shows the most common forms of land use found on each soil unit.

1m Natural Soil Fertility

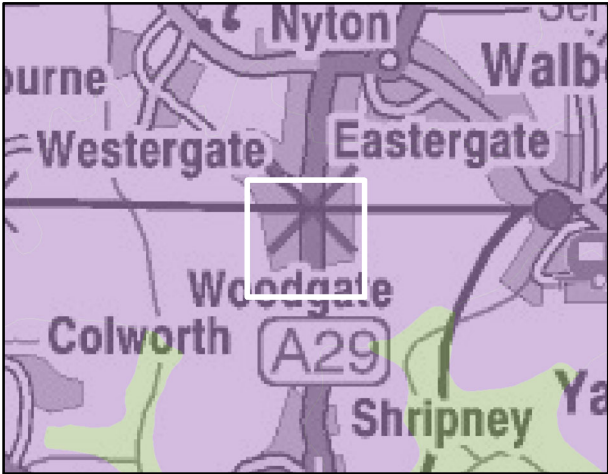
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Natural Soil Fertility Key



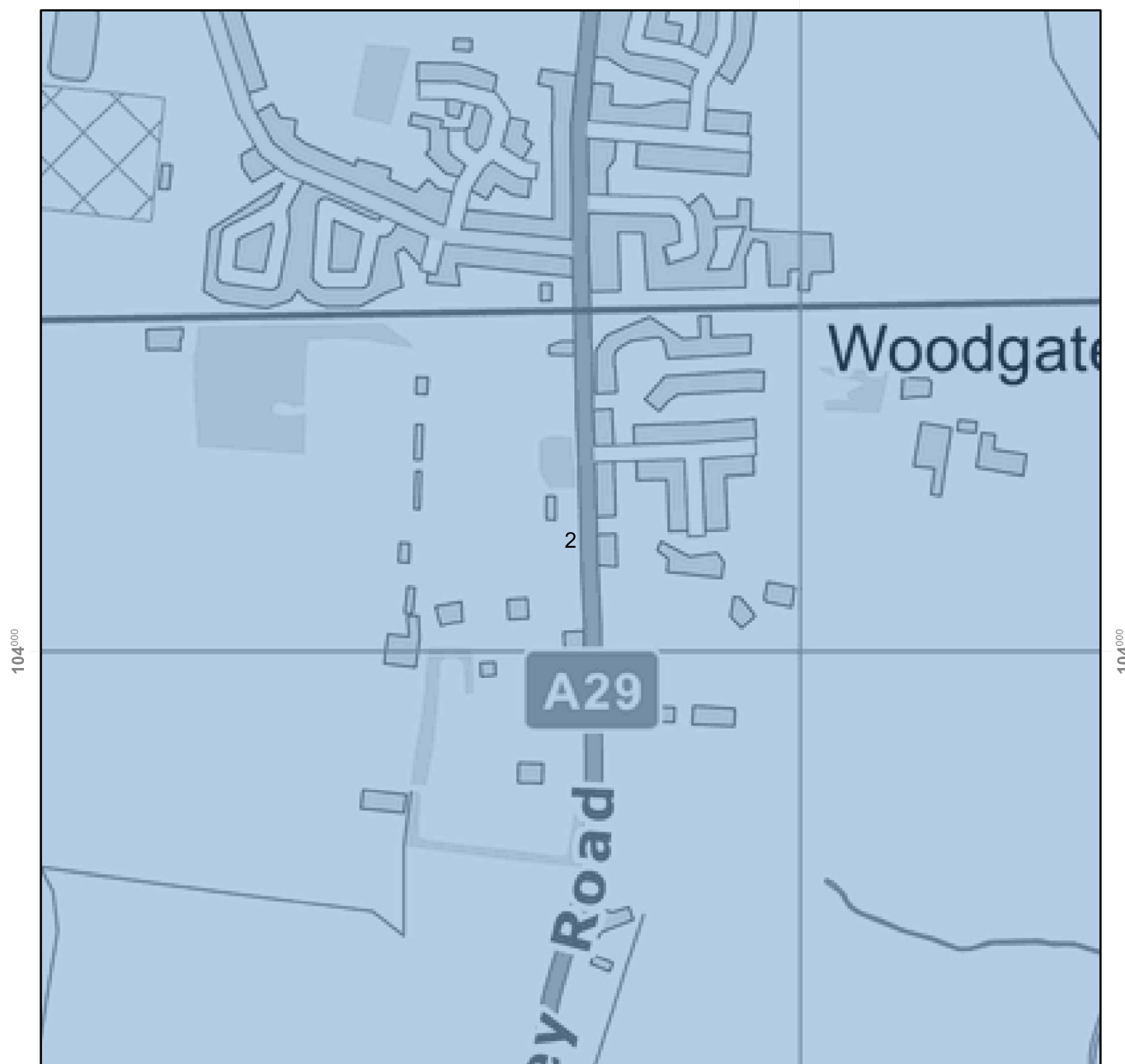
5 Low

NATURAL SOIL FERTILITY DESCRIPTION

Soil fertility can be greatly altered by land management especially through the application of manures, lime and mineral fertilisers. What is shown in this map, however, is the likely natural fertility of each soil type. Soils that are very acid have low numbers of soil-living organisms and support heathland and acid woodland habitats. These are shown as of very low natural fertility. Soils identified as of low natural fertility are usually acid in reaction and are associated with a wide range of habitat types. The moderate class contains neutral to slightly acid soils, again with a wide range of potential habitats. Soil of high natural fertility are both naturally productive and able to support the base-rich pastures and woodlands that are now rarely encountered. Lime-rich soils contain chalk and limestone in excess, and are associated with downland, herb-rich pastures and chalk and limestone woodlands.

1n Simple Topsoil Texture

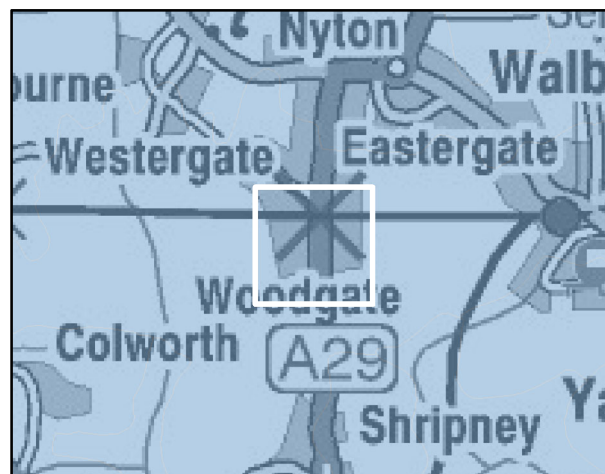
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Simple Topsoil Texture Key



2 Loamy

SIMPLE TOPSOIL TEXTURE DESCRIPTION

Soil texture is a term used in soil science to describe the physical composition of the soil in terms of the size of mineral particles in the soil. Specifically, we are concerned with the relative proportions of sand, silt and clay. Soil texture can vary between each soil layer or horizon as one moves down the profile. This map indicates the soil texture group of the upper 30 cm of the soil. 'Light' soils have more sand grains and are described as sandy, while 'heavy' soils have few sand grains but a lot of extremely small particles and are described as clayey. Loamy soils have a mix of sand, silt and clay-sized particles and are intermediate in character. Soils with a surface layer that is dominantly organic are described as Peaty. A good understanding of soil texture can enable better land management.

1o Typical Habitats

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