Table S1. Comparable classification of the UK soil groups with those in the FAO World Reference Base Classification (WRB, 2006).

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| --- | --- |
| **Major UK soil group** | **World Reference Base** |
| Brown | Mainly Cambisols with some Luvisols, Acrisols |
| Lithomorphic | Leptosols and some Regosols |
| Surface and groundwater gleys | Mainly Gleysols, Planosols and some Fluvisols/Luvisols |
| Podzolic | Podzols |
| Peat | Histosols |
| Pelosol | Vertisols |

The soils at the sampling points were classified during two previous surveys (1978 and 1990) using the British soil classification system of Avery (1973, 1980). In 1978, pits were dug at each site of the selected plots in the 1 km squares; soils were sampled and classified to the sub group level. In 1990, the soils were surveyed and mapped at 1:25 000 using the Soil Survey Technical Monograph No.14 (Avery, 1980) by the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute in Scotland and the Land Research Centre (now the National Soil Research Institute) in England and Wales. The major soil groups used here were a product of a rigorous comparison process between 1978 data and 1990 maps. The description was derived and allocated manually and therefore the product was a more accurate classification than either the 1978 or the 1990 classifications taken in isolation.

**References**

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