

Aylesford 2013 Vine Establishment

Some sample holes were dug to assess root growth in the two fields planted in 2013. Root growth was generally better than expected, given that it was not possible to carry out sub soiling, and given the dry weather in July & August.



Vine in Field 5, at south western end of the field.

Camera was not straight, so the picture has been rotated to show realistic dimensions.

This is an area of lower clay content, and would have therefore suffered greater drought stress last summer.

The thinner, lighter coloured roots are those which grew in the field after planting. The level of year 1 root growth is good, and the potential for stronger growth this season is therefore also good.

Establishment of vines in Fields 4 & 5 should be given absolute top priority this season. This will be achieved by:

- 1) Weed control
- 2) Maintain water availability
- 3) Sub soiling
- 4) Nitrogen availability
- 5) Remove any fruit that is produced, by July at latest



This vine is in Field 4, at the western end in the heavier clay.

The lighter coloured roots are new growth. The rate of growth appears very good, given the conditions. The Binova rootstock is marginally more vigorous than SO4 and appears well able to penetrate through the clay.

The darker coloured roots are the original roots. They can be seen pointing downwards, in a 'fan' like formation. This is evidence that the vines were well planted. The machine was travelling at a slow speed, and the operators paid attention to the placement of vines into the machine. The result is good planting depth, and the roots have not been clumped up in a 'J' formation, as has been identified by DM on Aylesford 2008 blocks (reported by DM in 2012), and numerous other UK vineyards.

The potential for establishment appears good.