

## **PREFACE**

Three requirements for sound land use planning are:-

An understanding of the extent to which the use will be limited by the natural characteristics of the land,

The effect the use will have on the land and the water derived from it,

The need for special land management or structural design to overcome limitations or to restrict the impacts to acceptable levels.

Land capability assessment is a rational and systematic means of obtaining this information.

The Soil Conservation Authority is able to provide land capability information for a range of uses and at different scales to meet the various needs of planning. This information provides a relatively stable base on which to superimpose other planning considerations.

### **The Scope and Limitations of the Report**

This report is based on an assessment of the physical characteristics of the land. Social or economic factors have not been considered.

The scale of assessment has necessitated some generalization. Site – specific data will be required for detailed planning.

The precision with which boundaries are mapped is affected by the scale of the map. Subsequent enlargement of the map does not improve the precision and may be misleading.

The boundaries on the maps usually represent readily seen changes in the land. However, where an important land characteristic changes gradually, the boundary indicates approximately where there is a significant change in the effect on land use.

**Land Assessment:** A class 1 or 2 rating does not necessarily mean that the land should be set aside for that land use because there may be several other, perhaps more important land uses that have a similar rating. Similarly a class 4 rating need not necessarily be prohibitive if sufficient special management is applied.

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