

# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR LAND AT LONGTOWN - (CARLISLE RURAL AREAS)

## 1. Background Information

An Agricultural Land Classification Survey was undertaken in August 1988 to determine the land quality of land immediately to the south west of Longtown. Soils were augered to a depth of 100cms and two small soil pits were dug to determine the quality of the land.

### Location, Altitude and Relief

The site is bordered by Longtown to the north and east, a dismantled railway line to the west, and agricultural land to the south. Altitude varies between about 12m and 17m, and is almost level over most of the site, with limited changes in micro-relief in the south-east. Adjoining Arthuret Road a small area has been downgraded on slope.

### Climate

The main parameters used in the assessment of the climate limitations are average annual rainfall (AAR) and accumulated temperature (ATO). For this site these figures are 883 and 1363°C. The field capacity days figure for the site is 218 days. The mean last frost occurs in mid-May. Climatically this area is borderline between grade 1 and grade 2.

### Geology and Soils

The area is underlain by Alluvium. The associated soils fall into two main groups as shown in Soil Survey Record No.59, Soils in Cumbria II (Longtown).

The western part of the site consists of moderately deep or deep sandy silt loam or fine sandy loam soils similar to the Alun or Wick (deep phase) soil series.

The eastern part of the site consists of silt loam and clay loam over sandy silt loam soils similar to the Longtown and Trent soil series.

### Land Use

At the time of survey the land was under permanent pasture supporting cattle and sheep.

## 2. Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 2. This accounts for 1.88 hectares and 58.7% of the site. The soils are typically sandy silt loams or fine sandy loams to depth or overlying loamy sands. These soils are borderline grade 1 on climate.

Sub-grade 3b. This accounts for 1.32 hectares and 41.3% of the site. The soils are typically sandy silt loams overlying silty clay loams. Wetness is the main limitation to the agricultural use of this land.

Resource Planning Team  
Wolverhampton Office  
September 1992