

Insch SERIES

A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Brown forest soils
SSEW: Typical brown earths

SOIL ASSOCIATION

INSCH

PARENT MATERIAL

Sandy loam drifts derived from gabbros and allied basic igneous rocks, often weathered.

DRAINAGE CLASS

Free

PERMEABILITY CLASS

Moderate

REFERENCES

soil maps —
1:63 360 sheets
47 (Crieff)
75 (Tomintoul)
76 (Inverurie)
77 (Aberdeen)
85/95 (Roths/Elgin)
86 (Huntly)
96 (Banff)

memoirs —
Soils round Banff, Huntly and Turriff
Soils round Aberdeen, Inverurie and Fraserburgh

LOCATION AND EXTENT

Aberdeenshire, mainly around Insch, Huntly and Strathdon. Small areas in Perthshire and Banffshire.
215 sq km.

LANDFORM

Undulating lowlands with gentle or strong slopes; hills and valley sides with gentle to steep slopes.

VEGETATION

Arable; ley and permanent pastures; bent-fescue grasslands; herb-rich boreal heather moor.

CLIMATE

	Below 180 m	Above 180 m rainfall < 1000 mm	Rainfall > 1000 mm
<i>av. ann. rainfall, mm</i>	800-900	900-1000	1000-1600
<i>accum. temperature (day °C above 0°C Jan-Jun)</i>	1060-1230	900-1080	no data
<i>maximum PSMD, mm</i>	110	110	100-110
<i>growing season, days</i>	215	210	no data
<i>field capacity</i>	mid-Oct to early Mar	mid-Oct to mid-Mar	no data

SOIL DESCRIPTION

	<i>topsoil</i>	<i>subsoil</i>
<i>colour</i>	dark brown	yellowish brown
<i>texture</i>	sandy loam or sandy silt loam	sandy loam
<i>structure</i>	strong crumb	moderate subangular blocky
<i>stone content</i>	slightly stony	slightly or moderately stony
<i>potential rooting depth</i>	usually over 30 cm dependent on depth to induration, compact weathered rock, or bedrock	
COMMENT	Rich-coloured, well-structured topsoil is characteristic. Weak or moderate induration can be present in subsoils.	

SOIL CHEMISTRY

Moderately acid; subsoils have a pH of 5-6. Base saturation is greater than 25 %.

MAP UNIT VARIATION

On Sheets 86 and 96 Insch Series is shown as IN 1-3; IN 2 and IN 3 include imperfectly drained soils.