

Countesswells SERIES

A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Humus-iron
podzols. (Podzols or iron
podzols on early maps)
SSEW: Typical brown
podzolic soils, or humo-
ferric podzols where
cultivated

SOIL ASSOCIATION COUNTESSWELLS

PARENT MATERIAL

Light reddish brown or light
yellowish brown coarse
sandy loam till or shallow
drift derived from pink or
grey granite or granitic
gneiss.

DRAINAGE CLASS

Free

PERMEABILITY CLASS

Moderate

REFERENCES

soil maps —
1:63 360 sheets
56 (Blairgowrie)
66/67 (Banchory/
Stonehaven)
75 (Tomintoul)
76 (Inverurie)
77 (Aberdeen)
85/95 (Rothes/Elgin)
86 (Huntly)
87/97 (Peterhead/
Fraserburgh)
103 (Golspie)
109/115 (Achentoul/Reay)
110/116 (Latheron/Wick)

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

Compiled by A.J. Nolan
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SMUDS 1

LOCATION AND EXTENT

Aberdeenshire, notably the Skene lowlands and Deeside;
Northern Kincardineshire; small areas in Banffshire, Angus,
Caithness and Sutherland. 567 sq km.

LANDFORM

Undulating lowlands and hills with gentle to strong slopes.

VEGETATION

Arable; ley and permanent pastures; dry boreal heather moor
(locally dry Atlantic heather moor); common bent-fescue
grassland; coniferous plantations and native pinewood.

CLIMATE

	Aberdeen/Banff		Northern Kincardineshire
	alt. <180m	alt. >180m	
av. ann. rainfall, mm*	750-1000	850-1000	800-1000
accum. temperature* (day °C above 0°C Jan-Jun)	1060-1230	900-1080	1120-1250
maximum PSMD, mm	100-115	90-105	95-110
growing season, days*	215	210	215
field capacity*	mid-Oct to early Mar	mid-Oct to mid-Mar	mid-Oct to early Mar

Areas with rainfall >1000 mm: Rainfall 1000-1400 mm, PSMD 75-110 mm,
no other data available

SOIL DESCRIPTION

	topsoil	subsoil
colour	very dark greyish brown	dark yellowish brown to strong brown
texture	sandy loam	sandy loam or loamy sand
structure	weak subangular blocky	weak subangular blocky or weak coarse platy where indurated
stone content	slightly or moderately stony	moderately or very stony
potential rooting depth	generally 20-40cm, locally to over 70cm, depending upon depth to induration or bedrock	

COMMENT A strongly developed indurated layer is typically present in the subsoil. Textures are coarse and gritty and the soils are characteristically bouldery. In semi-natural soils, a surface layer of black humus overlies dark greyish brown humose sandy loam; subsoils have dark brown to strong brown colours, textures and structure as above.

SOIL CHEMISTRY

Inherently acid; low percentage base saturation, low exchangeable bases and medium or low levels of total phosphorus where uncultivated. Generally low levels of available cobalt and copper.

MAP UNIT VARIATION

Soils developed on shallow stony drift or shattered rock have coarser textures than those developed on till. Countesswells Series is shown as CW2 on Sheet 86.

*Climate data extracted from Meteorological Office publications *Average Annual Rainfall: Northern Britain and Climatological Memorandum No 108* and reproduced by permission of the Controller of HMSO.