

# Auchenblae SERIES

## A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

### SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Hunus-iron  
podzols (iron podzols  
on early maps)  
SSEW: Humo-ferric  
podzols, or typical  
brown sands where  
cultivated

### SOIL ASSOCIATION

AUCHENBLAE

### PARENT MATERIAL

Fluvioglacial sands and  
gravels derived from Old  
Red Sandstone sediments  
and lavas with some  
Dalradian schists and  
gneisses.

### DRAINAGE CLASS

Free

### PERMEABILITY CLASS

Rapid

### REFERENCES

*soil maps* —  
1:63 360 sheets  
48/49 (Perth/Arbroath)  
57 (Forfar)  
66/67 (Banchory/  
Stonehaven)  
  
*memoirs* —  
Soils round Perth, Arbroath  
and Dundee

Compiled by J.H. Gauld  
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SMUDS 1

### LOCATION AND EXTENT

Central and eastern areas of the Vale of Strathmore  
(22 sq km) and within Stratheden (12 sq km). Total 34 sq km.

### LANDFORM

Distinct mounds or gently undulating terraces; moderate  
to steep slopes.

### VEGETATION

Arable; permanent pastures; some coniferous and broad-  
leaved woodlands.

### CLIMATE

	Strathmore	Stratheden
<i>av. ann. rainfall, mm*</i>	750-900	650-750
<i>accum. temperature*</i> (day °C above 0°C Jan-Jun)	1120-1250	1210-1370
<i>maximum PSMD, mm</i>	105-140	150
<i>growing season, days*</i>	215	225
<i>field capacity*</i>	mid-Oct to early Mar	early Nov to early Mar

### SOIL DESCRIPTION

	topsoil	subsoil
<i>colour</i>	dark brown to reddish brown	reddish brown to yellowish brown
<i>texture</i>	sandy loam or loamy sand	sand or sandy gravel
<i>structure</i>	moderate subangular blocky	weak subangular blocky or massive
<i>stone content</i>	slightly to moderately stony, occasionally stoneless	stoneless to very stony
<i>potential rooting depth</i>	generally unlimited unless cemented at depth	
COMMENT	A coarse-textured, freely draining soil with a varying stone content throughout the profile.	

### SOIL CHEMISTRY

Naturally acid; low exchangeable values in the subsoil,  
where percentage base saturation figures are medium or  
low.

### MAP UNIT VARIATION

Stone content variable. Occasional peat or peaty alluvium  
deposits in depressions between mounds. Some colour  
difference related to proportion of rocks contributing to  
parent material.

\*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.