

SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Brown forest
soils with gleying
SSEW: Cambic
stagnogley soils

SOIL ASSOCIATION
PETERHEAD

PARENT MATERIAL

Reddish brown clay or
clay loam till derived
from Old Red Sandstone
sediments; some granite
and schist stones and Old
Red Sandstone
conglomerate cobbles
present.

DRAINAGE CLASS
Imperfect

PERMEABILITY CLASS
Slow

REFERENCES

soil maps —
1:63 360 sheets
77 (Aberdeen)
87/97 (Peterhead/
Fraserburgh)

memoirs —
Soils round Aberdeen,
Inverurie and Fraserburgh

LOCATION AND EXTENT

Coastal plain of Aberdeenshire from Peterhead
southwards to Foveran. 59 sq km.

LANDFORM

Undulating lowlands with gentle to strong slopes.

VEGETATION

Arable; ley and permanent pastures; rush pastures and
sedge mires.

CLIMATE

av. ann. rainfall, mm	700-850
accum. temperature (day °C above 0°C Jan-Jun)	1060-1230
maximum PSMD, mm	100-115
growing season, days	215
field capacity	mid-Oct to early Mar

SOIL DESCRIPTION	topsoil	subsoil
colour	dark reddish brown	reddish brown
texture	clay loam	clay
structure	moderate medium or fine subangular blocky	moderate coarse prismatic
stone content	slightly stony	slightly stony
potential rooting depth	40-60 cm, depending on depth to the massive till	
COMMENT	Reddish colour and high clay content are characteristic; manganese staining in subsoil.	

SOIL CHEMISTRY

Slightly acid; subsoils have a pH of 6-7 and high (> 80%)
base saturation.

MAP UNIT VARIATION

Parent material textures can be less fine south of the River
Ythan.

*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.