

Canisbay SERIES

A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Peaty gleys
SSEW: Cambic
stagnohumic gley soils

SOIL ASSOCIATION

CANISBAY

PARENT MATERIAL

Reddish brown sandy
clay loam till derived
from sandstones and
flagstones of Middle Old
Red Sandstone age.

DRAINAGE CLASS

Poor

PERMEABILITY CLASS

Slow

REFERENCES

soil maps —
1:63 360 sheets
110/116 (Latheron/Wick)

1:50 000
Orkney-Hoy
Orkney-Mainland
Orkney-Northern Isles

memoirs —
Soils round Wick

LOCATION AND EXTENT

North-east Caithness (19 sq km). Orkney (18 sq km). Total
37 sq km.

LANDFORM

Undulating lowlands with gentle slopes.

VEGETATION

Arable; permanent pastures; bog heather moors.

CLIMATE

	<i>Caithness</i>	<i>Orkney</i>
<i>av. ann. rainfall, mm</i>	800	900-1100
<i>accum. temperature</i> <i>(day °C above 0°C Jan-Jun)</i>	1060-1230	no data
<i>maximum PSMD, mm</i>	110	70
<i>growing season, days</i>	215	no data
<i>field capacity</i>	mid-Oct to early Mar	no data

SOIL DESCRIPTION

	<i>topsoil</i>	<i>subsoil</i>
<i>colour</i>	black or very dark greyish brown	greyish brown becoming reddish brown at depth; mottles common
<i>texture</i>	sandy loam or organic	sandy clay loam
<i>structure</i>	moderate medium subangular blocky	moderate coarse prismatic, becoming massive at depth
<i>stone content</i>	very slightly stony	slightly or moderately stony; stones often weathered
<i>potential rooting depth</i>	generally 25-30 cm; can be deeper in dry years, but root development usually restricted to structure cracks	
COMMENT	Topsoils have a high organic matter content; where the soils are not cultivated a surface organic layer (up to 50 cm thick) overlies an organic-stained horizon and the reddish brown till at depth.	

SOIL CHEMISTRY

Topsoils have medium to high pH levels, and high values
of exchangeable calcium and sodium. Base saturation is
medium to high throughout.

MAP UNIT VARIATION

Few of these soils are cultivated in Orkney.