

# Dornoch SERIES

## A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

### SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Noncalcareous  
regosols  
SSEW: Raw sands or  
sand-ranker soils

### SOIL ASSOCIATION LINKS

PARENT MATERIAL  
Windblown siliceous  
sand.

DRAINAGE CLASS  
Free

PERMEABILITY CLASS  
Very rapid

### REFERENCES

*soil maps* —  
1:63 360 sheets  
1/2/3/4 (Stranraer/  
Wigtown)  
75 (Tomintoul)  
77 (Aberdeen)  
84 (Nairn)  
85/95 (Rothes/Elgin)  
87/97 (Peterhead/  
Fraserburgh)  
94 (Cromarty and  
Invergordon)  
96 (Banff)  
103 (Golspie)  
109/115 (Achentoul/Reay)  
110/116 (Latheron/Wick)

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

*memoirs* —  
Soils round Stranraer and  
Wigtown  
Soils round Aberdeen,  
Inverurie and Fraserburgh  
Soils round Banff, Huntly  
and Turriff  
Soils round Wick

Compiled by A.J. Nolan  
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SMUTS 5

### LOCATION AND EXTENT

Coastal areas of the Moray Firth, Banffshire,  
Aberdeenshire, Easter Ross, east Sutherland, Orkney and  
Wigtownshire; small patches locally around inland lochs  
in Sutherland and Caithness. 50 sq km.

### LANDFORM

Dunes and undulating areas with gentle to strong slopes.

### VEGETATION

Permanent pastures; northern marram grass dune and red  
fescue dune pastures; maritime Atlantic heather moor;  
coniferous plantations.

### CLIMATE

	<i>Easter Ross &amp; Moray Firth</i>	<i>Aberdeenshire</i>	<i>Wigtownshire</i>
<i>av. ann. rainfall, mm</i>	600-700	700-800	1000
<i>accum. temperature (day °C above 0°C Jan-Jun)</i>	1190-1350	1060-1230	1260-1430
<i>maximum PSMD, mm</i>	120-155	105-115	120
<i>growing season, days</i>	220	215	250
<i>field capacity</i>	early Nov to early Mar	mid-Oct to early Mar	early Oct to early Mar

### SOIL DESCRIPTION

	<i>topsoil</i>	<i>subsoil</i>
<i>colour</i>	dark brown	brown or light brown
<i>texture</i>	loamy sand or sand	sand
<i>structure</i>	weak fine subangular blocky	single grain
<i>stone content</i>	stoneless	stoneless
<i>potential rooting depth</i>	unrestricted	
<i>COMMENT</i>	Topsoils often humose and shallow; buried topsoil horizon sequences common; a light grey subsoil horizon can develop in soils under heathland and coniferous plantations; some soils are shelly.	

### SOIL CHEMISTRY

Moderately acid; subsoils have a pH of 5-6 and low (<20%) base saturation (except where soils shelly). Low levels of available cobalt and copper.

### MAP UNIT VARIATION

Dornoch Series is shown as Links, freely drained on Sheets 1/2/3/4/, 77, 87/97, 94 and 96.