

Durnhill SERIES

A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Peaty podzols
SSEW: Ironpan
stagnopodzols

SOIL ASSOCIATION

DURNHILL

PARENT MATERIAL

Light yellowish brown
loamy sand till derived
from quartzites and
quartzose grits.

DRAINAGE CLASS

Free; imperfect to poor
where iron pan present.

PERMEABILITY CLASS

Moderate; where iron pan
present.

REFERENCES

soil maps —
1:63 360 sheets
75 (Tomintoul)
77 (Aberdeen)
85/95 (Rothes/Elgin)
86 (Huntly)
87/97 (Peterhead/
Fraserburgh)
96 (Banff)
109/115 (Achentoul/Reay)

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

LOCATION AND EXTENT

North-east Scotland; from the Bauds of Cullen to Portsoy;
isolated hills like the Bin of Cullen, the Balloch and
Mormond Hill; Ben Aigan and north-east of Tomintoul.
75 sq km.

LANDFORM

Lowland with gently and undulating slopes; hills with
strong to very steep slopes.

VEGETATION

Arable; permanent pasture; rush pasture; boreal heather
moors; coniferous plantations.

CLIMATE

Coastal areas

Inland areas

av. ann. rainfall, mm
accum. temperature
(day °C above 0°C Jan-Jun)
maximum PSMD, mm
growing season, days
field capacity

720
1190-1350

850
1060-1230

118
220
early Nov to early
Mar

108
215
mid-Oct to early
Mar

SOIL DESCRIPTION

topsoil

subsoil

colour

very dark brown

strong brown

texture

humose sandy loam

loamy sand

structure

moderate, medium
subangular blocky

weak platy

stone content

slightly stony

moderately stony

potential rooting depth

generally less than 35 cm due to
induration

COMMENT

The uncultivated soil has a black peaty
topsoil underlain by an ash-grey layer.
The subsoil can have an iron pan and be
very slightly to extremely stony.
Induration is moderate or strong in both
the cultivated and uncultivated soil. The
subsoil texture is often described as
'sugary.'

SOIL CHEMISTRY

Inherently low fertility, low pH (around 5 in the subsoil),
extremely low base saturation (<15%) and low levels of
trace elements are characteristic.

MAP UNIT VARIATION

The soils are shown as DH1 and DH2 on sheets 86 and 96.
Upper horizons can be gleyed, particularly in less steep
hill areas.