

Millbuie SERIES

A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Humus-iron
podzols (Podzols on
early maps)

SSEW: Humo-ferric
podzols, or
stagnogleyic brown
podzolic soils where
cultivated

SOIL ASSOCIATION

MILLBUIE

PARENT MATERIAL

Brown, stony sandy loam
or loamy sand till derived
from coarse-grained rocks
of Middle Old Red
Sandstone age.

DRAINAGE CLASS

Imperfect

PERMEABILITY CLASS

Moderate

REFERENCES

soil maps —
1:63 360 sheets
Parts 83/84/93/94 (Black
Isle)

memoirs —
Soils of the Black Isle

Compiled by W. Towers
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SMUTS 3

LOCATION AND EXTENT

The Black Isle, Ross and Cromarty. *111 sq km.*

LANDFORM

Gently sloping lowlands, rising from the north and south
to the spine of the Black Isle. Gently moundy at the
western end.

VEGETATION

Arable; permanent pastures; bell heather – Scots pine
plantation.

CLIMATE

Low Ground (0-150 m)

High Ground (150-250 m)

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

600-800
1190-1350

800-1000
1080-1250

120
220
early Nov to early
Mar

110
215
mid-Oct to early
Mar

SOIL DESCRIPTION

topsoil

subsoil

colour

very dark greyish
brown

yellowish brown
with some grey and
rusty mottles

texture

sandy loam

sandy loam

structure

medium subangular
blocky

moderate coarse
platy

stone content

slightly stony

slightly or
moderately stony

potential rooting depth

generally 30-40 cm. The compact subsoil
impedes root development

COMMENT

Subsoil induration is common and is
nearest the surface in the soils of the spine
of the Black Isle.

SOIL CHEMISTRY

pH values generally between 5-6. Percentage base
saturation medium or low but soils can be fully saturated
at depth. Amounts of copper and cobalt are low or very
low.

MAP UNIT VARIATION

Soils with thin organic surface horizons are common on
the higher afforested ground.