

# Olig SERIES

## A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

### SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Peaty gleys  
SSEW: Cambic  
stagnohumic gley soils

### SOIL ASSOCIATION

THURSO

### PARENT MATERIAL

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  
109/115 (Achentoul/Reay)  
110/116 (Latheron/Wick)

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

*memoirs* —  
Soils round Wick

### LOCATION AND EXTENT

Northern and eastern Caithness (97 sq km);  
Orkney (35 sq km). Total 132 sq km.

### LANDFORM

Undulating lowlands with gentle or occasionally  
moderate slopes.

### VEGETATION

Bog heather moor; some ley and permanent pastures.

### CLIMATE

	Caithness	Orkney
<i>av. ann. rainfall, mm</i>	800-1000	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 or grey with ochreous mottling
<i>texture</i>	organic or humose sandy silt loam	sandy clay loam; in places sand silt loam
<i>structure</i>	moderate medium subangular blocky	as topsoil, occasionally platy where indurated; massive at depth
<i>stone content</i>	very slightly or slightly stony	slightly or moderately stony
<i>potential rooting depth</i>	generally 25-30 cm; in dry years, can be deeper along structure cracks	
COMMENT	Most soils are uncultivated and have a black organic horizon up to 50 cm thick. Cultivated soils can be distinguished from Thurso Series by their dark topsoils.	

### SOIL CHEMISTRY

pH values low (<pH 4.0 in organic topsoils) rising only a  
little with depth. Exchangeable bases moderate and total  
phosphorus low in subsoil.

### MAP UNIT VARIATION

Bedrock within 30 cm of the surface is found in some  
Olig Series soils in Orkney.