

# Mairlenden SERIES

## A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

### SOIL CLASSIFICATION

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

SSEW: Stagnogleyic  
brown podzolic soils,  
or humo-ferric podzols  
where uncultivated

### SOIL ASSOCIATION

FOUDLAND

### PARENT MATERIAL

Drifts derived from  
Dalradian slates,  
phyllites, other weakly  
metamorphosed  
argillaceous rocks and  
schistose grits.

### DRAINAGE CLASS

Imperfect

### PERMEABILITY CLASS

Moderate

### REFERENCES

*soil maps* —  
1:63 360 sheets  
39 (Stirling)  
47 (Crieff)  
75 (Tomintoul)  
76 (Inverurie)  
85/95 (Rothes/Elgin)

*memoirs* —  
Soils round Aberdeen,  
Inverurie and Fraserburgh

Compiled by A. Lilly  
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SMUTS 3

### LOCATION AND EXTENT

Strath Isla and Glen Rinnes from around Keith to around  
Dufftown; the Coreen Hills; Glen Artney. *About 25 sq km.*

### LANDFORM

Undulating lowland and valley sides with gentle to strong  
slopes.

### VEGETATION

Arable; permanent pastures; common bent-fescue  
grassland.

### CLIMATE

<i>av. ann. rainfall, mm</i>	850
<i>accum. temperature</i> <i>(day °C above 0°C Jan-Jun)</i>	1060-1230
<i>maximum PSMD, mm</i>	108
<i>growing season, days</i>	215
<i>field capacity</i>	mid-Oct to early Mar

### SOIL DESCRIPTION

#### *topsoil*

#### *subsoil*

*colour*

dark brown

yellowish brown  
with ochreous  
mottling

*texture*

fine sandy silt loam

fine sandy silt loam

*structure*

moderate, medium  
subangular blocky

weak, subangular  
blocky (platy when  
indurated)

*stone content*

very slightly stony

slightly or  
moderately stony

*potential rooting depth*

greater than 45 cm but occasionally  
shallower due to induration.

COMMENT

The uncultivated soil has a black humose  
topsoil. The amount of slaty stones often  
increases with depth.

### SOIL CHEMISTRY

Subsoil pH in the range 5.4-6.0 in cultivated soils and 4.1-  
4.9 in uncultivated. Base saturation is moderate or low  
(<50%).

### MAP UNIT VARIATION

Where the soil has developed from black schist, the  
subsoil is generally dark greyish brown.