

# Tresdale SERIES

## A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

### SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Noncalcareous  
gleys  
SSEW: Cambic  
stagnogley soils

### SOIL ASSOCIATION

CANISBAY

### PARENT MATERIAL

Reddish brown 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  
110/116 (Latheron/Wick)

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

*memoirs* —  
Soils round Wick

### LOCATION AND EXTENT

Orkney (171 sq km) particularly on East Mainland, South Ronaldsay, Stronsay, Westray and in Orphir; north-east Caithness (1 sq km).. Total 172 sq km..

### LANDFORM

Undulating lowlands with gentle slopes.

### VEGETATION

Ley and permanent pastures; some arable.

### CLIMATE

	Orkney	Caithness
<i>av. ann. rainfall, mm</i>	900-1100	800
<i>accum. temperature (day °C above 0°C Jan-Jun)</i>	no data	1060-1230
<i>maximum PSMD, mm</i>	70	110
<i>growing season, days</i>	no data	215
<i>field capacity</i>	no data	mid-Oct to early Mar

### SOIL DESCRIPTION

	<i>topsoil</i>	<i>subsoil</i>
<i>colour</i>	dark greyish brown	reddish brown with frequent strong brown and pinkish grey mottles
<i>texture</i>	sandy silt loam	sandy clay loam or clay loam
<i>structure</i>	moderate medium subangular blocky	moderate coarse prismatic, becoming massive with depth
<i>stone content</i>	very slightly stony	moderately stony, many of the stones strongly weathered
<i>potential rooting depth</i>	generally 25-30 cm. Can be deeper in dry years, but root development usually restricted to structure cracks.	
COMMENT	Most of the soils result from the long cultivation of peaty gleys and topsoils have a moderate or high organic matter content.	

### SOIL CHEMISTRY

Levels of exchangeable bases and pH values are generally medium, although percentage base saturation and pH values can be high in the parent material. High levels of exchangeable sodium are common in the topsoil.

### MAP UNIT VARIATION

Often closely associated with Canisbay Series, a peaty gley.