

Peterhead SERIES

A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Noncalcareous
gleys
SSEW: Cambic
stagnogley soils

SOIL ASSOCIATION PETERHEAD

PARENT MATERIAL

Reddish brown clay or
clay loam till derived
from Old Red Sandstone
sediments with igneous
and metamorphic rocks
and conglomerate
cobbles.

DRAINAGE CLASS

Poor

PERMEABILITY CLASS

Slow

REFERENCES

soil maps —
1:63 360 sheets
77 (Aberdeen)
87/97 (Peterhead/
Fraserburgh)

memoirs —
Soils round Aberdeen,
Inverurie and Fraserburgh

LOCATION AND EXTENT

Widespread in the Boddam, Peterhead, St. Fergus and
Crimond districts and sporadically around Ellon, Cruden
Bay and Newburgh. 57 sq km.

LANDFORM

Gently undulating till plain.

VEGETATION

Arable; permanent pastures; occasional rush pastures.

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 greyish brown

greyish brown with
ochreous and grey
mottling

texture

clay loam

clay loam or clay

structure

moderate medium
subangular blocky

coarse prismatic

stone content

slightly stony

slightly stony

potential rooting depth

about 45 cm, greater where roots exploit
subsoil cracks

COMMENT

Humose topsoils are darker; subsoils
often have a reddish cast.

SOIL CHEMISTRY

Subsoil has base saturation greater than 50 %, is
moderately acid and has high nutrient retention.

MAP UNIT VARIATION

South of the River Ythan the soils can have a more coarse
texture with a higher proportion of sand.