

Pithogarty SERIES

A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Mineral alluvial soils

SSEW: Typical sandy gley soils

SOIL ASSOCIATION

NIGG/LOW RAISED BEACH

PARENT MATERIAL

Low raised beach, marine and estuarine alluvial sand and fine sand. Underlain by finer-textured material or peat in some localities.

DRAINAGE CLASS

Imperfect

PERMEABILITY CLASS

Moderate

REFERENCES

soil maps —

1:63 360 sheets

84 (Nairn)

94 (Cromarty/Invergordon)

95 (Elgin)

103 (Golspie)

LOCATION AND EXTENT

Moray Firth lowlands; scattered occurrences from Golspie to Lossiemouth. Most extensive in Easter Ross. 38 sq km.

LANDFORM

Raised beach platforms, with gentle slopes.

VEGETATION

Arable; leys and permanent pastures; some coniferous plantations.

CLIMATE

<i>av. ann. rainfall, mm</i>	600-800
<i>accum. temperature (day °C above 0°C Jan-Jun)</i>	1190-1350
<i>maximum PSMD, mm</i>	120-155
<i>growing season, days</i>	220
<i>field capacity</i>	early Nov to early Mar

SOIL DESCRIPTION

	<i>topsoil</i>	<i>subsoil</i>
<i>colour</i>	brown to greyish brown	light brown to light greyish brown, sometimes mottled
<i>texture</i>	fine sandy loam or fine sandy silt loam	loamy fine sand or sand
<i>structure</i>	moderate medium subangular blocky	weak coarse subangular blocky
<i>stone content</i>	stoneless or very slightly stony	stoneless or very slightly stony
<i>potential rooting depth</i>	generally unrestricted unless truncated by the ground-water table	
COMMENT	These soils show considerable variation in profile development and in depth to and control of the ground-water table.	

SOIL CHEMISTRY

pH values and percentage base saturation are medium or high, exchangeable bases are low. Low total phosphorus in subsoil.

MAP UNIT VARIATION

Appears as imperfectly drained sandy LB on Sheet 94. Soils in the Culbin and Ardesier areas have coarse textures and a high water-table. Between Tain and Inver the topsoils have coarse textures and are liable to erosion.