

# Strichen SERIES

## A. SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

### SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SCOT: Humus-iron  
podzols (Podzols or iron  
podzols on early maps).  
SSEW: Humo-ferric  
podzols or typical brown  
podzolic soils where  
cultivated

### SOIL ASSOCIATION STRICHEN

### PARENT MATERIAL

Drifts derived from acid  
schists, schistose grits and  
granulites, principally of the  
Dalradian. (Sandy loam till  
in lowlands, stony sandy  
loam or loamy sand shallow  
drift on hills.)

### DRAINAGE CLASS

Free

### PERMEABILITY CLASS

Moderate

### REFERENCES

*soil maps* —  
1:63 360 sheets  
47 (Crieff)  
48/49 (Perth/Arbroath)  
56 (Blairgowrie)  
57 (Forfar)  
66/67 (Banchory/Stonehaven)  
75 (Tomintoul)  
84 (Nairn)  
85/95 (Rothes/Elgin)  
86 (Huntly)  
87/97 (Peterhead/Fraserburgh)  
94 (Cromarty/Invergordon)  
96 (Banff)  
109/115 (Achentoul/Reay)

*memoirs* —  
Soils round Banff, Huntly and  
Turriff  
Soils round Aberdeen, Inverurie  
and Fraserburgh

Compiled by R.E.F. Heslop  
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SMUDS 4

### LOCATION AND EXTENT

Morayshire and Cromdale (Invernessshire); Banffshire;  
northern Aberdeenshire; and Kincardineshire, Angus and  
Perthshire north of the Highland Boundary Fault.  
640 sq km.

### LANDFORM

Undulating lowlands with gentle to strong slopes, and  
hills and valley sides with gentle to steep slopes.

### VEGETATION

Arable; ley and permanent pastures; boreal and Atlantic  
heather moors; bent-fescue grasslands.

### CLIMATE

	<i>Moray Firth</i>	<i>Elsewhere</i>	
		<i>(rainfall &lt; 1000 mm)</i>	<i>(rainfall &gt; 1000 mm)</i>
<i>av. ann. rainfall, mm</i>	800	800-1000	1000-1800
<i>accum. temperature (day °C above 0°C Jan-Jun)</i>	1190-1350	900-1250	no data
<i>maximum PSMD, mm</i>	120	90-115	70-110
<i>growing season, days</i>	220	210-215	no data
<i>field capacity</i>	early Nov to early Mar	mid-Oct to early to mid- Mar	no data

### SOIL DESCRIPTION

	<i>topsoil</i>	<i>subsoil</i>
<i>colour</i>	dark greyish brown	yellowish brown or strong brown
<i>texture</i>	sandy loam or sandy silt loam	fine sandy loam or sandy loam
<i>structure</i>	moderate subangular blocky	weak subangular blocky
<i>stone content</i>	slightly or moderately stony	slightly or moderately stony (till), very stony (shallow drift)
<i>potential rooting depth</i>	35 to over 80 cm depending on presence of and depth to induration or rock	

COMMENT Friable, brightly coloured subsoil is conspicuous but  
can change abruptly to a paler indurated layer below. Semi-natural  
soils have a surface layer of black humus over dark grey humose sandy  
loam, subsoils as above.

### SOIL CHEMISTRY

Acid; subsoils have pH about 5, low percentage base saturation  
and medium or low total phosphorus. Low available cobalt.

### MAP UNIT VARIATION

Strichen Series is shown as ST1 and ST2 on Sheets 86 and 96;  
ST2 includes some imperfectly drained soils.