

# 493122

## TAMAR RIVER

Occupying the estuarine fringes of the Tamar, Pipers, Little Forester and Brid Rivers, and Pipers Brook are Quaternary clays and gravels. These deposits have formed river terraces and floodplains with small areas of mud flats. Almost the entire area is less than 40 metres above sea level, with a major proportion less than 20 metres above.

Soils vary with distance from the river mouth. The river terraces and floodplains are consistently occupied by a deep clay soil. Below the shallow water-table in these soils there is often a dark greenish-grey sticky gley horizon. Small areas of a sandy loam overlaying sand (sometimes mottled)

are found on this component. The mud flats are only evident at low tide. Saline waterlogged soils are generally found above low water mark, but sometimes extend above high water mark. These soils vary in extent, being found as far up the Tamar River as Rosevears.

A low open-shrubland of predominantly paperbark, swamp gum and *Phragmites communis* is found on the river terraces and floodplains. The mudflats have been colonised by a tussock grassland of *Spartina townsendii*.

Because of the poor drainage and flat topography most of the area remains undeveloped, although some small areas are used for grazing and recreation.

Major hazards include riverbank erosion, salting, waterlogging and flooding.

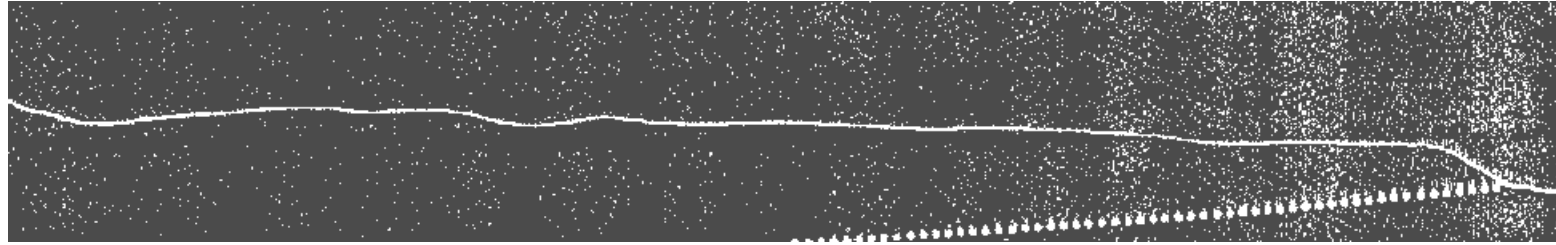


Floodplains.

**LAND SYSTEM**

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Tamar River



COMPONENT	1	2
PROPORTION %	95	5
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 750-1 000 mm	
GEOLOGY	Quaternary clays and sands	
TOPOGRAPHY	Estuarine fringe	
Land form	Estuarine fringe	
Position	River terrace and floodplains	Mud flats
Average Sideslope °	1	1
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure	Low open-shrubland	Tussock grass-land
Association	Paperbark, swamp gum, <i>Pbragmites communis</i> , salt tolerant grasses, sedges and rushes	<i>Spartina townsendii</i>
SOIL	Dark grey (10 YR 4/1) clay soil, uniform texture	Very dark grey mud
Surface Texture	Clay	
Permeability	Low	
Average Depth m	>2.0	
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation, recreation, grazing	
HAZARDS		
	River bank, erosion, waterlogging, salting	River erosion, salting, waterlogging, flooding