

564131

STEWARTS HILL

Characterised by rolling hills formed on Permian mudstones, sandstones and siltstones, this system is scattered throughout the north-west of the Region. The major occurrence is near Stewarts Hill between Winkleigh and Holwell. Smaller occurrences are found near Frankford and Parkham and to the west of Port Sorell. Extensive faulting of the Permian deposits has occurred, resulting in the relatively steep topography.

All soils are either sandy or silty. Duplex soils have developed on the crests, mid slopes and steep lower slopes, while a deep sand soil with ' coffee-rock ' at about one metre depth has developed on the upper

slopes. The gradational soil on the gentle lower slopes is mottled.

The open-forest vegetation is dominated by white gum, black peppermint and stringybark. The major understorey plants are silver wattle and prickly mimosa. Considerable areas have been cleared and sown to pasture, but because of the relatively infertile and acid soils many of these pastures have deteriorated and have become overgrown by bracken and blackberry.

Grazing is the main land use.

The sandy and silty soils are very susceptible to sheet, gully and rill erosion. Serious erosion has occurred over most of the system where the vegetative cover has been broken.

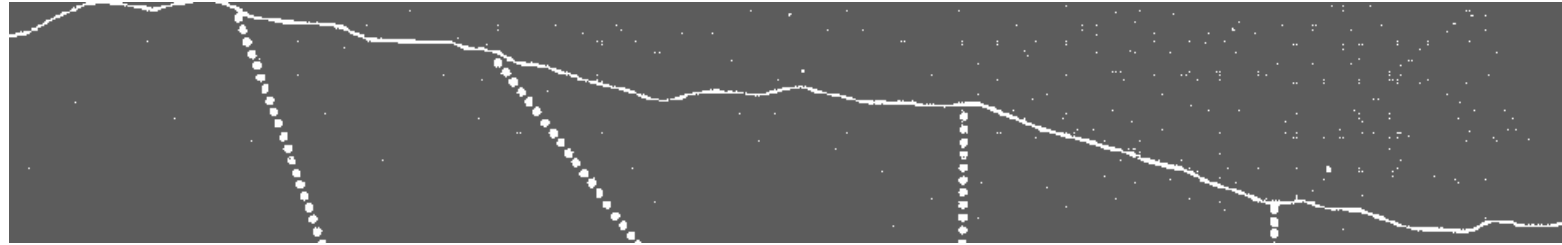


Mid and lower slopes.

LAND SYSTEM

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Stewarts Hill



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4	5
PROPORTION %	15	15	30	20	20
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm				
GEOLOGY	Permian mudstones, sandstones and siltstones				
TOPOGRAPHY					
Land form			Steep and rolling hills		
Position	Crests	Upper slopes	Mid slopes	Steep lower slopes	Gentler lower slopes
Average Sideslope °	8	10	6	12	3
NATIVE VEGETATION	Open-forest				
Structure	Open-forest				
Association	White gum, silver wattle, bracken fern	Black peppermint, white gum, prickly mimosa, bracken fern	Stringybark, black peppermint, white gum, silver wattle, blackwood, <i>Helichrysum dendroideum</i> , bracken fern, fireweed	White gum, silver wattle, blackwood, native cherry, <i>Helichrysum dendroideum</i> , <i>Bedfordia salicina</i> , dogwood	Black peppermint, white gum, stringy-bark, manuka, prickly mimosa, bull-oak, heath, silver wattle, paperbark, bracken fern
SOIL	Brownish yellow (10 YR 6/8) duplex soil	Grey (5 YR 6/1) sand soil, uniform texture with 'coffee-rock' at about 1 m	Dark brown (7.5 YR 4/2) duplex soil	Yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) duplex soil	Mottled grey (10 YR 6/1) strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) gradational soil
Surface Texture	Sandy loam				Sandy clay loam
Permeability	High			Moderate	
Average Depth m	1.0	>2.0	1.0	0.8	1.4
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, nature conservation, forestry				
HAZARDS	Moderate sheet, rill and gully erosion			High sheet and gully erosion	Low gully erosion