

582131

ELLIOTT

Rolling low hills with ridges trending N.E.-S.W. have formed on remnants of Tertiary basalt scattered across the north of the Region from its eastern margin westward to Irishtown. The distribution extends from the coast southward to about the 300 m contour where Elliott gradually gives way to Highclere land system. Steep scarps may occur round its margins, especially along the coast.

The deep, very well drained soils are highly prized for agricultural development and their typically red to reddish brown colour is an indicator of prime farmland. A variety of gravelly and sandy soils developed on small scattered areas of Tertiary non-marine sediments was found in the Sheffield district.

The tall forest vegetation is dominated by mostly stringybark which is associated with white gum

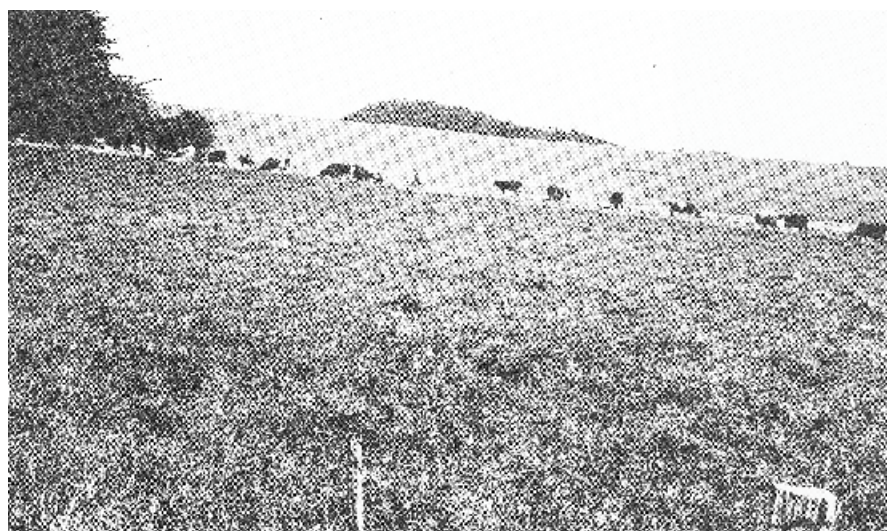
and blackwood while along the drainage lines swamp gum also is present. Patches of dense paperbark scrub found mainly near the coast are supported by a heavy, mottled soil with coarse structure which has been described by Loveday and Farquhar (1958) as 'Hicks clay loam'.

Most of Elliott land system has now been cleared principally for grazing. Beef and dairy cattle are the main herds with sheep of secondary importance. Cropping is not a major enterprise and potatoes, barley, canning peas, oil poppies, green beans and other vegetables are grown mainly as a sideline to grazing.

The major hazard presented by this land system is the risk of mass movement and slumping of the soil in certain areas on the steeper slopes and particularly on the scarp slopes along the coast. Sheet erosion constitutes a moderate hazard, especially in areas regularly cropped or overgrazed.



Profiles such as this typify extensive areas of Tertiary basalt in Monarty, Highclere, Hampshire and Guide River as well as Elliott land system

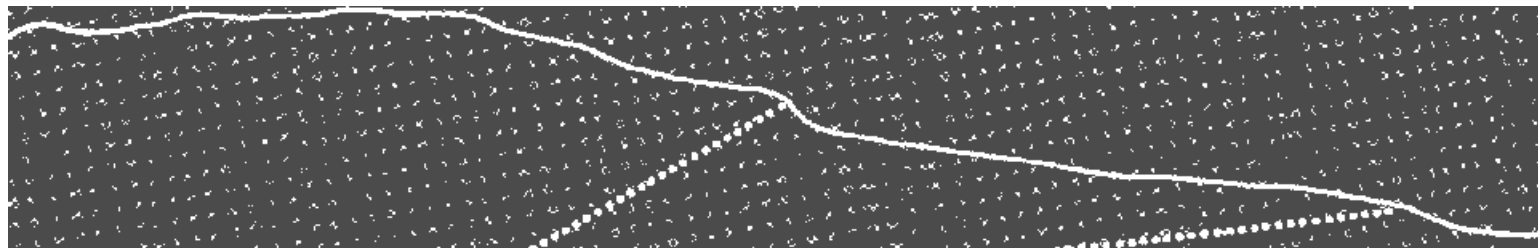


Strip grazing a dairy herd on rich pastures in Elliott land system.

LAND SYSTEM

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Elliott



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	50	40	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm		
GEOLOGY	Tertiary basalt		Alluvium
TOPOGRAPHY	Low hills trending mainly NE— SW		
Land form	Crests, upper slopes	Gentler, lower slopes	Drainage lines
Position			
Average Sideslope °	6	3	2
NATIVE VEGETATION	Tall closed forest		
Structure	Stringybark, white gum, blackwood		
Association	Stringybark, white gum, blackwood		White gum, stringybark, swamp gum, black wood, silver wattle
SOIL	Red (2.5 YR 4/6) gradational soil, fine structure	Reddish brown (5 YR 4/4) gradational soil, fine structure	Dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/4) clay soil, uniform texture
Surface Texture	Clay loam		Light clay
Permeability	Moderate		Low
Average Depth m	1.8	>2.0	2.0
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, cropping		
HAZARDS	Moderate sheet erosion and mass movement		Low streambank erosion