

593112

DAIRY PLAINS

Flat plains have formed on Quaternary sediments round Chudleigh and Ritchies Plain, on the eastern margin of Region 3, and extend into Region 4.

The mottled duplex soils have loam to sandy loam surface textures and very dense B horizons. The profiles are deep and gravel occurs in the lower solum, increasing in quantity with depth. Water-worn stones and gravel are also present on the surface in some localities. The area is poorly drained due to the fine textured, slowly permeable clays

and to the flat, low lying topography, and in some instances a gravelly pan has developed at about a metre depth.

Black peppermint, white gum and silver wattle were found growing in these soils and vegetation remnants in Region 4 have suggested a low woodland structure.

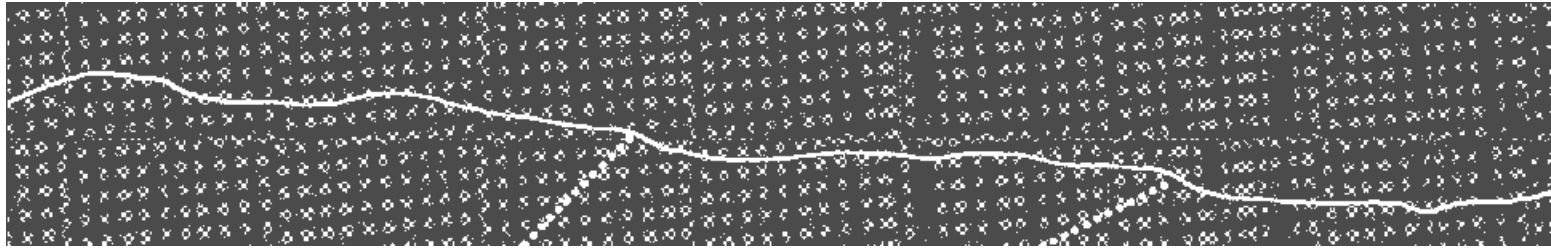
Though poorly drained, the soils are fertile and considerable effort is expended in maintaining the many kilometres of man-made ditches to facilitate better drainage. The area is used for grazing and cropping.

Waterlogging is the principal hazard.

LAND SYSTEM

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Dairy Plains



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	40	35	25
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 000-1 250 mm		
GEOLOGY	Quaternary sands, clays and gravels		
TOPOGRAPHY			
Land form	Flat plains		
Position	Upper terrace	Lower terrace	Present floodplains
Average Sideslope °	2	2	1
NATIVE VEGETATION			
Structure	Low woodland		
Association	Silver wattle, black peppermint	Black peppermint, white gum	No remnants
SOIL	Mottled dark grey (10 YR 4/1) strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) duplex soil	Mottled strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) dark grey (10 YR 4/1) duplex soil	Mottled light grey (10 YR 7/1) strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) duplex soil, organic surface
Surface Texture	Loam	Sandy loam	Loam
Permeability	Moderate		
Average Depth m		>2.0	Low
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, cropping		
HAZARDS	Low sheet erosion		High waterlogging