

## 641232

### FOUR HILLS

Low hills have developed on outcrops of adamellite granite emplaced during the Upper Devonian-Lower Carboniferous. The largest occurrence, in the Emu and Ely the Rivers, covers a strip of country 15 km long and up to 7.5 km broad, and extends north-east from near Hampshire. The other main area lies east of South Riana.

Brown gradational soils containing quartz gravel cover most of the system. A very gravelly grey sand soil was found in small pockets where a pan

impedes the drainage, while a deeper, yellowish brown soil is in the swales and along the flow-lines.

The forest vegetation is dominated by stringybark and black peppermint. A manuka scrub forms an understorey on the areas of impeded drainage.

Most of the system is still timbered and forestry is the principal land use with nature conservation of secondary importance. Areas have been converted to improved pastures near South Riana.

Granitic soils generally are highly erodible, especially on steep slopes, and this is reflected in the classification of hazard for this land system.

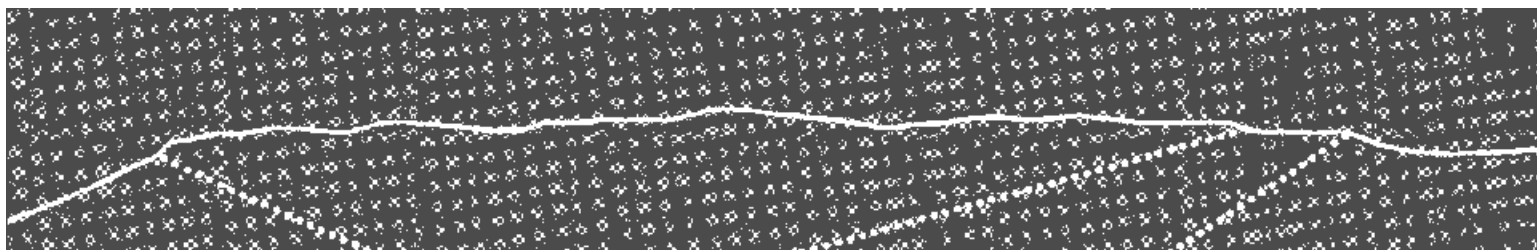


*Large old stumps indicate the size of the timber and density of the original forest.*

**LAND SYSTEM**

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Four Hills



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4
PROPORTION %	10	70	5	15
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 250-1 500 mm			
GEOLOGY	Lower Carboniferous-Upper Devonian granite			
TOPOGRAPHY	Low Hills			
Land form	Low Hills			
Position	Steep slopes	Crests, gentle slopes	Impeded drainage	Swales, flowlines
Average Sideslope °	17	5		3
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure	Closed forest		Open forest	
Association	Stringybark, black peppermint		Black peppermint, manuka	Strmgybark
SOIL	Gravelly strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) gradational soil		Very gravelly, pale grey (7.5 YR 6/2) sand soil, uniform texture, hard pan	Yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) gradational soil
Surface Texture	Gravelly clay loam		Peat	Clay loam
Permeability	High	Moderate	High	Moderate
Average Depth m	1.0		0.6	1.3
PRESENT LAND USE	Forestry, nature conservation			
HAZARDS	High rill, gully erosion	Moderate sheet, rill erosion	Low flooding, rill erosion	High siltation