

# 682141

## GUIDE RIVER

The sheet of Tertiary basalt lying across the north-east of the study area has been incised by the northerly flowing streams to form relatively deep, broad valleys. The valleys begin on the northern edge of the basalt plateau represented by Hampshire and Guilford land systems, and transect the rolling topography of Highclere and Elliott land systems to end where the streams have cut right through the layers of basalt into the older basement materials.

The soils are comparable with most others derived from Tertiary basalt within Region 3. They are relatively deep, well structured, fairly fertile and very well drained. In some localities however, e.g. along the steep upper slopes of the Wilmot River valley, south-west of Wilmot, there are dull mottled, slowly permeable gradational soils. There are also isolated instances of gravelly yellowish

brown soils associated with exposures of the underlying sediments.

The open forest community on the crests and slopes changes to a tall closed forest on the alluvium of the drainage lines. The main association is a mixture of eucalypts and rainforest species. Principal among these are stringybark, white gum, myrtle, sassafras and blackwood. A tall shrub layer in the drainage lines contains leatherwood, dogwood and native laurel with soft tree fern.

Grazing is the main land use but forestry is increasing in importance as shown by the establishment of pine plantations. Steep and stony ground carrying native vegetation serve as areas of nature conservation.

The length and degree of slope confer a high erosion hazard on most of the system. This classification is justified by the frequent occurrence of mass movement and slumping.

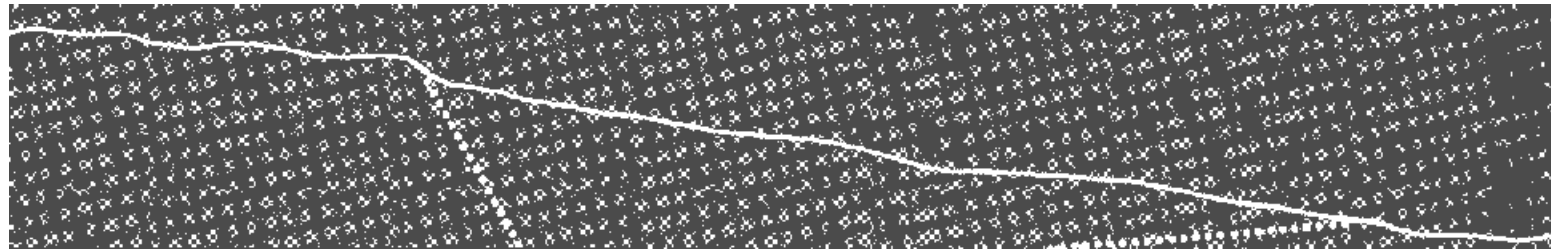


*Forestry is increasing in importance on this country which is used principally for grazing*

**LAND SYSTEM**

682141

Guide River



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	25	65	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 250-1 500 mm		
GEOLOGY	Tertiary basalt		
	Colluvium		Alluvium
TOPOGRAPHY			
Land form		Relatively deep broad valleys	
Position	Upper slopes	Lower slopes	Drainage lines
Average Sideslope °	7	10	2
NATIVE VEGETATION			
Structure	Open forest		Tall closed forest
Association	Myrtle, blackwood, stringybark, white gum		Stringybark, white gum, myrtle, blackwood, soft tree fern, sassafras, leatherwood, dogwood, native laurel
SOIL	Stony, strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6), gradational	Strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) to yellowish red (5 YR 5/8) gradational soil	Stony, dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/4) gradational soil
Surface Texture	Clay loam		Gravelly clay loam
Permeability		Moderate	
Average Depth m	1.2	>2.0	1.5
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, forestry (softwoods, hardwoods), nature conservation		
HAZARDS	High sheet erosion	High sheet, gully erosion, high mass movement	Moderate streambank erosion