682231

HIGHCLERE

Highclere belongs to a group of land systems formed on Tertiary basalt. There is a gradual boundary between it and Elliott land system, its lower, warmer and drier counterpart lying to the north. In the south is a fairly well defined boundary along a break in slope to the gentler topography of Hampshire land system. Laterally its distribution is interrupted by the steeper topographies associated with the northerly flowing streams.

Soils are gravelly, mainly yellowish red in colour, and have gradational profiles. They are mostly deep, well structured, fairly fertile and very well drained. By contrast, slowly permeable duplex soils were found in the drainage lines.

Originally covering these areas was a closed forest of stringybark, and to a lesser extent black peppermint, mixed with myrtle, sassafras and black wood.

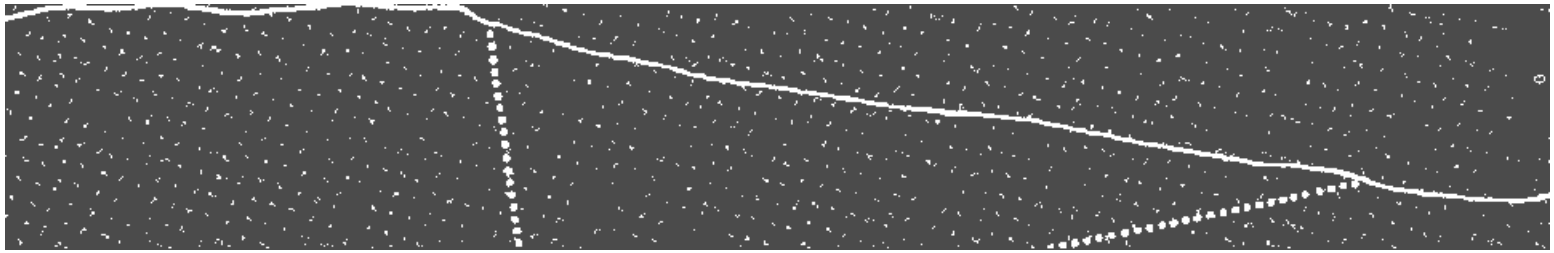
Highclere land system has been mostly cleared for grazing of beef cattle and some sheep. In the warmer areas to the north, some cropping is carried on as a sideline to grazing. The principal crops are potatoes, barley and canning peas. Small areas have been planted to pine.

The moderate to high erosion hazard is most important on steep sites and on cultivated paddocks. Mass movement is evident on the steeper slopes.

LAND SYSTEM

682231

Highclere



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	30	60	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 250-1 500 mm		
GEOLOGY	Tertiary basalt		
TOPOGRAPHY			
Land form		Low hills	
Position	Crests, upper slopes	Lower slopes	Drainage lines
Average Sideslope °	2	7	2
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure		Closed forest	
Association	Stringybark, black-wood, myrtle, sassafras, black peppermint		Black-wood, *Juncus* sp
SOIL	Gravelly, yellowish red (5 YR 4/6) gradational soil, fine structure	Gravelly, yellowish red (5 YR 4/8) gradational soil	Gravelly, greyish brown (2 5 Y 5/2), duplex soil
Surface Texture	Clay loam		Gravelly clay loam
Permeability	High	Moderate	Low
Average Depth m	1 0	>2.0	1 0
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, cropping		
HAZARDS	Moderate sheet erosion	High sheet, rill erosion, moderate mass movement	Low streambank erosion