

741231

MT HOUSETOP

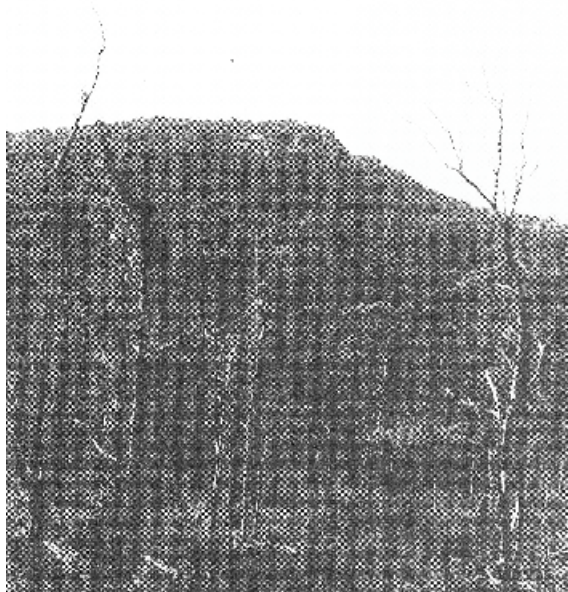
Two areas of low hills in the north-east have formed on outcrops of adamellite granite. The smaller exposure lies north of St Valentines Peak, while the main area, which is 13 km long and about 8 km wide, outcrops in the Blythe River. It is closely related to Four Hills land system lying to the north, but is distinguished by its isolated higher peaks, which form prominent land marks within the district.

Soils within this system vary from shallow stony soils on the highest slopes through deep, gravelly yellowish red and reddish brown soils on the steep and lower slopes, to shallow black sands and deep peaty clays in the lowest parts.

The vegetation is mainly forest, dominated by stringybark and Smithton peppermint with myrtle and sassafras becoming prominent in protected valleys. However, a feature of the system is the scattered flats and gentle slopes covered by button grass and cutting grass.

Mt Housetop land system is intensively logged by forestry interests.

The coarse textured soils are highly erodible, as evidenced by the widespread occurrence of severe erosion and siltation in recently cut over areas.



Isolated higher peaks form prominent land marks and distinguish this from Four Hills land system

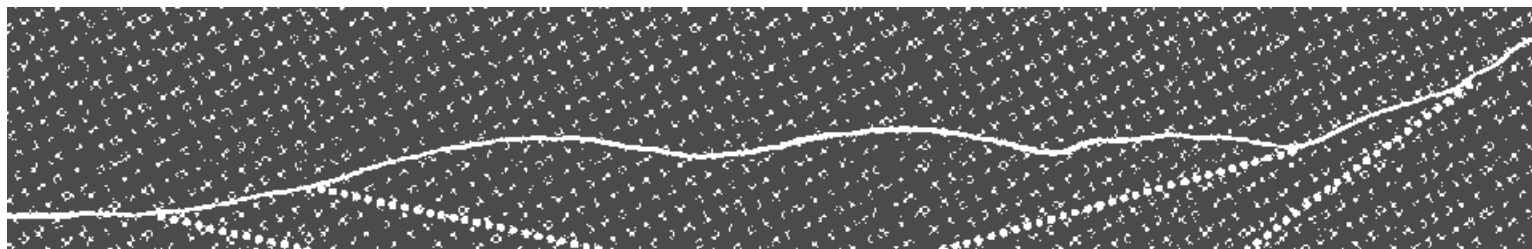


Severe erosion and siltation in areas recently logged.

LAND SYSTEM

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Mt Housetop



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4	5
PROPORTION %	10	10	65	10	5
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 500-2 000 mm				
GEOLOGY	Lower Carboniferous— Upper Devonian granite				
TOPOGRAPHY	Mainly low hills with isolated higher peaks				
Land form					
Position	Peat flats	Impeded drainage	Low hills, swales	Steep slopes	Peaks, steep upper slopes
Average Sideslope °	2	7	5	15	18
NATIVE VEGETATION					
Structure	Closed sedgeland	Open forest, closed scrub	Open forest	Tall open forest	Open forest
Association	Button grass, cutting grass	Smithton peppermint, manuka, heath, <i>Acacia mucronata</i> , honeysuckle	Stringybark, Smithton peppermint	Stringybark, myrtle, sassafras, dogwood	Stringybark
SOIL					
	Peat on peaty clay	Black sand soil, uniform texture	Gravelly, yellowish red (5 YR 4/8) gradational soil	Gravelly, reddish brown (5 YR 4/4) gradational soil	Stony brown, gradational soils
Surface Texture	Peat	Loamy sand	Sandy clay loam	Loamy clay	
Permeability	Low			High	
Average Depth m	>1.8	0.3	1.3	>2.0	Shallow
PRESENT LAND USE	Forestry, nature conservation				
HAZARDS	Moderate flooding	High sheet, rill erosion, high siltation		High sheet, gully erosion	High sheet and rill erosion