

# 782221

## HAMPSHIRE

Hampshire is one of several land systems within Region 3 derived from remnants of Tertiary basalt. It has a scattered distribution across the north from around Mawbanna in the west to the River Forth in the east. The basalt mantle has been eroded in the west by the upper tributaries of the Arthur River and in the east by the Leven and Forth drainage lines. The mantle is also interrupted by steeply dipping Ordovician strata and by emplacements of granite.

There is a gradual boundary between Hampshire and Guildford land system in the south but there is a more or less well defined scarp separating it from the steeper topography of Highclere land system to the north. This scarp runs approximately parallel with the coast and is situated about 28 km inland. Hampshire land system forms a gently sloping plain rising from 450 m along its northern edge to 600 m at its southern margin. Small scattered monadnocks with plateau crests are a feature of the plain.

The major soil has a stony, yellowish red gradational profile which is very well drained and has a high permeability. Soils are darker but friable on the plateau scarps and change to a strong brown on the plateau tops. Along the creek flats soils are only slowly permeable.

A mixed forest of stringybark with rainforest species initially covered most of the area, while along the creek flats, swamp gum and woolly tea-tree are prominent.

Areas have been cleared for grazing by mainly beef cattle, but forestry is the main land use. As well as the native timber, exotic softwoods are increasing in importance. A considerable proportion of country now under pines was formerly cleared for grazing. The predominant plantation species is Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) but Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga douglasii*) is also being tested.

Moderate sheet erosion is likely on the monadnocks but there is only a low erosion hazard elsewhere. Tunnel erosion has been reported from an area in the upper Dip River. (J. D. Colclough, pers. comm.)

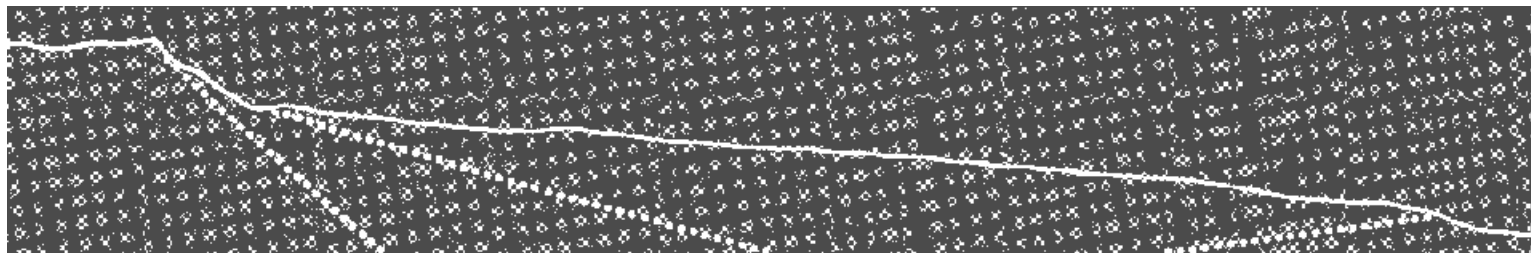


*Scattered small monadnocks with plateau crests are a feature of the undulating plain.*

LAND SYSTEM

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Hampshire



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4
PROPORTION %	10	5	80	5
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 500-2 000 mm			
GEOLOGY	Tertiary basalt			
TOPOGRAPHY	Undulating plain			
Land form	Undulating plain			
Position	Plateaux	Scarps	Lower slopes	Creek flats
Average Sideslope °	2	10	4	2
NATIVE VEGETATION				
Structure	Open forest			Closed forest
Association	Stringybark, myrtle, sassafras, blackwood, dogwood, soft tree fern			Swamp gum, woolly tea-tree, <i>Juncus</i> sp.
SOIL	Strong brown (7-5 YR 5/6) gradational soil	Stony, friable, dark reddish brown (5 YR 3/4) gradational soil	Stony, gravelly, yellowish red (5 YR 4/6) gradational soil	Olive grey (5 Y 5/2) gradational soil
v				
Surface Texture		Loam		
Permeability	Moderate	High		Low
Average Depth m	1.6	0.3+	0.8	0.3
PRESENT LAND USE	Softwood forestry, grazing, nature conservation			
HAZARDS	Moderate sheet erosion		Low sheet erosion	