

# 804441

## HOUNSLOW HEATH

Rolling hills developed on Precambrian metamorphic rocks and Quaternary periglacial deposits comprise extensive areas around Cradle Valley in the central east of Region 3.

The soils are all fairly shallow and peat features prominently in their surface layers. Dark grey uniform clays have formed on the broad undulating crests. These are covered by a herbfield, but shrubs become more prominent on the slightly deeper soils found in the swales. Beneath the woodland on the moderate midslopes are very gravelly brown to yellowish brown soils. These become greyer on poorer drained sites. On the gentle footslopes and along the drainage lines greyish brown clay loams overly siliceous stony material and support a *Poa* tussock grassland.

A mixture of soil types has formed on areas of periglacial material. These soils are characterised by the presence of stone and gravel in the solum.

The profiles are uniform and include clay loams to medium clays, while colours range from greys, through light olive brown to brown. The vegetation found on these soils also varies from a closed low rainforest to an open forest and sometimes a woodland. The main species in the rainforest include several native conifers as well as myrtle, whereas eucalypts dominate the open forests and woodland communities.

Button grass and *Leptospermum* sp. are the principal constituents in the low vegetation existing on the peaty soils, which occur on the more siliceous parent materials.

The native vegetation is grazed by cattle with nature conservation of secondary importance.

The erosion hazard is mainly moderate to low, but any disturbance to this land system is most significant due to its peculiar geographical location. It occupies the headwaters of several major streams, thus serving the vital role of regulating the flow and quality of water to a wide area.

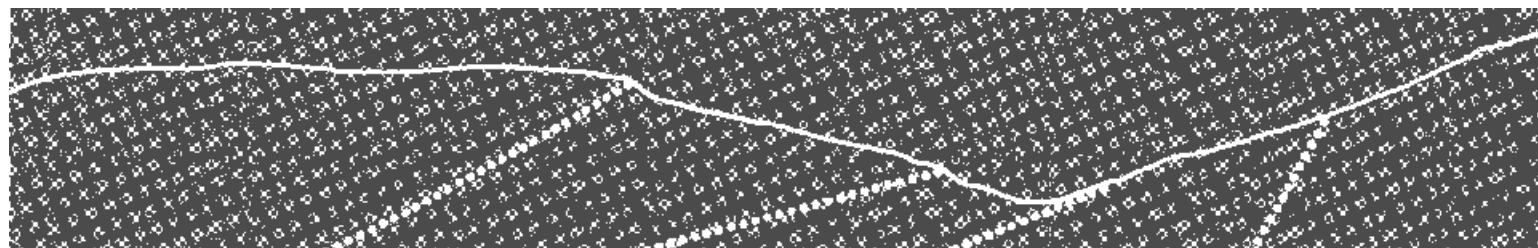


*Hounslow Heath land system*

LAND SYSTEM

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Hounslow Heath



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4	5
PROPORTION %	40	20	10	15	15
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 2 000-2 500 mm				
GEOLOGY	Precambrian, pelitic sequences			Quaternary periglacial deposits	Precambrian metaquartzites
TOPOGRAPHY	Mostly rolling hills				
Land form	Mostly rolling hills				
Position	Broad crests	Timbered slopes	Drainage lines	Timbered slopes	Steep upper slopes
Average Sideslope °	5	8	3	14	
NATIVE VEGETATION					
Structure	Herbfield	Woodland	Closed grassland	Low closed forest	Open heath, sedgeland
Association	Pineapple grass, button grass, cushion plants, <i>Richea scoparia</i> , pouched coral fern	Tasmanian snow gum, cider gum, gum topped stringy bark, <i>Casuarina</i> sp, prickly beauty, cutting grass, <i>Cyathodes</i> sp	<i>Poa</i> sp, <i>Calorophus latenflorus</i> , <i>Orites revoluta</i> , mountain cord rush, <i>Richea pandanifolia</i>	King Billy pine, <i>Selaginella laxifolia</i> , myrtle, manuka, celery top pine, <i>Richea pandamfoha</i> , <i>R scopana</i> , cutting grass, <i>Cyathodes</i>	Tea tree, button grass, <i>Epacris lanuginosa</i> , <i>Calorophus latenflorus</i> , mountain cord rush, pouched coral fern
				sp	
SOIL	Dark grey (10 YR 4/1) clay soil, uniform texture	Very gravelly, brown (10 YR 5/3) gradational soil, rock outcrop common	Dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) clay loam soil, uniform texture, siliceous stony pan	Complex	Dark organic soil becoming very gravelly with depth
Surface Texture	Peat	Peaty loam		Peat	
Permeability	Moderate		High	Moderate	High
Average Depth m	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, nature conservation				
HAZARDS	Low sheet erosion	Moderate sheet and rill erosion	Moderate sheet and stream bank erosion	Moderate sheet erosion	High rill erosion