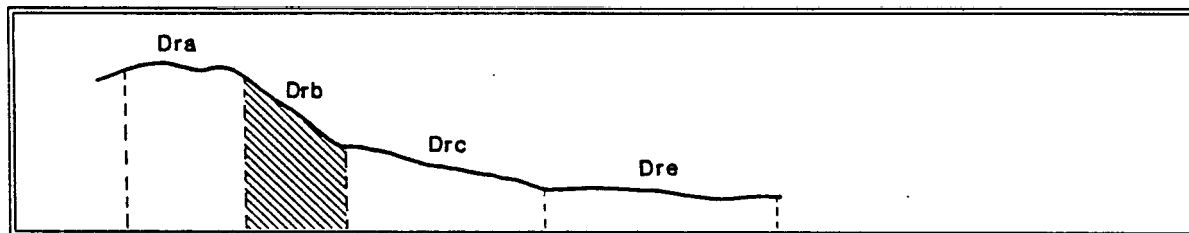


Map Unit:	Devonian Rhyodacite, Steep Slopes	Map Unit Symbol: Drb
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General Description:

These steep forested slopes occur on the northern side of Mount Macedon. The red, well-structured gradational soils are variable in depth but extremely permeable. Bushfires are common and when unprotected topsoils and steep slopes are subjected to heavy rain, sheet/rill erosion can be severe.

Site characteristics: Site No. 13

Parent material Age: Lithology:	Devonian Rhyodacite	Depth seasonal watertable:	> 5.0 m
Landform Pattern: Element:	Rolling mountains Steep slope	Potential recharge to groundwater:	High
Slope common: range:	40% 32-50%	Flooding risk:	Nil
Rock outcrop:	5%	Drainage:	Rapidly drained
		Depth to hardrock:	1.0 – 1.5 m
		Proportion of Shire:	1.5%

Native vegetation: Messmate, Narrow-leaf Peppermint, Alpine Ash, Manna Gum
Present land use: Forestry (major), recreation, low density housing

Land degradation:	Water erosion		Wind	Salting	Acidification
	Sheet/rill	Gully			
Susceptibility	Moderate	Very low	Moderate	Very low	Moderate
Incidence	Low	Nil	Nil	Nil	Low

Soil profile characteristics:

Permeability (measured - average, range):	-
(estimated):	Very rapid
Available water capacity:	250 mm H ₂ O
Linear Shrinkage (B horizon):	Low (estimate)

Soil profile description:

A	0-13 cm	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) loam, weak subangular blocky structure 5 mm, rough fabric, loose consistence, pH 5.4. Gradual transition to
B ₂₁	13-92 cm	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) light clay loam, strong angular blocky structure, 8 mm smooth fabric, moderately weak consistence, few parent material cobbles, pH 5.1. Distinct transition to
B ₂₂	92-150+ cm	Strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) silty clay loam, moderate to subangular blocky structure 15 mm, smooth fabric moderately weak consistence, few parent material cobbles, pH 7.0

Soil classification:

Factual Key (Northcote): Gn3.22
 Australian Soil Classification: Haplic, Dystrophic, Black, Dermosol, very deep, medium, loamy, non-gravelly
 Unified Soil Group: NA

Interpretation of soil analyses*

Horizon	pH	Gravel	E.C.	Nutrient status	P	K	Al	Org. matter	Dispersibility
A	5.4**	1	VL	L	D	S	T	H	L
B ₂₁	5.1*	18	VL	VL	D	S	T	M	L
B ₂₂	5.5**	7	VL	VL	D	S	T	L	L

VL : Very Low L : Low M : Moderate H: High VH : Very High
 D: Deficient S: Satisfactory T: Toxic ** Acid NA : Not available

Land capability assessment

Land use	Class	Major limiting feature (s)
Agriculture (CTS values)	C ₃ T ₅ S ₅	Very steep slopes, very high susceptibility to sheet/rill erosion
Effluent disposal (septic tanks)	5	Steep slopes
Farm dams (earthen)	5	Steep slopes, excessive permeability, slope instability
Building foundations * slab * stumps/footings	5 4	Steep slopes, high risk of slope failure Moderately steep slopes, high risk of slope failure