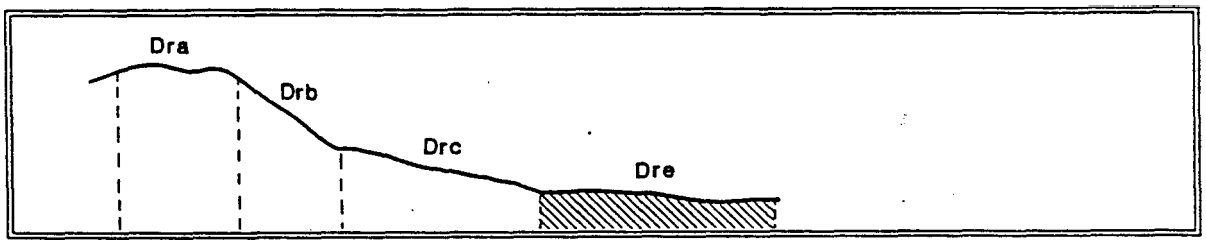
Map Unit:	DEVONIAN RHYODACITE, GENTLE SLOPE	Map Unit Symbol: Dre



General Description:

This area of gentle slopes is situated around the base of Mount Macedon. A substantial proportion has been cleared for agricultural uses, mainly grazing. The red duplex soils are predominant and the hazard of sheet and gully erosion increases markedly should the protective grass cover be removed and the soil surface cultivated. Areas with native trees and wildlife still remain.

Site characteristics: **Site No. 33, 21**

Parent material **Age:** **Lithology:**	 Devonian Rhyodacite (and Colluvium)	**Depth seasonal watertable:**	> 2 m
Landform **Pattern:** **Element:**	 Rolling mountains Gentle slope	**Potential recharge to groundwater:**	Low
Slope **common:** **range:**	 8% 5-10%	**Flooding risk:**	Nil
Rock outcrop:	0%	**Drainage:**	Well drained
		Depth to hardrock:	1.0 – 1.5 m
		Proportion of Shire:	1.9%

Native vegetation: Manna Gum, Narrow-leaf Peppermint
Present land use: Grazing (native and introduced pastures)

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

Soil profile characteristics:

Permeability (measured - average, range): (estimated):	90, 20 - 150 mm/day -
Available water capacity:	170 mm H_2O
Linear Shrinkage (B horizon):	Moderate (estimate)

Soil profile description:

A_1	0-25 cm	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) loam, fine sandy, weak subangular blocky structure 4 mm, rough fabric, loose consistence, pH 7.0. Abrupt transition to
A_2	25-55 cm	Brown (7.5YR 5/4) loam, fine sandy, moderate subangular blocky structure 5 mm, rough fabric, moderately firm consistence, pH 6.0. Clear transition to
B_{21}	55 -70 cm	Yellowish red (5YR 4/6) light clay, moderate angular blocky structure 8 mm rough fabric, moderately firm consistence, pH 6.0. Gradual transition to
B_{22}	70-99 cm	Reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4) light medium clay, moderate angular blocky structure 8 mm, rough fabric, very firm consistence, pH 6.0. Clear transition to
C	99 + cm	Parent material, rock

Soil classification:

Factual Key (Northcote): Dr 2.22
Australian Soil Classification: Haplic, Mesotrophic, Red Chromosol, moderate medium, loamy, non-gravelly
Unified Soil Group: MH

Interpretation of soil analyses*

Horizon	pH	Gravel	E.C.	Nutrient status	P	K	Al	Org. matter	Dispersibility
A_1	7.0	<1	VL	L	D	S	S	H	L
A_2	6.0	2	VL	L	D	S	S	M	L
B_{21}	6.0	1	VL	L	D	D	S	L	M
B_{22}	6.0	1	VL	M	D	D	S	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)	$C_3 7_3 S_3$	Moderate soil depth and susceptibility to sheet, rill and gully erosion
Effluent disposal (septic tanks)	2	Nil
Farm dams (earthen)	4	Shallow depth to hardrock and depth of clay layer
Building foundations * slab * stumps/footings	 3 2	 Moderate slopes Nil