



MAP UNIT Escarpment, gentle

SYMBOL Eg

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Consists of gentle slopes of the escarpment between the basalt plateau and the exposed underlying Ordovician sediments. The soil is derived from both formations.

The map unit is characterised by very poor site drainage – presumably it is a discharge area for subsurface water from the basalt plateau.

Map Unit is	6.8	% study area	Ref. Plate	9
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PARENT MATERIAL		
Mixture of Quaternary basalt and Ordovician sediments		
Depth to rock	>150	cm
Rock outcrop	0	%
Surface stones	0	%
Landslip risk	Nil	
Shrink/swell potential	Moderate	
Northcote code & SCS Ext.		

LANDFORM		
Escarpment		
Slope-common	8	%
- range	5-12	%
Flood risk	Nil	
Profile drainage	Very poor	
Seasonal watertable	Seasonal waterlogging	
Unified soil group	A	
	B	ML/CH

EROSION HAZARD

Low: B horizon slakes and disperses slightly.

NATIVE VEGETATION	LAND USE Grazing, some cropping (potatoes)
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PROFILE DESCRIPTION

0-12 cm Dark brown (7.5YR 3/3) loam; weak fine crumb structure; friable when moist, hard when dry; pH 5½;

Clear transition to:

12-50 cm Brown (7.5YR 4/3) bleached, distinctly mottled silty loam to clay loam; apedal massive structure; hard when dry, non-plastic when wet; up to 50% of soil volume as gravel of ironstone to 7 mm diameter at 40-45 cm; pH 6;

Gradual transition to:

50-100+ cm Bright brown (7.5YR 5/6) distinctly mottled medium clay; massive to weak fine subangular blocky structure; firm when moist; pH 6½;

Continuing with depth.

* Depth of A horizon varies with position on slope – influenced more by the basalt and deeper towards the top than on the lower slopes.

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Capability of the land to support various activities

Capability of the land to support subdivision

ACTIVITY	RATING	MAJOR LIMITING FEATURES OF THE LAND
Building foundations	Very poor	Site drainage; shallow seasonal watertable
Absorption fields	Very poor	Site drainage; shallow seasonal watertable
Secondary roads	Very poor	Site drainage; shallow seasonal watertable
Gravel roads	Very poor	Site drainage; B horizon disperses/slakes readily
Access tracks	Very poor	Site drainage; shallow seasonal watertable; boggy
Shallow excavations	Poor	Site drainage; shallow seasonal watertable
Farm dams	Good	
Sewage lagoons	Fair	Slope
Intensive cultivation	Poor	Site drainage
Path & trails	Poor	Site drainage

SUBDIVISION TYPE	RATING	MAJOR LIMITING ACTIVITIES
Urban (sewered)	Very poor	Building foundations; secondary roads
Bush Blocks (4 ha)	Very poor	All relevant activities
Small Farmlets (4 ha)	Very poor	All relevant activities (except farm dams)
Large Farmlets (16 ha)	Very poor	All relevant activities (except farm dams)
Effect of subdivision on the town water supply		
URBAN	Extensive land disturbance associated with development will result in a temporary but significant source of pollution.	
FARMLETS AND BUSH BLOCKS	While soil disturbance will be less intensive than under urban development, it is likely to be more prolonged, this becoming a continual source of turbidity and/or sediment in runoff waters. Septic tanks are unlikely to operate satisfactorily in wetter months, contributing faecal contamination to runoff waters. However, this map unit may form the major grazing area of larger Farmlets satisfactorily given reasonable control over grazing.	