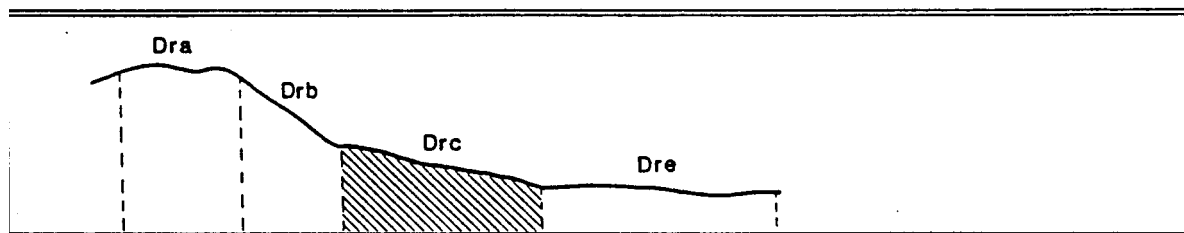


<b>Map Unit:</b>	DEVONIAN RHYODACITE MODERATE SLOPE	<b>Map Unit Symbol:</b> Drc
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**General Description:**

On the lower slopes of Mount Macedon the red gradational soils support a tall open forest of Messmate and Narrow-leaf Peppermint. The risk of bushfires and subsequent sheet erosion is very high, particularly as these and the steeper upper slopes have a northerly aspect.

**Site characteristics: Site No. 14 and 1074**

<b>Parent material Age: Lithology:</b>	Devonian Rhyodacite	<b>Depth seasonal watertable:</b>	> 5 m
<b>Landform Pattern: Element:</b>	Rolling mountains Moderate slope	<b>Potential recharge to groundwater:</b>	High
<b>Slope common: range:</b>	20% 10-30%	<b>Flooding risk:</b>	Nil
<b>Rock outcrop:</b>	0%	<b>Drainage:</b>	Well drained
		<b>Depth to hardrock:</b>	1.2 m
		<b>Proportion of Shire:</b>	1.7%

**Native vegetation:** Messmate, Manna Gum, Narrow-leaf Peppermint  
**Present land use:** Forestry, recreation, low density housing

<b>Land degradation:</b>	<b>Water erosion</b>		<b>Wind</b>	<b>Salting</b>	<b>Acidification</b>
	<b>Sheet/rill</b>	<b>Gully</b>			
Susceptibility	Very high	Very low	High	Very low	Moderate
Incidence	Low	Nil	Nil	Nil	Low

**Soil profile characteristics:**

Permeability (measured - average, range): (estimated):	6000, 5000 - 50,000 mm/d -
Available water capacity:	170 mm H <sub>2</sub> O
Linear Shrinkage (B horizon):	15.2%

**Soil profile description:**

A <sub>1</sub>	0-7 cm	Brown (7.5YR 4/2) fine sandy loam, weak subangular blocky structure 7 mm, rough fabric, few gravel fragments of rhyodacite, pH 6.1. Clear transition to
A <sub>2</sub>	7-19 cm	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) bleached (10 YR 7/4 dry) clay loam, apedal massive, very strong consistence, few gravel fragments of rhyodacite, pH 6.3. Clear transition to
B <sub>1</sub>	19-35 cm	Brown (7.5YR 5/4) light clay, moderate subangular blocky structure 7 mm rough ped., very strong consistence, pH 6.0. Clear transition to
B <sub>21</sub>	35-65 cm	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) medium clay, abundant distinct red mottles, moderate angular blocky structure 15 mm, smooth fabric, pH 6.0. Gradual transition to
B <sub>22</sub>	65-115+ cm	Brown (10yr 5/3) medium clay, abundant distinct red mottles, moderate angular blocky structure 15 mm, smooth fabric, firm consistence, pH 6.3.

**Soil classification:**

Factual Key (Northcote):                   Gn 3.04  
 Australian Soil Classification:           Bleached mottled, Mesotrophic, Brown, Dermosol, deep, thin, loamy, non-gravelly  
 Unified Soil Group:                         CH

**Interpretation of soil analyses\***

Horizon	pH	Gravel	E.C.	Nutrient status	P	K	Al	Org. matter	Dispersibility
A <sub>1</sub>	6.1	2	VL	M	S	S	S	H	L
A <sub>2</sub>	6.3	1	VL	L	S	S	S	M	L
B <sub>1</sub>	6.0	1	VL	L	S	S	S	VL	L
B <sub>21</sub>	6.0	1	VL	L	S	S	S	VL	L
B <sub>22</sub>	6.3	1	VL	M	S	S	S	VL	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 <sub>3</sub> T <sub>4</sub> S <sub>5</sub>	Very high susceptibility to sheet/rill erosion (Steep slopes = Class 4)
Effluent disposal (septic tanks)	3	Moderately steep slopes
Farm dams (earthen)	5	Excessive permeability, steep slopes
Building foundations * slab * stumps/footings	4 3	Moderately steep slopes Moderate slopes