

# A worms eye view of soil information



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## soil How do you know that the / information that feeds your land management decision-making is sound?

by knowing its nature & origin fitness for use, limitations & uncertainties & by knowing the people who stand behind it.

- that's what this presentation is about -

# What the worm sees



Large variety of soils - range of opportunities & risks - information needed for effective use 6

# S-map Demo

http://smap.landcareresearch.co.nz/home





#### What is S-map?

Existing soil databases are patchy in scale, age and quality. Many maps do not adequately describe the underlying properties of the soil types they represent. S-

map integrates existing reports and digital information and updates soil maps where existing data are of low quality. Our goal is to provide comprehensive, quantitative soil information to support sustainable development and scientific modelling.

Service database last updated: 28 March 2012.

#### What is S-map Online?

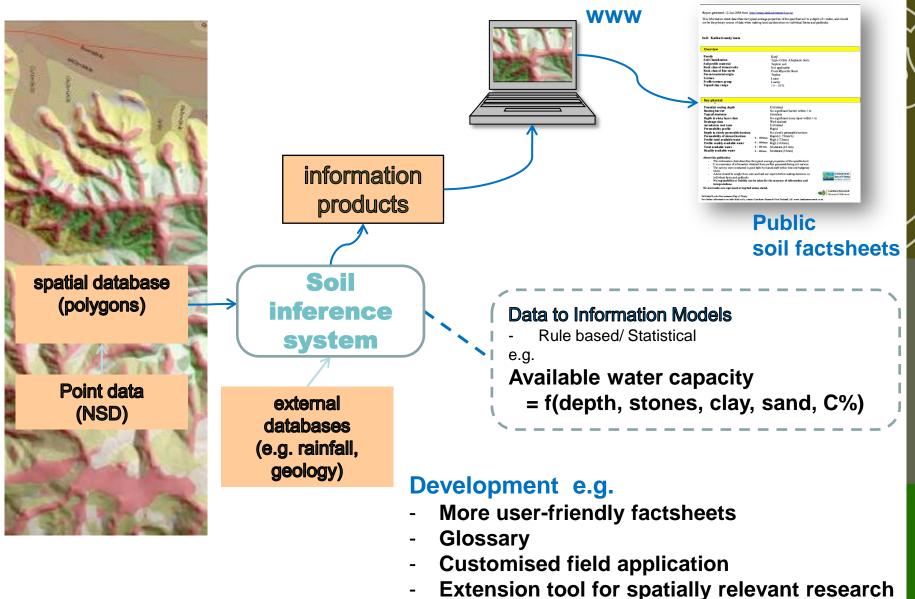
Using S-map online you can:

- Explore interactive soil maps
- · Learn about the soil in your backyard or paddock
- · View detailed information about a soil class or attribute
- · Create custom PDF soil maps for printing
- · Download soil factsheets for specific locations
  - S-map Online Service Status

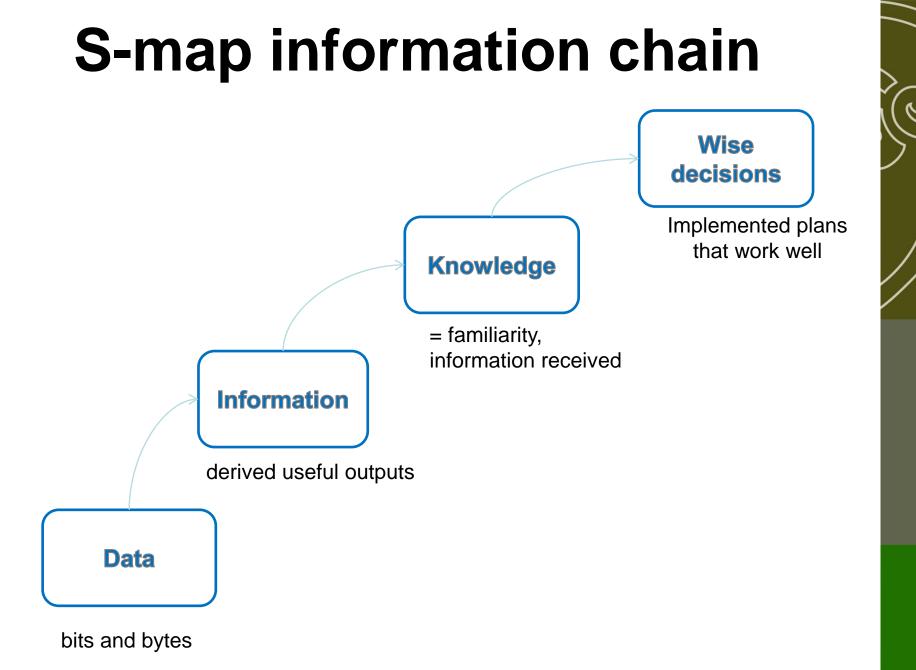
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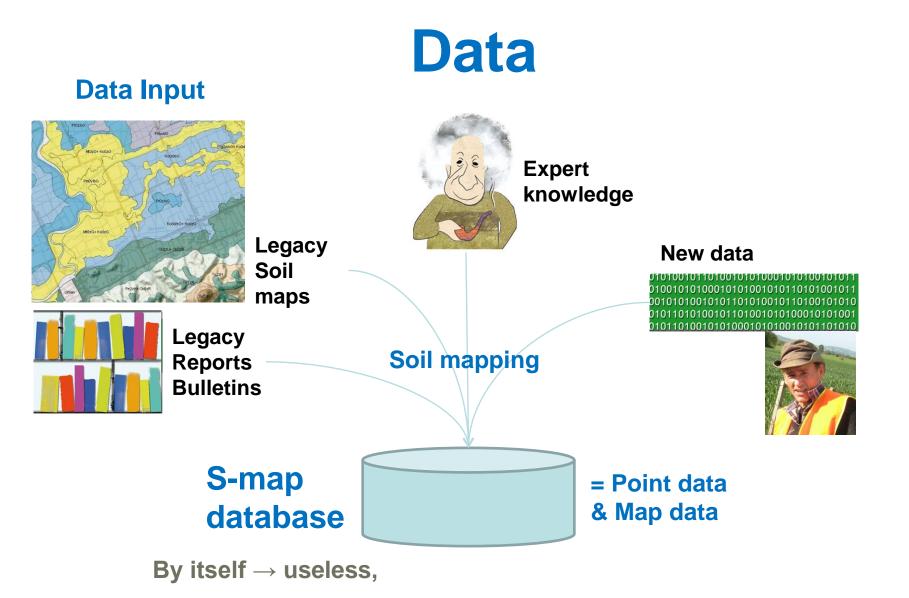
Handout available

# Information



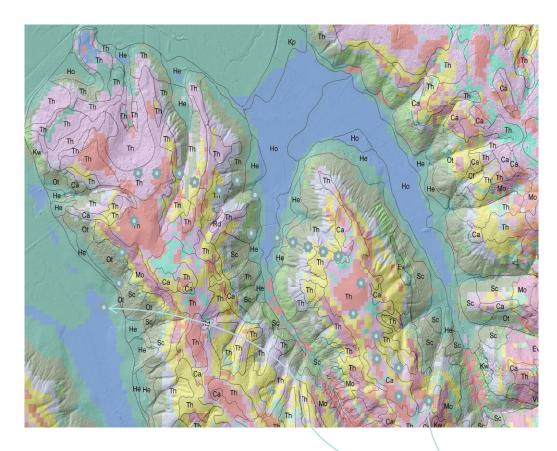
- Quantified soil natural capital and soil services





but applied & curated  $\rightarrow$  a priceless foundation

# The new data - where it comes from



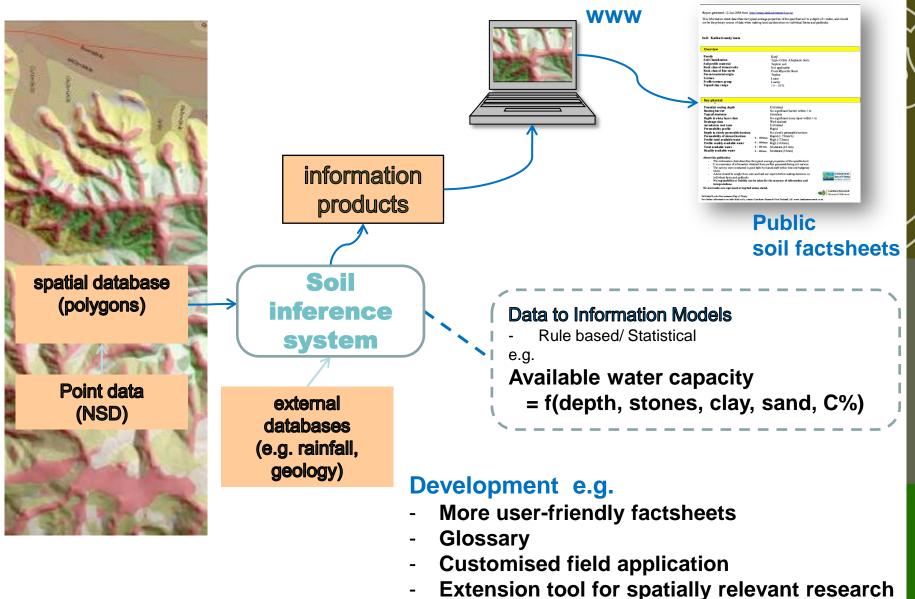
Sample points
 = pits or auger

### Manual mapping

- Polygon outputs
  - **Digital mapping**
  - Pixel outputs

Field transect of sample points

# Information



- Quantified soil natural capital and soil services

## **Customised soil information** Dairy effluent risk category -

Application of dairy shed effluent must be carefully managed it depends on soils capacity to absorb. When the soil is too wet - effluent must be stored in a pond. A pond is expensive - so pond size is critical

### Effluent disposal risk model (AgR)

Information to manage effluent Derives a <u>dairy effluent risk category</u>

### **Methods**

**1. DIY** - using Dairy NZ field guide using a key to derive the risk class

### Does it have low infiltration rate? **Dairy NZ field guide clip** If, yes -> Category B High Risk Keep working through this step Dark coloured top soil indicating a well aerated well drained topsol which is likely to have a good then soil risk Category B High Risk

Soil with medium structure with sions of moderate to low infiltration

drained soil with a low tration rate then soil risk Category B High Risk

### 2. S-map

Provided for all soils by soil factsheet

### Contaminant management

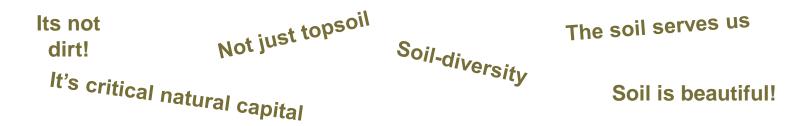
Soil Factsheet clip

N leaching vulnerability	Very High
P leaching vulnerability	not availab
Runoff potential	Very Low
Bypass flow	Medium
Dairy effluent (FDE) risk category:	D



# Knowledge

Wouldn't it be great if the basics of the hidden soil were widely appreciated



- Accessibility Knowing information is here & where
- Clarity web service design
   S-mapOnline
   S-mapOnline
- New tools e.g. Paddock-download directly from WWW into Overseer on laptop
- Connect get your hands dirty!

Soil\_Carrick\_Hewitt.mpg

6

# **Wise decisions**

### 1. Know the information and its nature

But also

### 2. The providers role is not just to provide information

It is also to be involved, as needed, in forming plans and judging their implications an involvement based on relationships of trust between science & policy specialists

It's easy for science to misunderstand how the real world works It's easy for policy to misinterpret the information We can make confident decisions together

A spin-off is the creation of new data applications and new tools

This is not news, but how often does it really happen?

- based on Linda Lilburne's ECan secondment

# Cost/benefit of soil variability information

- By tuning management to soil variability -

### Catchment scale - Matura valley,

What is the value of knowing nitrogen leaching rate Being able to target mitigation practices to areas of high and low rate under dairy

- saved farmers \$17/kg of nitrogen applied, and
- benefitted the community by \$25/kg nitrogen applied through reduced leaching to ground water.

Cost-benefit ratio of 1:6 in the first year.

### **Precision irrigation - Canterbury**

Variable-rate, centre pivot irrigators, dairying delivering the right amount of water to each soil type.

- water savings between 20-36% with no negative impact on yield at trial sites.
- water saved on-farm was diverted to un-irrigated areas with increased pasture production

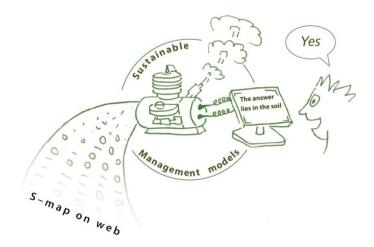
Current return on investment for the farmer of 1-5 years

# S-map supporting models

- Investment in more sophisticated management models
- They need accurate soil data inputs.

S-map provides critical information E.g.

- Nutrient management tools Overseer, Dairy effluent risk category
- Soil process models SPASMO, APSIM,
- Specialist crop calculators wheat calculator, ent storage calculator.
- Land evaluation



Applications in:

Water quantity; water quality Carbon sequestration Nutrient management GHG emissions Land environment mitigations Land evaluation and land capability Erosion control Soil quality monitoring State of environment reporting Whole farming planning Regional futures modelling Land restoration and rehabilitation Land vulnerability assessment Catchment management Hydrological modelling

# Applications

- Value of adding better data e.g. LIC
- Scale and resolution (spatial & information)
- Point verses block data
- High resolution Variable rate irrigation precision agr.mapping/monitoring/automation/multiple benefits
- Regional Nutrient caps matching use/management to capability / soil natural capital







# **Accessing S-map online**





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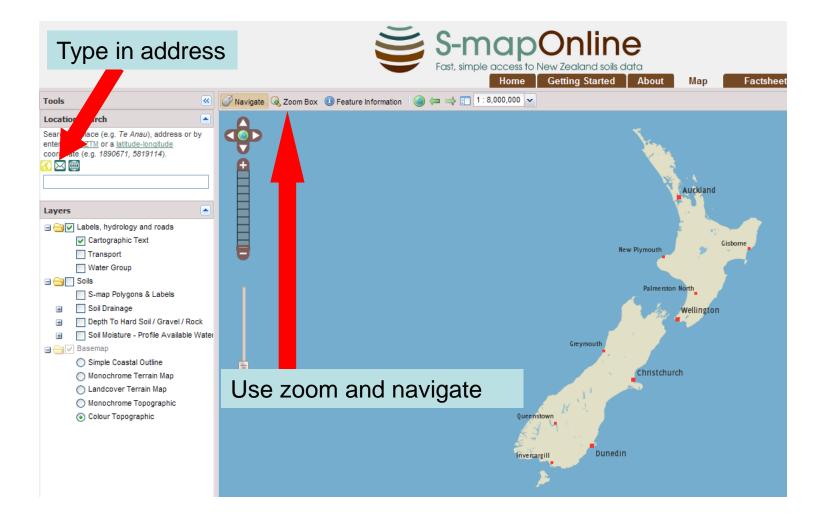
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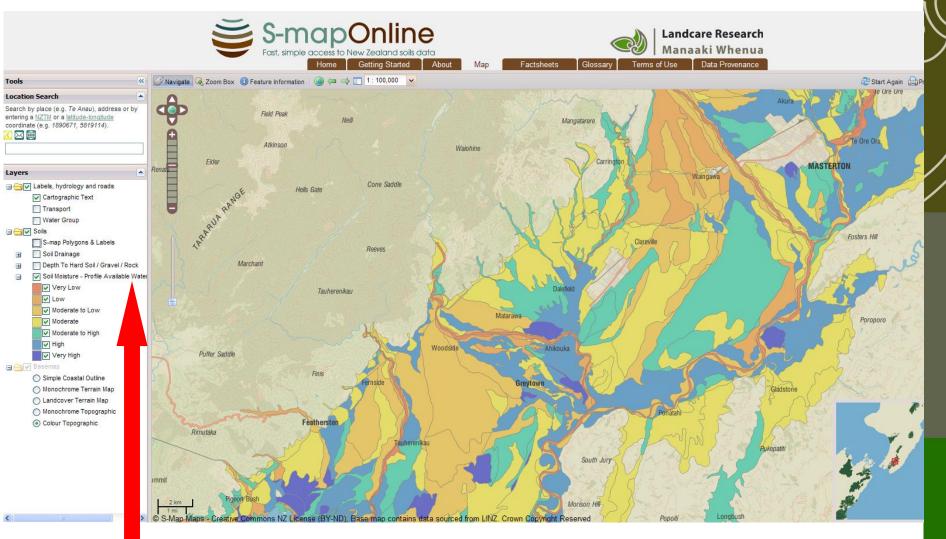
#### S-map Online Service Status

ok

# Find your area

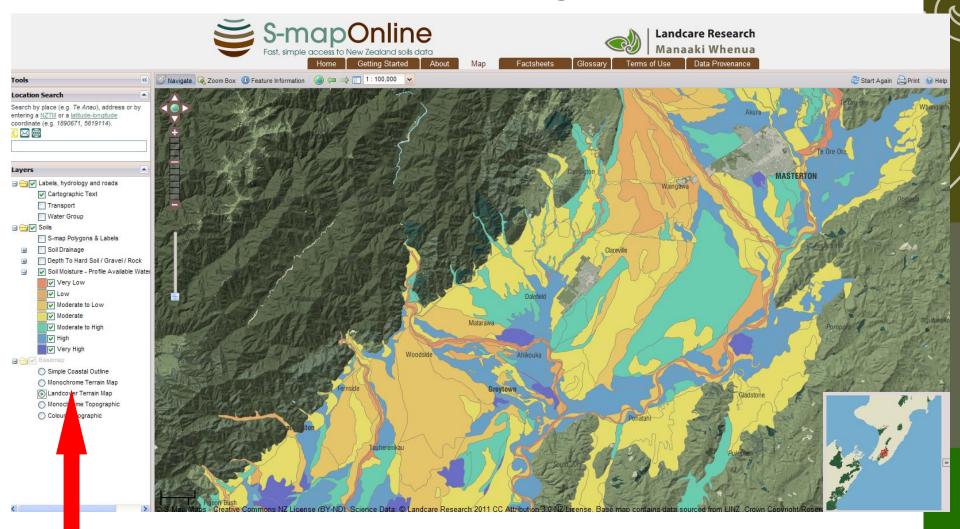


# Map soil attributes



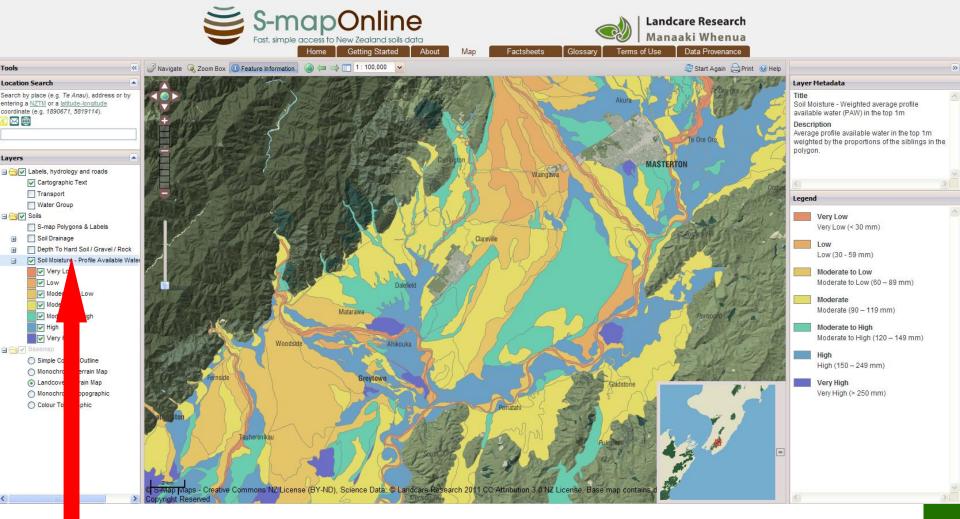
Select attribute to map

# Modify background



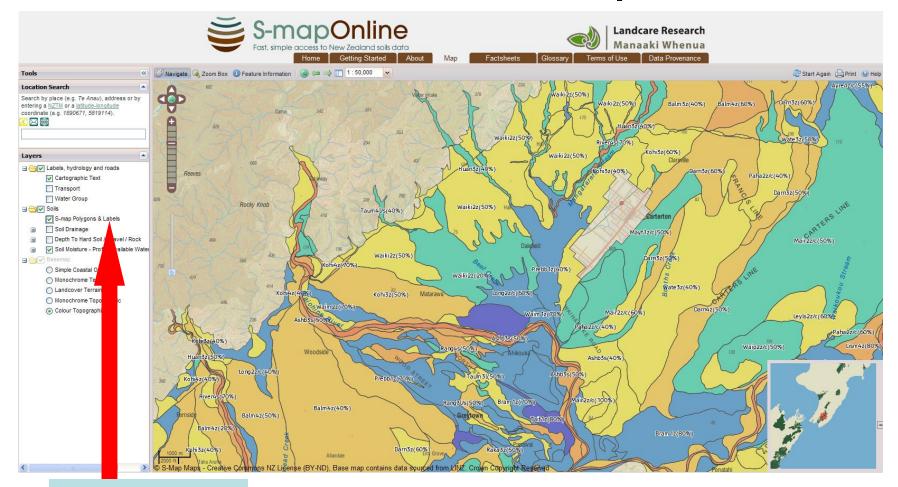
Select map background

# View attribute glossary

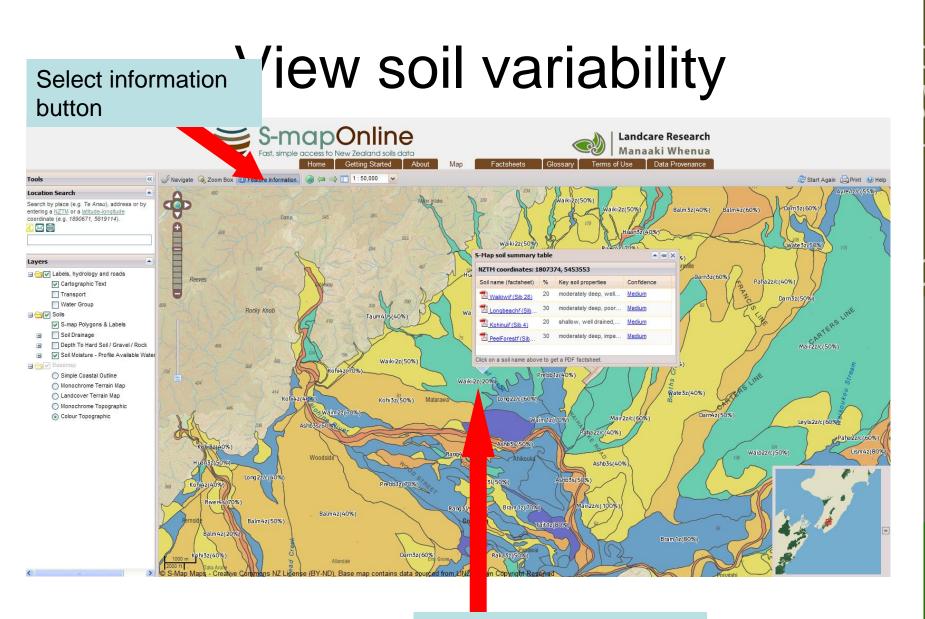


Click on name of layer

# View soil map

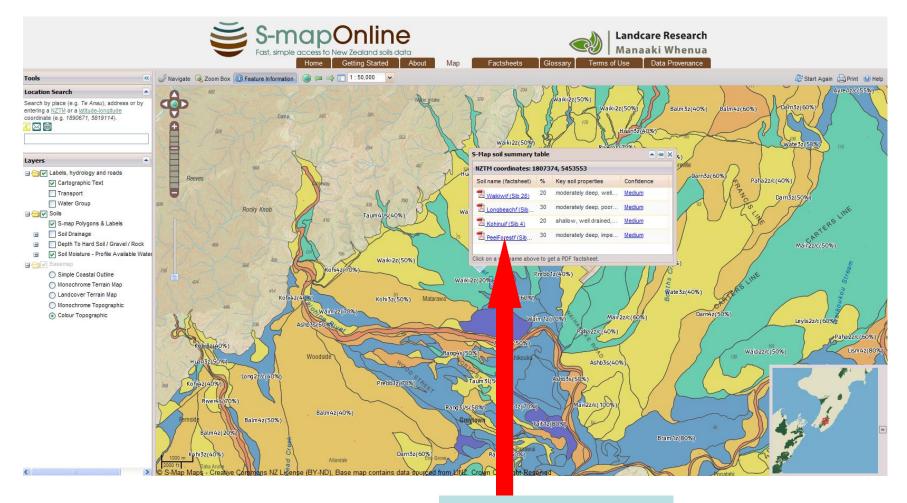


Turn on soil map



Click on area of interest

# View soil factsheets



### Click on soil name

# Soil factsheet



#### Landcare Research Manaaki Whenua

### **S-map Soil Report**

Report generated: 2-Jul-2012 from http://smap.landcareresearch.co.nz

This information sheet describes the typical average properties of the specified soil to a depth of 1 metre, and should not be the primary source of data when making land use decisions on individual farms and paddocks.

Waikiwif

Depth

Waiki2z (20% of the mapunit at location (5453553, 1807374), Confidence: Medium) S-map ref: Waiki\_28.1

#### Key physical properties

Death along (diamakility)		Madarataka Daga (46 - 400 ara)
Depth class (diggability)		Moderately Deep (45 - 100 cm)
Texture profile		Silty Loam
Potential rooting depth		50 - 90 (cm)
Rooting barrier		Extremely gravelly
Topsoil stoniness		Moderately stony
Topsoil clay range		20 - 30 %
Drainage class		Well drained
Aeration in root zone		Slightly limited
Permeability profile		Moderate Over Slow
Depth to slowly permeable horizon		45 - 100 (cm)
Permeability of slowest horizon		Slow (< 4 mm/h)
Profile total available water	(0 - 100cm)	Moderate (92 mm)
Top 60 cm available water	(0 - 60cm)	Moderate (89 mm)
Top 30 cm available water	(0 - 30cm)	High (55 mm)
Dry bulk density, topsoil		1.09 (g/cm3)
Dry bulk density, subsoil		1.53 (g/cm3)
Depth to hard rock		No hard rock within 1 m
Depth to soft rock		No soft rock within 1 m
Key chemical properties		
Topsoil P retention		Medium (43%)
Overseer values		
Soil Order		Brown
Sand parent material		
Topsoil soil texture		

Waikiwi*f* 

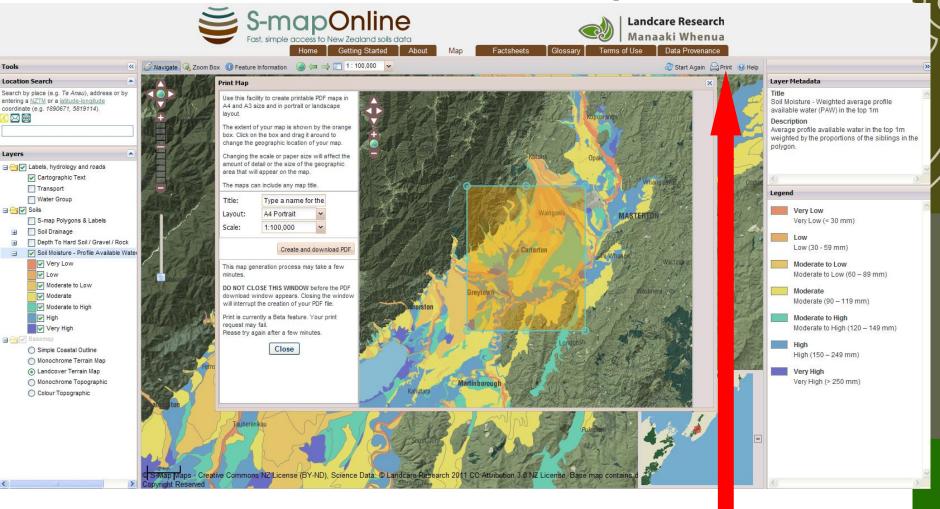
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#### Additional factors to consider in choice of management practices

Additional factors to consider in choice of i	management praca	Ces							
Vulnerability classes relate to soil properties only	and do not take into a	account climate or m	anagement						
Soil structure integrity									
Erodibility of soil material	Moderate	Moderate							
Vulnerability to rill and slip erosion	not available y	not available yet							
Structural vulnerability	Low (0.49)	Low (0.49)							
Pugging vulnerability not available yet									
Water management									
Water logging vulnerability	Very Low	Very Low							
Drought vulnerability - if not irrigated	Moderate	Moderate							
Bypass flow	Medium								
Hydrological soil group	В	В							
Irrigability		Flat to very gently undulating land with good drainage/permeability and soils with moderate PAW							
Contaminant management									
N leaching vulnerability	High	High							
P leaching vulnerability	not available y	not available yet							
Runoff potential	Very Low	Very Low Medium							
Bypass flow	Medium								
Dairy effluent (FDE) risk category:	D								
Additional information									
Soil classification	Typic Firm Bro	wn Soils							
Family	Waikiwif								
Sibling number	28	28							
Dominant texture 0 - 60 cm	Silty	Silty							
Soil profile material	Moderately de	Moderately deep soil							
Rock class of stones/rocks	From Hard Sa	From Hard Sandstone Rock							
Rock origin of fine earth	From Hard Sa	From Hard Sandstone Rock							
Parent material origin	Loess on Alluv	Loess on Alluvium							
Characteristics of functional horizons in order	from top to base of	profile:							
Functional Horizon		Thickness	Stones	Clay	Sand				
Stony Loamy Weak		20 - 30 cm	5 - 25 %	20 - 30 %	5 - 10				
Stony Loamy Fine Slightly Firm		25 - 50 cm	5 - 35 %	20 - 30 %	5 - 15				
Very Stony Clayey Compact		30 - 50 cm	50 - 70 %	35 - 50 %	15 - 30				

# Print soil map



Click on print

# no Bisn'rohi lice in villig.

### Atmosphere

C storage NO2, CH4, CO2 emissions

### Hydrology

leaching, runoff, contaminant attenuation water storage, flood regulation

### Ecosystems

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habitats and habitat diversity, soil biology and biodiversity fertility, water supply, environmental domains

### Economy, society

soil natural capital, land value limits of intensification ecosystem services, Resource allocation, policy development and implementation

### SOIL

the "**critical zone**" of interaction between atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere

### Engineering

soil mechanics, foundations

utilities routing, corrosion, drainage, water regime civil engineering works electrical earthing

### **Production**

land capability, fertility, risk mitigation, forests, pasture, crops, horticulture

### Geology

regolith, erosion, slope stability hazards, geomorphology, weathering, landscape flows of sediments and nutrients'