



RECONNAISSANCE SURFICIAL GEOLOGY OF THE HARRINGTON QUADRANGLE, MAINE

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BY

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1" = 24,000'

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 KILOMETER

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For more detailed information refer to the "Surficial Geology Handbook for Coastal Maine" by W.B. Thompson, 1979.

SOURCE MAP

SYMBOL

Qal Stream alluvium (flood-plain and stream-terrace deposits)

Qs Swamp and tidal-marsh deposits

Qbd Beach and dune deposits

Qe Eolian deposits

Qta Talus deposits

Ql Glacial-lake bottom deposits

Qbl Glacial-lake beach deposits

Qps Glacial-marine deposits (Presumpscot Formation)

Qp Emerged marine-beach deposits

Qgm Glacial-stream deposits

Qg End-moraine deposits

Qmg

Qmh

Qm

Qt Till

rk Bedrock outcrops

af Artificial fill

— Contact

— Scarp

— Drumlin

→ Glacial striation locality

→ Crescentic mark locality

→ Grooved till surface

o Area of many large boulders

c Cirque

— End moraine

290 Dip direction of delta forest beds

→ Dip direction of cross bedding in glacial-stream deposits

>>> Crest of esker

∩ Kettle

— Meltwater channel

— Meltwater channel

x Till or sand and gravel pit

x active

s SLS

x p-b

x inactive

x unchecked

x active or unchecked

x inactive

● SI-3041

GEOLOGIC UNIT

MATERIALS
(Listed in decreasing order of abundance)

Qal: Sand, gravel, and silt. Low to high permeability. Poor to good drainage. Permeability and drainage generally are better in stream-terrace deposits than in modern flood-plain sediments.

Qs: Peat, silt, clay, and sand. Poor drainage.

Qbd: Sand and gravel. High permeability. Materials are well drained, but water table is close to surface.

Qe: Sand. Moderate to high permeability. Good drainage.

Qta: Large, angular rock fragments.

Ql: Silt, clay, and sand, commonly as thin, interstratified layers of various particle sizes. Low to moderate permeability. Poor to fair drainage.

Qbl: Gravel and sand. Typically thin and of limited extent. High permeability. Good drainage.

Qps: Silt, clay, and sand. Commonly a clayey silt, but sand is very abundant at the surface in some places. Locally fossiliferous. Map unit includes small areas of till, sand, and gravel that are not completely covered by marine sediment.

Qp: Qps: Mostly sand, but may be underlain by silt and clay. Moderate to high permeability. Fair to good drainage.
Qp: Mostly silt and clay. Low permeability. Poor drainage.

Qgm: Gravel and sand. High permeability. Good drainage. Typically thin and of limited extent.

Qg: Sand and gravel. May include minor till. Commonly overlapped or entirely buried by glacial-marine deposits in the coastal lowland.
Qg: High permeability. Good drainage.
Qg: Moderate to high permeability. Good drainage.

Qmg: Till and/or sand and gravel. Commonly overlain by glacial-marine deposits in coastal areas. Permeability and drainage are highly variable, even over short distances in a single moraine.
Qmg: Composed mostly of sand and gravel.
Qmh: Composed of till, sand, and gravel.
Qm: Composed mostly of till.
Qm: Composition not specified.

Qt: Heterogeneous mixture of sand, silt, clay, and stones. Stratification is rare. Includes two varieties: basal till and ablation till. Basal till is fine grained and very compact, with low permeability and poor drainage. Ablation till is loose, sandy, and stony, with moderate permeability and fair to good drainage. Unit generally overlies bedrock, but may overlie or include sand and gravel.

rk: Dots show locations of individual outcrops. Ruled pattern indicates areas of many outcrops and/or thin surficial deposits (generally less than 10 ft. thick). Symbol "rk" indicates areas of barren ledge. Outcrops mapped largely by interpretation of aerial photography in off-road areas.

af: Composed of till, sand and gravel, rock or various man-made materials (mainly trash in large dumps and landfills).

— Boundary between adjacent map units. Dashed where inferred.

— Separates stream terrace from modern flood plain and adjacent terraces from each other. Hachures on downslope side.

— Glacially streamlined hill that has been elongated in direction of ice movement. Symbol shows direction of long axis. Generally composed of till and/or bedrock (rarely sand and gravel). Till is very thick in parts of many drumlins.

→ Point of observation at tip of arrow. Arrow indicates ice-movement direction as inferred from striations (scratches on bedrock caused by glacial abrasion).

→ Point of observation at tip of arrow. Arrow indicates ice-movement direction as inferred from crescentic marks on bedrock surface.

→ Symbols show lengths and directions of narrow ridges carved in till by flow of glacial ice.

c A steep-walled, half-bowl shaped basin. Formed by glacial erosion in high mountainous areas of Maine.

— Ridge of till or sand and gravel deposited at margin of glacier. Barbs point in direction of ice movement. Symbol is used in part to indicate moraines that are mostly buried by water-laid glacial sediment, as well as moraines that are too narrow to be outlined by a contact line at the scale of the map.

290 Number is approximate altitude in feet of contact between topset and forest beds, which marks former position of sea level or glacial lake level (generally sea level in coastal Maine). Point of observation at tip of arrow.

→ Indicates direction of flow of glacial meltwater streams.

>>> Shows trend of sand and gravel ridge that was deposited in meltwater tunnel beneath glacier. Chevrons point in direction of meltwater flow.

∩ Depression created by melting of large mass of buried glacial ice and collapse of overlying sediments.

— Channel eroded by glacial meltwater stream. Arrow indicates known or probable direction of stream flow.

— Flow direction not specified.

x Letter symbols indicate materials exposed in pit:

t till
t_l loose, sandy ablation till
t_c compact, fine-grained basal till
f flow till
cy clay
st silt
s sand
ps pebbly to cobbly sand
p pebbly gravel
c cobble gravel
h boulder gravel
g gravel, undifferentiated
rk bedrock
rs rottenstone (decomposed bedrock)

Superposed symbols indicate superposition of materials. Read hyphen as "to."

x Bedrock quarry

x active or unchecked

x inactive

● SI-3041

TOPOGRAPHY

Flat to gently sloping.

Flat.

Low ridges and mounds, or sloping surface.

Dune ridges and mounds, or blanket deposit that conforms to surface of underlying unit.

Steeply sloping rock piles at the bottoms of cliffs.

Flat to gently sloping except where dissected by modern streams.

Low ridges or sloping surface. May be associated with wave-cut benches on hillsides.

Flat to gently sloping except where dissected by modern streams. Commonly has a branching network of steep-walled stream gullies.

Qgo: Flat (outwash deposits).

Qg: Flat topped landforms, bounded in part by steep sides (kame terraces and kame deltas); hummocky terrain with hills (kames) and depressions (kettles); or ridges (eskers).

Letters indicate good examples of particular landforms:
d delta
k kame
kt kame terrace

Ridges. Commonly arcuate, discontinuous, and in groups. Size range: 3-75 ft. high, 20-1,000 ft. wide, and 100 ft. to several miles long.

Qmh: Hummocky topography.

Commonly a blanket deposit that conforms to bedrock surface. Also forms glacially streamlined hills (including drumlins), where till thickness locally exceeds 100 feet.

ORIGIN

Deposited on flood plains and stream beds by postglacial streams. Unit may also include minor alluvial fan deposits at mouths of valleys.

Formed by accumulation of sediments and organic material in depressions and other poorly drained areas.

Occurs along modern ocean and lake shores. Includes beach sediments formed by wave and current action, and windblown sand derived from these deposits.

Windblown sand. Derived from wind erosion of glacial sediments and deposited in late-glacial to postglacial time.

Formed by the accumulation of rock fragments that break loose from a cliff and fall to the slope below.

Composed largely of sediments that washed out of glacial ice and accumulated on the floors of glacial lakes. Map unit may also include a few non-glacial lake bottom deposits.

Formed by wave erosion of till or other materials along shores of glacial lakes. Lakes have since lowered or drained.

Composed of sediments that washed out of the Late Wisconsinan glacier and accumulated on the ocean floor. Formed during late-glacial time, when relative sea level was higher than at present.

Formed by wave erosion of till or other materials during late-glacial time, when relative sea level was higher than at present.

Deposited by meltwater streams and currents during melting of the Late Wisconsinan glacier.

Qgo: Outwash plains and outwash deltas. Deposited beyond the ice margin.

Qg: Kames, eskers, and marine or glacial-lake deltas—all formed adjacent to glacial ice (ice-contact deposits).

Deposited in marginal zone of the Late Wisconsinan glacier, by glacial ice (till) and/or meltwater streams emerging from the ice (sand and gravel).

Deposited directly by glacial ice.

CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS

This correlation chart shows the general age relationships of surficial deposits. There may be considerable overlap in the ages of certain deposits in any particular area.

Youngest

Oldest

Quaternary

Holocene

Pleistocene (Wisconsinan)

SEQUENCE OF GLACIAL RESSION AND DEPOSITION OF SURFICIAL MATERIALS IN SOUTHERN MAINE

13,000 years ago: Glacier was receding rapidly and much of southern Maine was ice-free. Land was still depressed from weight of ice, resulting in extensive marine submergence of lowland areas.

11,000 years ago: Glacier had disappeared from central and southern Maine. Uplift of land had caused sea to retreat.

13,500 years ago: Continental glacier covered most of Maine, but was receding from the coastal lowland. Sea was in contact with ice margin.

MARINE LIMIT

Shows region of Maine covered by sea water during period of maximum inundation about 13,000 years ago.

BFM — Buried end moraine
BR — Bedrock ridge
D — Delta
DR — Drumlins
DS — Distributary stream
E — Esker
EM — End moraine
IB — Ice block
K — Kettle
M — Marine sediments
ML — Marine limit
OP — Outwash plain
S — Seawater
T — Till

Text by W.B. Thompson. Graphics by R.D. Tucker.