Brunswick Quadrangle, Maine

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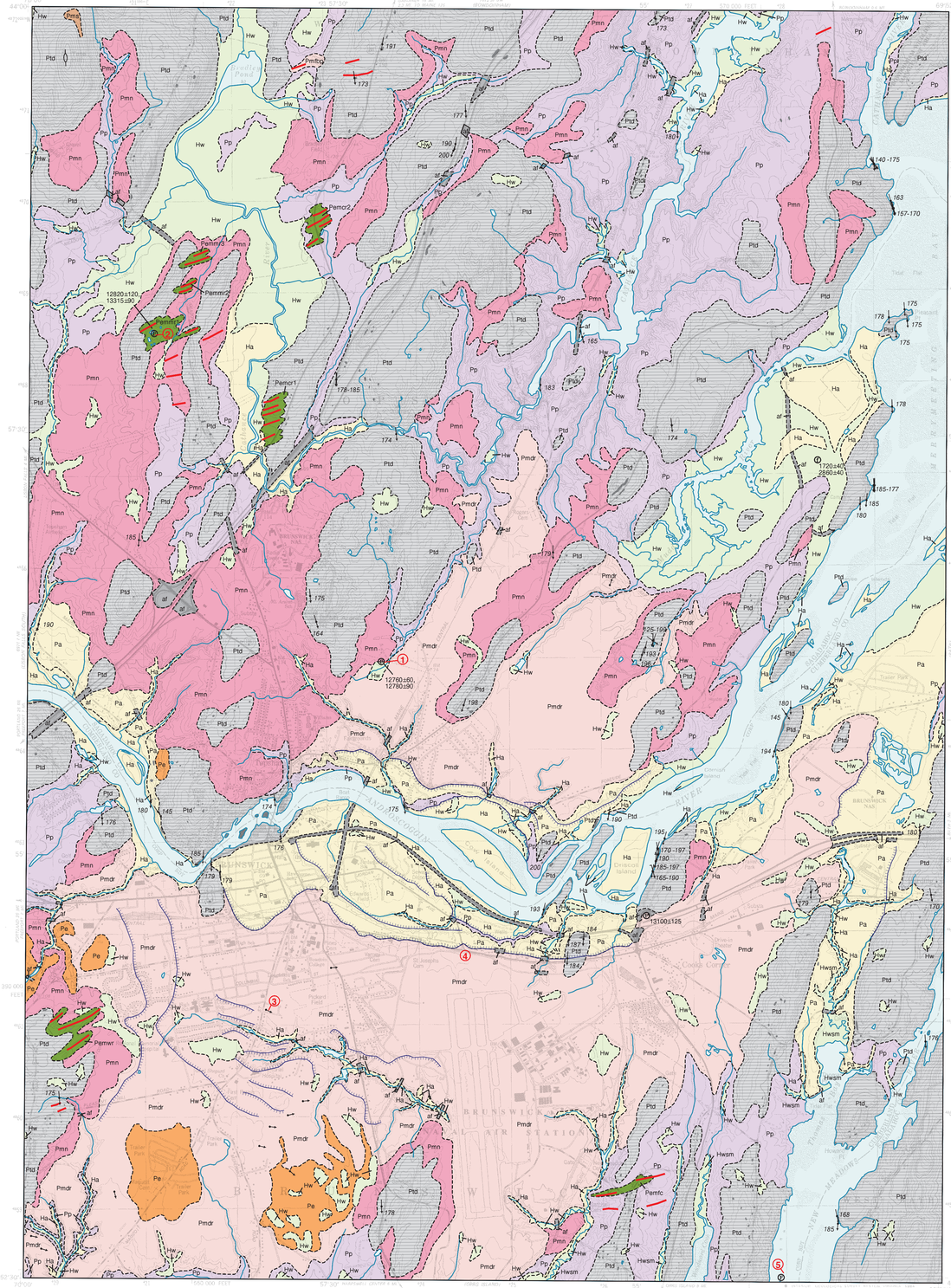
Surficial Geology



SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Surficial geologic mapping by Thomas K. Weddle completed during the 2000-2001 field seasons; funding for this work provided by the U.S. Geological Survey STATEMAP program.

Quadrangle Location

SCALE 1 : 24,000

1 0 1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

TRUE NORTH

Topographic base from U.S. Geological Survey Brunswick quadrangle, scale 1:24,000 using standard U.S. Geological Survey topographic map symbols.

The use of industry, firm, or local government names on this map is for location purposes only and does not impute responsibility for any present or potential effects on the natural resources.

af **Artificial fill** - Includes landfills, highway and railroad embankments, and dredge spoil areas. These units are mapped only where they are resolvable using the contour lines on the map, or where they define the limits of wetland units. Minor artificial fill is present in virtually all developed areas of the quadrangle.

Ha **Stream alluvium** - Gray to brown fine sand and silt with some gravel. Comprises flood plains along present streams and rivers. Extent of alluvium approximates areas of potential flooding.

Hw **Freshwater wetlands** - Muck, peat, silt, and sand. Poorly drained areas, often with standing water.

Hwsm **Saltmarsh wetlands** - Peat, muck, silt, and clay. Coastal marsh, subject to tidal flooding. Thin, non-commercial peat layers are present atop a mineral substrate consisting of estuarine sands and muds.

Pe **Eolian deposits** - Pleistocene eolian deposits comprised of mantle of wind-blown sand and dunes formed following the marine regression. Found often as a blanket deposit, too thin to show on map.

Pa **Braided-stream alluvium** - Pleistocene alluvium consisting of fluvially deposited sand and gravel; trough-crossbeds with rare mud drapes and intraclasts are representative of braided streams and coastal braid-delta environment formed during the marine regression.

Pmdr **Regressive marine delta** - Pleistocene marine delta formed during regression of the sea due to isostatic emergence of the land. Very low-angle sand and silt foreset bedding is mantled by trough cross-bedded sand, deposited by braided streams which flowed over the delta top as it prograded seaward. In places, may be mantled with unmapped thin eolian deposits.

Pms **Marine shoreline** - Pleistocene beach and dune sands deposited during regressive phase of marine submergence. Beach morphology is poorly preserved, but sand and gravel are present along the ridge crest.

Pmn **Marine nearshore deposits** - Pleistocene gravel, sand, and mud deposited as a result of wave activity in nearshore or shallow-marine environments; not associated with beach morphology.

Pp **Presumpscot Formation** - Massive to laminated silty clays with rare dropstones and occasional shelly horizons, which overlie rock and till, and are interbedded with and overlie end moraines and marine fan deposits; includes sand deposited as a distal unit of submarine fans.

Pem **End moraines** - Linear ridges consisting of bedded sand and gravel interbedded with Presumpscot Formation silty clays and overlain by till on the ice-proximal faces of the moraines. Some moraines, or groups of moraines, have been assigned a unique geographic name listed below:

Pemcrx - Cathance Road moraines 1 to 2
Pemmrz - Meadow Road moraines 1 to 3
Pemwr - Woodside Road moraines
Pemfc - First Church moraine

Pmf **Submarine outwash fans** - Thick sand and gravel accumulations formed at the mouth of subglacial tunnels along the receding late Pleistocene ice margin. The sand and gravel is interbedded with and overlain by Presumpscot Formation clays at the distal edges of the fans, and interlayered with and overlain by tills at their ice-contact faces. Some fans, or group of fans have been assigned a unique geographic name listed below:

Pmfbp - Bradley Pond fan

Ptd **Thin-drift areas** - Areas with generally less than ten feet of drift covering bedrock. Till overlies bedrock on hillslopes and ridge crests; Presumpscot Formation silty clays are present in depressions; and nearshore deposits overlie till, Presumpscot Formation, and bedrock on hillslopes and at the base of these slopes. Small rock outcrops, and areas of numerous small outcrops are shown as solid gray areas.

Contact between units; dashed where inferred

135 135 Striations - observations made at dot. Number indicates azimuth (in degrees) of ice-flow direction. Where two directions are observed in the same outcrop, flags indicate older trends where discerned.

End moraine crests.

Scarps.

Drumlin.

10,150±450 Marine fossil locality (may be from natural exposure or subsurface core). Numbers are radiocarbon-age estimates.

10,150±450 Non-marine fossil locality (may be from natural exposure or subsurface core). Numbers are radiocarbon-age estimates.

Dip direction of fluvial cross-bedding

4 Photo or other image locality - Location of site shown and described in map legend.

USES OF SURFICIAL GEOLOGY MAPS

A surficial geology map shows all the loose materials such as till (commonly called hardpan), sand and gravel, or clay, which overlie solid ledge (bedrock). Bedrock outcrops and areas of abundant bedrock outcrops are shown on the map, but varieties of the bedrock are not distinguished (refer to bedrock geology map). Most of the surficial materials are deposits formed by glacial and deglacial processes during the last stage of continental glaciation, which began about 25,000 years ago. The remainder of the surficial deposits are the products of postglacial geologic processes, such as river floodplains, or are attributed to human activity, such as fill or other land-modifying features.

The map shows the areal distribution of the different types of glacial features, deposits, and landforms as described in the map explanation. Features such as striations and moraines can be used to reconstruct the movement and position of the glacier and its margin, especially as the ice sheet melted. Other ancient features include shorelines and deposits of glacial lakes or the glacial sea, now long gone from the state. This glacial geologic history of the quadrangle is useful to the larger understanding of past earth climate, and how our region of the world underwent recent geologically significant climatic and environmental changes. We may then be able to use this knowledge in anticipation of future similar changes for long-term planning efforts, such as coastal development or waste disposal.

Surficial geology maps are often best used in conjunction with related maps such as surficial materials maps or significant sand and gravel aquifer maps for anyone wanting to know what lies beneath the land surface. For example, these maps may aid in the search for water supplies, or economically important deposits such as sand and gravel for aggregate or clay for bricks or pottery. Environmental issues such as the location of a suitable landfill site or the possible spread of contaminants are directly related to surficial geology. Construction projects such as locating new roads, excavating foundations, or siting new homes may be better planned with a good knowledge of the surficial geology of the site. Refer to the list of related publications below.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Locke, D. B., and Weddle, T. K., 2001, Surficial materials of the Brunswick quadrangle, Maine: Maine Geological Survey, Open-File Map 01-485.
2. Neil, C. D., 1999, Significant sand and gravel aquifers of the Brunswick quadrangle, Maine: Maine Geological Survey, Open-File Map 99-18.
3. Thompson, W. B., 1979, Surficial geology handbook for coastal Maine: Maine Geological Survey, 68 p. (out of print)
4. Thompson, W. B., and Borns, H. W., Jr., 1985, Surficial geologic map of Maine: Maine Geological Survey, scale 1:500,000.
5. Thompson, W. B., Crossen, K. J., Borns, H. W., Jr., and Andersen, B. G., 1989, Glaciomarine deltas of Maine and their relation to late Pleistocene-Holocene crustal movements, *in* Anderson, W. A., and Borns, H. W., Jr. (eds.), Neotectonics of Maine: Maine Geological Survey, Bulletin 40, p. 43-67.