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Location and Geologic Setting

Strategy for Performing the Investigation

by Pliocene and Pleistocene deposits that have map extents, allostratigraphy, and relationships to global sea level cycles that are mostly undefined. Outcrops are rare, and the new subsurface data necessary to define units and map this region is expensive. Except for recent STATEMAP (SM) deliverables, detailed geologic maps at 1:24,000-scale for the Coastal Plain do not exist. The current geologic map (NCGS, 1985) does not show surficial units for the Coastal Plain, it shows underlying subcrops (Fig. 1A). In recent SM areas (FY10-19), the Pliocene Yorktown Formation is supposedly the principal subcrop (NCGS, 1985); this unit is affiliated with a regional-scale shallow confining unit. Detailed mapping (FY10-19) shows that the Yorktown (Fig. 1A) is thin, absent, or misidentified. Isotopic age dates suggest that basal, clastic carbonate beds that define the base of the Plio-Pleistocene, correlate with the Chowan River Formation, rather than the Yorktown. If this is the case the Yorktown is essentially absent in this area of the NC Coastal Plain. The post-Chowan River section includes several early Pleistocene units in ramp or interfluve settings; younger terraces and alluvium occur in incised valleys.

tigraphy in valley fills differs from that of the ramp or interfluve (Farrell and others, 2003), and forms the "alluvial aquifer system" (Tesoriero and others, 2005). The Surry Scarp, a Pleistocene paleoshoreline complex, trends north through Fountain quad (Figs. 1, 4A). Regional-scale conceptual models (Mixon and others,

The target of 1200 was not achieved because the Quaternary section was thicker and took longer to drill once depths were greater than 50 ft. For example, to reoccupy a corehole 1989; Winker and Howard, 1977; Oaks and DuBar, 1974; Daniels and others, 1966) and NCGS SM data suggest that the Surry shoreline is the highstand position for on day 2 of drilling, it would typically take 6 hours to setup and drill an additional 20 ft to refusal. An average of ~60 ft of core was collected daily. the main early Pleistocene T-R cyclic event. Stratigraphic relationships near the scarp are complex and include several early Pleistocene units; each contains similar (Fig. 5). In NC and VA, these correlative units occur within the shoreline complex, and both landward and seaward of it. These are not lithologically distinct bodies tives. Two staff drilled the core hole, while two geologists processed, logged, photographed and sampled the core in real time. of rock that are easily mappable; these are allo-units that are mapped by establishing bounding surfaces, their terminations, and the geologic facies above them. Our goal is to describe facies and establish units in a sequence stratigraphic context, and to determine the stratigraphic descriptions between projects and tigraphy emphasizes facies relationships and stratal architecture within a chronological framework (Catuneanu and others, 2009).

Geologic mapping in the NC Coastal Plain requires a non-traditional method, called three-dimensional (3D) subsurface mapping (see Newell and Dejong, 2010; and Hughes, 2010), to define and map surficial geologic units. This method combines a geomorphic interpretation of the relict Quaternary landscape with targeted subsurface analysis along profiles that transect geomorphic features. It is useful because the NC Coastal Plain is notorious for its low relief, few outcrops, lack of defined units and type sections, recurring facies, colluvium on side slopes, and extensive wetlands cover, even on uplands: bedrock mapping methods do not apply. To produce the map, landforms were interpreted from the highest resolution Light Detecting and Ranging (LiDAR) elevation data (20 cm). LiDAR tiles, as floating point ASCI files were downloaded from the Floodplain Mapping Program's website (www.ncfloodmaps.com). These were transformed from ASCI files to raster grids, mosaiced into 10 X 10 rasters, and reprojected as State Plane Nad 1983 meters. Hillshade, slope, and contour lines (1.0, 0.5, and 0.25 meters) were constructed from the raster grids. Orthoimagery (2012, 2010) from the NCONEMAP was used in conjunction with elevation grid color ramps, contour lines, hillshade and slope to interpret landforms. Farrell and others (2003) summarize the method of comprehensive landscape analysis. A series of landform elements was interpreted and digitized starting with the Holocene depositional system and working backward in time into older landscapes. Key transects cross cutting the Surry paleoshoreline facies within are considered 'heavy mineral' or phosphate-rich deposits. and other features were chosen for subsurface analysis. Geologic cores were acquired in plastic tubes with the Geoprobe drill rig. These are 1.5-inch diameter contin-

of cores were compiled as photomosaics for archiving. Allostratigraphic units were defined on cross sections, and extrapolated regionally using geomorphic map.

Geomorphic and Stratigraphic Description of Four Quadrangle Region (Figure 4)

The northeast quadrant of Fountain quadrangle is situated within the Surry Palaeoshoreline Complex, at elevations below 36.5 m (120 ft) in a stratigraphically complex. plex, highly dissected region at the border between the "Sunderland Terrace" (see Fig. 2) and the "Wicomico Terrace". In this area, the incised valley of Otter Creek,

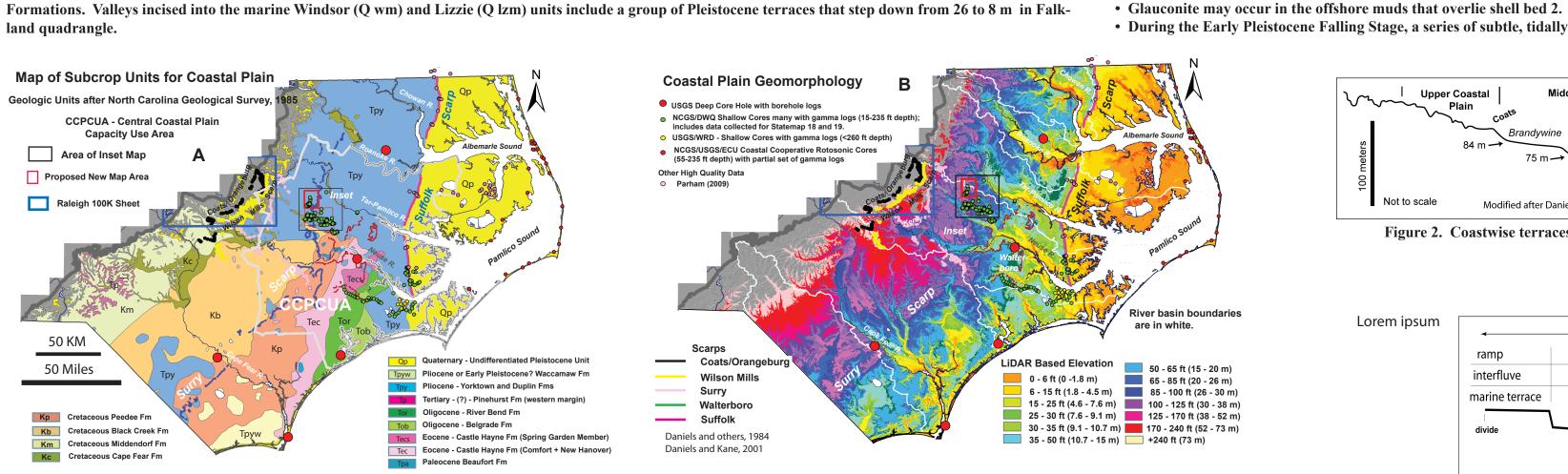
• A landowner requested a show and tell for school children during COVID. NCGS drilled a corehole (Case-03) to test the Geoprobe's working order on that property. Three steps down through a series of Early Pleistocene terraces from an older upland at 36.5 m (120 ft) to younger terraces at about 75 ft. These are underlain by estuarine families including six adults and 5 children visited the site during drilling, and children were provided bagged samples of sediment. details observable in core and outcrop. All four units potentially include similar, repeating facies. Several rise in elevation landward, and upstream into incised

Marietta quarry at Fountain. are numbered in sequence. The nomenclature utilized here is considered draft only.

shoreface is at about 28 m; the main highstand elevation that explains most of the geomorphic features associated with the Surry Scarp is at about 30 m. Other landcally, east of the 30 m contour. It is notched and overlain by the Lizzie Formation near the 26 m contour in Falkland quad. The sea level maximum associated with with abundant feldspar; these sands may include detrital organic debris if below the redox. the flooding event that formed the Surry paleoshoreline complex was likely at about 34 – 37 m, with a shoreline complex and embayed coast between 34 and 28 m. A

• Heavy minerals may be concentrated in intervals of heterolithic, tidally bedded sand and mud. second near-occupation of the same shoreline formed the shoreline features at about 26 m in the current map area, the boundary between "Windsor" and "Lizzie"

• Feldspar is concentrated in facies that are coarse to very coarse-grained sands and granular gravels.



uous cores (discrete sampling method) collected in 4-foot increments. Cores were logged using the methods of Farrell and others (2012, 2013). High-resolution photos

Geomorphic Mapping Revisions

Figure 1. A. Geologic map for the Coastal Plain of NC (NCGS, 1985) shows the Yorktown Formation as principal surficial unit in STATEMAP FY10-20study areas. B. LiDAR elevation



Primary deliverables support revised mapping in Fountain Quadrangle, Northeast Quadrant (1/4 quad): 1) collect ~1200 ft of core for the subsurface analysis to describe stratigraphy; and 2) 1:24,000 and 1:12,000 Geopdfs of plotter-printable geologic maps for Fountain NE quadrant. Fountain NE is contiguous with previous SM deliverables and is edgematched with Falkland NW quadrant, the FY19 deliverable.

The subsurface analysis to support the map was conducted in four person teams for maximum efficiency, with 76 total staff field days that included rig mobilization and maintenance, and coring. The field team included: PI Senior Geologist K. Farrell, Temporary Geologist I Erik Thornton, Temporary Licensed Driller Dennis Foyles, and Temporary Geological Technician Colby Brown. The temporary positions are supported by STATEMAP. In some cases, the field team consisted of three members.

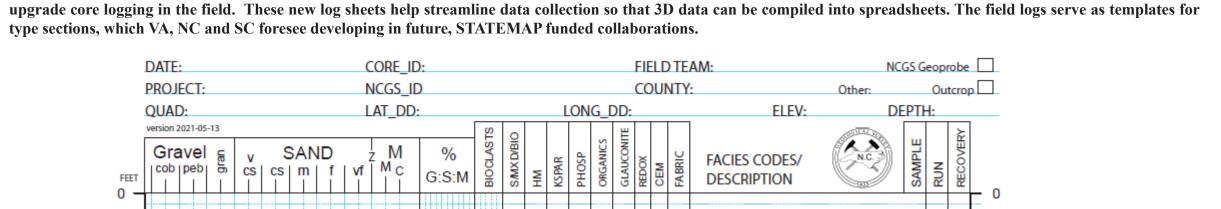
	i e		Data Collection						
Field Staff and Time		Field Days							
Farrell	PI - Senior Geologist	20				Stratigraphy			
Thornton	STATEMAP Geologist I 19		Quadrangle	Mapping Type	Purpose	Stations	Coreholes	Total Footage	
Foyles	Licensed Driller	18	Drake	Coastal Plain	Correlate with EARTH MRI Project	1	1	68.9	
Brown	Geological Technician	19	Falkland	Coastal Plain	Test Geoprobe/Education	1	1	49.8	
			Fountain	Coastal Plain	Subsurface Analysis - Improve coverage	17	17	908.8	
	Total Staff Field Days	76		Totals		19	19	1027.5	

The Coastal Plain, a relict, Plio-Pleistocene landscape (Fig. 1B), consists of a series of progressively younger scarps, or paleoshorelines, and intervening terraces that

A total of 1027.5 ft of core was collected at 19 new sites to characterize the complete Quaternary section. These included: 1) a corehole in adjacent Falkland quadrangle to step down in elevation and age towards the coast (Fig. 2) and into river basins (Fig. 3). This is stairstep topography. Seven river basins demonstrate coring to school children and test the recently repaired Geoprobe rig; 2) 17 new coreholes in Fountain NE quadrant, 3) a core in Drake Quadrangle (~2.5 quads to that its low-relief, flat, eastward-dipping marine terraces (ramps) are separated by incised valleys with terraced borders. Over the past 5 Ma, glacio-eustatic changes NE) to correlate stratigraphic units in the EARTH MRI mapping project area with STATEMAP. The coreholes ranged from 24 to 83 ft deep; recovery was typically 80-95%. in sea level drove the transgressive-regressive (T-R) cycles that sculpted this landscape. Fluvial, estuarine and marine deposits occur in the incised valleys. The stra-

repeating facies, and fossils are rare. In Virginia (Mixon and others, 1989) these are the Moorings Unit and the Bacons Castle, Windsor, and Charles City Formations

To coordinate with EARTH MRI mapping projects and objectives, the field methods were modified. Four person field teams, rather than 3, were utilized to cover multiple objec-



new activity is to routinely collect and bag sediment samples from the core split that is removed from the top of each opened geoprobe core. These are cataloged and boxed and available for possible heavy mineral and/or geochemical analyses in collaboration with the USGS. In this manner, cores will not be destroyed later by invasive sampling, if

Fountain NE quadrant includes 486 polygons that are mapped and geocoded with a total linear circumferences of about 869,225 linear meters. These were modified based on

Fountain (1/4) Quadrangle: NE Quadrant Significant findings are:

and marginal marine deposits characterized by heterolithic tidal deposits, and possible tidal channel, inlet and shoreface sands that merge with paleoshoreline affiliat
• The fossiliferous unit at the base of the Quaternary splits into two beds. The lower unit (Shell Bed 1) is an upward coarsening shelf sequence that is pale olive in color and ed facies downstream near the Surry paleoshoreline. Near the Surry shoreline complex, four, surficial, early Pleistocene units occur beneath upland, predominantly includes Turritellid gastropods. Its top is reworked and forms a lag at the base of Shell Bed 2. A sequence boundary occurs at the base of the reworked Shell Bed 2 which marine flats: in adjacent Virginia, these are called the Bacons Castle Formation, Moorings Unit (informal), and the Windsor and Charles City Formations. All four correlates with the Bacons Castle Formation, Moorings Unit (informal), and the Windsor and Charles City Formations. All four correlates with the Bacons Castle Formation (Farrell and Thornton, 2020). Above units are Early Pleistocene in age (Mixon et al., 1989), becoming successively younger in age towards the east. These may be conformable as indicated by stratigraphic the sequence boundary, Shell Bed 2 is a clast-supported, high-energy, bioclasts) deposit with large bivalves (Mercenaria eg). The unit is exposed in the Martin valleys. The current study includes marine interfluve units associated with correlatives of the Windsor and Charles City Formations, and a number of terraces in the local incised drainages. The map deliverable shows two units, tentatively called Q wm (Windsor Formation, marine; terraces)
 Our coring investigations have mapped Shell Bed 2 across the 4-quad area, and correlated it to the EARTH MRI REEMS mapping area in Drake Quadrangle.
 Shell Bed 1 may be Gelasian in age since it predates the Calabrian bed, and appears to coarsen upward into Shell Bed 2. It typically is siliciclastic (<30% bioclasts) to mixed

• Both shell beds may have undergone secondary dissolution; this diagenetic process concentrates the insoluable residue within the layers. The residue of shell bed #2 is enriched In the immediate study area, coastal and incised valley landforms are preserved geomorphically between elevations of 16 and 37 meters. The toe of the Surry paleo- in phosphate clasts; bed #1 is deficient in phosphate clasts; bed #1 is deficient in phosphate. Insoluable residue may include phosphate clasts, quartz sand and gravel, yellowish silty debris resulting from shell dissoluforms and surficial stratigraphy indicate slightly higher sea levels (34-37 m) associated with the shoreline complex. Two units are associated with the shoreline complex of shore mud. This is overlain by well-sorted, heterolithic, tidally bedded muds, and very plex itself (28-34+ m): the Windsor Formation and the Moorings unit. The Moorings unit is locally associated with barrier island facies. The Windsor outcrops surfi-

• During the Early Pleistocene Falling Stage, a series of subtle, tidally-bedded sequences are inset into the drainage of Otter Creek. Younger terraces are also present.

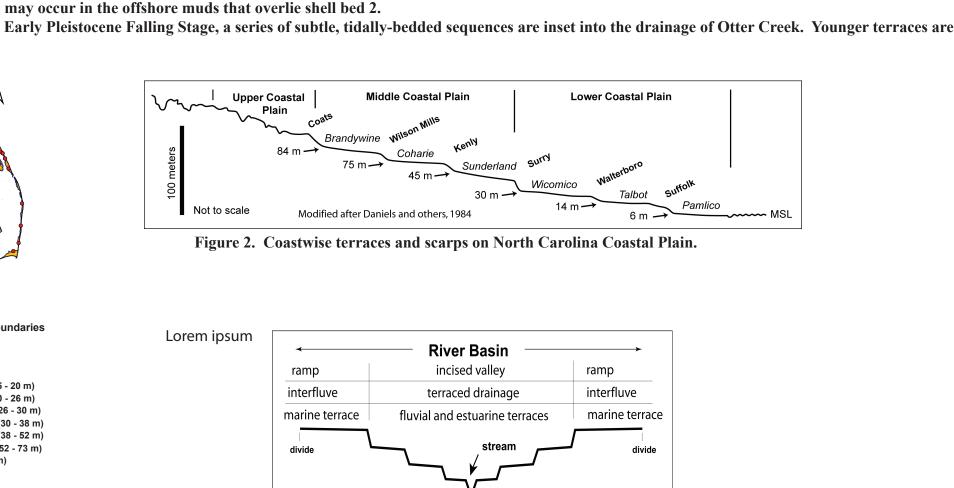
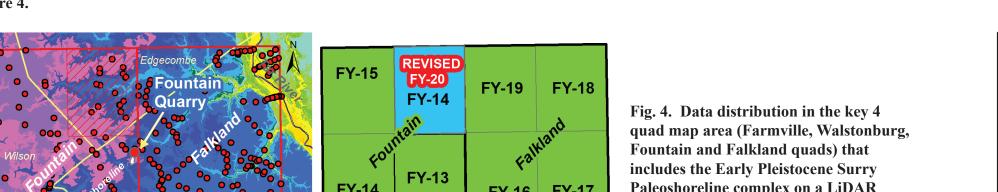


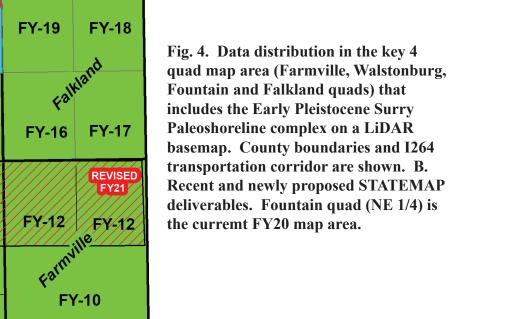
Figure 3. Stairstep topography bordering river basins and terminology.

others, 1989) This diagram does not

incorporate revisions to the Pleisto-

model with color ramps emphasizing marine terraces and incised valleys; the locations of high quality core data (recently collected by NCGS and USGS, post 2000) are shown with details in





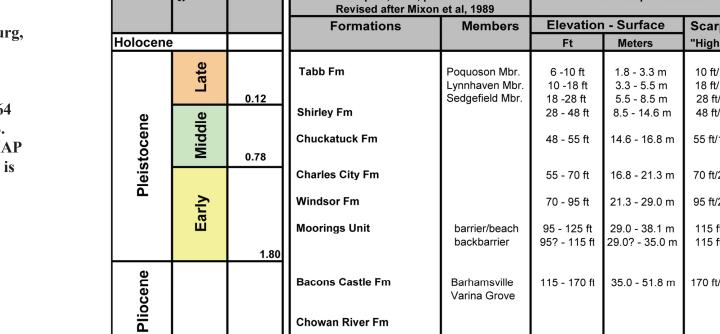
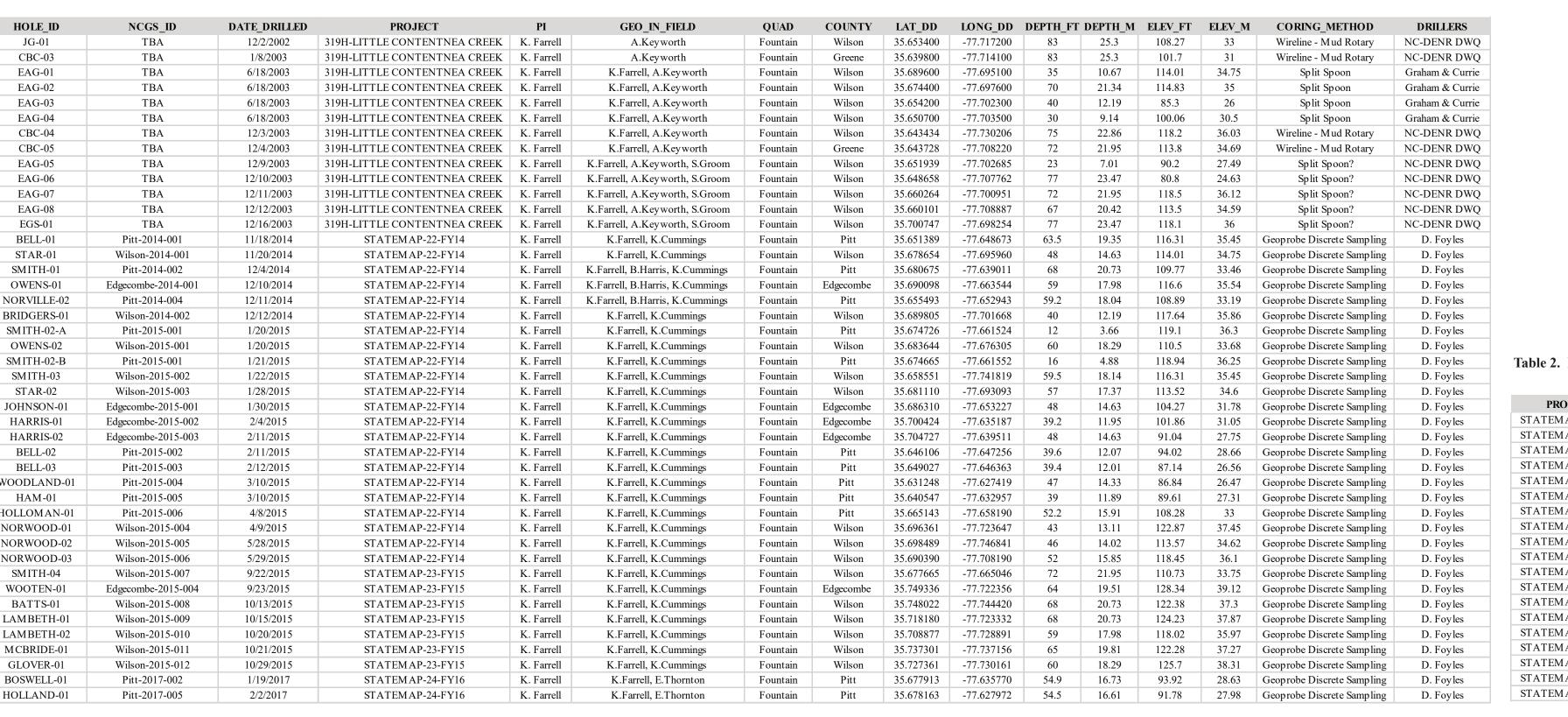


Table 1. Locations of cores previously collected in Fountain Quadrangle for STATEMAP and EPA 319h Non-Point Source Grants.



OJECT	PI	GEO_IN_FIELD	QUAD	COUNTY	LAT_DD	LONG_DD	DEPTH_F	T DEPTH_M	ELEV_FT	ELEV_M	GEOCHEM	CORING_METHOD	DRILLERS
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Falkland	Pitt	35.669999	-77.580466	49.8	15.18	84.35	25.71	NO	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Drake	Nash	36.027100	-77.804121	68.9	21	143	43.59	NO	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.724099	-77.657431	43.5	13.26	74.34	22.66	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.724610	-77.660527	42	12.8	75.36	22.97	NO	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.735590	-77.657639	68	20.73	112.2	34.2	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.732539	-77.657550	59.5	18.14	97.93	29.85	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.742506	-77.646558	80.3	24.48	112.4	34.26	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.709671	-77.640561	49.3	15.03	69.36	21.14	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.709706	-77.640091	24	7.32	78.15	23.82	NO	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.731808	-77.637085	63	19.2	96.19	29.32	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.736386	-77.636999	66.5	20.27	109.48	33.37	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.729332	-77.634882	60	18.29	83.76	25.53	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.729467	-77.634847	28	8.53	86.88	26.48	NO	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.708568	-77.659401	60	18.29	104.66	31.9	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.726571	-77.705875	83	25.3	119.52	36.43	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.724356	-77.705472	32	9.75	97.97	29.86	NO	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.718144	-77.644438	40.4	12.31	88.32	26.92	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.704696	-77.665192	61.3	18.68	115.06	35.07	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles
AP-28-FY20	K. Farrell	K.Farrell, E.Thornton, C.Brown	Fountain	Edgecombe	35.712228	-77.637035	48	14.63	88.42	26.95	YES	Geoprobe Discrete Sampling	D. Foyles

J. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GEOLOGIC MAP WITH GEOMORPHIC LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS OF THE FOUNTAIN 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE, NORTHEAST QUADRANT, NORTH CAROLINA - REVISED

> Kathleen M. Farrell, Erik D. Thornton and Colby W. Brown Geology mapped from July 2020 to June 2021. Landscape analysis, map preparation, digital cartography and editing by Kathleen M. Farrell.

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Interstate Route US Route State Route

FOUNTAIN, NC

Disclaimer: This Open-File Map is preliminary. It has been reviewed internally for conformity Farrell, K.M. and Thorton, E., 2020, Dynamic landscape evolution and sequence stratigraphy in the Early to this preliminary map may occur.

> This geologic map was funded in part by the USGS National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program under StateMap award number G20AC00249, 2020. This map and explanatory information is submitted for publication with the understanding that the United States Government is authorized to reproduce and distribute reprints for governmental use. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the U.S. Government.



2 Kilometers

Legend for Geologic Map Units - Geomorphic Landscape Elements - Revised after Legend for Falkland NW, FY19 Deliverable

Man-Made Excavation - Pond or Lagoon, Mining Operations.

Man-Made Earthenware Structures - such as Spoil Piles from Mining and Dredging, Dams, Causeways through Wetlands.

H wf--Wetland Flat (Holocene): Wetland flat at base of incised valleys; commonly with anastomosed channel network activated during flood stage, or a single main channel, which is commonly trenched and straightened by human activity; may exhibit lacustrine conditions. Basal quartz sand fines up into organic-rich sand and mud. Deposits are typically less than 3 m thick. Flat is typically flanked by colluvium, alluvial fan, and partly buried channel belts. It is partly incised into pre-existing deposits, and may be separated in stepwise fashion from other active wetland flats. Upstream, the flat narrows and is replaced by channel deposits or undifferentiated Quaternary alluvium. Typical facies include: muddy and sandy peat, gravelly sand and other facies.

H wf2--Wetland Flat 2 (Holocene - reactivated Pleistocene flat): Wetland flat that merges with the Hwf in upstream reaches of incised valleys. In some cases, H wf2 is separated vertically by a step-like feature from H wf. An incised channel may connect the two wetland flats. In other cases, the two flats gradually merge in upstream reaches. H wf2 is dryer than H wf; it may be continuous with a set of valley fill terraces. Not present or mapped.

H sc--Side valley colluvium, slightly higher Holocene facies, positioned marginal to wetland flat; may include side bars and lunate bars associcated with channels;

H s--Sinkhole (Holocene): Incipient ovate depression that is commonly incised into surrounding landscape; may occur in conjunction with depressions in centers

Undifferentiated Quaternary Deposits:

Q urs: Undifferentiated remobilized sands that usually on interfluve flats such as the 24-26 m marine terraces.

O us: Undifferentiated sands @28-30 m that help define marine shorelines.

Qb rs: Undifferentiated remobilized sands and in some cases muddy rims on Carolina Bays, on interfluves > 32 m.

Undifferentiated Pleistocene Depositional Systems including Valley Fill and Falling Stage Deposits:

al Qal Undifferentiated Quaternary Alluvium - currently active landscape. Includes the Holocene material in side valleys and on alluvial fans

Qt0 Pleistocene Valley Fill Terrace @ 13-17 m on Falkland NW. (DOES NOT OCCUR ON FOUNTAIN NE).

Qt1 Pleistocene Valley Fill Terrace @ 15-21 m on Falkland NW. Joins nicely with terraces on Fountain NE. Very distinct flat terrace mapped downstream to 11 m on Falkland SE. May be Middle Pleistocene.

Qt2 Pleistocene Valley FillTerrace @ 16-20 m on Falkland NW; not currently identified on Fountain NE.

Qt3 Pleistocene Valley Fill Terrace @ 17-22 m on Falkland NW; not currently identified on Fountain NE.

Qt4 Pleistocene Valley Fill Terrace @ 21-23.5 m on Falkland NW; not currently identified on Fountain NE

Qt5 Early Pleistocene Valley Fill Terrace @ 23-25 m on Falkland NW.

Qt6 vf Qt6 Early Pleistocene Valley Terrace @ 25-26.5 m; merges with marine terrace equivalent Q lzm1.

Q lzm1 (Qt6): Early Pleistocene marine terrace that extends from 26.5 meters to 24.5 m. (DOES NOT OCCUR ON FOUNTAIN NE)

Qt7 Early Pleistocene shoreline features @ 25.2-27.2 m; marks shoreline of Q lzm1 marine terrace in Falkland NW.

Qt8 Early Pleistocene marine terrace @ 27-29 m.

Qt9 Early Pleistocene marine terrace @ 29-31 m.

Qt10 Early Pleistocene marine terrace - topographic lows to emphasize Carolina Bays; not currently identified on Fountain NE; occurs on Falkland NW.

Qt11 Early Pleistocene marine terrace @ 32-34.5 m.

Qt12 Early Pleistocene marine terrace @ elevation 35-36 m.

