DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENERGY, MINERAL, AND LAND RESOURCES
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NORTH CAROLINA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OPEN FILE REPORT 2012-02

MAP UNITS

QUATERNARY

Qal — alluvium (Qal)

(?)

K/Tu — post-Chatham Group undifferentiated sediments (K/Tu)

MESOZOIC

Jd — diabase

Triassic Sedimentary Rocks

Deep River Basin: Durham and Sanford Sub-basins

Trcc — Trcs/si2 — conglomerate (Trcc) of the Chatham Group and sandstone with interlayered siltstone of the Chatham Group Lithofacies Association II (Trcs/si2)

Trpc — Trp — conglomerate (Trpc) and interlayered sandstones, siltstones and mudstones of the Pekin Formation (Reinemund, 1955)

Metamorphic Rocks

Hyco Formation

metamorphosed volcaniclastic sedimentary and pyroclastic rocks associated with Hyco Formation: upper portion (stratigraphic relations uncertain) ca. 613 - 616 Ma (Wortman et al., 2000; Bowman, 2010; and Bradley and Miller, 2011)

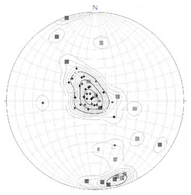
NEOPROTEROZOIC

Zhadlt (u) — mixed epiclastic-pyroclastic rocks with interlayered dacitic lavas (Zhe/pl)

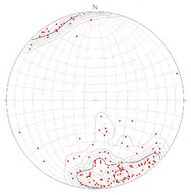
Zhdlt (u) — Zhe/pl — dacitic lavas and tuffs (Zhdlt (u))

Zhadlt (u) — andesitic to dacitic lavas and tuffs (Zhadlt (u))

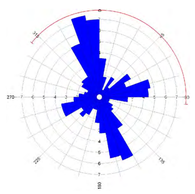
Zhablt — andesitic to basaltic lavas and tuffs (Zhablt)



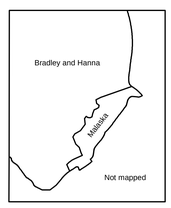
Equal Area Schmidt Net Projection of Contoured Poles to Primary Layering, Bedding and Welding/Compaction Foliation of Carolina Terrane Rocks (squares) and of Bedding to Triassic Sediments (circles with cross). Contour Interval = 1 N = 54



Equal Area Schmidt Net Projection of Contoured Poles to Foliation and Cleavage Contour Interval = 1 N = 153



Unidirectional Rose Diagram of Joints
N = 429
Outer Circle = 7.5%
Mean direction = 22



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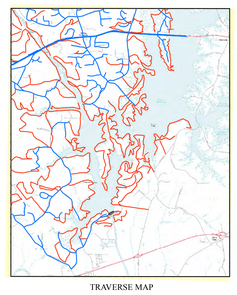
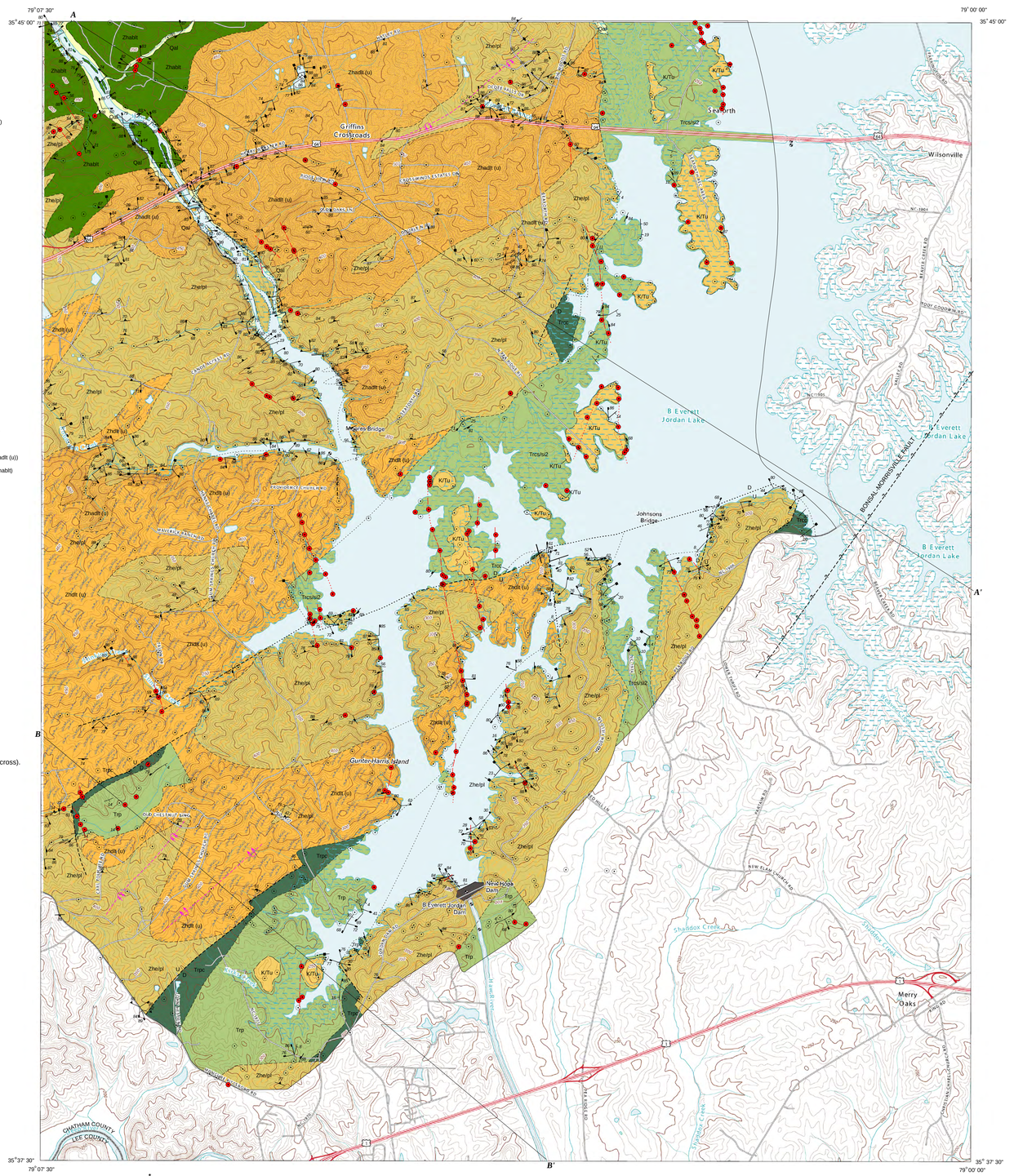


TRAVERSE MAP

by foot
by car



2010 Magnetic North Declination at Center of Sheet = 8 degrees 34 minutes West

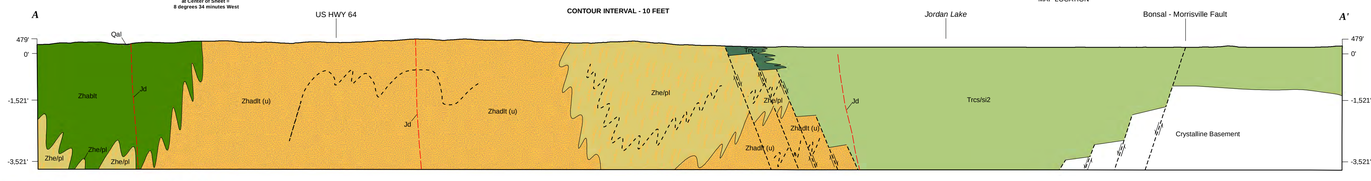
SCALE 1:24 000

1 0.5 0 1 Miles
1,000 500 0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 7,000 Feet
1 0.5 0 1 Kilometers

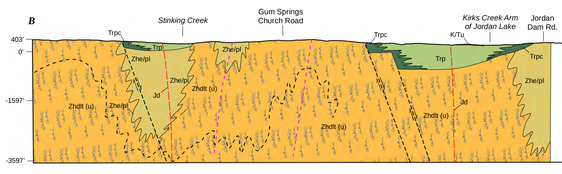
CONTOUR INTERVAL - 10 FEET

Geology mapped between August 2011 and July 2012.

MAP LOCATION



cross section scale - 1:24 000 no vertical exaggeration



GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE NORTHWEST PORTION OF THE MERRY OAKS 7.5-MINUTE QUADRANGLE, CHATHAM AND LEE COUNTIES, NORTH CAROLINA

By Philip J. Bradley, Heather D. Hanna and Michael J. Malaska

Digital representation by Michael A. Medina and Philip J. Bradley

2012
(updated 3/2/2017)

INTRODUCTION

Pre-Mesozoic crystalline rocks in the Merry Oaks Quadrangle are part of the Virgilina sequence of the Neoproterozoic to Cambrian Carolina terrane of the Carolina Zone (Harris and Glover, 1988; Hibbard et al., 2002; and Hibbard et al., 2006). In the region of the map area, the Virgilina sequence can be separated into two lithotectonic units: 1) the Hyco Formation and 2) the Aaron Formation. The Hyco Formation consists of ca. 615 to 633 Ma (Wortman et al., 2000; Bowman, 2010; Bradley and Miller, 2011) metamorphosed layered volcaniclastic rocks and plutonic rocks. Available age dates (Wortman et al., 2000; Bradley and Miller, 2011) indicate the Hyco Formation may be divided into lower (ca. 630 Ma) and upper (ca. 615 Ma) members (informal) with an apparent intervening hiatus of magmatism. In northeastern Chatham County, Hyco Formation units are intruded by the ca. 579 Ma (Tadlock and Loewy, 2006) East Farrington pluton and associated West Farrington pluton. The Aaron Formation (not present in the map area) consists of metamorphosed layered volcaniclastic rocks with youngest detrital zircons of ca. 578 and 588 Ma (Samson et al., 2001 and Pollock, 2007, respectively).

The Virgilina sequence was folded and subjected to low grade metamorphism during the ca. 578 to 554 Ma (Pollock, 2007) Virgilina deformation (Glover and Sinha, 1973; Harris and Glover, 1985; Harris and Glover, 1988; and Hibbard and Samson, 1995). In the map area, original layering of Virgilina sequence lithologies are interpreted to range from shallowly to steeply dipping due to open to isoclinal folds that are locally overturned to the southeast.

Map units of meta-volcaniclastic rocks include various lithologies that when grouped together are interpreted to indicate general environments of deposition (or lithofacies). The dacitic lavas and tuffs unit is interpreted to represent dacitic domes and proximal pyroclastics. The andesitic to basaltic lavas and tuffs unit is interpreted to represent eruption of intermediate to mafic lava flows and associated pyroclastic deposits. The epiclastic/pyroclastic units are interpreted to represent deposition from the erosion of dormant and active volcanic highlands. Meta-volcaniclastic units within the map area display lithologic relationships similar to units present in northern Orange and Durham Counties. Due to these similarities, the meta-volcaniclastic units have been tentatively assigned to the upper portions of the Hyco Formation; geochronologic data is needed to confirm this interpretation.

The eastern portion of the Chatham County is underlain by Triassic-aged sedimentary rocks of the Deep River Mesozoic basin which is separated into three sub-basins (Durham, Sanford and Wadesboro). The Colon cross structure (Reinemund, 1955), located immediate southwest of the Merry Oaks Quadrangle, is a constriction zone in the basin characterized by crystalline rocks overprinted by complex brittle faulting. The Colon cross-structure marks the transition between the Durham and Sanford sub-basins. The Merry Oaks Quadrangle contains rock associated with both the Chatham Group of the Durham sub-basin and the Pekin Formation of the Sanford sub-basin. Dikes of Jurassic aged diabase intrude the Triassic sediments. Diabase dikes also intrude the crystalline rocks of the map area. Quaternary aged alluvium is present in most major drainages.

All pre-Mesozoic rocks in the map area have been metamorphosed to at least the chlorite zone of the greenschist metamorphic facies. Many of the rocks display a weak or strong metamorphic foliation. Although subjected to metamorphism, the rocks retain relict igneous, pyroclastic, and sedimentary textures and structures that allow for the identification of protolith rocks. As such, the prefix "meta" is not included in the nomenclature of the pre-Mesozoic rocks described in the quadrangle. Jurassic diabase dikes are unmetamorphosed.

The nomenclature of the International Union of Geological Sciences subcommission on igneous and volcanic rocks (IUGS) after Le Maitre (2002) is used in classification and naming of the units. The classification and naming of the rocks is based on relict igneous textures, modal mineral assemblages, or normalized mineral assemblages when whole-rock geochemical data is available. Past workers within the adjacent areas (Eligman, 1987 and Wagener, 1964 and 1965) have used various nomenclature systems for the igneous rocks. The raw data, when available, of these earlier workers was recalculated and plotted on ternary diagrams and classified based on IUGS nomenclature. Pyroclastic rock terminology follows that of Fisher and Schminke (1984).

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

SEDIMENTARY UNITS

Qal – Alluvium: Unconsolidated poorly sorted and stratified deposits of angular to subrounded clay, silt, sand and gravel- to cobble-sized clasts, in stream drainages. May include point bars, terraces and natural levees along larger stream floodplains. Structural measurements depicted on the map within Qal represent outcrops of crystalline rock inliers surrounded by alluvium.

K/Tu – Post-Chatham Group undifferentiated sediments: Yellowish-orange to brownish-yellow to yellowish-gray, unconsolidated to friable unit that consists of distinctive subrounded to well rounded granules, pebbles and small cobbles of white- to rose-colored quartz interlayered with clay, sandy-clay and clayey-sand. Lesser amounts of moderately indurated, yellowish-white, medium- to coarse-grained arkosic sandstone present. Unit is mainly exposed on shores of B. Everett Jordan Lake. Unit is in unconformable contact with Triassic sediments.

Trcc - Conglomerate of the Chatham Group Lithofacies Association III: Reddish-brown to dark brown, irregularly bedded, poorly sorted, cobble to boulder conglomerate. Clasts are chiefly miscellaneous felsic and intermediate metavolcanic rocks and quartz. Typically present adjacent to border faults.

Trcs/si2 – Sandstone with interbedded siltstone of the Chatham Group Lithofacies Association II: Grayish-pink to pale-red, micaceous (typically white mica), coarse- to very coarse-grained, pebbly, cross-bedded lithic arkose interbedded with maroon, micaceous mudstone, burrowed and rooted siltstone. Bioturbation is usually surrounded by greenish-blue to gray reduction halos. Good outcrops typically exhibit cyclical fining upward depositional sequences. These rocks are assigned to the Lithofacies Association II of Hoffman and Gallagher, 1991 and Watson, 1998. This unit has been extended into the Merry Oaks Quadrangle to edge-match with the Farrington Quadrangle geologic map (Bradley et al., 2007) and the New Hill geologic map (Clark et al., 2004) .The clastic rocks of Lithofacies Association II are interpreted to have been deposited in a meandering stream fluvial system.

Trpc – Conglomerate of the Pekin Formation: Reddish-brown to dark brown to purplish-red, irregularly bedded, poorly sorted, cobble to boulder conglomerate. Clasts are chiefly miscellaneous felsic and intermediate metavolcanic rocks and quartz. Typically present adjacent to border faults. Outcrops and boulders of float identified as part of Pekin Formation are strongly indurated compared to conglomerates identified as part of Chatham Group. Identified as the Pekin Formation-basal conglomerate by Reinemund (1955).

Trp – Pekin Formation: Gray, Brown to maroon, white mica bearing, interbedded mudstones, siltstones and arkosic sandstones. Outcrops and boulders of float identified as part of Pekin Formation are strongly indurated compared to conglomerates identified as part of Chatham Group. Identified as the Pekin Formation by Reinemund (1955).

INTRUSIVE AND METAINTRUSIVE UNITS

Jd – Diabase: Black to greenish-black, fine- to medium-grained, dense, consists primarily of plagioclase, augite and may contain olivine. Occurs as dikes up to 100 ft wide. Diabase typically occurs as spheriodally weathered boulders with a grayish-brown weathering rind. Red station location indicates outcrop or boulders of diabase.

METAVOLCANIC UNITS
HYCO FORMATION – UPPER PORTION (STRATIGRAPHIC ORDER UNCERTAIN)

Zhe/pl - Mixed epiclastic-pyroclastic rocks with interlayered dacitic lavas: Grayish-green to greenish-gray, locally with distinctive reddish-gray or maroon to lavender coloration; metamorphosed: conglomerate, conglomeratic sandstone, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. Lithologies are locally bedded; locally tuffaceous with a cryptocrystalline-like groundmass. Siltstones are locally phyllitic. Locally contain interbedded dacitic lavas identical to Zhdlt unit. Contains lesser amounts of fine- to coarse tuff and lapilli tuff with a cryptocrystalline-like groundmass. Minor andesitic to basaltic lavas and tuffs present. Silicified and/or sericitized altered rock similar to Zhat unit are locally present. Conglomerates and conglomeratic sandstones typically contain subrounded to angular clasts of dacite in a clastic matrix. Portions of the Zhe/pl unit are interpreted to have been deposited proximal to active volcanic centers represented by the Zhdlt unit but are also interpreted to record the erosion of proximal volcanic centers after eession of active volcanism.

Zhdlt (u) – Dacitic lavas and tuffs of the upper portion of the Hyco Formation: Greenish-gray to dark gray, siliceous, aphanitic dacite, porphyritic dacite with plagioclase phenocrysts, and flow banded dacite. Dacite with hyaloclastite textures are common. Welded and non-welded tuffs associated with the lavas include: greenish-gray to grayish –green, fine tuff, coarse plagioclase crystal tuff and lapilli tuff. Locally, interlayers of immature conglomerate and conglomeratic sandstone with abundant dacite clasts are present. The dacites are interpreted to have been coherent extrusives or very shallow intrusions associated with dome formation. The tuffs are interpreted as episodic pyroclastic flow deposits, air fall tuffs or reworked tuffs generated during formation of dacite domes. The unit occurs as map scale pods surrounded by clastic rocks of Zhe/pl unit. Wortman et al. (2000) reports an age of 615.7+3.7/-1.9 Ma U-Pb zircon date for a dacitic tuff from the unit in the Rougemont quadrangle.

Zhadlt (u) – Andesitic to dacitic lavas and tuffs of the upper portion of the Hyco Formation: Black to dark gray, gray-green to green; aphanitic andesite to dacite and porphyritic andesite to dacite with plagioclase phenocrysts. Hyaloclastic textures are common. Interlayed with the lavas are gray to black; welded and non-welded; coarse tuff, lapilli tuff, and tuff breccia. Rocks interpreted as andesites have distinct interior weathering rind of light brown to gray and fresh surfaces exhibit non-vitric like textures in contrast to dacites.

Zhablt – Andesitic to basaltic lavas and tuffs: Green, gray-green, gray, dark gray and black; typically unfoliated, amygdaloidal, plagioclase porphyritic, amphibole/pyroxene porphyritic and aphanitic; andesitic to basaltic lavas and shallow intrusions. Hyaloclastic texture is common and imparts a fragmental texture similar to a lithic tuff on some outcrops. Locally interlayered with meta-sediments identical to the Zhe/pl unit.

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CONTACTS, FOLDS AND OTHER FEATURES

Lithologic contacts - Distribution and concentration of structural symbols indicates degree of reliability.

- contact - location known
- contact - location inferred
- contact - location concealed
- Qal contact
- brittle fault - inferred
- Bonsal - Morrisville Fault (approximate location)
- A — A' cross section line
- fold axis - overturned anticline - inferred
- fold axis - overturned syncline - inferred
- gradational contact
- diabase contact - dashed where inferred, dotted where concealed
- in cross section, fold form lines
- in cross section, inferred axial trace of large-scale fold
- strike and dip of inclined primary bedding and layering
- strike and dip of inclined primary bedding and layering (multiple observations at one locality)
- strike and dip of primary flow banding
- strike and dip of primary volcanic compaction and/or welding foliation
- strike and dip of inclined regional foliation
- strike and dip of inclined regional foliation (multiple observations at one locality)
- strike of vertical regional foliation
- strike of vertical regional foliation (multiple observations at one locality)
- diabase station location
- abandoned quarry
- strike and dip of cleavage
- strike and dip of cleavage (multiple observations at one locality)
- Strike and dip of cataclastic cleavage interpreted as a result of brittle deformation
- Strike and dip of cataclastic cleavage interpreted as a result of brittle deformation (multiple observations at one locality)
- Fault plane - normal
- strike and dip of inclined joint surface
- strike and dip of inclined joint surface (multiple observations at one locality)
- strike of vertical joint surface
- strike of vertical joint surface (multiple observations at one locality)
- strike and dip of quartz vein
- bearing and plunge of slickenline
- station location
- USGS gauging station (part of base map features)

Base map is from USGS 2010 GeoPDF of the Merry Oaks 7.5-minute quadrangle.
Aerial photo, map collar and select features removed. Bounds of GeoPDF based on 7.5-minute grid projection in UTM 17S; North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83).

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