

LEGEND

This legend is common to GSC Open File maps produced for NTS sheet 94 P.
Not all map units in the common legend appear on this map.

SURFICIAL DEPOSITS POST LAST GLACIATION

NONGLACIAL ENVIRONMENTS

ORGANIC DEPOSITS: peat and muck; 1 to 3 m thick on average; formed by the accumulation of plant material in various stages of decomposition; generally occurs as flat, wet terrain (swamps and bogs), over poorly drained substrates.

Bog peat: sphagnum or forest peat formed in an ombrotrophic environment; wet terrain; may be treed or treeless; O¹h: hummocky, mounds and plateaus; area may be underlain by ground ice or shallow permafrost conditions; O¹k: thermokarst terrain

Fen peat: peat derived from sedges and partially decayed shrubs in a eutrophic environment; forms relatively open peatlands with a mineral-rich water table that persists seasonally near the surface; often covered with low shrubs and sometimes a

Undifferentiated bog and fen deposits: Oh: undifferentiated hummocky bog and fen deposits; area may be underlain by ground ice or shallow permafrost conditions; Ok: undifferentiated bog and fen deposits with thermokarst terrain related to melting of ground ice; Oc: undifferentiated bog and fen deposits, cut by numerous subparallel

channels on gentle slopes.

COLLUVIAL DEPOSITS: mass wasting debris; poorly sorted, massive to stratified debris deposited by direct, gravity-induced movement; composition dependant on

Ch Landslide and slump debris: active and inactive landslides; hummocky topography; diamicton, generally 1 to 10 m thick, but may exceed 10 m near the toe of large landslides.

Colluvial veneer: thin and discontinuous cover of slumped and/or soliflucted material <1 m thick; overlies bedrock or till.

ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS: sorted gravel, sand, minor silt, and organic detritus deposited

Floodplain deposits: sorted gravel, sand, silt, and organic detritus >1 m thick; forming active floodplains close to river level with meander channels and scroll marks.

At Fluvial terrace deposits: inactive terraces above modern floodplain; >2 m thick; represents a potential aggregate source.

Af Alluvial fan deposits: poorly sorted gravel, sand, and organic detritus >1 m thick.

Alluvium veneer: < 1 m thick; primarily as uniform sheets of slope wash on gentle

A Undifferentiated fluvial deposits.

by streams; commonly stratified.

LACUSTRINE DEPOSITS: sand, silt, and minor clay deposited in a former lake; >1 m thick; generally overlain by organic deposits; exposed by recent fluctuations in lake levels.

NONGLACIAL AND PROGLACIAL ENVIRONMENTS

EOLIAN DEPOSITS: wind-deposited medium to fine sand; derived from deltaic or glaciolacustrine deposits; in some areas eolian sediments are thin or absent between dunes.

Er Ridged eolian deposits: forming dunes; generally >2 m thick.

POSTGLACIAL OR LATE WISCONSINAN

PROGLACIAL AND GLACIAL ENVIRONMENTS

GLACIOLACUSTRINE DEPOSITS: fine sand, silt, and clay, with minor debris-flow diamicton, deposited in glacier-dammed lakes in valleys and along the margin of the retreating Laurentide Ice Sheet; usually overlain by organic deposits in lowlands.

Lb Glaciolacustrine blanket: >1 m thick.

GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSITS: well to poorly stratified sand and gravel; minor diamicton; deposited behind, at, or in front of the ice margin by glacial meltwater; represents a potential aggregate source.

GProglacial outwash: cross-stratified gravel and sand deposited in front of the ice margin; Gh: forming hummocks; Gt: outwash terrace deposits, often associated with meltwater channels and canyons; 1 to 10 m thick.

Ice-contact stratified drift: poorly-sorted sand and gravel with minor diamictons; deposited in contact with the retreating glacier; 1 to >20 m thick; Gir: esker ridges.

TILL: diamicton deposited directly by the Laurentide Ice Sheet; sandy to clayey matrix

with striated clasts of various lithologies, including many Canadian Shield, carbonate and sandstone erratics; clast content is typically low (<10 %).

Till blanket: >1 m thick, continuous till cover forming undulating topography that locally obscures underlying units.

Streamlined and fluted till: >1 m thick, till surface marked by streamlined landforms including flutes and drumlins.

Th Hummocky till: >1 m thick; hummocky till surface.

Tr Ridged till deposits: >1 m thick, moraines or crevasse fillings forming a ridged topography.

topography.

Till veneer: <1 m thick, discontinuous till cover, underlying bedrock topography is discernible.

PRE-QUATERNARY BEDROCK

R Sedimentary bedrock: Cretaceous Fort St. John Group shales (including the Shaftesbury Formation) and Dunvegan Formation sandstone exposed in highlands and along meltwater channel and canyon walls.

NOTE: In areas where the surficial cover forms a complex pattern, the area is coloured according to the dominant unit and labelled in descending order of cover (e.g., O-Tr). Where buried aggregate deposits (sand and gravel - commonly associated with Gt or Gd surficial units) are known, or suspected, areas are coloured according to the overlying unit and labelled in the following manner:

Geological boundary (defined, approximate)
Oxbow
Meltwater channel or underfit channel, small (paleoflow direction known, unknown)
Meltwater channel, large (paleoflow direction unknown)
Esker
Escarpment
Major moraine
Ice moulded form in till (direction of flow inferred, not inferred)
Gravel pit

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

The Etsho Plateau occupies most of the southern part of the Gote Creek map area. The plateau is more than 600 m above sea level and is underlain by flat lying sandstone and minor shale of the Dunvegan Formation, which is more resistant than the Cretaceous shales of the surrounding area. The plateau is bound in the northeast by the Petitot River lowland, especially by a 10 km wide valley that lies about 150 m below the level of the plateau. This valley may be part of a preglacial valley system because the modern Petitot River occupies a narrow channel, about 500 m wide, which is incised a further 50 m below the level of the broad valley. When the continental Laurentide Ice Sheet glaciated the map area during the Late Wisconsinan (ca. 25 000–10 000 years ago), it covered the area with glacial drift. Borrow pits along the Cabin Geetla road show that the bedrock is covered by 3 to 10 m of till, sporadic glaciofluvial gravels, and ice-thrust blocks of sandstone and shale. The surface of the drift covering the Etsho Plateau is extensively moulded, indicating glacial flow from the east-northeast. In places, some glacial flutings are over 10 km long. Small ridges, which are probably crevasse fillings and minor moraines, overlie some the flutings in a transverse pattern. Depending on their origin, these features could have been deposited shortly after the flute-forming advance, or some time later during deglaciation. Northward-flowing esker systems on the northeast flank Etsho Plateau indicate that parts of the ice sheet became stagnant. The eskers are composed of till and glaciofluvial gravel and likely exploited pre-existing crevasses patterns beneath the ice sheet. Poorly drained areas are usually underlain by clayey till on the plateau, and glaciolacustrine sediments on the lowlands in the northern part of the map area. These areas are mainly covered by swamps and bogs, forming hummocky peatlands and probably contain significant amounts of ground ice.

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