New York State Museum & Science Service Dr. Jennifer Saunders, Director

Hamilton

Research and Collections Division Dr. Robert Feranec, Director

New York State Geological Survey

DRIFT THICKNESS OF FULTON COUNTY, NEW YORK Dr. Andrew Kozlowski, Mapping Program Director

Emily J. McLean

Introduction

Beginning in 2019, under the guidance and funding provided by the United States Geological Survey - Great Lakes Geological Mapping Coalition and STATEMAP program, the New York State Museum - Geological Survey began a statewide effort to conduct geologic mapping of bedrock elevations and thickness of drift across New York. Fulton County, of eastern New York, located within the Mohawk River Valley and Grenville/Adirondack Mountains physiographic provinces. The county is surrounded by four counties: Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, and Saratoga Counties. Surficial and subsurface bedrock point data and maps were compiled from publicly available sources, vetted, and organized within a comprehensive geospatial database. A technical workflow was developed to categorize the overall geology and differentiate underlying bedrock elevation from the overlying unconsolidated sediments. The resulting bedrock topography map are then used to create the drift thickness map. This map is useful for various applications, including geological studies, engineering and construction, natural resource management (such as water or mineral resources), and environmental studies.

Methodology

A total of 2,020 bedrock control points were used to delineate bedrock topography in Fulton County. These points consisted of 1,988 water wells, 18 engineering boreholes, and 14 known bedrock outcrops. These data were compiled from a variety of public sources and imported into ESRI's ArcGIS Pro 3.4.3 software platform. Ground surface elevations for all control points were extracted from a compilation of three separate digital elevation models (DEM) which were resampled to match a 1-meter LIDAR DEM cell size. Bedrock elevations were calculated at each location by subtracting the depth-to-bedrock from the ground surface elevation. 50-foot bedrock elevation contours were auto-generated and manually refined through a multi-step quality control process to resolve any interpolation errors. The finalized contours were converted into a 1-meter raster using the "Topo to Raster" tool, that represents countywide bedrock topography. Lastly, the "Raster Calculator" tool is used to subtract the surface elevation from the bedrock elevation to determine the thickness of the drift in the county.

Summary

The New York State Museum – Geological Survey has developed a detailed Drift Thickness Map for Fulton County. This map represents a compilation of various surficial and subsurface bedrock data sources, analytical methods, and quality control procedures. The resulting bedrock elevations reveal a range of distinct geological features including a variety of Paleozoic bedrock erosional profiles, and evidence of past glaciation. These characteristics are likely the result of a variety of functions including bedrock stratigraphy, structural deformation, and erosional processes such as past glaciation and fluvial geomorphology. This map is significant for applications in geological research, engineering, natural resource management, and environmental studies. Continued research and work on subsurface geology will provide additional data and insight and enhance the geologic framework of bedrock geology throughout New York State.

Explanation

Fulton County Line

Adjacent County

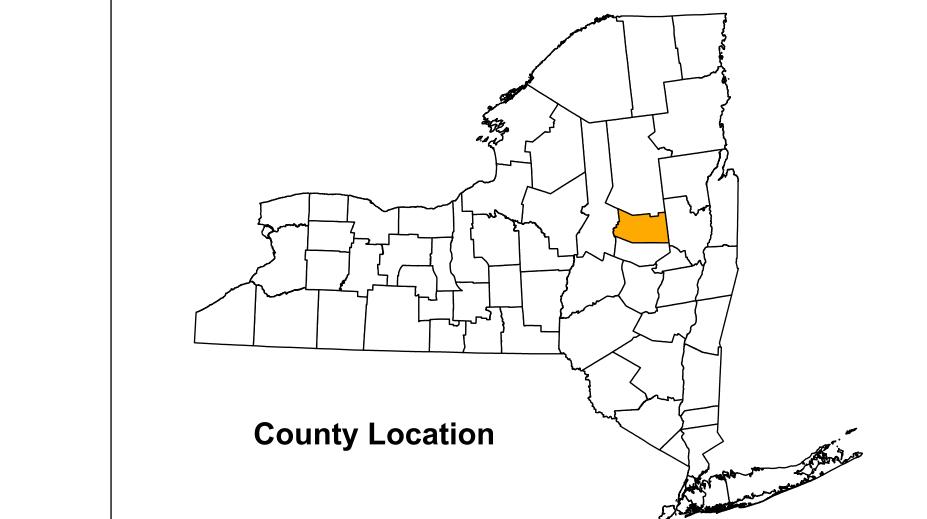
350 - 450

Drift Thickness

Feet Thick

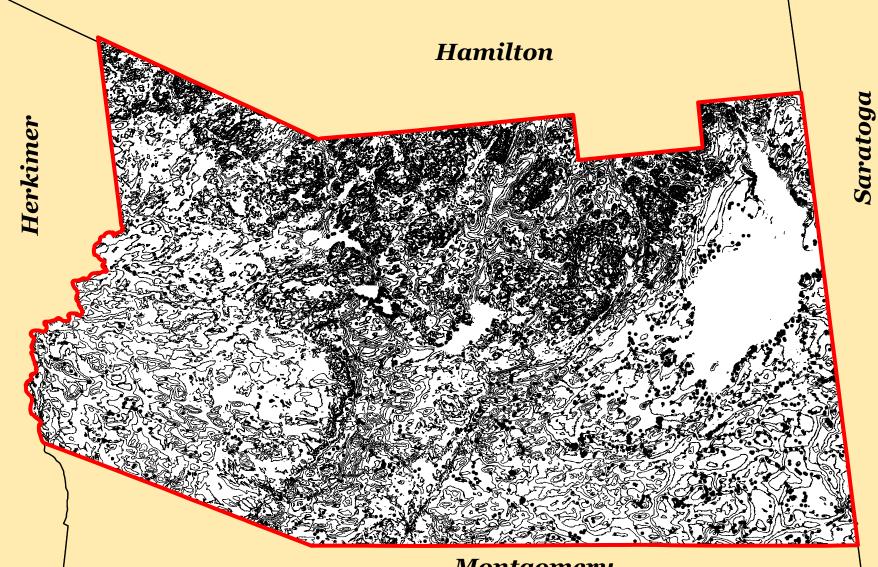
50ft Drift Thickness Contour

/ 100ft Drift Thickness Contour









Montgomery

Herkimer Saratoga Great Sacandaga Lake Montgomery SCALE 1:62,500 This geologic map was funded in part by the USGS National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program STATEMAP award number G20AC00418 in the year 2020 The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily presenting the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the U.S. Government. e every effort has been made to ensure the integrity of this digital map and the factual data upon which it is based, the New York State Education Departmer SED makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to its accuracy, completeness, or usefulness for any particular purpose or scales ED assumes no liability for damages resulting from the use of any information, apparatus, method, or process disclosed in this map and text, and urge endent site-specific verification of the information contained herein. Any use of trade, product, or firm names is for descriptive purposes only and does no rendorsement by NYSED. Geographic and hydrography data obtained from the NYSGIS Clearinghouse:

Digital Data and Cartography by E. McLean and K. Backhaus, 2024-25 Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 18 N North American Datum of 1983

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