

DRIFT THICKNESS OF CHEMUNG COUNTY, NEW YORK

Hailey M. Forgeng and Richard A. Frieman

2026

Introduction

Beginning in 2019, under the guidance and funding provided by the United States Geological Survey - Great Lakes Geological Mapping Coalition (award G20AC00418), the New York State Museum - Geological Survey began a statewide effort to conduct geologic mapping of bedrock elevations throughout New York. Chemung County, of the Southern Tier Region of New York, lies entirely in Appalachian Plateau physiographic province. The county is adjacent to Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins and Tioga counties in New York and Bradford and Tioga counties in northern Pennsylvania. Surficial and subsurface bedrock point data and maps were compiled from publicly available sources, vetted, and organized into a comprehensive geospatial database. A technical workflow was developed to categorize the overall geology and differentiate between the underlying bedrock and overlying unconsolidated sediments. The resulting drift thickness map provides a detailed representation of bedrock topography across Chemung County. 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.

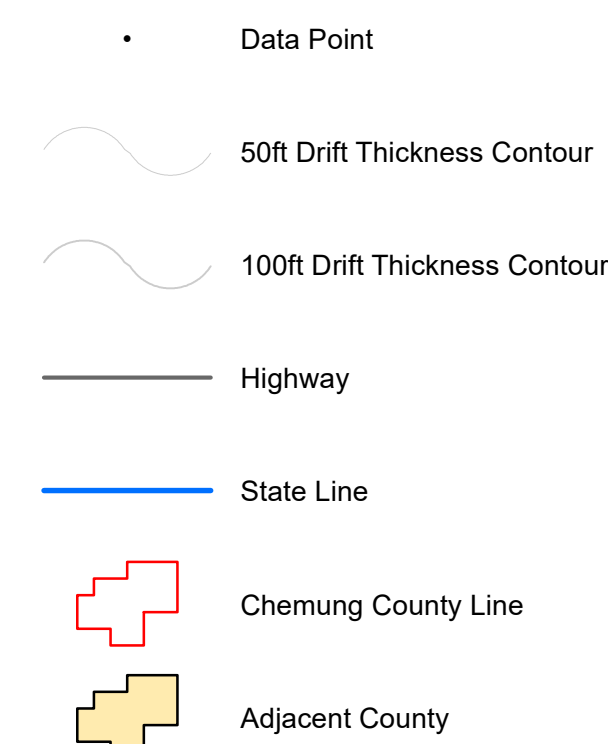
Methodology

A total of 1,492 bedrock control points were used to delineate bedrock topography in Chemung County. These points consisted of 1,427 water wells, 53 engineering boreholes, 7 waterfall locations, 4 bedrock outcrops, and 1 oil and gas well. These data were compiled from a variety of public sources and imported into ESRI's ArcPro 3.2.2 software program. 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 county-wide bedrock topography.

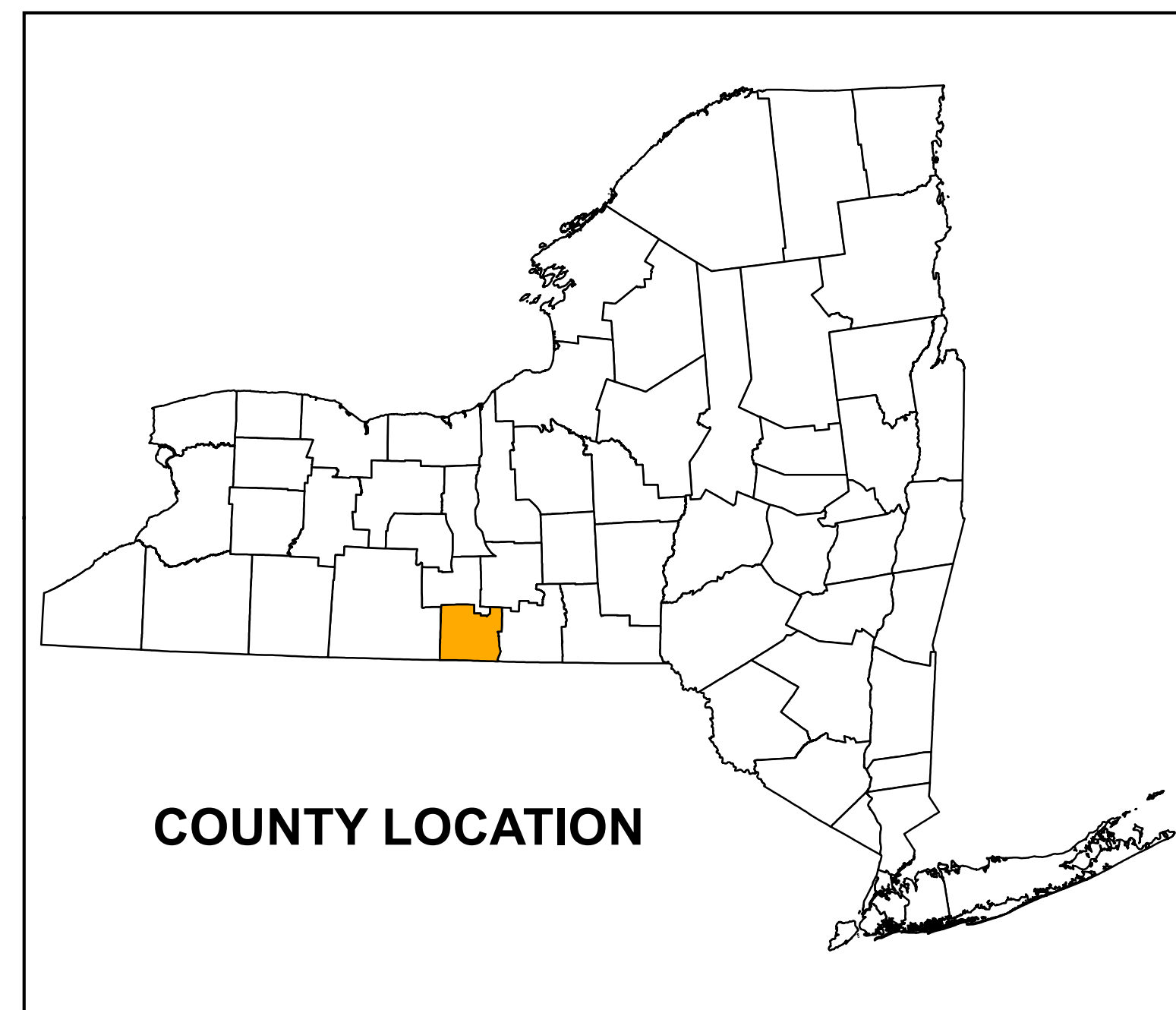
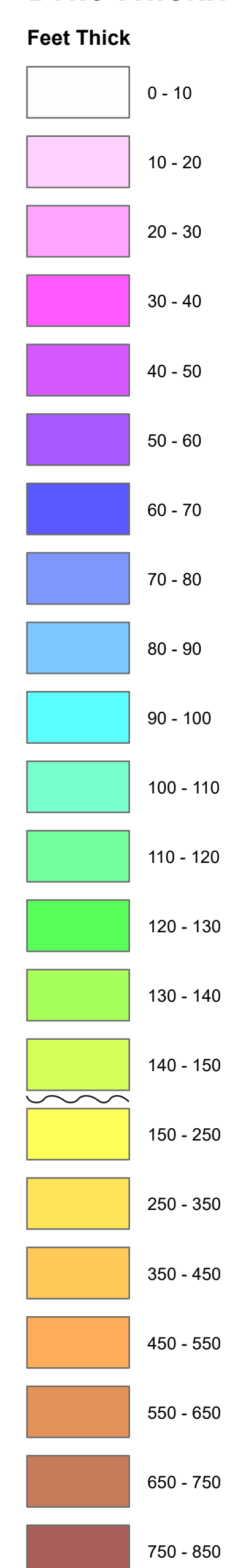
Summary

The New York State Museum – Geological Survey has developed a detailed Drift Thickness Map for Chemung 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.

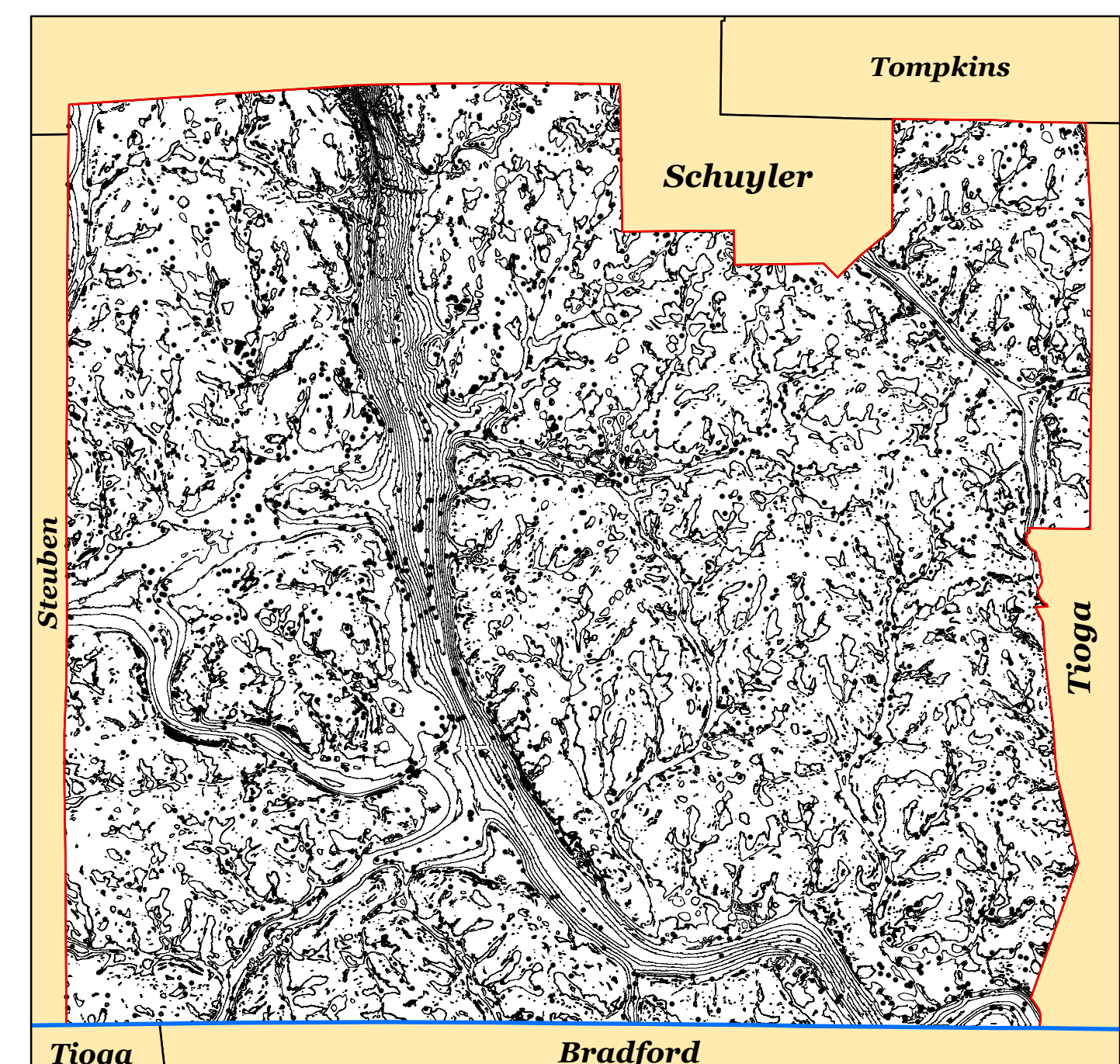
Explanation



Drift Thickness



DRIFT THICKNESS CONTOUR MAP



New York State Museum Map & Chart No. 214
ISSN:0097-3793 ; ISBN:978-1-55557-468-0

