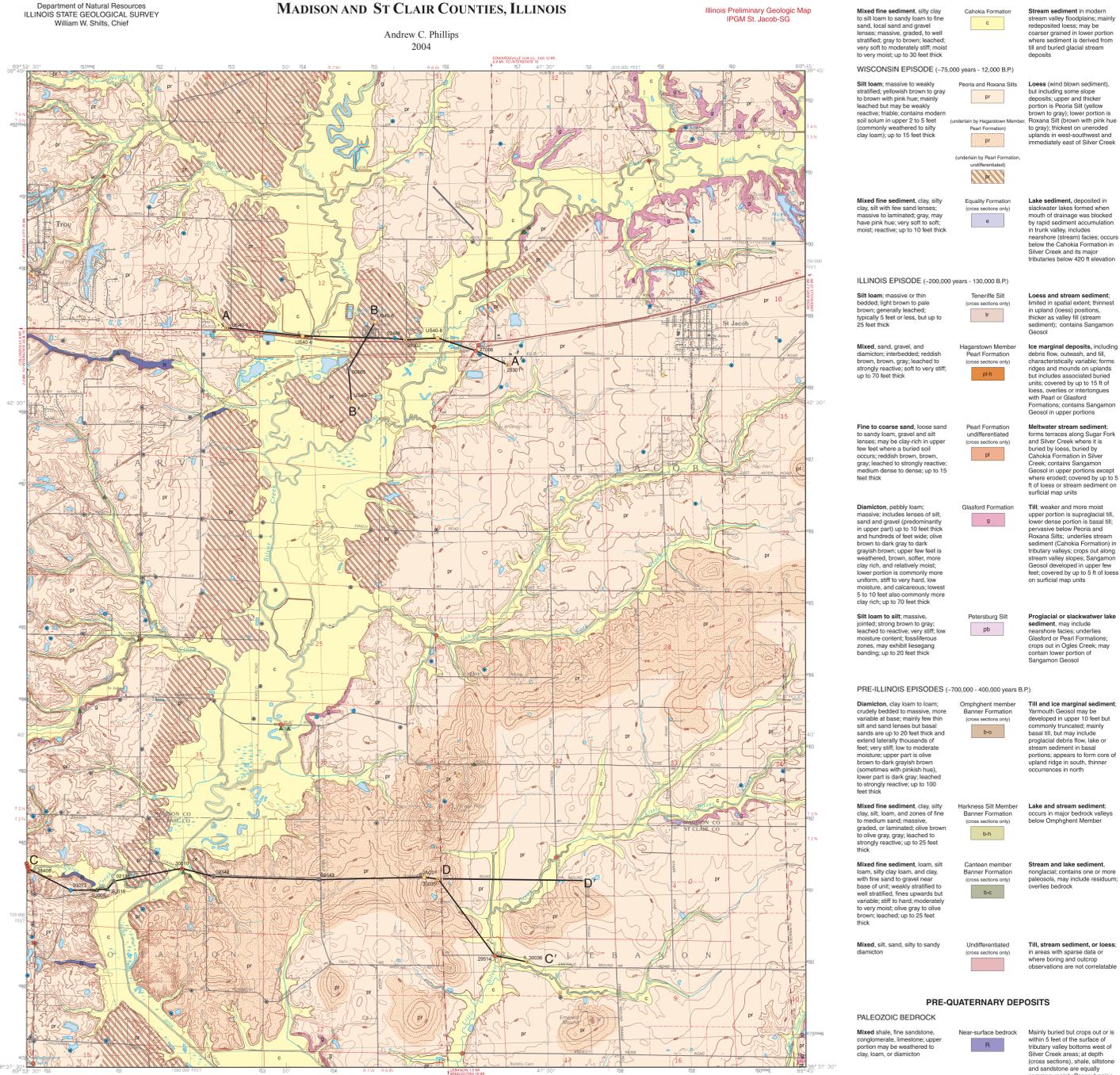


SURFICIAL GEOLOGY OF ST. JACOB QUADRANGLE

MADISON AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

Illinois Preliminary Geologic Map
IPGM St. Jacob-SG

Andrew C. Phillips
2004



Geology based on fieldwork by A. Phillips, 2003-2004.

Digital cartography by M. Barrett, Illinois State Geological Survey.

This Illinois Preliminary Geologic Map (IPGM) is a lightly edited product, subject to less scientific and cartographic review than our Illinois Geological Quadrangle (IGQ) series. It will not necessarily correspond to the formal IGQ series maps, or to those of other IPGM series maps, whether or when this map will be upgraded depends on the resources available to the IGGS.

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Introduction

This map depicts geologic materials found within 5 feet of the ground surface in the St. Jacob 7.5-minute Quadrangle, Madison County, southwestern Illinois (Fig. 1). The cross sections show the extent of surficial and buried units and bedrock. Previously published maps of the area have been at 1:50,000 scale (Linbeck, 1979; Staff, 2000), although there has been unpublished research on the area. This project builds upon the earlier work, especially Fox et al. (unpublished map by adding new observations of the surficial and subsurface. Incorporating them into a digital database, and interpreting them at large scale. The morphology of a major bedrock valley was refined (Fig. 2). The surficial units in the bedrock valley, modern valleys, and in upland ridges were distinguished, and areas with relatively good and relatively poor geologic control were identified. Prediction of the occurrence of buried units far from the lines of cross section should be made with care; additional studies are necessary for general detail to be avoided. This product can be used for preliminary geologic assessment of construction sites, roads, and other projects. It is not intended for use in engineering or other professional work. The work is part of the IGSS (Illinois Geological Survey) program, intended to provide critical geologic data in this rapidly developing area.

Regional Setting

The St. Jacob 7.5-minute Quadrangle is located a few miles east of both that of the Mississippi River valley (Fig. 1). The landscape can be considered as three geomorphic regions: 1) river valleys, 2) gently sloping uplands, and 3) rugged or hummocky uplands. River valleys, including some terraces and small fans on valley sidewalls, are mainly composed of waterlain sediments. The larger north to south trending stream valleys in the region, such as Silver, Sugar, and Chalka creeks, were conduits of meltwater from the last glacier to cover this region. The Silver Creek drainage is tributary to the Kaskaskia River valley to the south (shown). Construction of the Silver Creek valley near Ogles Creek may have been caused by near-surface bedrock on the west and the presence of glacial ice on the east. Rough topography of smaller tributary valleys in the western and extreme northeastern portions of the quadrangle is evidence of resistant till or bedrock near the surface.

Sediment Assemblages and Properties

Uplands

Most of the upland surface is composed of a blanket of tills, which covers thick glacial, ice-annular, and non-glacial stream deposits. The Peoria Silt and the underlying Kankakee Silt units are not differentiated here because their geotechnical properties are very similar (Table 1), but they have been noted elsewhere by McKay (1979), Wang et al. (2001), and others. Original textures of all loam to heavy silt loam have been modified within the Illinois Episode. Most other valleys contain only the Cahokia Formation and the loess in the west and fine to medium (10-20 ft) silt loam in the east.

Stream Valleys

The Silver Creek, East Fork Silver Creek, and Little Silver Creek valleys are filled with proglacial stream sediment (Cahokia Formation) and covered by glacial till (Peoria Formation or Terrebonne Silt) that attests to their existence as meltwater outlets during the Illinois Episode. Most other valleys contain only the Cahokia Formation and are thus more recent features. The Cahokia Formation is up to 30 ft thick. It is generally fine grained but the sediment source was generally from the Peoria Formation and is thus associated with bedrock environments and abandoned meanders, to heavy sediments associated with deposition near channels. Layers of sand occur at depth and up to several feet of sand and gravel that is concentrated in stream processes from older deposits (glacial stream sediment) may occur at the base of the bank. Distinguishing between the Cahokia Formation from deposits of the underlying Peoria Formation is difficult in the subsurface because the textures of the units can be very similar. However, some geomorphic features help distinguish the units. The Peoria Formation is a massive, silty, clayey silt loam to silty clay loam, and is sufficiently thick to cover most of the bedrock. The Cahokia Formation is a silty, clayey silt loam to silty clay loam, and is generally sandy and is sufficiently thin to be eroded by the Peoria Formation. In addition, it is generally sandy and is sufficiently thin to be eroded by the Peoria Formation.

Stream Valleys (continued)

In the major creek valleys between the Cahokia and Peoria Formations, the Peoria Formation is a massive, silty, clayey silt loam to silty clay loam, and is sufficiently thick to cover most of the bedrock. The Cahokia Formation is a silty, clayey silt loam to silty clay loam, and is generally sandy and is sufficiently thin to be eroded by the Peoria Formation. In addition, it is generally sandy and is sufficiently thin to be eroded by the Peoria Formation.

Stream Valleys (continued)

Two distinctive relatively coarse-grained units (the Peoria Formation and the Peoria Formation, undifferentiated) buried beneath the 10 to 15 ft of loess are depicted on the map by patterned areas. The Peoria Formation is a massive, silty, clayey silt loam to silty clay loam, and is sufficiently thick to cover most of the bedrock. The Cahokia Formation is a silty, clayey silt loam to silty clay loam, and is generally sandy and is sufficiently thin to be eroded by the Peoria Formation. In addition, it is generally sandy and is sufficiently thin to be eroded by the Peoria Formation.

Stream Valleys (continued)

Blacked-out stream sediment is derived mainly from erosion of the loess covering the upland, but erosion has also exposed older Quaternary sediments and bedrock. Clearing of forests during early European colonization, and possibly earlier during Ancestral Indian civilization centered at the Cahokia Site in western Madison County, led to extensive upland erosion and sediment accumulation in creek valleys. Relatively recent stream incision into these sediments and older deposits is attributed to large water discharges with initially low sediment loads brought about by recent climate changes, land use changes, or both.

Stream Valleys (continued)

The Peoria Formation, undifferentiated, is mainly meltwater stream sediment. In low terraces on both sides of Silver Creek with elevations of about 470 ft, the Peoria Formation, undifferentiated, is covered by about 15 ft of loess (cross section B-B'). The fine to medium sand and some gravel were deposited when Silver Creek was an outlet for meltwater from the Illinois Episode glacier. Where weathered during development

Stream Valleys (continued)

Smaller tributary streams are incised into upland sediments. In valleys that drain into Silver Creek from the west, the Glaciated Formation of bedrock may be exposed in the channel bed or covered by a thin lag deposit. In some valleys the incision has been great, perhaps related to increased runoff from changing landuse and climate over the past century, but the channels are separated from their original floodplains. Where incision has slowed because of resistant units at the channel bottom, new terraces are being constructed from flood sediment within the channels.

Stream Valleys (continued)

Concealed Deposits
Pre-Illinois episode Quaternary deposits (Bartter Formation) are distinguished from the

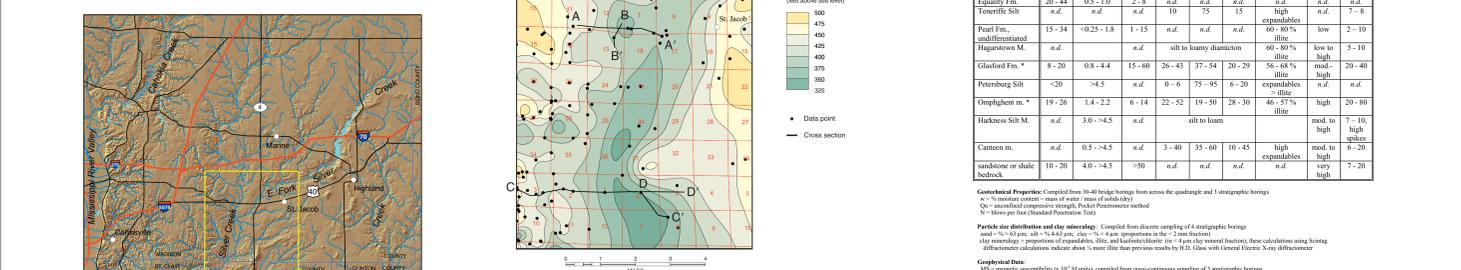


Figure 2. A wide, gently sloping bedrock valley trends north-south through the center of the St. Jacob 7.5-minute Quadrangle. Bedrock is near surface and crops out locally along the bedrock highs to the east and west.

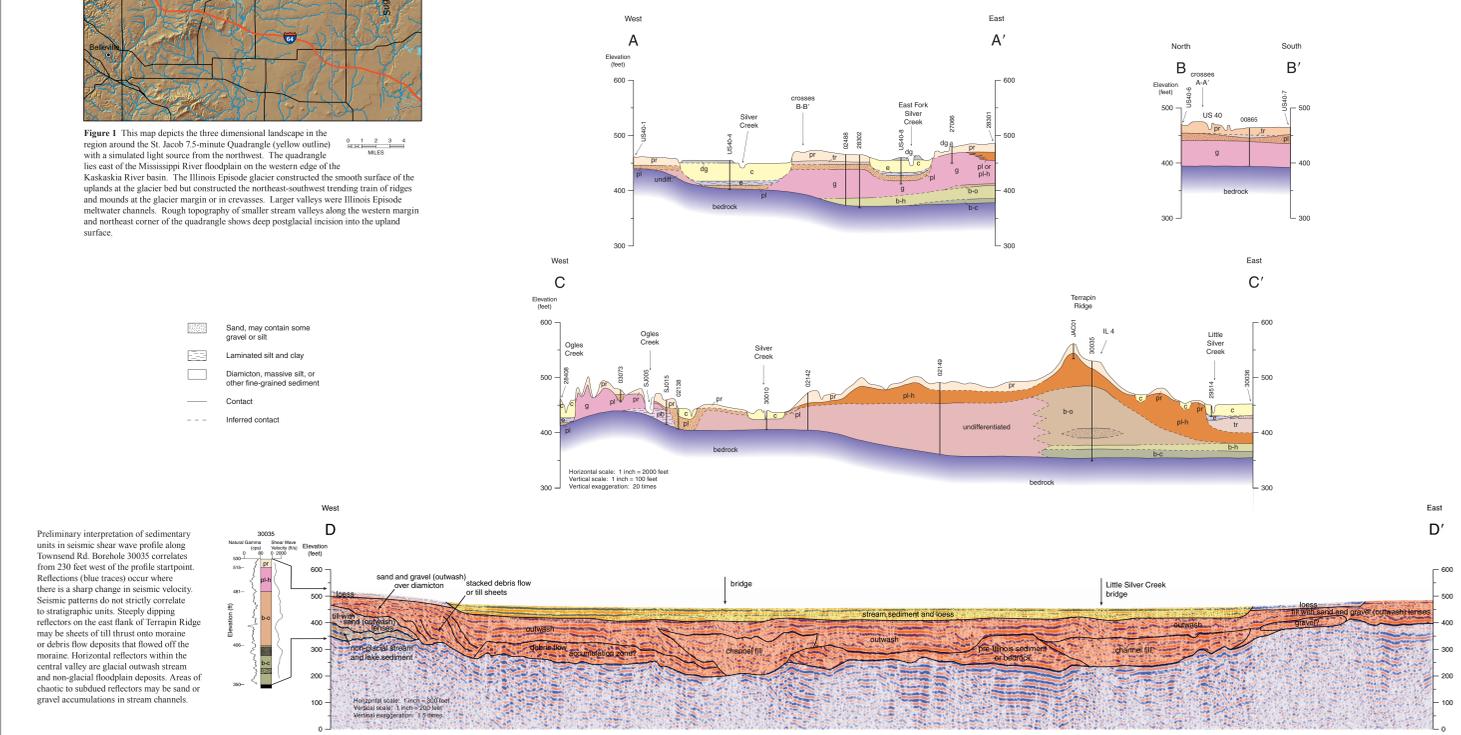


Figure 3. This map depicts the three dimensional landscape in the region around the St. Jacob 7.5-minute Quadrangle (yellow, outlined) with a simulated light source from the northwest. The quadrangle lies east of the Mississippi River floodplain on the western edge of the Kaskaskia River basin. The Illinois Episode constructed the smooth surface of the uplands at the glacier bed but constructed the northeast-southwest trending ridges and mounds at the glacier margin or in crevasses. Larger valleys were Illinois Episode meltwater channels. Rough topography of smaller stream valleys along the western margin and northeast corner of the quadrangle shows deep postglacial incision into the upland surface.