Unconsolidated glacial and postglacial deposits make up a fine loess to several hundred feet thick blanket over the bedrock surface of Connecticut (see Map Diagrams). The map legend is designed to highlight the relationship between the depositional origins and the distribution of the materials portrayed. Most of Connecticut's surficial material is glacially derived, and can be divided into two broad depositional categories: Glacial Ice-Land Deposits and Postglacial Deposits (see Table Diagrams). Meltwater deposits are most commonly concentrated in valleys and lowlands. Areal and vertical textural variability can occur within these deposits because the amount of energy available to carry sediment varies with each individual setting (e.g., glacial streams, lakes and ponds). Energy is available in greater abundance near glacial margins than farther inland due to a reduced substrate, and these environments lead to greater deposition of coarse material but as time passes, and the glacial margin slows back, less energy is available and finer grained distal deposits can become predominant. These same complex depositional environments near glacial margins provide a transition to finer sediments. A central theme in postglacial settings is the relationship between the depositional origins and the characteristics that are favorable for development. Because water is a better sorting agent than ice, glacial meltwater deposits have more varied and subtle properties than till deposits. They can be good sources of construction materials, and are relatively easy to excavate and handle for highways and buildings.

SURFICIAL MATERIALS
GLACIAL AND POSTGLACIAL DEPOSITS

GLACIAL ICE-LAND DEPOSITS

Postglacial Deposits
Fines
s
Sand and gravel
g
Sand
s
Gravel
a
Talus
w
Salt-Marsh and Tidal-Marsh deposits
sw
Swamp deposits
ts
Floodplain Alluvium
primarily floodplain alluvium and swamp

Postglacial Deposits Overlying Coarse Deposits

Fines
s
Sand and gravel
a
Talus
w
Salt-Marsh and Tidal-Marsh deposits
sw
Swamp deposits
ts
Floodplain Alluvium

Table Diagrams

DATA SOURCES

SURFICIAL MATERIALS DATA - Surficial Materials shown on this map are from the Surficial Material Non-Blanket, which contains information on the non-blanket portions of the Connecticut Geological Survey Special Map, 2 sheets, scale 1:24,000. The non-blanket portions of the Special Map were derived from a combination of field observations and interpretation of aerial photographs, including LIDAR data. This dataset includes descriptions of materials and maps of their occurrence, please refer to the published Surficial Materials Map of Connecticut and the companion Quaternary Geologic Map of Connecticut and Long Island Sound Basin (see Data Sources).

QUATERNARY GEOLOGY AND SURFICIAL MATERIALS DATA - 1:24,000-scale digital spatial data of Connecticut's surficial materials, glacial and postglacial deposits, published by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey. These data were digitized from the 1:24,000-scale compilation sheets prepared for both the Surficial Materials Map of Connecticut and the companion Quaternary Geologic Map of Connecticut and Long Island Sound Basin, Stone and others, 2005, 1:24,000-scale, 2 sheets.

BASE MAP DATA - Based on data originally from 1:24,000-scale Connecticut Geological Survey quad maps, published in 1958 by the Connecticut Geological Survey. These maps were converted to 1:24,000-scale compilation sheets prepared for both the Surficial Materials Map of Connecticut and the companion Quaternary Geologic Map of Connecticut and Long Island Sound Basin, Stone and others, 2005, 1:24,000-scale, 2 sheets.

RELATED INFORMATION

Maps and Digital Data - Go to the CT DEP website for this map and a variety of others. Go to the CT DEP website for the digital spatial data layer on this map.

CLINTON, CONNECTICUT
CT DEP Quadrangle 98

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