New York State Museum
Mark Schaming, Director

NYSGS
NEW YORK State Museum

New York State Geological Survey
Dr. Andrew L. Kozlowski, Director

DRIFT THICKNESS OF OSWEGO COUNTY, NEW YORK

Karl J. Backhaus

2024

Introduction

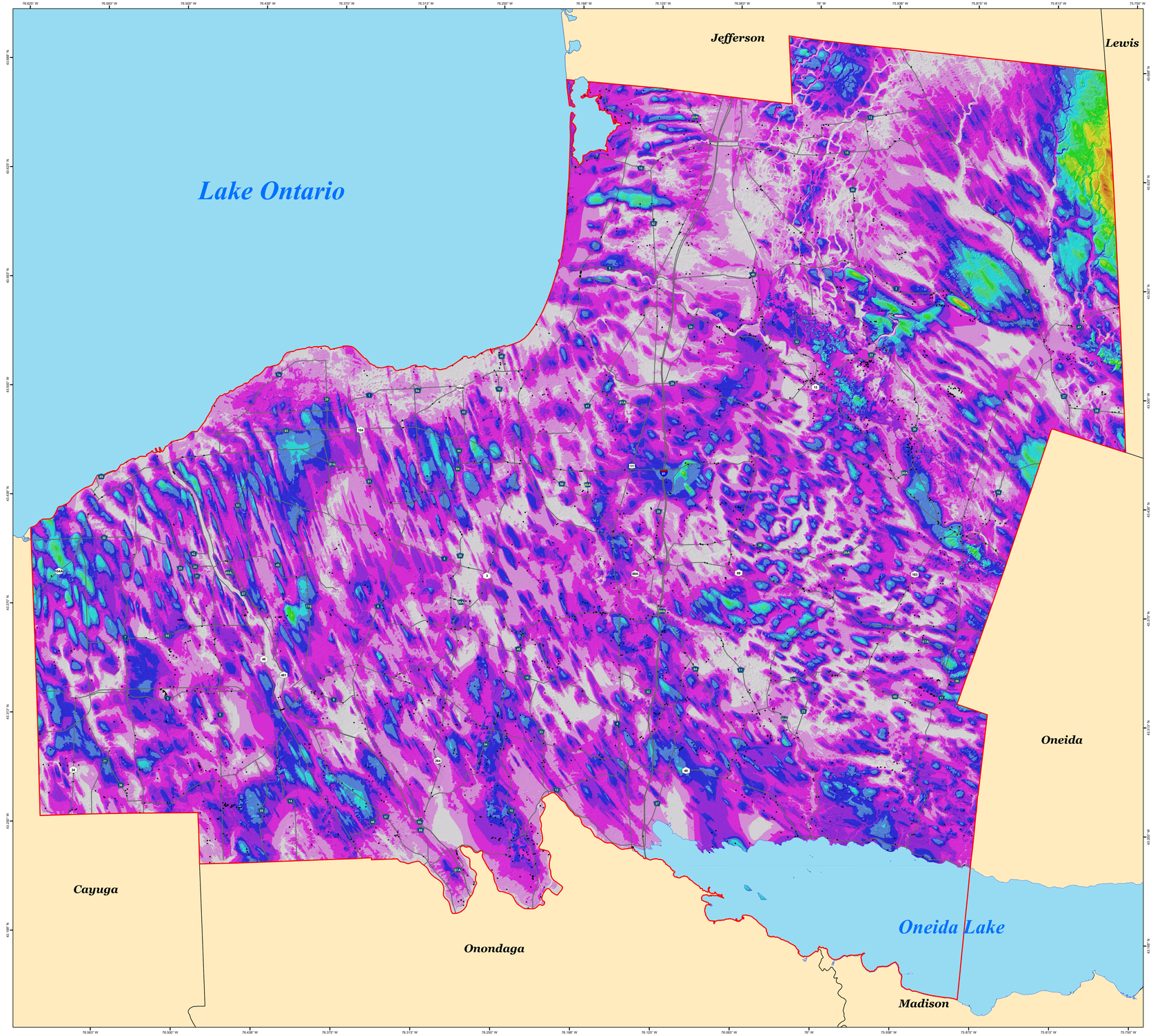
Beginning in 2019, under the guidance and funding provided by the United States Geological Survey - Great Lakes Geological Mapping Coalition (award G20AC00401), the New York State Museum - Geological Survey began a statewide effort to conduct geologic mapping of bedrock elevations throughout New York. Oswego County is in the glaciated terrain that spans from the Erie-Ontario Lowlands to the Tug Hill Plateau physiographic provinces and nestled between Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga and Cayuga Counties to the North, East, South and West, respectively. The county is also bounded by two large water bodies, Lake Ontario to the north and Oneida Lake to the South. 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 bedrock elevation map provides a detailed representation of bedrock topography across Oswego 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 2,207 bedrock control points were used to delineate bedrock topography in Oswego County. 2,095 water wells, 87 engineering boreholes, nine remediation wells, seven known bedrock outcrops seven waterfall locations, and two oil and gas wells. These data were compiled from a variety of public sources and imported into ESRI's ArcMap 10.8 software platform. Ground surface elevations for all control points were extracted from the highest available resolution LIDAR DEM data available and subsequently resampled to a cell size/resolution of 1m x 1m. Bedrock elevations were calculated at each location by subtracting the depth-to-bedrock from the ground surface elevation. Bedrock elevation contours generated by ArcMap at a 50-foot interval were 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, the product of which is the county-wide bedrock topography map. 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 Oswego 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.



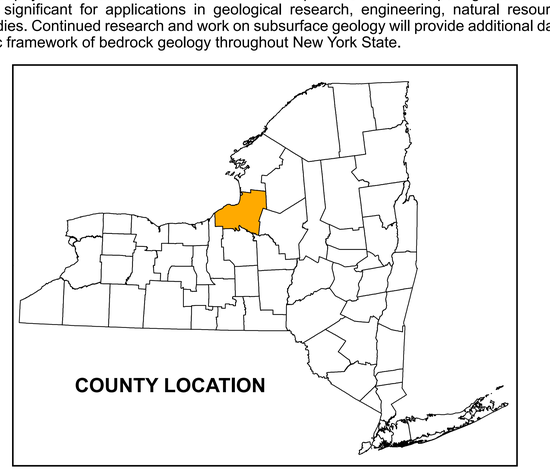
Explanation

- Data Point
- 50ft Drift Thickness Contour
- 100ft Drift Thickness Contour
- Highway
- Oswego County Line
- Adjacent County
- Water Body

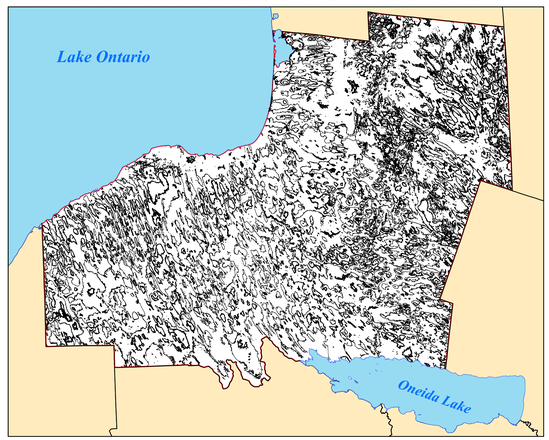
Drift Thickness

Drift Thickness

- 0- 20
- 20 - 40
- 40 - 60
- 60 - 80
- 80 - 100
- 100 - 125
- 125 - 150
- 150 - 175
- 175 - 200
- 200 - 225
- 225 - 250
- 250 - 275
- 275 - 300
- 300 - 325
- 325 - 350



DRIFT THICKNESS CONTOUR MAP



Digital Data and Cartography by K. Backhaus, 2022-24

Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 18 N North American Datum of 1983

Geographic and hydrography data obtained from the NYSGIS Clearinghouse (https://gis.ny.gov/)

Shaded relief from Oswego County and Oneida Subbasin 1-meter Lidar data sets by NYSGPO (http://gis.ny.gov/elevation/index.cfm)

SCALE1:100,000

Kilometers 0 2.5 5 10 15 20
10,000
Meters 0 1 2 4 6 8
Miles 0 6,250 12,500 25,000 37,500 50,000
Feet

NOTICE

This geologic map was funded in part by the USGS National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program STATEMAP award number **G20AC00401** in the year 2001.

New York State Museum Map & Chart No. 171
ISSN:0097-3793 ; ISBN:978-1-55557-425-3