

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
DIVISION OF ENERGY, MINERAL, AND LAND RESOURCES  
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## OVERVIEW

This map is a work in progress and will be revised upon completion of the Rocky Mount 100K sheet. Farmville 7.5 Minute Quadrangle is one of four 7.5 minute quadrangles ranked highest priority for detailed, 3D subsurface mapping on NC's Coastal Plain. The 4-quad area includes Falkland, Farmville, Walstonburg and Fountain quadrangles. The 4-quads straddle the Surry Paleoashoreline and key to defining Early Pleistocene stratigraphic units that mantle vast areas of NC's Coastal Plain. The 4-quad area is also included in the 16 quads in the Rocky Mount 100K sheet, the subject of an FY23 STATEMAP deliverable.

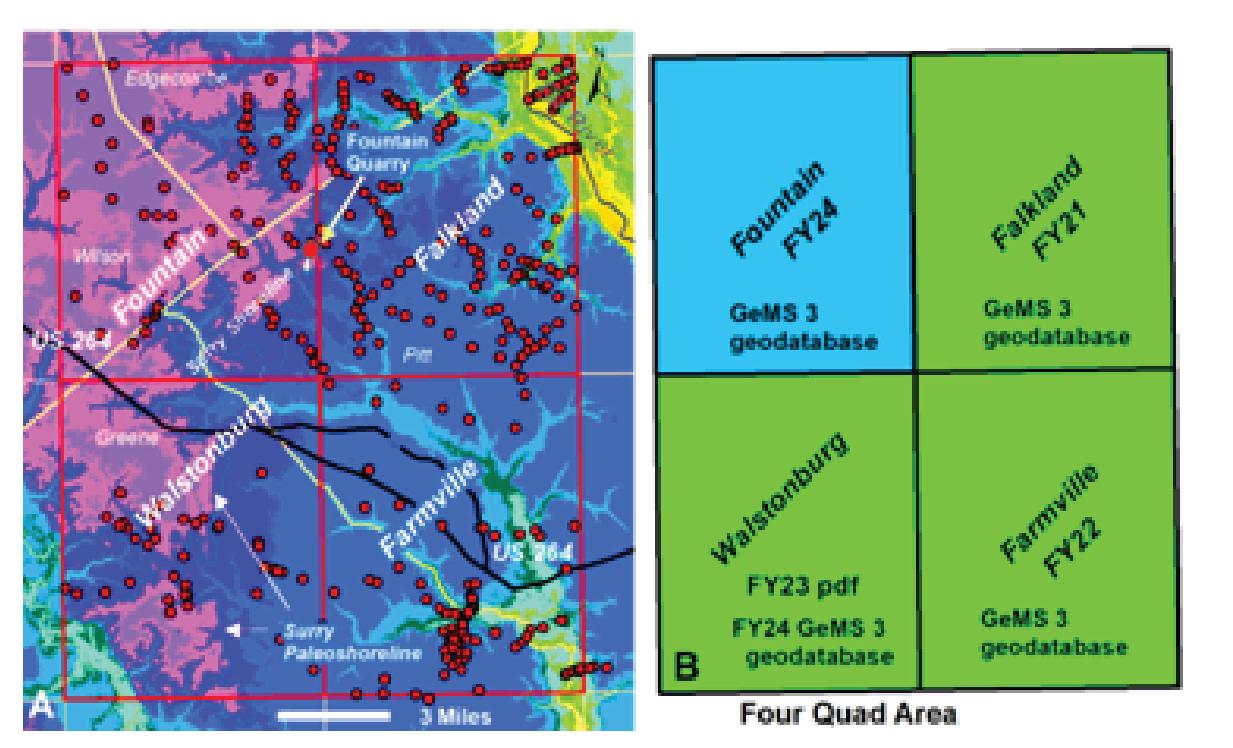
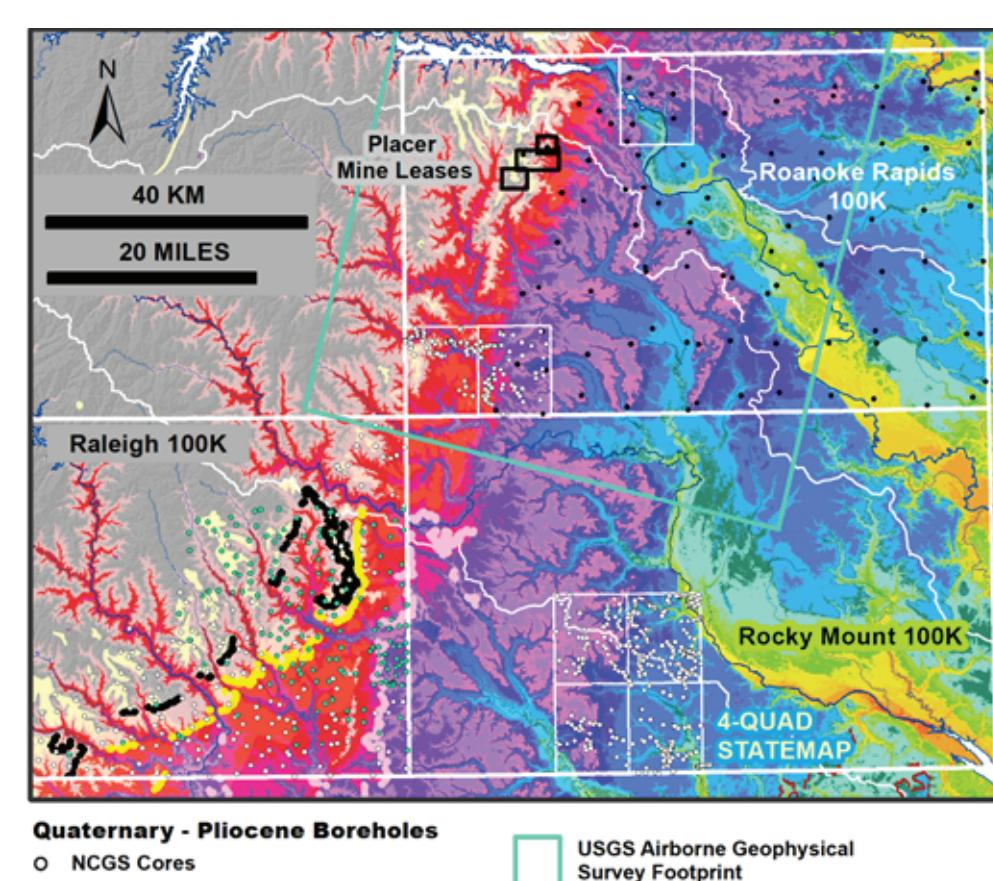
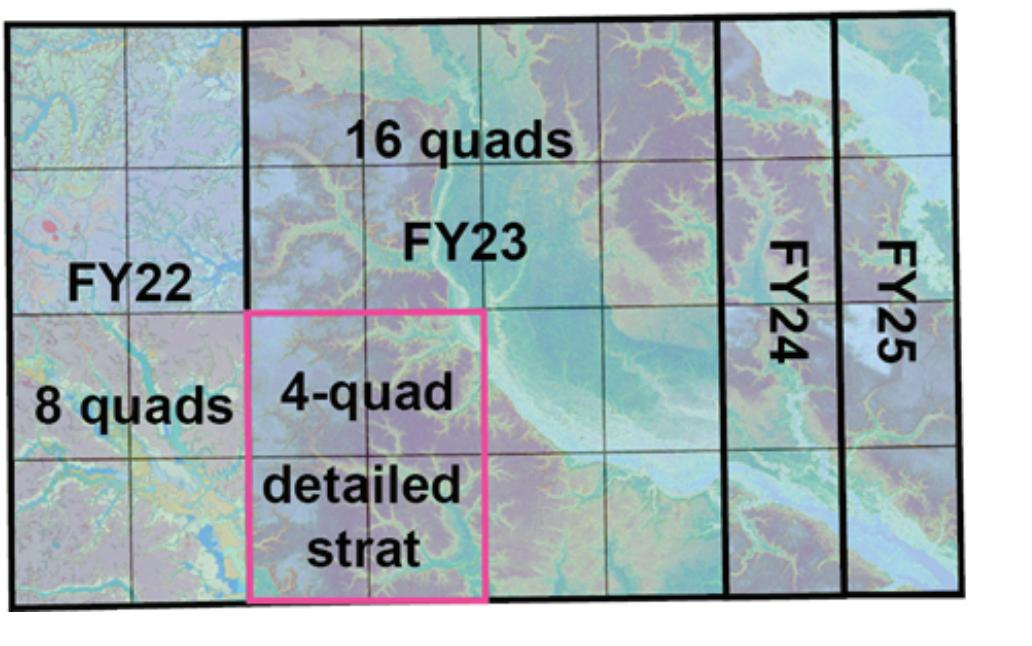


Figure 1. LiDAR basemap above shows distribution of major terraces and paleoshorelines (from Daniels and Kaus, 2001; terminology from Daniels and others, 1984), and the position of detailed study areas that included cores to define stratigraphic units. The Surry paleoshoreline (from Daniels and Kaus, 2001; terminology from Daniels and others, 1984), and the position of detailed study areas that included cores to define stratigraphic units. The Surry paleoshoreline separates the Sunderland terrace (purple) from the Wicomico terrace (dark blue). The Kerly paleoshoreline (pink) follows the boundary between the Sunderland (purple) and Coharie (red) terraces. The Bacon's Castle formation forms the surficial unit west of the Surry paleoshoreline (Mixon and others, 1989). Other Early Pleistocene units associated with the Surry paleoshoreline (Mixon and others, 1989) are the Mooring unit (barrier island) embedded in the paleoshoreline locally, and downstepping units, the Windsor and Charles City formations, east of the paleoshoreline. The Bacon's Castle or its NC equivalent pinches out at the toe of the Kerly paleoshoreline, as demonstrated by NCGS data collected in Drake and Red quadrangles from LiDAR mapping.

Figure 3. Export from ArcGIS Pro™ of Rocky Mount 100K map showing 2004 QL2 LiDAR data (source, USGS) recomputed into four quadrange tiles for ease of use) and areas of study over four STATEMAP cycles. Note that the four-quad detailed study quadrange maps are included in the Rocky Mount sheet. Stratigraphic data collected over many STATEMAP cycles will be utilized to define stratigraphic units for interstate correlation purposes and form the basis for future three-dimensional compilations of Quaternary facies.



The 4-quad area was justified for detailed mapping for two reasons:

**Science Justification:** Despite wide use, sequence stratigraphy is not yet included in stratigraphic codes (Catuneau and others, 2009). The 4-quad area which includes the Surry paleoshoreline, is useful for integrating sequence stratigraphy, and stratigraphic nomenclature for the Pliocene and Pleistocene section. Science questions are: What is the sequence stratigraphic framework of Early Pleistocene strata near the Surry paleoshoreline? How do these units relate to global coastal onlap cycles, marine isotope stages, systems tracts, parasequences, and relief geomorphic features? Ideas tested are that the Surry shoreline marks the transition from normal to forced regression, and that each allo-unit is a chronostratigraphic slab (Pattison, 2010). Recent Sr 87/86 isotope dates on fossils place the base of the Quaternary here as Calabrian, correlating with MIS 6 (Farrell and Thornton, 2020; Wehmiller et al., 2012).

**Characterizing Facies-Controlled Economically Valuable Placers:** In Coastal Depositional Systems, heavy minerals commonly occur in shoreface, ebb-tidal delta, beach ridge accretion plains, and other fine-grained sand and heterolithic (interlayered sand and mud) facies. Distribution of these facies is predictable along ancient shorelines, but requires 3D subsurface analysis to identify, confirm, and quantify their thickness, extent and economic value. NCGS is currently mapping these facies near the Surry and older paleoshorelines in the Fall Zone (EARTH MRI), along-strike or near new mine leases.

## DATASETS UTILIZED – TO INTERPRET GEOMORPHOLOGY

Geologic maps of the Coastal Plain are historically based on morphostriatigraphic units interpreted from non-standardized (sources)—low-resolution, 2 m, 5 ft and 10 ft contour intervals depicted on 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles. The landform elements in the current map, defined as Digital Map Units (DMUs), were interpreted from high-resolution LiDAR basements. This 4-quad area is also a component of the Rocky Mount 100K sheet, which will contribute to a revised geomorphic model of Coastal Plain evolution based on landform elements interpreted from LiDAR.

**LiDAR origin:** 2004 LiDAR (original source 20 ft DEMs from NC Flood Plain Mapping Program), Q2, 100 DEMs downloaded from the USGS website and reprojected as STATE PLANE NAD 83 meters. Landform elements were interpreted from hillshade, slope and contour lines (1 m, 0.5 m and 0.25 m) derived from the elevation grids and orthoimages (county) dated circa 2011 (these best matched the 2004 LiDAR data). More recent Q1 LiDAR data was constantly undergoing updating for the area. For a standardized unchanged dataset, the Q2 2004 data was chosen.

Prior to the late-stage (2022) download of LiDAR data from the USGS website, NCGS staff (Farrell and Amy Keyworth) processed and tiled the 20 DEMs from the NC Flood Plain Mapping Program in house. It is confirmed that the contour lines in both data sets (10FT DEMs from USGS versus 20FT DEMs from NC) are exactly the same, although tiled differently.

The map shown here includes components (contour lines, roads, geography, etc.) of a geopdf (NC\_Farmville\_20130502\_TM\_gdp) downloaded from the USGS website. This was edited in Adobe Acrobat Pro and then georeferenced using Global Mapper 13 and added to an ARC GIS map. Polygon shapefiles depicting DMUs and core locations were draped over the geopdf and made 40% transparent. Contours are shown as 5 ft contours that are unrelated to the LiDAR contours used to interpret the landform elements.

## BACKGROUND

In the 4-quad area, NCGS collected subsurface data incrementally over many STATEMAP cycles. Coring was expensive and NCGS did not own a Geoprobe rig until 2016. To date, 4617 ft of shallow core were collected at 97 borehole locations. The coring methods included: vibracoring, Geoprobe, split-spoon coring, and wireline/mud-rotary drilling. The highest quality Quaternary data for the shallow subsurface was collected with the NCGS's Geoprobe. Other methods (wireline/mud-rotary) could recover the deeper, more consolidated older section, but commonly lost the shallow Quaternary stratigraphy due to shallow overpressure zones (heaving sands). Natural gamma logs were collected at open boreholes drilled by the NC DENR DEQ. Temporary wells were installed in open boreholes: these were cased with PVC, logged, and uninstalled and plugged after collection of the natural gamma log. (Geoprobe, Inc. does not have a downhole tool for logging natural gamma emissions).

## FUTURE WORK

Over the FY21–FY24 STATEMAP funding cycles, maps for the four quads will be completed as stand-alone deliverables. In FY25, all four quads will be completed along with revised GeMS geodatabases for each map. Once the four-quads are completed, the stratigraphic data will be compiled into a 3D database (future STATEMAP Proposal). These cores and the 3D distribution of sedimentary facies and bounding surfaces will ultimately be used to define new formalized stratigraphic units, in conjunction with the interstate correlation activities funded by the USGS for the NC/A Coastal Plain. For the current map product, the landform elements depicted are informal units, that are an intermediate step to grouping these, integrating with the subsurface analysis to define new formal units. Subsurface data will be shown in future versions of this map as the DMUs are updated, and stratigraphic units are proposed for NC's stratigraphy. As mapping proceeds from west to east across the Rocky Mount 100K sheet, the morphostriatigraphic model will be revised to accommodate new data.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Erik D. Thornton was the principal collaborator with respect to running the drilling operation in the 4-quad area. Amy Keyworth was a major contributor with respect to compiling stratigraphic data for the EPA funded subsurface studies and processing and tying LiDAR in house during early phases of this mapping. Other NCGS geologists who assisted with field work include: Katie Cummings, Colby Brown, Calley Anthony, McKenzie Hamilton, Stahn Rosero, Kevin Smith, Walt Haven, Bob Brooks, Sean Groom and Laura DeMoe. Dennis Phillips drilled the Geoprobe cores.

The late H.E. Mew, Jr. Division of Water Quality was instrumental in including NCGS as a partner in a joint federal-state collaboration (NC DWQ /USGS/EPAs/NCGS) funded by the EPA's 319H grant program to shallow aquifers and confining units and integrate these studies with groundwater monitoring and water quality studies. This permitted collection of deep cores (wireline/mud-rotary) with downhole natural gamma logs. Timothy Spruill and Doug Smith of the U.S. Geological Survey also participated in the field work.

This map was funded in part by the USGS National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program

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FARMVILLE CORE DATA

NGS STD ID	HOLE ID	DRILL DATE	PI	GEO IN FIELD	COUNTY	NORTHING M	EASTING M	LAT DD	LONG DD	DEPTH FT	DEPTH M	ELEV M	CORING METHOD	DRILLERS	PHOTOS	GAMMA
GR-1988-02-00	L-05	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740032.2200	35.500000	37.751900	-77.519000	33.00	10.00	73.00	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-09	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740065.6000	35.514000	37.756100	-77.516100	48.00	14.43	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-10	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740042.6000	35.512000	37.755600	-77.515600	52.80	16.09	74.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-12	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740037.4000	35.513000	37.755100	-77.514100	50.80	14.94	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-14	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740034.6000	35.512000	37.755600	-77.514600	64.00	19.73	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-15	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740030.4000	35.512000	37.755100	-77.514100	57.00	16.73	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-16	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740029.1000	35.512000	37.755600	-77.514600	68.00	20.73	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-17	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740028.8000	35.512000	37.755100	-77.514100	69.00	17.88	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-18	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740028.5000	35.511000	37.755600	-77.514600	70.00	18.98	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-26	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740028.2000	35.511000	37.755100	-77.514100	71.00	19.08	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-27	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740027.9000	35.511000	37.755600	-77.514600	72.00	19.08	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-28	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740027.6000	35.511000	37.755100	-77.514100	73.00	19.08	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-29	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740027.3000	35.511000	37.755600	-77.514600	74.00	19.08	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-30	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740027.0000	35.511000	37.755100	-77.514100	75.00	19.08	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-31	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740026.7000	35.511000	37.755600	-77.514600	76.00	19.08	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-32	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740026.4000	35.511000	37.755100	-77.514100	77.00	19.08	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-33	12/21/1998	K.Farrel	H.E. Mew, Jr. (DWQ)	Greene	740026.1000	35.511000	37.755600	-77.514600	78.00	19.08	75.70	Split Spoon	NC-DENR DWQ	ARCHIVAL	YES
GR-1988-02-00	L-34	12/21/1998														