

This map is a work in progress and will be revised upon completion of the Rocky Mount 100K sheet. Walstonburg 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 Paleoshoreline complex and are 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 (NCGS OFR 2025-08), the subject of multi-year deliverables to map the 32 quadrangles in the Rocky Mount 100K sheet (FY23 STATEMAP deliverable).

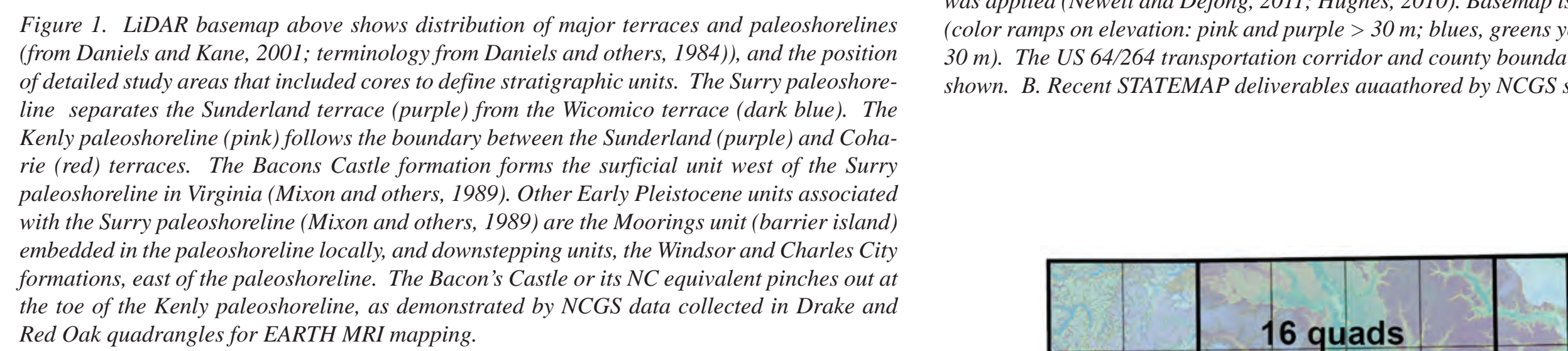
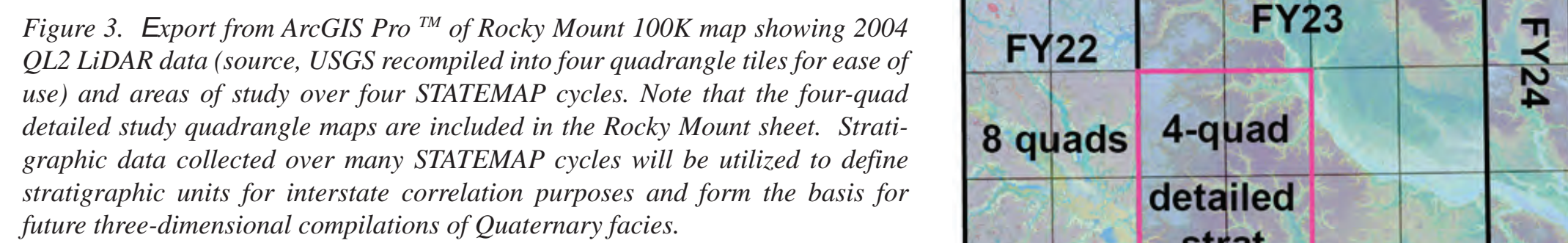


Figure 2. A. FY25 Data distribution (cores) in 4-quad area (Farmville Mountain, Falkland, Walstonburg) that includes the Early Pleistocene Surry Paleosoheline. Here, the USGS' 3D subsurface mapping method was applied (Newell and Dejong, 2011; Hughes, 2010). Basemap is LidA (color ramps on elevation: pink and purple > 30 m; blues, greens yellow < 30 m). The US 64/264 transportation corridor and county boundaries are shown. B. Recent STATEMAP deliverables authored by NCGS staff.



Science Justification: Despite wide use, sequence stratigraphy is not yet included in stratigraphic codes (Catuneanu and others, 2009). The 4-unit area which includes the Surry paleoshoreline, is useful for integrating sequence stratigraphy, and stratigraphic nomenclature for the Pliocene and Early Pleistocene section. Science questions are: What is the sequence stratigraphic framework of Early Pleistocene facies near the Surry paleoshoreline? How do these units relate to global coastal onlap cycles, marine isotope stages, systems tracts, parasequences, and relict 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 (Patton, 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.

Geologic maps of the Coastal Plain are historically based on morphostratigraphic 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 basemaps. This 4-quad area is also a component of the Rocky Mount 100K sheet, that 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, 10ft 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 QL1 LIDAR data was constantly undergoing updating for the area. For a standardized unchanging dataset, the QL2 2004 data was chosen.

Prior to the late-stage (2022) download of LiDAR 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.

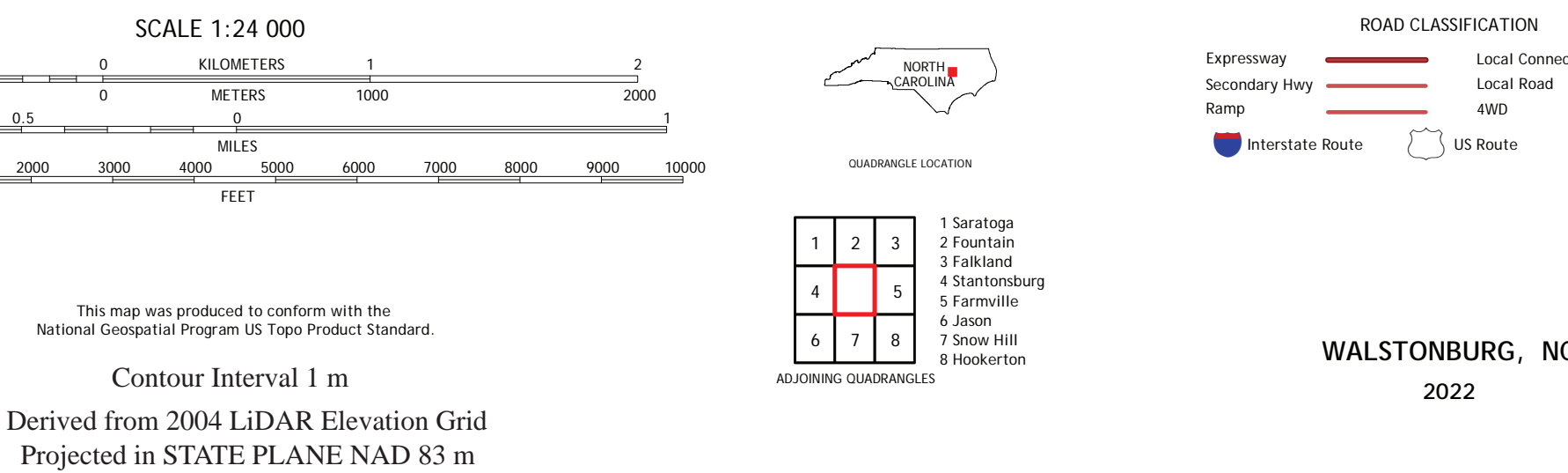
The map shown here includes components (roads, geography, etc) of a geopf (NC_Walstonburg_20220823_TM_geo) downloaded from the USGS website. This was edited in Adobe Acrobat Pro so that all layers except for map collar, road features, and contours were turned off. Polygon shapefiles depicting DMUs and core locations were draped over the geopf and made 40% transparent. Polygons are draped over a 35% transparent hillshade. Contours shown are 1 m contours derived from the LiDAR.

In the 4-quadrant area, NCGS collected subsurface data incrementally over many STATEMAP expeditions. Coring was expensive and NCGS did not own a Geoprobe rig until 2016. To date, 2029 ft of shallow core were collected at 46 borehole locations in the Walstonburg Quadrangle. The coring methods included: Geoprob-ing, split-spore coring, and wireline/mud-rotary drilling. The highest quality data for the shallow subsurface was collected with the NCGS's Geoprobe. Other methods (twine/mud-rotary) could recover the deeper, more consolidated older section, but commonly lost the shallow Quaternary stratigraphy due to shallow overpressure and/or pore collapse. The Geoprobe was used at boreholes drilled by the SC DENR DQ for EPA on Point St Johns (waste), temporary wells (wells were not installed in open boreholes; these were cased with PVC, logged, and uninstalled and plugged after collection of the natural gamma log). Geoprobe, does not have a downhole tool for logging natural gamma emissions).

Over the FY21-FY24 STATEMAP funding cycles, maps for the four quads were completed as stand-alone deliverables. In FY25, all four quads will be completed along with 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/VGA Coastal Plain. For the current map product, the landform elements depicted are based on the 1:50,000-scale map of the coastal plain. The map is intended to define the landform units, but the formal units 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 morphostratigraphic model will be revised to accommodate new data.

Erk D. Thornton was the principal collaborator with respect to running the drilling operation in the 4-quad area and the compilation of stratigraphy. Amy Keyworth was a major contributor with respect to processing and tiling 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, Stalin Rosero Pozo, Kevin Smith, Walt Haven, Bob Brooks, Sean Groom and Laura DeMoe. Dennis Foyles drilled the Geoprobe cores.

The late H.E. Mew, Jr. of the Division of Water Quality was instrumental in including NCGS as a partner in a joint federal-state collaboration (NC DWQ/USGS/EPA/NCGS) funded by the EPA's 319H grant program to map 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.

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By
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Map preparation, digital cartography and editing by Kathleen M. Farrell
2025

Hme Man-Made Excavation – Man-made excavations such as ponds, lakes and lagoons that are commonly infilled with water; may be associated with spoil heaps, dams and mining operations.

Hml Modified Land – Undifferentiated modified land that includes man-made earthen structures such as spoil piles from mining and dredging, dams associated with ponds and lagoons, roadways (cuts and causeways) that interfere with the natural landscape, and associated excavations.

Qal Undifferentiated Quaternary alluvium - Qal is here specifically defined as valley-fill alluvium, colluvium, feeder channels and alluvial fans that are upstream components of the currently active landscape (Holocene depositional system). In many cases, sediment may be Pleistocene or Pliocene in age. Typically, Qal occurs upstream or updrainage from the Holocene wetland flat (Hw1, Hw2) and is common in first order streams. It is not flat, but may have an irregular surface. Surfaces of some colluvial deposits and alluvial fans are concave downward. Incised feeder channels may lead down slope from sediment sources to fan sinks, especially in areas where clay-rich sediment forms steep banks that separate terraces.

Qrs Remobilized sand – Remobilized sand refers to sands that through a variety of processes now form topographic highs in otherwise flat landscapes. Qrs map units may help identify rims affiliated with Carolina Bays, sand ridges, or undifferentiated high-standing sand accumulations. An alternative interpretation is that, in certain cases, these are erosion resistant remnants of the older, higher landform elements that are mud-dominated, rather than sand dominated. This can only be resolved by direct drilling into the features.

Qbf Barforms – Transverse or attached barforms with several possible origins. Barforms that postdate the Hwf and incised valley terraces may have formed in response to Holocene major flood events that impacted the local basin. Alternatively, these barforms may be remnants of older point bar deposits that are currently undergoing burial by the Holocene wetland flat.

Qsh Shoreline sand – Shoreline marker unit helps emphasize shoreline landforms such as barrier islands, strand lines, shorefaces, alongshore bars, barrier islands, and dunes.

Qlf Levee overwash fans – overwash fans along channels, that form during overtopping of natural levees during floods; usually associated with point bar complexes.

QUATERNARY VALLEY FILL TERRACES

Qt36vf Pleistocene valley fill terrace at 15-14 m.

Q38v Pleistocene valley fill terrace at 17-14 m - Flat to wave-swept valley-fill terrace at 17-14 m; includes internal downsteps that resemble bars deposited from a succession of standing waves. Very sandy. Farmland with subtle topography; lacks well developed point bar system in some areas. Some upstream areas in smaller-scale drainages have well-developed point bar topography. Closely affiliated with Q40vf, which may be an estuarine terrace, and can be mapped directly to it. Defined in Contentinea Creek area (Wabunburg).

Qt40vf Pleistocene valley fill at 21-14 m. With fluvial and estuarine components. Upstream, unit is incised into Qt60vf and/or Qt55vf, as a downstep. In downstream confluence areas it tends to converge in elevation with Qt55vf, so that these landform elements are difficult to separate geomorphically (areas with larger sediment supply). This unit may mark the transition from older marine/estuarine terraces (Early Pleistocene) to younger point bar terraces which may be Middle Pleistocene.

Qt55vf Pleistocene valley fill at 21–14 m. Flat estuarine terrace at 21–14 m that forms as a downstep from Qt60vf. Downstream, Qt55vf forms a broad flat at 14 m. It is likely Early Pleistocene, forming during falling stages in sea level after occupation of the Surry paleoshoreline.

Qt60vf Pleistocene valley fill at 22-18 m. Estuarine terrace at 22-18 m that has downstepped from Qt80mf, a principal marine flat. Qt60vf similarly downsteps to form Qt55 vf. It is likely Early Pleistocene, forming during falling stages in sea level after occupation of Surry paleoshoreline

Qt70mf Pleistocene marine and estuarine flats at ~25–22 m. Marine and estuarine flats at 25–22 m are slightly incised into Qt80mf (Otter Creek, Falkland). Down valley, the estuarine terrace merges with the equivalent marine flat along the open palcoshoreline. (This unit may be grouped with Qt90mf and Qt80mf, but exhibits downstepping, especially in the incipient incised valley.

Qt80mf Pleistocene marine flat at 25.5 to 24 m; Marine flat at 25.5 to 24 m is locally separated from more landward Qt90mf by a subtle downstep in topography; it is underlain by the same geologic unit as Q90mf. This unit helps demonstrate the early stages of incised valley formation (Otter Creek - Falkland) during the falling stage in sea level from the Qt90s event. Early Pleistocene, falling stage marine ramp.

Qt90mf Pleistocene marine/estuarine flat at 27.0 to 25.5 m, that marks a reoccupation of the Surry paleoshoreline after the highstand at 30 m, and the incipient formation of incised valleys that formed as sea level fell after forming the Surry shoreline; estuarine equivalents are mapped upvalley.

Q190s. Pleistocene shoreline sands at 27-28 m form a marine flat that postdates the main Surry paleoshoreline high stand at 30 m (Q100s); it formed at a paleo- sea level of about 27-28m and marks the landward most extent of the regional-scale marine terrace (Q190mf, Q180 mf, Q170 mf) that extends from 27-24 m; it occurs along the open coast (Surry) and in estuaries, only occurs near the paleoshoreline; upestuary it merges with the downstepping Q190mf.

Qt100mf Sand flat at 29.30 m occurs along the Surry paleoshoreline; it is slightly higher in elevation and more landward than Q90fs (the 27–28 m flat); it is seaward and slightly lower in elevation than Qt100mf, the principal highstand flat at 29–32 m. In upstream incised valleys, this unit is mappable marking a high-stand or the first down step after the first occupation of the Surry paleoshoreline. May include remobilized sands marking Carolina Bay rims.

Qt100mf Pleistocene marine flat at 29–32 m is associated with the primary occupation of the Surry Paleoshoreline complex; flat likely formed at a sea level of approximately 30–31 m; it includes remobilized sands that outline Carolina Bays and define other shoreline-related sand features; unit may have an uneven topography because of the remobilized sands; it is closely affiliated with Qt100st, which is slightly lower in elevation; locally unit occurs as a 33 m marine platform landward of a landform that is shaped like a barrier island.

Qt110mf Marine/estuarine flat at 32–34 m that occurs as a widespread downstep from Qt136, a major marine terrace; associated with the incipient formation of Surry paleoshoreline complex; unit is geomorphically complex especially with respect to its interfacing with the eastern margin of Qt136mf.

Qt136mf Pleistocene marine flat at 34–36 m is a geomorphically complex area that likely includes beach ridge accretion plain near the Surry paleoshoreline, remobilized sands that demarcate Carolina Bay ovals, and numerous colluvial failures likely caused by thick shallow sands; closely affiliated with Qt138 to west, as a local downstep.

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Figure 4. The adjacent diagram shows the relationship between surface elevation and the various formations defined in the Coastal Plain Map of Virginia (Mixon et al., 1989). It incorporates revisions to the Quaternary proposed by Gibbard et al. (2010). The goal of future STATEMAP proposals is to compile the 3D stratigraphy from the coreholes and use this information to develop up to date descriptions of the Quaternary section, and propose new formation names based on this information.

Disclaimer:
This Open File Report is preliminary. It has been reviewed internally for conformity with the North Carolina Geological Survey editorial standards. Further revisions or corrections to this preliminary map may occur.



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