

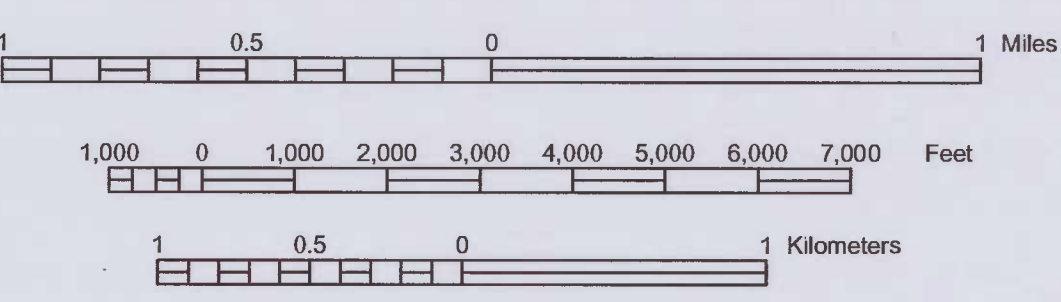
DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

- Alluvium**  
Interbedded sand, gravel, and silt-clay.  
Sand, very fine to coarse, interbedded with pebbly sand and fine to very coarse gravel. Unit contains beds and lenses of silt-clay, massive to laminated, bearing in places organic matter such as leaves, twigs, and logs. Rare thin peat beds occur. Color tan, brown, and gray.  
Alluvium includes typically heterogeneous, generally poorly sorted sediments, which range from well-sorted to massive. Sandy lithologies are mostly quartzose where derived from the Calvert Formation, but contain variable amounts of glauconitic where source materials are Nanjemoy or Aquia sediments. Alluvium underlies stream channels, floodplains, and adjacent low areas. The most extensive areas of alluvium in the quadrangle underlie the bed and floodplain of Lyons and Trays Creeks and their tributaries as well as several marshy tracts bordering the Bay at Stag Harbor and Deep Creek. Alluvium is largely the product of channel and overbank deposition within the last 10,000 years. The unit is as thick as 20 feet in places.
- Lowland Deposits**  
Interbedded sand, pebbly sand, and silt-clay.  
Sand, generally silty or clayey, poorly sorted. Mostly siliceous, but contains variable amounts of glauconitic in deposits in the northern third of the quadrangle. Gravel and pebbly sand is concentrated in the lower part of the unit. In places, thin peaty beds occur in the section, as do black, highly organic silt-clays rich in plant debris. Color mostly pale-gray, tan, or buff, varying to dark gray. This unit underlies low flats bordering the Chesapeake Bay. Most of the flats lie at 20 feet or less in elevation, but rise to as high as 60 feet in places along their inner margins. The most extensive of these flats is the wide lowland between West River and Herring Bay. Much of the Qz here is poorly-sorted muddy sand or silt-clay, representative of the upper portion of the bipartite, grossly-sorted unit. Outcrops are scarce due to low relief and widespread shoreline protection. Radiocarbon dating of organic materials in this unit (former Talbot) elsewhere along the Bay indicates a minimum age of 35,000 years. The paleoflora suggests interglacial conditions; thus the Qz unit is probably Sangamonian or older, perhaps mid-Pleistocene. Qz strata are as thick as 40 feet in places.  
*Note: The informal unit name of Qz is used on this map for deposits previously mapped as the Talbot Formation (McCartan, 1989a; Owens and Denny, 1979) as well as some Quaternary terrace deposits are not unequivocally defined. Until further study reveals the correlation of these units, the informal identification "Qz" is applied to identify these former Talbot sediments in this quadrangle.*
- Terrace Deposits**  
Interbedded sand, gravel, and silt-clay.  
Heterogeneous sediments comprising fine to coarse gravel, poorly-sorted sand containing glauconitic where source materials include Nanjemoy beds, clayey sand, and thin lenses of silt-clay. Bedding is chiefly lenticular or massive. Color tan, buff, grayish-brown, or reddish-brown.  
Terrace Deposits have a very limited distribution in the map area. Small patches of Q<sub>t</sub> flank several of the area streams, most notably along Lyons Creek in the southern part of the quadrangle. The deposits are as thick as 25 feet but average thinner.
- Upland Deposits (formerly Brandywine Formation)**  
Sand, pebbly sand, gravel, and sandy loam.  
Sand, moderately well sorted, medium- to coarse-grained, with some clayey sand. Pebbles quartzose, maximum about 6 inches in diameter. Color tan to orange-brown. Bedding is chiefly lenticular and massive. Gravel concentrated in the basal beds; upper beds chiefly clayey loam.  
The distribution of Brandywine strata in the Deale Quadrangle is limited to erosional remnants on ridge crests in the extreme southwest part of the area and a few hills in the extreme northwest part of the area.  
The unit is fluvial in origin and is thought to have been deposited by the ancestral Potomac River in late Miocene time. Upland Deposits are maximally about 25 feet thick in the quadrangle.
- Calvert Formation**  
Sand, silt, and diatomaceous silt.  
Sand, very fine to fine-grained, silty, silt, and minor clay. Unit includes a variable thickness of diatomaceous silt. Color olive green to greenish gray where unweathered; pale-gray, tan, or brown in weathered sections. The basal portion contains, in places, a thin (< 5 ft) bed of diatomaceous silt containing as much as 40 percent diatoms. Most of the unit consists of relatively homogeneous sand and silt with obscure bedding and pervasive burrow-mottling. Ghosts of mollusks are common in some strata, but intact shells are absent, having been leached from the sediment.  
The lower contact is sharp and unconformable on the underlying Nanjemoy. All of the Calvert sediments in the map area belong to the lower Fairhaven Member. The upper member, the Plum Point, was not recognized in the area. Calvert strata are at the surface over most of the western half of the area.  
The lower Calvert is a restricted basin marine unit, deposited in relatively deep water. A maximum thickness of about 80 feet of strata is present in the Deale Quadrangle.
- Nanjemoy Formation**  
Glauconitic sand, silty sand, and silt-clay.  
Sand, fine to coarse-grained, variably silty or clayey, containing as much as 50 percent of glauconitic. Grades to silt-clay in some places. Color medium-gray to dark greenish-gray where unweathered, mottled yellowish and pale-brown in weathered outcrops. Silt-clay is dark gray to chocolate brown. Bedding massive or thick-bedded with prevalent burrow-mottling. Fossiliferous in some beds, chiefly *Trochammina*.  
Lower contact sharp marked by sand filled burrows excavated in the underlying clay of the Marlboro. Indurated beds and concretionary bodies are present at some horizons. Sand generally coarsens upward in the section.  
The Nanjemoy accumulated on the inner shelf in relatively shallow water. Unit thickness may be as much as 60 feet but generally much less.
- Marlboro Clay (subsurface, cross-section only)**  
Clay and minor silt.  
Clay, dense and brittle, beds massive and thickly-stratified ranging to finely-laminated. Beds lenticular to hummocky, with sparse partings and thin lenses of micaceous, lignitic, clayey silt, evenly laminated in places. Color pale-red to silvery-gray; silt yellowish-gray to reddish-gray. The lower contact is gradational over a few feet of interbedded glauconitic sand and thin clay beds. This unit does not outcrop in the Deale Quadrangle. In Anne Arundel County, some of the best outcrops of the Marlboro are found in the Central Avenue corridor in the southern portion of the South River Quadrangle. The presence of the unit at the surface is commonly revealed by soils containing abundant small flat clay chips.  
The precise depositional environment of the Marlboro is uncertain. The sparse faunal evidence and the sedimentary structures have been interpreted as representing deposition in very shallow water (e.g., intertidal). Recently, however, regional studies of the Marlboro Clay suggest a deeper water depositional environment. Gibson et al. (2000) indicate that the unit probably represents deposits from an inner to middle marine shelf area that received sediments from river drainage systems (e.g., Gibson et al., 2000). Regional microfossil studies indicate that the Marlboro Clay ranges in age from latest Paleocene to earliest Eocene (calcareous nanoplankton upper Zone 9 and lower Zone 10) (e.g., Gibson et al., 2000). The Marlboro is as much as 20 feet thick.
- Aquia Formation (subsurface, cross-section only)**  
Glauconitic sand and calcareous sandstone.  
Most of the Aquia consists of well-sorted, medium-grained sand that is variably glauconitic (rarely totaling more than 50 percent of the sediment). Some beds are fine or coarse grained. Color varies from dark gray-green to olive-green in unweathered sand, "salt and pepper" sand where moderately weathered, and rusty-brown with abundant limonite crusts where deeply-weathered. Bedding massive and thick-bedded with abundant burrow-mottling. Highly fossiliferous in places with large oysters and *Trochammina*.  
This unit is not exposed at the surface in the Deale Quadrangle (shown in cross section only). In the South River Quadrangle, immediately north of the Deale Quadrangle, the Aquia is at the surface over most of the northern half of the area and outcrops are numerous, particularly in bluffs facing the lower Severn and South Rivers where as much as 80 feet of Aquia is exposed in continuous section. Below the South River, partial beds or irregular pools of shaly calcareous sandstone as much as 5 feet thick are commonly encountered in the South River Quadrangle.  
The Aquia probably accumulated in very shallow marine water on the inner shelf and record a regressive cycle during the Paleocene. At its thickest, the Aquia totals nearly 180 feet of beds, but it is generally much thinner over the map area.

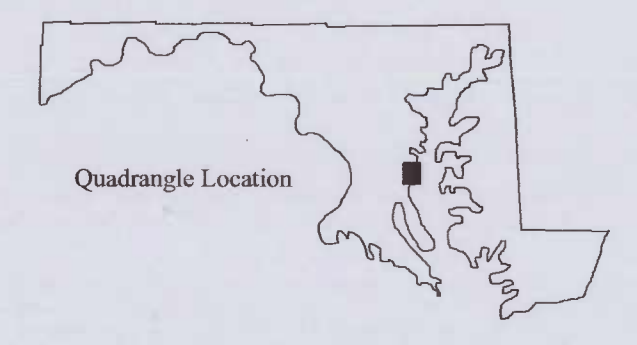
Geologic Map of Deale Quadrangle, Anne Arundel and Calvert Counties, Maryland

By John D. Glaser 2002

Scale 1:24,000



Contour Interval 20 Feet  
Dotted lines represent supplementary contour interval of 10 feet  
National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929  
Shoreline shown represents the approximate line of mean high water  
The mean range of the tide is approximately 0.9 feet  
(To convert from feet to meters, multiply by 0.3048)



Adjoining 7.5' quadrangle names  
(This map is a portion of the Deale, Deale, and Deale, no portion of the Herring Bay quadrangle, shaded)

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

1. Bove  
2. South River  
3. Annapolis  
4. Deale  
5. Deale  
6. Herring Point  
7. Lower Marlboro  
8. North Herring  
9. East of South Beach

Copies of this map are available in hard copy (paper) and digital form from: MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 2300 Saint Paul Street Baltimore, MD 21218 Ph: 410-554-5500 Fax: 410-554-5502 http://www.mgs.md.gov/

STATE OF MARYLAND Parris N. Glendening Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend Lieutenant Governor



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES J. Charles Fox Secretary Karen M. White Deputy Secretary MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY Emery T. Cleaves Director

References cited:

Gibson, T.G., Bybell, L. M. and Mason, D.B., 2000. Stratigraphic and climatic implications of clay mineral changes around the Paleocene/Eocene boundary of the northeastern US margin: Sedimentary Geology, volume 134, issue 1-2, pp. 65-92.

McCartan, L., 1989a. Geologic map of Charles County, Maryland: Maryland Geological Survey map 1:62500.

McCartan, L., 1989b. Geologic map of St. Mary's County, Maryland: Maryland Geological Survey map 1:62500.

Owens, J. P., and Denny, C. S., 1979. Upper Cenozoic deposits of the central Delmarva Peninsula, Maryland and Delaware: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1067-A, 28 p.

Supplemental Information

Use Constraints: These data represent the results of data collection/processing for a specific Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Geological Survey activity and indicate present existing conditions. As such, they are only valid for the intended use, content, time, and accuracy specifications. The user is responsible for the results of any application of the data for other than their intended purpose. Neither the licensee, nor the owner of these data makes any warranty, expressed or implied, as to the use or appropriateness of the licensed data, and there are no warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose of use. The Maryland Geological Survey makes no representation to the accuracy or completeness of the data and may not be held liable for human error or defect. Data are only valid at 1:24,000 scale. Data may not be used at a scale greater than that.

Acknowledgments: Production of this map was funded in part by a grant from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (Award No. NA07OQ0118), administered by the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program, Department of Natural Resources (CZM Grant MDR-81-CZM-040). The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or any of its sub-agencies.

Geologic field mapping was completed in 1999. Geologic map compiled in digital form by Heather Quinn, Maryland Geological Survey. Digital support provided as part of the Towson University, Center for Geographic Information Sciences.

The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability.

Published September 2002  
Version: DEALE2002.2

