



GEOLOGIC SETTING

Lower to middle Eocene Crescent Formation basaltic rock forms the basement for the northeastern Olympia Peninsula and are the oldest rocks exposed in the map area (Faber and Cady, 1978). They consist mostly of columnar to massive flows with oxidized tops and locally developed pillowstone breccias (Fisher and others, 1980). The proclastic rocks are deposited by mass wasting processes either as soil creep and foot-leaves, typically in unconformable contact with surrounding units. Scarpes are shown where supported by lateral (high distance and range, based on airborne laser swath mapping) imagery. All shoreline bluffs in the map area are subject to episodic landsliding and resultant bluff retreat, but most slide deposits are removed (within months to years) by beach wave action.

Peat deposits (late Pleistocene to Holocene)—Organic-matter-rich sediment deposits in the uplands east of the map area, and clay-rich silt and sand adjacent to wetlands. Two peat deposits up to 44 ft occur just south of the map area (Rigg, 1958) and contain a layer of Mazama tuff (Gayer, 1977), which has been dated at 6,730 ± 40 °C yr B.P. (Hallett and others, 1997).

PLEISTOCENE GLACIAL AND NONGLACIAL DEPOSITS

EVERSON INTERSTADE

Everson Glaciomarine Drift—Silt, clay, and clay-rich diamictum with highly variable amounts of gravel-sized clasts and lenses and layers of sandy or gravelly outwash; buff to olive- or light gray; well-developed columnar jointing with blocky fracture; fracture surfaces commonly stained dark brown; thickness where exposed to sea cliffs ranges from 3 to 10 ft; water table well logs suggest that it is 20 ft thick west of Port Townsend (cross section A); widely distributed and found as high as about 15 ft elevation, deposited on the sea floor during the Everson Interglacial stage high-stand preceding glacio-isostatic rebound; may contain marine fossils; generally overlies Vashon till (unit Q_v); overlies advanced outwash (unit Q_{av}) at McCurdy Point; we interpret the unit to overlie recessional outwash (unit Q_{ro}) west of Port Townsend (cross section A). Deposition of the unit likely began when the ice sheet across Admiralty Inlet collapsed (see Geologic Setting), and its age is further defined by six radiocarbon dates in the Coupeville area (Polenz and others, 2005). The age of the unit spans the entire Everson interstade (see Geologic Setting) and a range of the ice interstade.

Glaciomarine outwash—Sand with silt and lenses of gravel; may be capped by silt and clay (Thorson, 1981); tan to gray; loose; best exposed in the Adema Beach area in sea cliffs on Discovery Bay, where 5 ft massive silt with rounded and angular clasts of northern provenance overlies approximately 95 ft of fluted, laminated, and low-angle cross-bedded sand containing silt and isolated lenses of gravel; at least 100 ft thick where exposed in sea cliffs; analysis of water table records suggests a maximum thickness of 140 ft, interpreted by Thorson (1981) as being deposited by rapid subsurface west-flowing currents near an active glacial margin; also includes detrital sediment in the Frontale area, occurs as sandy dunes forming a kettles topography suggesting that there was stagnate ice present during its deposition; contains marginal marine to terrestrial fossils (mussels and barnacles) (Elizabeth Nesbitt, Univ. of Wash., written commun., 2004); overlies Vashon advanced outwash (unit Q_{av}) and is interpreted to be coeval with recessional outwash (unit Q_{ro}) where two recessional outwash meltwater channels merge near Discovery Bay Camp Meeting.

Recessional outwash—Pebble to cobble gravel and sand; gray to tan, generally unoxidized with little fine silt; commonly well sorted; generally well rounded; unconsolidated; planar to cross-bedded; thickness ranges from 5 to 100 ft; clasts are of northern provenance; lies stratigraphically above Vashon till (unit Q_v) where till had been removed by erosion. Locally divided into two units: **Q_{ro1}** (upper) and **Q_{ro2}** (lower). **Q_{ro1}** is a maximum thickness of 140 ft, interpreted by Thorson (1981) as being deposited by rapid subsurface west-flowing currents near an active glacial margin; also includes detrital sediment in the Frontale area, occurs as sandy dunes forming a kettles topography suggesting that there was stagnate ice present during its deposition; contains marginal marine to terrestrial fossils (mussels and barnacles) (Elizabeth Nesbitt, Univ. of Wash., written commun., 2004); overlies Vashon advanced outwash (unit Q_{av}) and is interpreted to be coeval with recessional outwash (unit Q_{ro}) where two recessional outwash meltwater channels merge near Discovery Bay Camp Meeting.

Ablation till—Unsorted, unstratified, loose deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay; gray to tan, usually oxidized; thickness generally ranges from 3 to 10 ft, but may be only where sufficiently thick (5 ft or more) to mask underlying lodgment till (unit Q_l); thickest in northern part of the map area where it contains numerous kettles, in many cases filled with peat deposits (unit Q_p); only overlies lodgment till (unit Q_l); a somewhat poor source of aggregate due to lack of sorting.

Advance outwash—Sand and pebble to cobble gravel with some bouldery facies; minor silt and clays; may contain till fragments; gray to grayish brown and grayish orange; clasts well rounded; well sorted; coarsens upward, compact, but in places contains some pebbles; locally cross-bedded; locally cross-bedded; approximately 10 ft of section is exposed near Glen Cove; crops out dominantly on fan-like slopes where side streams have eroded through the overlying Vashon ice; commonly overlies Vashon till (unit Q_v) along a sharp contact and stratigraphically above unit Q_v; Subsequent to Vashon ice advance outwash sand and silt of uncertain origin exposed in vertical cliffs. This unit also occurs in the steep walls of Chumicum Valley (in the southeast corner of the map, where it is poorly exposed and limited to a few outcrops consisting, in part, of till (Possession?) and underlying gray, compact, laminated silt and clay (late beds) of uncertain origin.

Unsorted Pre-Fraser Deposits

Clacial and nonglacial deposits, undivided—Sand, gravel, silt, clay; glaciomarine drift; till, mapped where exposures are poor and (or) map scale does not allow detailed delineation; includes units Q_{av}, Q_{ro}, Q_{ro1}, and Q_{ro2}; may contain units Q_{ro1} and Q_{ro2}; may contain Double Bluff Drift (Gayer 1977; Washington Department of Ecology, 1978).

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Nonglacial deposits of Olympia Interval

Nonglacial deposits of Olympia Interval—Gravel, sand, silt, and clay; gravelly yellowish brown where weathered, gray to dark gray when unweathered; sand, silt, and clay yellowish brown to tan; clasts are Olympic provenance; generally rounded to subrounded; well stratified; compact; typically horizontally bedded fluvial sand and gravel with sparse lenses of silt; sand, at least 70 ft of sand and gravel are exposed in the uplands east of Chumicum Valley south of Hadlock and are correlated with similar gravels exposed in sea cliffs on Discovery Bay; overlies Possession Drift (unit Q_p) (colours section 3) in a depositional setting similar to that in the exposures presented in colours section 1. Other workers have mapped unit Q_{ro} equivalents in bluff exposures on the west side of the Quimper Peninsula between McCurdy Point and Cape George, just west of the map boundary (Gayer, 1977; Wash. Dept. of Ecology, 1978), apparently based on outcrops that have since been partially destroyed by landsliding. Wood from silts just above the gravels at Discovery Bay were dated at 36,430 ± 600 °C yr B.P. (Table 1 and colours section 2). Silts above the dated wood (colours section 2) contain fossil leaf impressions from a plant (*Salix planifolia*) known to grow in small swamps (Water Bachelor, written commun. to Rick Dillhoff of Burke Museum, Univ. of Wash., 2004). In bluffs west of Point Wilson, charcoal from sand and silt in erosional contact with overlying Vashon advance outwash sand was dated at 23,730 ± 280 °C yr B.P. (G. W. Thorsen, consulting geologist, written commun., 2004) (colours section 1 and Table 1). The unit is queried where age assignment is uncertain.

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Landslide deposits—Gravel, sand, silt, clay, and boulders; clasts angular to rounded; unsorted; generally loose, unstratified, broken, and chaotic; but may locally retain primary bedding structure; may include liquefaction features; deposited by mass wasting processes either as soil creep and foot-leaves, typically in unconformable contact with surrounding units. Scarpes are shown where supported by lateral (high distance and range, based on airborne laser swath mapping) imagery. All shoreline bluffs in the map area are subject to episodic landsliding and resultant bluff retreat, but most slide deposits are removed (within months to years) by beach wave action.

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Deposits of the Possession Glaciation

Possession Drift (colours section 2 and cross section only)—Glaciomarine drift and underlying till; distinguished from equivalent Vashon facies by stratigraphic position. Glaciomarine drift facies variegated; typically clay- and silt-rich diamictum; buff gray to dark gray; compact and commonly with vertical desiccation cracks and shells; locally indistinguishable from till. Till facies typically sandy diamict; gray to light gray; compact. At Point Wilson, approximately 40 ft of predominantly glaciomarine drift overlies the Whiskey Formation (unit Q_w) (colours section 1). Unit Q_w is sporadically exposed near the base of sea cliffs along the Strait of Juan de Fuca southwest of McCurdy Point (Gayer, 1977; Wash. Dept. of Ecology, 1978), where we have included it in unit Q_w and at another locality along the same stretch of sea cliffs (colours section 4). Possession glaciomarine drift is also exposed at base of sea cliffs on east shore of Discovery Bay (colours section 2).

Whidbey Formation

Whidbey Formation—Layers of sand, silt, clay, and peat; most commonly weathered to varied shades of tan and light gray; dark gray where unweathered; well sorted and stratified; cross bedded in coarser facies; typically forms base of sea-cliff exposures and most commonly consists of a basal 10 to 20 ft thick fluvial facies that is commonly slightly oxidized; basal fluvial facies forms prominent vertical bluffs and subhorizontal stratification with common, discontinuous partings of silt; this unit is exposed in a landslide bluff section west of Point Wilson (colours section 1). Gayer (1977) mapped Whidbey sediments in an area of landward southwest of McCurdy Point (unit Q_w, southeast corner of sec. 1, T31N 29E).

Tertiary Sedimentary and Volcanic Rocks

Olympic Sandstone (Olympic-Eocene)—Feldspathic sandstone; gray to olive gray; weathers to yellowish tan; fine to coarse grained; typically massive to finely bedded; locally thin bedded to laminated; locally cross bedded; contains siltstone beds up to 5 in. thick, spherical and ellipsoidal concretions up to 9 in. in diameter, and calcareous lenses up to 13 in. long; contains rare isolated well-sorted chert pebbles; marine mollusks locally present; unconformable contact with underlying Lyre Formation (unit E_{ly}); foraminifera from unit have been assigned to the Retulium foraminifera stage (Armentrout and Berta, 1977).

Lyre Formation of Oligocene (middle Eocene)—Divided into:

Upper sedimentary unit—Conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone, and sandy siltstone; pebbles to cobble conglomerate; sandstone and blue-gray in an unweathered exposure north of Woodmans, but more typically iron-stained to yellowish brown; conglomerate clasts mostly chert with some schist, argillite, metapsandstone, and minor white to yellowish-gray diatite clasts (presumably from underlying unit E_{ly}); conglomerate thick bedded; sandstone is very fine to medium grained and massive to thin bedded; siltstone and sandy siltstone are limonite stained and thin to very thin bedded; includes thin beds of fine to coarse-grained sandstone and granular sandstone; quartzed where unit assignment is uncertain; siltstone facies includes the Townsend Shale; foraminifera from siltstone interbeds further west along the northern slope of the Olympic Peninsula have been assigned to the Naritina stage (G. S. Muller and others, 1972; Armentrout and Berta (1977) agreed with Malloy's call for the age of the Lyre Formation and considered it to apply to the Quimper Peninsula.

Pacific tuff and breccia—Hornblende diatite tuff and breccia; previously described by others as andesite (Gower, 1980; Tabor and Gayer, 1978); light to medium gray; weathers tan; locally contains rare leaves and coalified wood; commonly massive, but some tuffs are thin bedded; broken quartz and glauconite and hornblende phenocrysts are observed in this section. In a recent petrologic study of this tuff and others (2004) written by Armentrout and Berta (1977) agreed with Malloy's call for the age of the Lyre Formation and considered it to apply to the Quimper Peninsula.

Lower sedimentary unit—Conglomerate, sandstone, and siltstone; iron-stained yellowish brown; conglomerate clasts are predominantly chert, with lesser metasedimentary and meta-igneous rocks, and feldspathic sandstone; siltstone is fine to very coarse grained and typically contains scattered pebbles; siltstone is sandy and thin to finely bedded.

Unsorted sedimentary rocks of Oligocene (middle to lower Eocene)—Sandstone interbedded with massive to finely bedded, dark gray to black siltstone; weathered dark yellowish brown; sandstone fine to medium grained, thin to thick bedded, and locally contains shell clasts up to 4 in. long; more angular than water-worked sandstones; varies in thickness from 1 ft to about 80 ft and averages about 30 ft thick; may include loose silt and clay (unit Q_{ro}) in thin to map commonly capped by 0.5 to 6 ft of dark brown wind-deposited sand (see unit Q_{ro}) with loose till-colored clasts near the till-sand interface; up to 10 ft of diatite erratic boulders commonly associated with till and ablation till; typically forms a vertical face in coastal bluffs. Unit Q_{ro} lies stratigraphically between recessional outwash (unit Q_{ro}) above and advance outwash (unit Q_{av}) below. Local and nearby age control constrains the age of the unit to between about 6,200 °C yr B.P. (see Geologic Setting and Swanson, 1994; Porter and Swanson, 1998; Booth, 1991) and 13,650 ± 350 °C yr B.P. (see Geologic Setting).

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