

University of Kentucky UKnowledge

Kentucky Geological Survey Map and Chart

Kentucky Geological Survey

2007

Generalized Geologic Map for Land-Use Planning: Harlan County, Kentucky

Daniel I. Carey University of Kentucky, carey@uky.edu

Steven E. Webb University of Kentucky, steven.webb@uky.edu

Bart Davidson University of Kentucky, bdavidson@uky.edu

Right click to open a feedback form in a new tab to let us know how this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/kgs_mc Part of the <u>Geology Commons</u>

Repository Citation

Carey, Daniel I.; Webb, Steven E.; and Davidson, Bart, "Generalized Geologic Map for Land-Use Planning: Harlan County, Kentucky" (2007). *Kentucky Geological Survey Map and Chart*. 180. https://uknowledge.uky.edu/kgs_mc/180

This Map and Chart is brought to you for free and open access by the Kentucky Geological Survey at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kentucky Geological Survey Map and Chart by an authorized administrator of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.

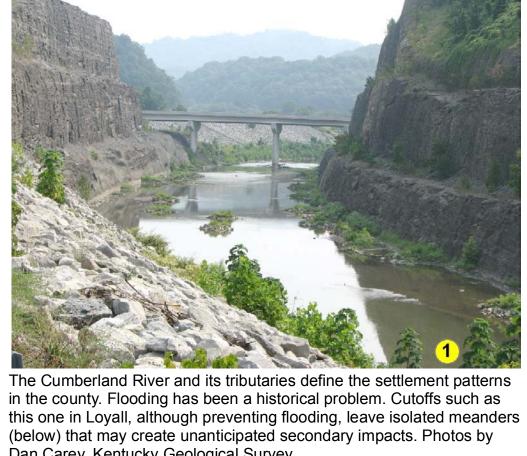
Kentucky Geological Survey James C. Cobb, State Geologist and Director UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON





Eastern Kentucky Coal Field, was formed in 1819. Great mountain ridges, including Pine Mountain, cross the county from southwest to northeast. All communities are in narrow, level valley bottoms. The highest elevation in Kentucky, 4,145 feet, is a peak on Black Mountain about 3 1/2 miles south-southeast of Lynch. The lowest elevation in the county, 1,070 feet, is where the Cumberland River leaves the county. The 2006 population of 31,257 was 5.6 percent smaller than that of 2000. Photo by Dan Carey, Kentucky Geological Survey.

Cumberland River at Loyall







Groundwater

About 16,800 people in Harlan County rely on private domestic water supplies: 14,000 use wells and 2,800 use other sources. Most wells drilled in valley bottoms are adequate for a domestic supply. About three-quarters of the wells drilled on hillsides and one-third of the wells drilled on hilltops are adequate for a domestic supply. Wells drilled 200 feet or more below the level of the principal valley bottoms may yield enough water for small municipal or industrial supplies. Few wells in this county drilled less than 300 feet below the level of the principal valley bottoms will yield salty water, except in the small corner of the county north of Pine Mountain, where salty water can be found in the range of 200 feet below the principal valley bottoms. Wells drilled in the Pine Mountain area that reach limestone may yield as much as several hundred gallons per minute. Groundwater obtained from most drilled wells in this area is soft but contains noticeable amounts of iron, except north of Pine Mountain, where the water is moderately hard. Some of the most productive springs in eastern Kentucky are found along Pine Mountain in Harlan County. Limestone springs can yield more than 50 gallons per minute but generally yield less than 10 gallons per minute. For more information on groundwater in the county, see Carey and Stickney

References Cited Carey, D.I., and Stickney, J.F., 2005, Groundwater resources of Harlan County, Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser.

12, County Report 48, www.uky.edu/KGS/water/library/gwatlas/Harlan/Harlan.htm [accessed 5/7/07]. Childress, J.D., 1992, Soil Survey of Bell and Harlan Counties, Kentucky: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 110 p. Crawford, M.M., 2003, Spatial database of the Rose Hill guadrangle, Harlan County, Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-1121. Adapted from Maughan, E.K., and Tazelaar, J.F., 973, Geologic map of the Rose Hill quadrangle, Harlan County, Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle

Map GQ-1121, scale 1:24,000. Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2005, www.fema.gov [accessed 4/23/07]. Johnson, T.L., 2003, Spatial database of the Varilla quadrangle, Kentucky-Virginia: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-190. Adapted from Englund, K.J., Landis, E.R., and Smith, H.L. 1963, Geology of the Varilla quadrangle, Kentucky-Virginia: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-190, scale 1:24,000. Martin, S.L., 2003, Spatial database of the Balkan quadrangle, Bell and Harlan Counties, Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-1127. Adapted from Froelich, A.J., and Tazelaar,

- J.F., 1973, Geologic map of the Balkan quadrangle, Bell and Harlan Counties, Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-1127, scale 1:24,000. Morris, L.G., Patton, J.A., Clark, L., Hesley, J., and Lambert, J.R., 2005a, Spatial database of the Tilford quadrangle, southeastern Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-451. Adapted from Puffett, W.P., 1965, Geologic map of the Tilford quadrangle, southeastern Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-451, scale 1:24,000.
- Morris, L.G., Patton, J.A., Hesley, J., and Lambert, J.R., 2005b, Spatial database of the Leatherwood guadrangle, southeastern Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-723. Adapted from Prostka, H.J., and Seiders, V.M., 1968, Geologic map of the Leatherwood quadrangle, southeastern Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-723, scale 1:24,000. Mullins, J.E., 2003a, Spatial database of the Evarts quadrangle, and part of the Hubbard Springs quadrangle, southeastern
- Kentucky and Virginia: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-914. Adapted from Tazelaar, J.F., and Newell, W.L., 1974, Geologic map of the Evarts quadrangle, and part of the Hubbard Springs quadrangle, southeastern Kentucky and Virginia: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-914, scale 1:24.000. Mullins, J.E., 2003b, Spatial database of the Ewing guadrangle, Kentucky-Virginia: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-172. Adapted from Englund, K.J., Smith, H.L., Harris, L.D., and
- Stephens, J.G., 1961, Geology of the Ewing quadrangle, Kentucky-Virginia: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-172, scale 1:24,000. Petersen, C., 2004, Spatial database of the Roxana quadrangle, Letcher and Harlan Counties, Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-1299. Adapted from Maughan, E.K., 1976, Geologic map of the Roxana quadrangle, Letcher and Harlan Counties, Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic
- Quadrangle Map GQ-1299, scale 1:24,000. Sparks, T.N., 2003a, Spatial database of the Benham and Appalachia quadrangles, Harlan and Letcher Counties, Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-1059. Adapted from Froelich, A.J., and Stone, B.D., 1973, Geologic map of the Benham and Appalachia quadrangles, Harlan and Letcher Counties, Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-1059, scale 1:24,000. Sparks, T.N., 2003b, Spatial database of the Bledsoe guadrangle, southeastern Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser.
- 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-889. Adapted from Csejtey, B., Jr., 1971, Geologic map of the Bledsoe quadrangle, southeastern Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-889, scale 1:24,000. Sparks, T.N., 2003c, Spatial database of the Keokee quadrangle, Virginia-Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-851. Adapted from Miller, R.L., and Roen, J.B., 1971, Geologic map of the Keokee quadrangle, Virginia-Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-851, scale 1:24,000. Sparks, T.N., 2003d, Spatial database of the Louellen guadrangle, southeastern Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-1060. Adapted from Froelich, A.J., 1973, Geologic map of the Louellen quadrangle, southeastern Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-1060, scale 1:24,000. Sparks, T.N., 2003e, Spatial database of the Nolansburg quadrangle, southeastern Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-868. Adapted from Csejtey, B., Jr., 1970, Geologic map of
- the Nolansburg quadrangle, southeastern Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-868, scale 1.54 000 Sparks, T.N., 2003f, Spatial database of the Pennington Gap quadrangle, Lee County, Virginia, and Harlan County, Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-1098. Adapted from Miller, R.L., and Roen, J.B., 1973, Geologic map of the Pennington Gap quadrangle, Lee County, Virginia, and Harlan County, Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-1098, scale 1:24,000. Sparks, T.N., and Murphy, M.L., 2003, Spatial database of the Helton quadrangle, southeastern Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-1227. Adapted from Rice, D.D., 1975,
- Geologic map of the Helton quadrangle, southeastern Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-1227, scale 1:24,000. Toth, K.S., 2003, Spatial database of the Harlan quadrangle, Harlan County, Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-1015. Adapted from Froelich, A.J., and McKay, E.J., 1972, Geologic map of the Harlan quadrangle, Harlan County, Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-1015, scale 1:24,000.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2003, National Wetlands Inventory, www.nwi.fws.gov [accessed 11/24/06].

Toth, K.S., and Sparks, T.N, 2003, Spatial database of the Wallins Creek quadrangle, Harlan and Bell Counties, Kentucky: Kentucky Geological Survey, ser. 12, Digitally Vectorized Geologic Quadrangle Data DVGQ-1016. Adapted from Froelich, A.J., 1972, Geologic map of the Wallins Creek quadrangle, Harlan and Bell Counties, Kentucky: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-1016, scale 1:24,000. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, no date, Landslide prevention in eastern Kentucky.

Generalized Geologic Map for Land-Use Planning:

Harlan County, Kentucky

Daniel I. Carey, Steven E. Webb, Bart Davidson Acknowledgments

Geology adapted from Crawford (2003), Johnson (2003), Martin (2003), Mullins (2003a, b), Mullins and Murphy (2003), Sparks (2003a-f), Toth (2003), Toth and Sparks (2003), Petersen (2004), Morris and others (2005a, b). Thanks to Paul Howell, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, for photos. Thanks to Meg Smath, Kentucky Geological Survey, for editorial improvements. Thanks to Kim and Kent Anness, Kentucky Division of Geographic Information,

for base-map data.

Harlan County is blessed with natural beauty, whether the sandstone formations like Log Rock in Kingdom Come State Park (above) or butterflies in the sunshine along the ridgetops (below). Photos by Dan Carey, Kentucky Geological Survey.



Blanton Forest and Camp Blanton

The 3,090-acre Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve is the largest old-growth forest in Kentucky. The 10-acre Camp Blanton (left) has five cabins, a large dining hall and kitchen, restrooms and showers, and recreational opportunities including canoeing, swimming, a firing range, and hiking trails. Photo by Dan Carey, Kentucky Geological Survey.

Additional Resources

Listed below are Web sites for several agencies and organizations that may be of assistance with land-use planning issues in Harlan County:

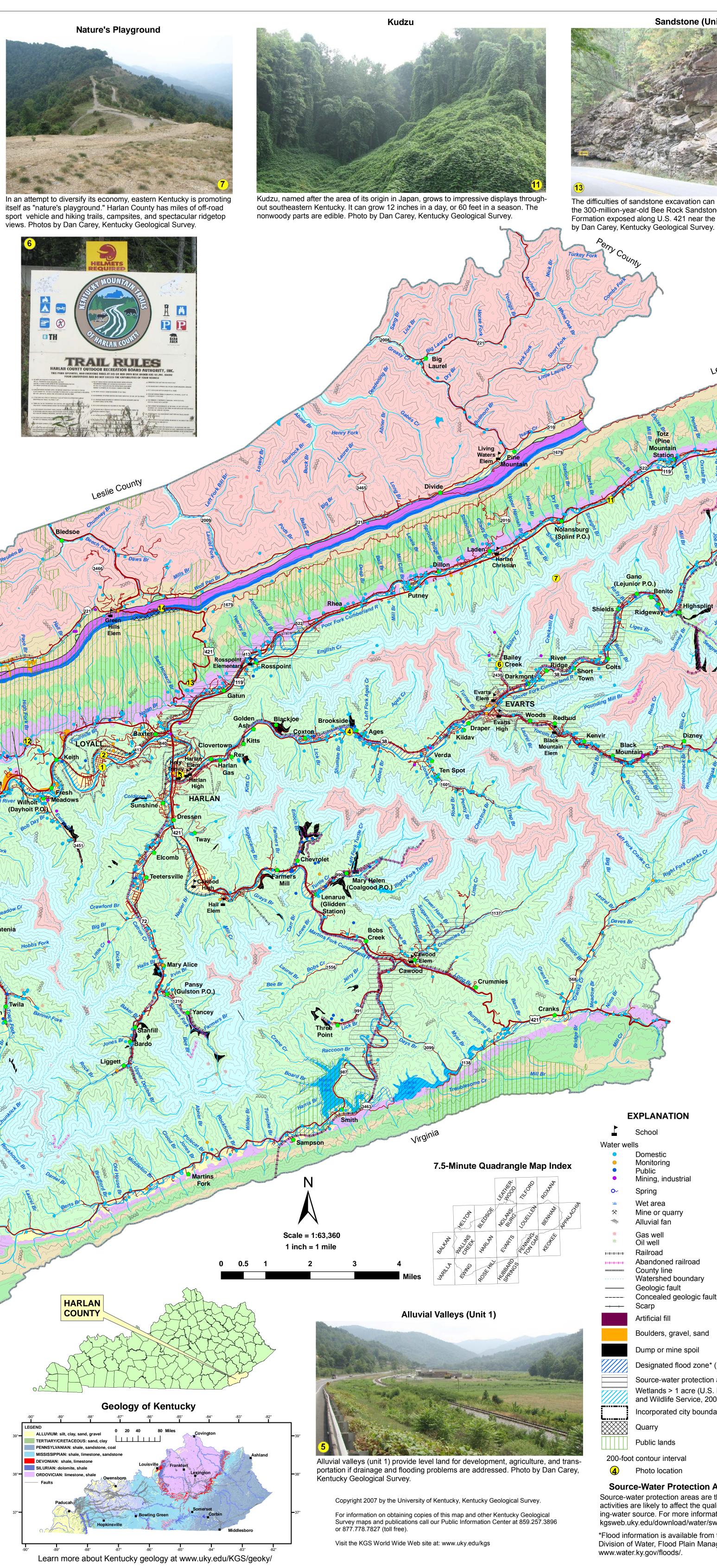
www.harlancounty.com Harlan County www.kyhometown.com/harlan/ Harlan and Harlan County www.harlancountychamber.com Harlan County Chamber of Commerce

harlancountytourism.com Harlan County Tourism Commission www.harlancountytrails.com Kentucky Mountain Trails of Harlan Countv www.harlandaily.com Harlan Daily Enterprise

ces.ca.uky.edu/Harlan/ University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service www.cvadd.org/ Cumberland Valley Area Development District

www.thinkkentucky.com/edis/cmnty/index.aspx?cw=075 Kentucky Economic Development Information System www.uky.edu/KentuckyAtlas/21095.html Kentucky Atlas and Gazetteer, Harlan County

quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/21/21095.html U.S. Census data kgsweb.uky.edu/download/kgsplanning.htm Planning information from the Kentucky Geological Survey



Shale (Unit 7)



The difficulties of sandstone excavation can be imagined when looking at Shale (unit 7) weathers quickly and exhibits a characteristic crumbly Construction on slopes underlain by shale require additional support the 300-million-year-old Bee Rock Sandstone Member (unit 9) of the Lee appearance when exposed, as seen in this roadcut on Ky. 160. Formation exposed along U.S. 421 near the base of Pine Mountain. Photo Photo by Dan Carey, Kentucky Geological Survey.

From 1910 to 2004, Harlan County produced over 917 million tons of coal, 823 million from underground mines. Photo by Dan Carey, Kentucky Geological Survey.

> Limestone The 350-million-year-old Newman Limestone is quarried off U.S. 421 (right) for construction aggregate and agricultural lime. Photo by Dan Carey, Kentucky Geological Survey.



EXPLANATION

School Water wells Domestic Monitoring

Public Mining, industrial Spring

Wet area Mine or quarry Alluvial fan Gas well

Oil well ⊨==== Railroad

Abandoned railroad ----- County line Watershed boundary —— Geologic fault ----- Concealed geologic fault –––– Scarp

> Artificial fill Boulders, gravel, sand

Dump or mine spoil

Designated flood zone* (FEMA, 2005) Source-water protection area, zone 1 Wetlands > 1 acre (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2003) Incorporated city boundaries

Quarry Public lands

200-foot contour interval (4) Photo location

Source-Water Protection Areas

Source-water protection areas are those in which activities are likely to affect the quality of the drinking-water source. For more information, see kgsweb.uky.edu/download/water/swapp/swapp.htm.

*Flood information is available from the Kentucky Division of Water, Flood Plain Management Branch, LAND-USE PLANNING TABLE DEFINITIONS

FOUNDATION AND EXCAVATION The terms "earth" and "rock" excavation are used in the engineering sense; earth can be excavated by hand tools, whereas rock requires heavy equipment or blasting to remove.

LIMITATIONS

Slight—A slight limitation is one that commonly requires some corrective measure but can be overcome without a great deal of difficulty or expense.

Moderate—A moderate limitation is one that can normally be overcome but the difficulty and expense are great enough that completing the project is commonly a question of feasibility.

Severe—A severe limitation is one that is difficult to overcome and commonly is not feasible because of the expense involved. LAND USES

Septic tank disposal system—A septic tank disposal system consists of a septic tank and a filter field. The filter field is a subsurface tile system laid in such a way that effluent from the septic tank is distributed with reasonable uniformity into the soil.

Residences—Ratings are made for residences with basements because the degree of limitation is dependent upon ease and required depth of excavation. For example, excavation in limestone has greater limitation than excavation in shale for a house with a basement. Highways and streets—Refers to paved roads in which

cuts and fills are made in hilly topography, and considerable work is done preparing subgrades and bases before the surface is applied. Access roads—These are low-cost roads, driveways, etc.,

usually surfaced with crushed stone or a thin layer of blacktop. A minimum of cuts and fills are made, little work is done preparing a subgrade, and generally only a thin base is used. The degree of limitation is based on yeararound use and would be less severe if not used during the winter and early spring. Some types of recreation areas would not be used during these seasons.

Light industry and malls—Ratings are based on developments having structures or equivalent load limit requirements of three stories or less, and large paved areas for parking lots. Structures with greater load limit requirements would normally need footings in solid rock, and the rock would need to be core drilled to determine the presence of caverns, cracks, etc. Intensive recreation—Athletic fields, stadiums, etc.

Extensive recreation—Camp sites, picnic areas, parks, **Reservoir areas**—The floor of the area where the water is

impounded. Ratings are based on the permeability of the rock. Reservoir embankments—The rocks are rated on

limitations for embankment material. **Underground utilities**—Included in this group are sanitary sewers, storm sewers, water mains, and other pipes that

require fairly deep trenches.

							· • · · · /				
Rock Unit	Foundation and Excavation	Septic System	Residence with Basement	Highways and Streets	Access Roads	Light Industry and Malls	Intensive Recreation	Extensive Recreation	Reservoir Areas	Reservoir Embankments	Underground Utilities
(and vidin)	Fair foundation material; easy to excavate. Sea- sonal high water table. Subject to flooding. Refer to soil report (Childress, 1992).	Severe limitations. Seasonal high water table. Subject to flooding. Refer to soil report (Childress, 1992).	Severe limitations. Seasonal high water table. Subject to flooding. Refer to soil report (Childress, 1992).	Severe limitations. Seasonal high water table. Subject to flooding. Refer to soil report (Childress, 1992).	Severe limitations. Seasonal high water table. Subject to flooding. Refer to soil report (Childress, 1992).	Severe limitations. Seasonal high water table. Subject to flooding. Refer to soil report (Childress, 1992).	Slight to severe limita- tions, depending on type of activity and topography. Subject to flooding. Refer to soil report (Childress, 1992).	Slight to severe limita- tions, depending on type of activity and topography. Subject to flooding. Refer to soil report (Childress, 1992).	Pervious material. Seasonal high water table. Subject to flooding. Refer to soil report (Childress, 1992).	Fair stability. Fair com- paction characteristics. Piping hazard. Refer to soil report (Childress, 1992).	Seasonal high water table. Subject to flooding Refer to soil report (Childress, 1992).
and green	Poor foundation material; easy to moderately difficult to excavate. Low strength and stabili- ty. May contain plastic clays.	Severe limitations. Thin soils and low permeability.	Severe to moderate limitations. Low strength, slumping, and seepage problems.	Severe to moderate limitations. Low strength, slumping, and seepage problems.	Severe to moderate limitations. Low strength, slumping, and seepage problems.	Not recommended.	Moderate to severe limitations, depending on activity and topog- raphy.	Severe to slight limitations, depending on activity and topog- raphy.	Slight limitations for small ponds.	Severe limitations. Poor strength and stability.	Moderate limitations. Poor strength. Wetness.
coal, under-	Fair to good foundation material; difficult to ex- cavate. Possible low strength associated with shales, sparse coals, and underclays.	Severe limitations. Thin soils and impermeable rock associated with shales.	Severe to moderate limitations. Rock excavation may be required. Possible steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required. Possible steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required. Possible steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required. Possible steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required.	Slight to severe limita- tions, depending on activity and topography. Possible steep wooded slopes. Slight limitations for forest or nature preserve.	Slight limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks, includ- ing coal, are jointed or fractured.	Severe limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks are fractured.	Severe to moderate limitations. Thin soils. Possible rock excava- tion.
	Good to excellent foundation material; difficult to excavate.	Moderate to severe limitations. Thin soils and impermeable rock associated with shales.	Severe to moderate limitations. Rock excavation may be required. Steep slopes.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Steep slopes.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Steep slopes.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Steep slopes.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Steep slopes.	Slight to moderate limita- tions, depending on activity and topography. Slight limitations for forest or nature preserve.	Severe limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks are fractured.	Severe limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks are fractured.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Thin soils.
5. Sandstone, siltstone, shale*, lime- stone, coal, underclay	Fair to good foundation material; difficult to ex- cavate. Possible low strength associated with shales, sparse coals, and underclays. Possibil- ity of underground coal- mine voids.	Severe limitations. Thin soils and impermeable rock associated with shales.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Steep slopes.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Steep slopes.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Steep slopes.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required. Steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limi- tations, depending on activity. Steep wooded slopes. Slight limitations for forest or nature preserve.	Slight limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks, includ- ing coal, are jointed or fractured.	Severe limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks are fractured.	Severe to moderate limitations. Thin soils. Rock excavation.
	Fair to poor foundation material; difficult to ex- cavate. Possible low strength associated with shales, sparse coals, and underclays. Possi- bility of underground coal-mine voids.	Severe limitations. Thin soils and impermeable rock associated with shales.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Unstable slopes.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Unstable slopes.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Unstable slopes.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Unstable slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations, depending on activity and topog- raphy.	Slight limitations for forest or nature preserve.	Slight limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks, includ- ing coal, are jointed or fractured.	Severe limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks are fractured.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation. Unstable slopes.
coar	Fair to good foundation material; difficult to exca- vate. Possible low strength associated with shales, coals, and under- clays. Possibility of underground coal-mine voids.	Severe limitations. Thin soils and impermeable rock associated with shales.	Severe to moderate limitations. Rock excavation may be required. Possible steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required. Possible steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required. Possible steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required. Possible steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required.	Slight to severe limita- tions, depending on activity and topography. Possible steep wooded slopes. Slight limitations for forest or nature preserve.	Slight limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks are fractured.	Severe limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks are fractured.	Severe to moderate limitations. Thin soils. Possible rock excava- tion.
5. Sandstone, siltstone, shale*, lime- stone	Fair to good foundation material; difficult to ex- cavate. Possible low strength associated with shales.	Severe limitations. Thin soils and impermeable rock associated with shales.	Severe to moderate limitations. Rock excavation may be required. Possible steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required. Possible steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required. Possible steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required. Possible steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations. Rock ex- cavation may be required.	Slight to severe limita- tions, depending on activity and topography. Possible steep wooded slopes. Slight limitations for forest or nature preserve.	Slight limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks are fractured.	Severe limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks are fractured.	Severe to moderate limitations. Thin soils. Possible rock excava- tion.
Sandstone, siltstone, shale*, minor coal	Excellent foundation material; difficult to excavate.	Severe limitations. Thin soils.	Severe to moderate limitations. Rock excavation. Steep slopes.	Severe to moderate limitations. Rock excavation. Steep slopes.	Severe to moderate limitations. Rock excavation. Steep slopes.	Severe to moderate limitations. Rock excavation. Steep slopes.	Moderate to severe limitations, depend- ing on activity and slope.	Slight to severe limi- tations, depending on activity. Slight lim- itations for forest or nature preserve.	Slight to moderate limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks are fractured.	Slight to moderate limitations. Reservoir may leak where rocks are fractured.	Severe limitations. Rock excavation.



https://doi.org/10.13023/kgs.mc180.12 MAP AND CHART 180



Resources Conservation Service.

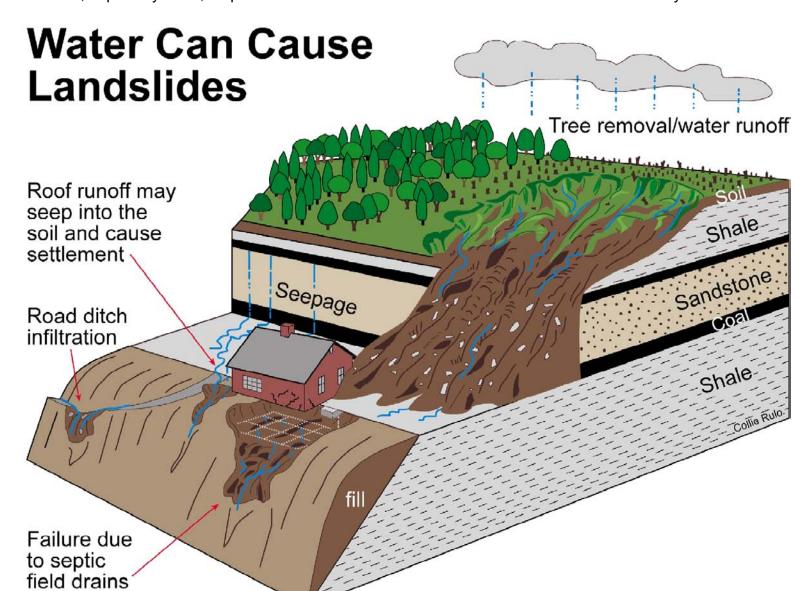
engineer.

Hillside construction can cause earth movements if not properly planned. Photos by Paul Howell, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural

Virtually all units containing shale on slopes are subject to landslides. Shales will break down and weather rapidly when exposed to air and water. Gravity is the main driving force, but water nearly always plays a critical role by adding weight and lubricating the shale. Cutting into or overloading a slope with structures and fill can also be major contributing factors. The failure of the slope may be rapid, but more commonly is a slow, almost imperceptible movement, called creep, of a few inches per year. Whether rapid or slow, the end results and damage are similar and costly: broken plumbing, cracked walls and foundations, cracked streets and sidewalks, and commonly, total loss of the structures. Precautions include taking care of all surface-water runoff by making certain that all runoff from roofs, gutters, patios, sidewalks, and driveways is carried well away from and not toward the house; diverting drainage from areas sloping toward the house; cutting into natural slopes as little as possible and avoiding the use of fill; and trying to place the foundation of the structure on undisturbed bedrock. When in doubt, consult an engineering geologist or a geotechnical

What Are the Factors That Cause Landslides?

- Many factors contribute to landslides. The most common in eastern Kentucky are:
- 1. Steep slopes: Avoid when choosing a building site.
- 2. Water: Slope stability decreases as water moves into the soil. Springs, seeps, roof runoff, gutter downspouts, septic systems, and site grading that cause ponding or runoff are sources of water that often contribute to
- 3. Changing the natural slope by creating a level area where none previously existed.
- 4. Poor site selection for roads and driveways.
- 5. Improper placement of fill material.
- 6. Removal of trees and other vegetation: Site construction often results in the elimination of trees and other vegetation. Plants, especially trees, help remove water and stabilize the soil with their extensive root systems.



What Are Some Ways to Prevent Landslides?

- 1. Seek professional assistance prior to construction. 2. Proper site selection: Some sloping areas are naturally prone to landslides. Inspect the site for springs, seeps, and other wet areas that might indicate water problems. Take note of unusual cracks or bulges at the soil surface. These are typical signs of soil movement that may lead to slope failure. Also be aware of geologically sensitive
- areas where landslides are more likely to occur. 3. Alter the natural slope of the building site as little as possible during construction. Never remove soil from the toe
- or bottom of the slope or add soil to the top of the slope. Landslides are less likely to occur on sites where disturbance has been minimized. Seek professional assistance before earth-moving begins. 4. Remove as few trees and other vegetation as possible. Trees develop extensive root systems that are very useful
- in slope stabilization. Trees also remove large amounts of groundwater. Trees and other permanent vegetative covers should be established as rapidly as possible and maintained to reduce soil erosion and landslide potential. 5. Household water disposal system: Seek professional assistance in selecting the appropriate type and location of your septic system. Septic systems located in fill material can saturate soil and contribute to landslides.
- 6. Proper water disposal: Allowing surface waters to saturate the sloping soil is the most common cause of landslides in eastern Kentucky. Properly located diversion channels are helpful in redirecting runoff away from areas disturbed during construction. Runoff should be channeled and water from roofs and downspouts piped to stable
- areas at the bottom of the slope. (From U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, no date)

kgsweb.uky.edu/download/kgsplanning.htm.

For Planning Use Only

This map is not intended to be used for selecting individual sites. Its purpose is to inform landuse planners, government officials, and the public in a general way about geologic bedrock conditions that affect the selection of sites for various purposes. The properties of thick soils may supersede those of the underlying bedrock and should be considered on a site-to-site basis. At any site, it is important to understand the characteristics of both the soils and the underlying rock. For further assistance, contact the Kentucky Geological Survey, 859.257.5500. For more information, visit the KGS Community Development Planning Web Site at

Planning Guidance by Rock Unit Type

Historical mined areas

do not include all mining

