DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MISCELLANEOUS INVESTIGATIONS SERIES
MAP I-1074-E (SHEET 2 OF 2)

IN MOUNTING OVERLAP TO LINE

Base from U.S. Geological Survey, 1974

SCALE 1:125 000

2 1 0 2 4 6 8 10 MILES

2 1 0 2 4 6 8 10 KILOMETERS

CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

INTRODUCTION

The Connecticut Valley Urban Area covers about 5,000 square miles from New Haven and New London, Conn., on Long Island Sound north to Brattleboro, Vt., and Keene, N. H. Major cities within the project area include New Haven and Hartford, Conn., and Springfield, Mass. Commuter traffic to these urban centers reaches almost all parts of the project area. Interstate routes provide major north-south and east-west transportation corridors. Urbanization and industrial development are likely to continue within this central valley area of New England. If anticipated growth is to be accomplished in an orderly manner and with a minimum of adverse environmental effects, information on the nature and distribution of natural resources will be necessary. The objective of the Connecticut Valley Urban Area Project (CVUAP) is to anticipate this need by providing geologic, hydrologic, and topographic information to aid in planning and resource management. This information is presented in the form of maps, each showing a single resource characteristic or combination of related characteristics of the land surface, earth materials, or water resources at a common scale and in a simplified format. This is one in a series of CVUAP maps.

USE OF CVUAP MAPS

Regional and local planners and other decisionmakers responsible for resource management should find these maps helpful in land-use analysis. Because statutory regulations, technological capabilities, available funding, and local land-use priorities vary from place to place and can be expected to change with time, these maps are designed to provide a resource-data base with maximum flexibility for long-term usefulness. The maps can be used in various combinations, as in a series of overlays, according to the specific needs of a particular planning problem. As planning criteria change, the selection of pertinent resource-characteristic maps can be adjusted to meet the changing needs.

These maps are at a scale of 1:125,000 (1 inch equals about 2 miles). The average line width on these maps would be more than 50-feet wide on the ground, and the smallest area easily distinguished would be a square larger than 40 acres. In addition, the units portrayed on the maps and the method of data collection were designed for 1:125,000-scale presentation. Therefore, CVUAP maps or maps derived from them are not intended to replace onsite investigations, and they should not be enlarged or otherwise manipulated in an attempt to increase map resolution.

PURPOSE OF THIS MAP

This map shows the configuration of the land surface with reference to ranges in elevation above mean sea level. The map is designed primarily as a visual aid for understanding and interpreting topography; it shows the location of prominent land features such as the central valley, conspicuous isolated ridges, and the flanking borderlands.

Map units divide the landscape into three principal categories: lowlands, intermediate lands, and uplands. These have been further divided into subgroups reflecting significant elevation differences within each major category. The relatively flat lowlands are bounded by a natural break in the topography near the coastal shoreline and at the margin of valley bottoms along major rivers. An elevation of 250 feet was chosen to divide lowlands from intermediate lands because it is the lowest elevation common to the central valley throughout the projected area. Intermediate lands include prominent localized ridges and hills in lowland areas, and the rolling terrain which occurs between the uplands and the bottomlands along the Quinnipiac and Connecticut Rivers. The uplands contain the highest peaks and the most rugged terrain in the map area. Upland elevations range from 750 feet to more than 3500 feet above sea level. The uplands border the Connecticut River in the northern part of the project area (north sheet) and form the summits of prominent landforms in the southern portion (south sheet).

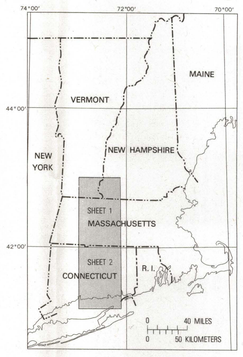
EXPLANATION

Map units show ranges in elevation in feet above mean sea level

0–100 100–250	LOWLANDS—Flat to gently rolling terrain of low relief. Commonly occurs along coastal shorelands and in valley bottomlands along major streams
250–500 500–750	INTERMEDIATE LANDS—Rolling terrain of moderate relief flanking upland areas. Locallly forms prominent ridges and small highlands in lowland areas; also occurs as narrow bottomlands along some upland streams
750–1000 >1000	UPLANDS—Rugged terrain of high to moderate relief. Forms the eastern and western highlands flanking the Connecticut River Valley

Customary (English) units of measurement are used for present purposes in preference to International System (SI or metric) units. Some conversion factors are given below:

Multiply	By	To obtain
inches	2.54	centimeters
feet	30.48	centimeters
feet	0.3048	meters
miles	1.609	kilometers
square miles	2.6	square kilometers
feet per mile	0.189	meters per kilometers
acres	0.004	square kilometers



CONNECTICUT VALLEY URBAN AREA

MAP SHOWING RANGES IN ELEVATION OF LAND SURFACE ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL, CONNECTICUT VALLEY URBAN AREA, CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND

By
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