PRELIMINARY GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE ASHLAND QUADRANGLE AND PART OF THE ASHLAND SE QUADRANGLE, CLARK COUNTY, KANSAS

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Preliminary geologic map of the Ashland quadrangle and part of the Ashland SE quadrangle, Clark County, Kansas

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CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS

Unconformity

Unconformity

QUATERNARY

TERTIARY

CRETACEOUS

PERMIAN
DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

Q11  Alluvium (Holocene)--Unconsolidated gravel, sand, silt, and clay within and adjacent to major stream channels and flood plains. Locally includes dune sand, slopewash, colluvium, and terrace deposits; locally intertongues with loess (Q1) and eolian sand (Qds) deposits.

Q1  Loess deposits (Holocene and Pleistocene?)--Eolian deposits of nonstratified silt and minor amounts of sand (5-15 percent) and clay; deposits are porous and calcareous; commonly contain nodules, carbonate-filled root casts, fossil plants, and fossil animals. Cementation and the cohesiveness of sediment particles cause loess deposits to form characteristic near-vertical scarps in dissected deposits; locally includes slopewash and colluvium; mantles bedrock and other associated surficial deposits; locally forms dunes. Thickness 0-40 ft.

Qds  Eolian dune sand (Holocene and Pleistocene?)--Eolian deposits of stratified and nonstratified fine to very fine sand and minor amounts of silt and clay in irregularly shaped eolian dunes which may be locally altered and reworked in ephemeral ponds and on flood plains by fluvial processes; deposits are porous and locally calcareous; commonly contain nodules, sand concretions, and carbonate-filled root casts. Locally intertongues with slopewash, alluvium, and colluvium; mantles bedrock and associated loess deposits (Q1) and occurs dominantly in proximity to major streams and tributary drainages; locally includes deposits of sandy loess. Thickness 0-60 ft.

To  Ogallala Formation (Pliocene)--Composed of arkosic, conglomeratic sandstone, calcareous siltstone, eolian sandstone, and calcrete. Conglomeratic sandstone occurs as fluvial channel fill, is trough crossbedded, and contains granules, pebbles, and cobbles of chert, feldspar, and rock fragments, including granite and quartzite. Larger clasts are black, red, reddish brown, pink, and yellowish brown and are supported in a matrix of medium- to fine-grained sandstone; matrix colors are light brown, pinkish gray, yellowish brown, and buff. Sandstone is grayish brown and consists of sand cemented with calcium carbonate. Siltstone is white to grayish brown and consists mainly of reworked loess cemented with calcium carbonate. Calcrete is white to grayish brown and consists of well-indurated beds of calcium carbonate containing a significant portion of loess. Locally, calcrete has been replaced by opaline silica.

Deposition of the Ogallala Formation apparently occurred under arid fluvial and eolian conditions. Formation ranges from 0 to 65 ft in thickness.
Kiowa Formation (Lower Cretaceous)--Dark-gray to black gypsiferous shale; locally contains thin beds of light- to medium-gray coquinooidal limestone and light-yellowish-brown calcareous sandstone. Commonly includes thin beds and lenses of selenite and limestone with cone-in-cone concretionary structure. Shale contains finely disseminated flecks of coaly carbonaceous plant matter in the silt and clay fractions of the formation sediment. Deposition of the formation apparently occurred a considerable distance offshore in a shallow epeiric sea or marine embayment. Formation is unconformable with formations above and below. Present only in the northwestern part of the map area. Formation ranges from 0 to about 20 ft in thickness.

Day Creek Dolomite (Upper Permian)--Light-gray, pink, and white, dense, very fine grained crystalline dolomite; locally contains chert nodules and disseminated chert grains. Deposition apparently occurred by chemical precipitation from sea water in a restricted marine embayment under arid conditions. Formation present mainly in northwestern part of the map area and in several outcrops in the northeastern part where it caps the Whitehorse Formation. It also caps a small hill in SW¼ NE½ sec. 24, T. 32 S., R. 23 W.. Conformable with underlying Whitehorse Formation. Formation is as much as 2 ft thick.

Whitehorse Formation (Upper Permian)--Reddish-orange, nonstratified, argillaceous siltstone; locally includes some thin beds of very fine grained, locally crossbedded, silty sandstone and thin beds of dolomite; contains beds of gypsum and anhydrite in subsurface. Unit is locally bleached white along bedding planes; is moderately friable and contains sandy calcareous concretions that resemble musket balls. Silt and sand are well sorted, well rounded, and consist mostly of iron oxide-stained quartz but also some dark accessory minerals. Upper part of unit is locally impregnated with secondary calcium carbonate. Sediment deposition apparently occurred subaqueously from the settling of suspended sediment in relatively shallow marine waters of a restricted embayment. The character of the detrital fraction of Whitehorse rocks suggests that detrital sediment was transported into the embayment primarily as loess winnowed by eolian activity from dune fields adjacent to the embayment; apparently subaqueous currents acted locally to form low-angle crossbedded units. Beds are characteristically wavy because of deformation caused by dissolution of gypsum and anhydrite. Base of formation not exposed in map area. Exposed thickness about 250 ft.
Index map of Clark County showing the location of 7.5' quadrangles (1-20), this geologic map report (E), and other published geologic maps (A-D and F) covering the county. *, map report listed by letter in References Cited

7.5' quadrangles:

(1) Minneola
(2) Bloom
(3) Simmons Creek
(4) Mount Jesus NW
(5) Turkey Creek
(6) Fowler SE
(7) Bloom SW
(8) Bloom SE
(9) Mount Jesus
(10) Lexington
(11) Profitt Lake
(12) Ashland NW
(13) Ashland
(14) Sitka
(15) Sugarloaf
(16) Mount Helen
(17) Englewood
(18) Ashland SE
(19) Sitka SW
(20) Trout Creek


