U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

Scientific Investigations Map 3363
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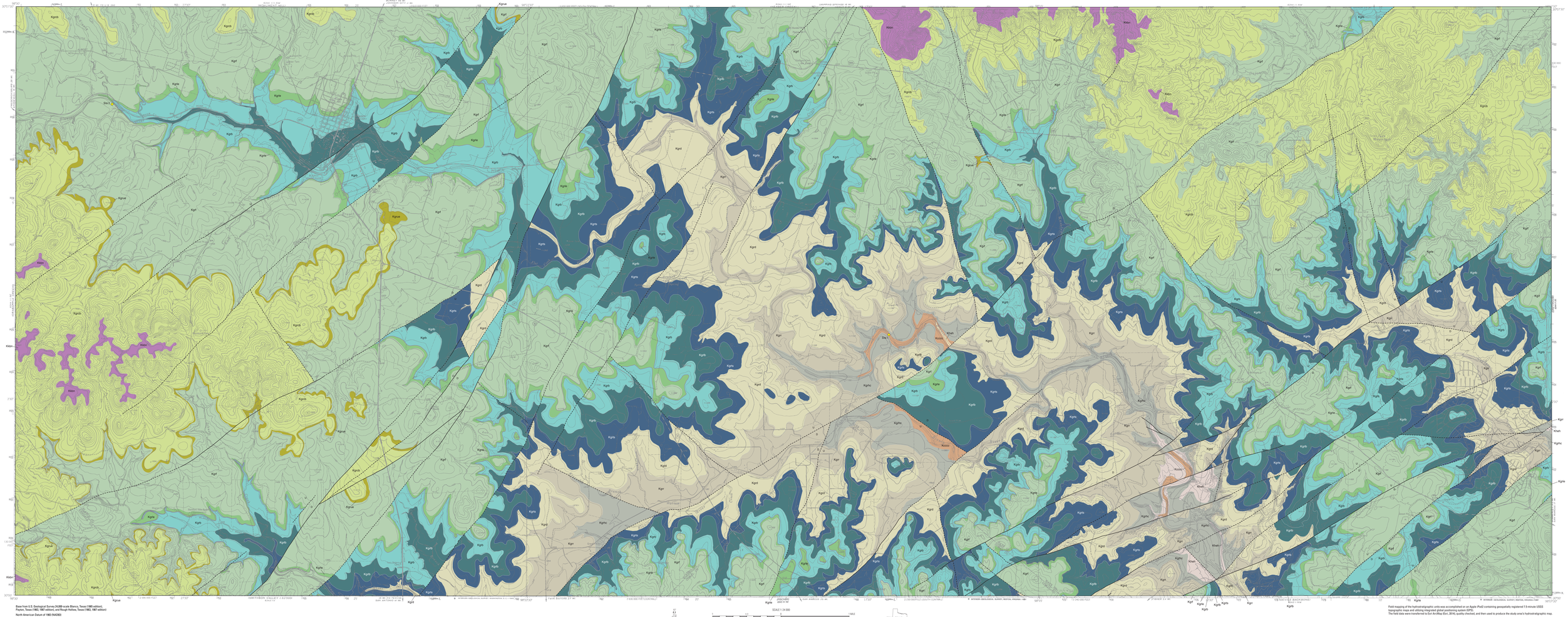
Pamphlet accompanies map



Base from U.S. Geological Survey 24,000-scale Blanco, Texas (1985 edition), Payton, Texas (1963, 1987 edition), and Rough Hollow, Texas (1963, 1987 edition)
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
Universal Transverse Mercator Projection, zone 14

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DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

Edwards Group (upper Lower Cretaceous, Albian)—Overlies the Trinity Group; mudstone, wackestone, packstone, grainstone, boundstone, NANNOFOSSIL-dolomitic limestone, argillaceous limestone, evaporites, shale, chert. Most removed by erosion. Thickness of remaining Edwards Group 60 ft. Only basal nodular member of Kainer Formation is present in study area

Kainer Formation (late Early Cretaceous, Albian)—Overlies the Trinity Group; mudstone, wackestone, packstone, grainstone, dolomitic limestone, shale, chert (except in the basal nodular unit). Most removed by erosion. Thickness of remaining Edwards Group 60 ft. Only basal nodular member of Kainer Formation is present in study area

Hydrostratigraphic unit VIII—Confining, locally water bearing; bedding plane, fracture porosity, and minor cave porosity. Thickness 60 ft

Trinity Group (Lower Cretaceous)—Overlies, in the subsurface, Pennsylvanian shale (Imlay, 1940) in the study area. Contains shale, mudstone to grainstone, boundstone, sandstone, and argillaceous limestone. Thickness of Trinity Group approximately 635–802 ft.

Glen Rose Limestone (Lower Cretaceous, lower Aptian to middle Albian)—Alternating beds of yellowish-tan, medium-bedded limestone and argillaceous limestone with minor evaporite layers. Composed of the Lower and Upper Members, separated by a regionally extensive marker bed, composed of the small fossil identified as *Corbula* sp.

Upper Member (Lower Cretaceous, lower to middle Albian)—Massive shale, claystone, evaporites, siltstone, mudstone, wackestone, packstone, grainstone, boundstone and argillaceous limestone. Locally 300–390 ft thick. Composed of the following hydrostratigraphic units in ascending stratigraphic order: Cownose (Kgrc), Camp Bullis (Kgrcb), upper evaporite (Kgrue), fossiliferous (Kgrf), lower evaporite (Kgrle)

Kgrcb — **Camp Bullis hydrostratigraphic unit**—Confining; burrow, fracture porosity, and bedding plane. Thickness 220–230 ft

Kgrue — **Upper evaporite hydrostratigraphic unit**—Aquifer; interparticle, moldic (boxwork) and breccia porosity. Thickness absent to 10 ft

Kgrf — **Fossiliferous hydrostratigraphic unit**—Aquifer; interparticle, moldic, fracture and cave (near top of unit). Thickness 120 ft

Kgrle — **Lower evaporite hydrostratigraphic unit**—Aquifer; interparticle, moldic (boxwork) and breccia porosity. Thickness 10 ft

Lower Member (Lower Cretaceous, upper Aptian)—Massive, shale, evaporites, mudstone to grainstone, boundstone and argillaceous limestone. Locally 195–270 ft thick. Composed of the hydrostratigraphic units in descending stratigraphic order: Bulverde (Kgrb), Little Blanco (Kgrlb), Twin Sisters (Kgrts), Doeppenschmidt (Kgrd), Rust (Kgrr) and Honey Creek (Kghc)

Kgrb — **Bulverde hydrostratigraphic unit**—Confining; moldic and breccia (where evaporites have been removed), bedding plane and fracture porosity. Thickness 30 ft

Kgrlb — **Little Blanco hydrostratigraphic unit**—Aquifer, moldic, fracture and bedding plane porosity. Thickness 30 ft

Kgrts — **Twin Sisters hydrostratigraphic unit**—Confining in shale beds; interparticle porosity. Thickness 10–30 ft

Kgrd — **Doeppenschmidt hydrostratigraphic unit**—Aquifer, interparticle, moldic, burrow, fracture, bedding plane, and cave porosity. Thickness 40–70 ft

Kgrr — **Rust hydrostratigraphic unit**—Confining; interparticle, fracture, and cave porosity. Thickness 40–50 ft

Kghc — **Honey Creek hydrostratigraphic unit**—Aquifer; contains interparticle, moldic, burrow, fractured, channel, bedding plane, and cave porosity. Thickness 45–60 ft

Pearsall Formation (Lower Cretaceous, upper Aptian)—Defined by Imlay (1945), contains five members (from top to bottom): Hensell Sand, Cow Creek Limestone and Hensell Shale Members. Thickness 90–162 ft

Hensell Sand Member (Lower Cretaceous, upper Aptian)—Sandstone and limestone. Weakly cemented, clayey/marl, siltstone, tuffaceous sand. Quartz grades and oyster-common. Red sandstone conglomerate/breccia at base. Thickness absent to 40 ft

Khsh — **Hensell hydrostratigraphic unit**—Aquifer; interparticle, moldic, shelter, and cave porosity. Thickness absent to 40 ft

Kcow — **Cow Creek Limestone Member (Lower Cretaceous, upper Aptian)**—Lower 14 ft dolomitic mudstone to wackestone grades to dolomitic wackestone to packestone. Oysters. Upper part very fine-grained to fine-grained carbonate sand, cross-bedded locally. Thickness about 40–72 ft. Contains Cow Creek hydrostratigraphic unit

Kcow — **Cow Creek hydrostratigraphic unit**—Aquifer; interparticle, moldic, burrow, vug, fracture, bedding plane, channel and cave porosity. Thickness about 40–72 ft

Hammett Shale Member (Lower Cretaceous, upper Aptian)—Contains siltstone, thin dolomitic, and claystone. Lower 15 ft contains siltstone and dolomite. Upper part is claystone with sandstone stones, overrun by fossiliferous, dolomitic limestone (Loon and Stricklin, 1956; Weirman and others, 2010). Total thickness 50 ft (Loon and Stricklin, 1956). Contains Hammett hydrostratigraphic unit

Khsh — **Hammett hydrostratigraphic unit**—Confining unit, little porosity. Thickness 50 ft

MAP EXPLANATION

Fault—Type unspecified, dashed where inferred. U, upthrown block; D, downthrown block

Contact—Between hydrostratigraphic units; dashed where inferred

Corbula bed contact—The *Corbula* sp. bed marks the boundary between the Lower and Upper Members of the Glen Rose Limestone. This report considers the Corbula marker bed to be at the base of the Upper Member of the Glen Rose Limestone because three Corbula beds have been found in the study area. The marker bed is the lowest of three Corbula beds. The Corbula marker bed, which is a gastropome, averages 6 inches thick and often contains ripple marks. The overlying Corbula beds are thin, often less than an inch thick, and usually contain more muds. Dashed where inferred

Sites highlighted in the text—
Site 1, 30°03′ 20″N., 98°17′ 14″W., location of 195-foot measured section within the Blanco River
Site 2, 30°06′ 21″N., 98°28′ 59″W., stratigraphic type location for the contact of the Upper and Lower Glen Rose Limestone

Study boundary

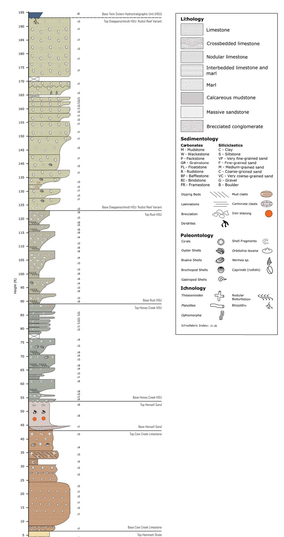


Figure 2. Representation of measured section along the Blanco River at site 1, western Hays County, Texas. The ichnofabric index is adapted from Droser and Bottjer (1986), the carbonate scale is from Dunham (1962), and the siliciclastic scale is from Wentworth (1922).

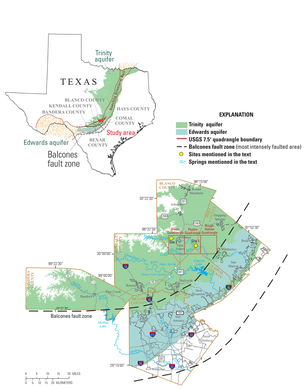
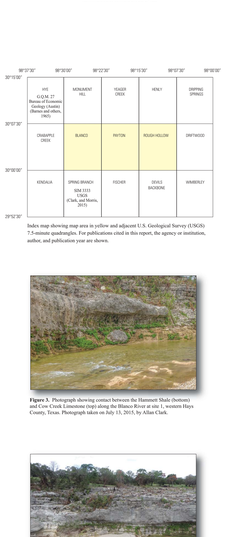


Figure 1. Location of study area.

EXPLANATION OF HYDROSTRATIGRAPHIC UNITS

Group	Formation	Member	Informal hydrostratigraphic unit	
Edwards	Kainer Formation	basal nodular of the Fort Terrett Formation	Kbbn	VIII
Trinity	Glen Rose Limestone	Upper	Kgrc	Cownose (absent from study area)
			Kgrcb	Camp Bullis
			Kgrue	Upper evaporite
			Kgrf	Fossiliferous
			Kgrle	Lower evaporite
		Lower	Kgrb	Bulverde
			Kgrlb	Little Blanco
			Kgrts	Twin Sisters
			Kgrd	Doeppenschmidt
			Kgrr	Rust
			Kghc	Honey Creek
	Pearsall Formation	Hensell Sand	Khsh	Hensell
		Cow Creek Limestone	Kcow	Cow Creek
		Hammett Shale	Khsh	Hammett


Kgrue
Kgrb
Kgrlb
Kgrts
Kgrd
Kgrr
Kghc
Khsh
Kcow
Kbbn
Site 1
Site 2
Kcozc
Kgrue
Kgrf
Kgrle
Kgrcb
Kgrc
Kbbn
Kgrue
Kgrf
Kgrle
Kgrcb
Kgrb
Kgrlb
Kgrts
Kgrd
Kgrr
Kghc
Khsh
Kcow