

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

The Nadina River map area is in the Nechako Plateau, a subdivision of the Interior Plateau with flat to gently rolling topography (Figure 1, Holland, 1976). This map is an ancillary product of a study devoted to till geochemistry (Ferbey, 2010a, b), and is based on air photo interpretation and widely spaced ground observations. Previous work in the area includes soils and terrain mapping by Young (1976) and Singh (1999). To the north and northwest (NTS 093L, M and 102), P. Clague (1984), Taper (1994) and Levson (2002) studied Quaternary geologic and geomorphologic features. To the northeast (west half of NTS 093K), Ploofe (1996a, b) mapped surficial deposits, and Ferbey (2011a, b, 2014b) integrated the Quaternary geology with till geochemistry (Coleymount area, NTS 093L/U1). Male and Levson (2000, 2001) investigated the Quaternary geology to the southeast (NTS 093F/12) and, to the southwest, Ferbey and Levson (2001a, b, 2003, 2007) studied the Quaternary geology and till geochemistry of the Huckleberry mine region.

The Nadina River map area is underlain mainly by glacial sediments. Large areas of continuous bedrock outcrop (R) are relatively uncommon, but exposures can be found at the steepest side (up ice end) of crag- and-tail forms, along lake shorelines, on high ground in Shelford and Mosquito hills, and as local small-scale erosional remnants that stand above the plateau surface (west and northwest of Shelford Hills). Bedrock is also exposed in the upper reaches of the Nadina River valley and in cuts adjacent to newly constructed forestry roads.

Basal tills containing material that was eroded, transported, and deposited by active ice, are the predominant glacial deposit in the map area. These grey to brown diamictic units are matrix supported (silt-rich matrix), massive, and overconsolidated (Figure 2). Vertical joints and a subhorizontal fissility are locally well developed. In lower valley settings basal tills typically form blankets >2 m thick (Tb) that overlie glacially eroded and polished bedrock. On hill flanks and at higher elevations (e.g., along the south and southeast flanks of Shelford Hills and the northern shore of Ootsa Lake) they can occur as streamlined (fluted and drumlinized) tills >2 m thick (Ts). Also in high ground of Shelford Hills they can occur as ridged tills (Tr), with ridges oriented northwest or perpendicular to ice flow.

Basal tills also define discontinuous veneers <2 m thick (Tv) adjacent to bedrock and locally derived colluvium. Basal tills are the ideal sample medium for till geochemistry surveys as they are derived from local bedrock sources (Shills, 1993; Levson, 2001). Till samples were collected for geochemical and mineralogical analyses (Ferbey, 2010b) and sample locations are included here. The basal till potential map for the study area (Ferbey, 2014b) will assist in the design of follow-up exploration projects by identifying areas where basal till is most likely to occur.

Ablation (englacial or supraglacial) tills were deposited passively by melt out of stagnant ice during deglaciation. Relative to basal tills, ablation tills are less consolidated, have a higher percentage of gravel-sized material and a sandier matrix, and interfinger with glaciofluvial sands and gravels. They typically form hummocky topography (Th) and overlie previously deposited glacial sediments. Because of relatively complex transport histories and/or greater transport distances, ablation tills are not generally sampled in till geochemical or mineralogical surveys. Windows through them can exist enabling sampling of underlying basal tills.

Glaciofluvial sands and gravels are exposed throughout the study area. Along the flanks of Shelford Hills are fan-like features composed of sandy, pebble- to cobble-sized gravels. These occur at the mouths of gullies that head in higher ground and are retreat-phase sediments related to meltwater draining from a stagnant ice source. Eskers (Gf) were deposited on these same slopes indicating that subglacial deposition also occurred here. In the Fish Lake area and south through the Andrews Creek area toward Ootsa Lake, glaciofluvial deposits also define deglacial drainage systems (some now abandoned) as outwash plain accumulations (>2 m thick, Gfb) and eskers. Another drainage network was active in the northwest corner of the area, directing water and depositing sands and gravels into the northeast-flowing Nadina River system.

Fine-grained glaciolacustrine sediments (GLb) along Tagetochlain River and in the northeastern corner of the map area may record ponding by an ice dam near Morice Lake and Francis Lake. Quilt-water sediments related to this ice-damming could be more areally extensive than shown here. The elevated flat, fan-topped, fine-grained tilts (interpreted as a glaciolacustrine delta; GLd) east of Tagetochlain Lake suggests that former lake levels approached 845 m asl. Other glaciolacustrine sediments mapped in the



Figure 1. Subdued topography southwest corner of study area. View is toward the east with Mosquito Hills in the background.

flow toward 256°, recording an ice-flow reversal. Immediately adjacent to these features smaller rat tails that indicate flow toward 088° (Figure 3). Streamlined landforms do not convincingly record this ice-flow reversal, but four poorly preserved flutes 4 km northwest of the exposure (locality 2), trend west-southwest (in contrast to neighbouring southwest-trending features), perhaps consistent with a reversal.

During deglaciation, elevated areas became ice-free while stagnant ice remained in valley bottoms (see Fulton, 1967, 1991), as suggested by eskers and hummocky terrain, and a lack of recessional moraines in low-lying areas. Glaciofluvial fans and eskers along the flanks of Shelford Hills likely formed at the transition between valleys being occupied by ice and ice-free hills. Moraine ridges in the study area (e.g., west side of Shelford Hills) are interpreted to have formed by ice thrusting during full glacial conditions, rather than by ice-marginal deposition during frontal retreat.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
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Figure 2. Silt and clay-rich, overconsolidated diamict, interpreted as a basal till. Moderately well-developed vertical jointing and subhorizontal fissility give this till a blocky appearance. Pick for scale (60 cm).

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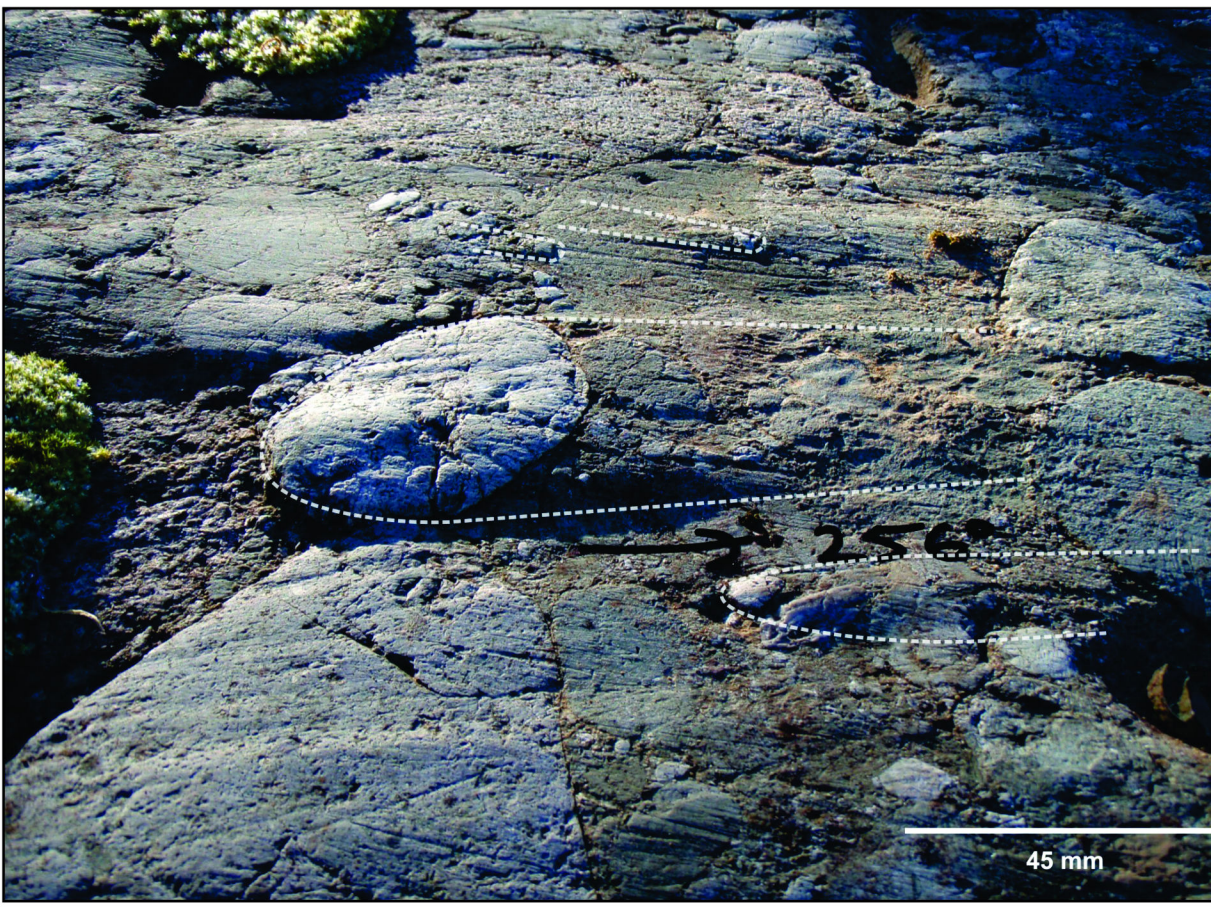
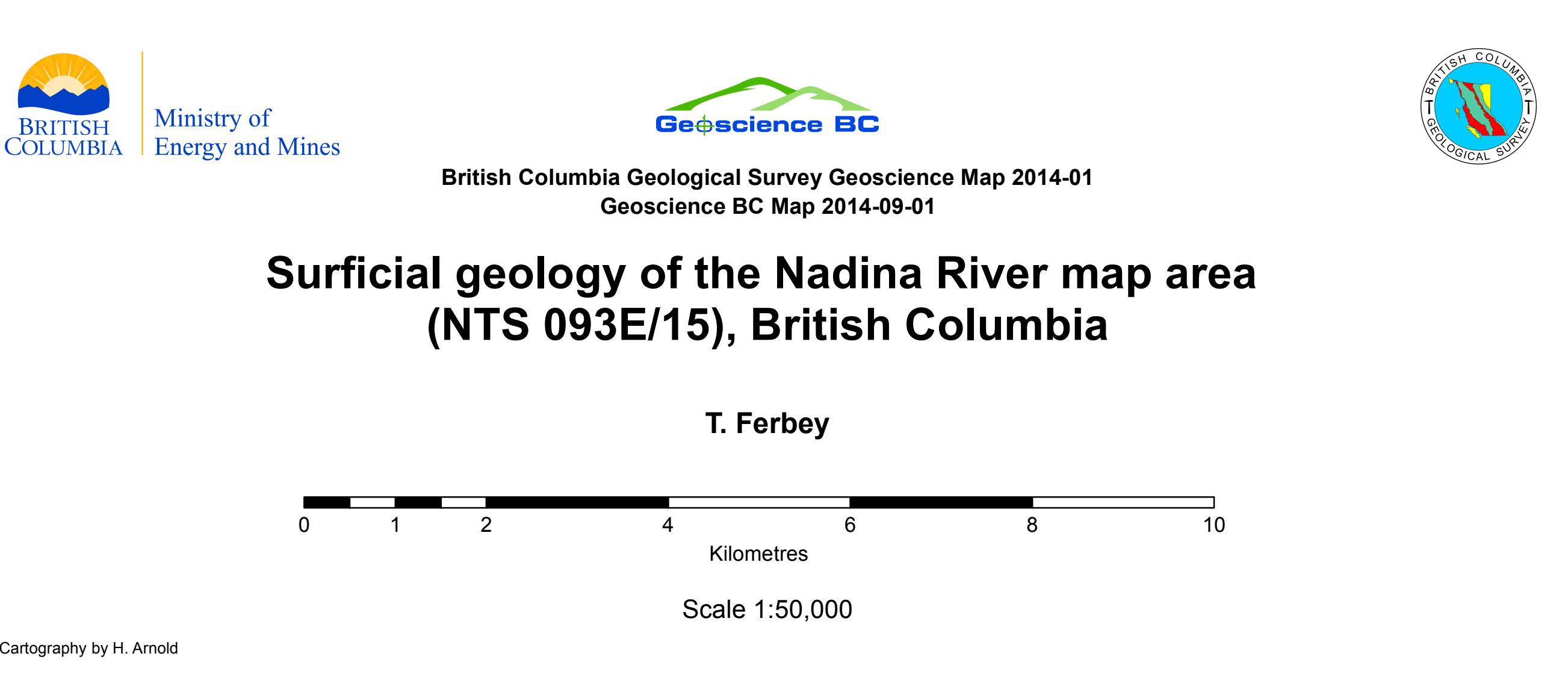


Figure 3. Photograph of rat tails on outcrop of Skeena Group conglomerate (Early Cretaceous). In centre of photograph is a large rat tail indicating ice-flow toward the west-southwest (256°), whereas rat tails above and below it indicate ice-flow toward the east (088°).



Cartography by H. Arnold

Note: Where map units are composed of multiple surficial materials, a compound map unit designator is used, separating more extensive materials from less extensive (e.g., for Tb, Th, Tb is more extensive than Th).

QUATERNARY SURFICIAL DEPOSITS

HOLOCENE NONGLACIAL ENVIRONMENTS

Organic deposits. Formed by the accumulation of organic matter in topographic depressions or level areas that are poorly drained.

Bog deposits: fibric to humic organic matter; may be treeless or have sparse trees; elevated above water table.

Fen deposits: fibric to humic organic matter; mineral-rich water table persists seasonally at or near surface; generally covered with low shrubs; local sparse trees.

Colluvial and mass-wasting deposits. Poorly sorted angular gravels and sandy diamictic; commonly east supported and can be massive to stratified; product of downslope transport of weathered bedrock and pre-existing Quaternary sediments by gravity; texture dependent on parent material.

Colluvial veneer: diamictic <2 m of variable thickness; overlies, and forms a discontinuous cover with bedrock or till; occurs mainly on topographic highs and steep valley sides.

Colluvial blanket: diamictic >2 m of roughly equal thickness; mainly occurs below bedrock highs but can also form on steep, till-covered slopes.

Landslide debris: diamictic >1 m thick forming hummocky accumulations on lower slopes and valley floors; may exceed 10 m thick near toes of landslides.

Alluvial deposits. Gravel, sand, and silt deposited by modern streams and creeks; usually stratified and with the exception of alluvial fans, moderately to well sorted.

Alluvial fan: gravel, sand, silt, and clay >2 m thick deposited as fan-shaped features with a convex upper surface; poorly sorted, massive to stratified with texture dependent on source materials; may contain interbedded debris flow diamictic and buried organic material; occur at the toe of slopes and where streams issue from a narrow valley onto a valley floor; potential source of aggregate.

Alluvial floodplain: sands and gravels >2 m thick deposited as a level or very gently sloping, planar surface; occur at surface along active and recently active channels; includes point bars, sand bars, and oxbow lakes; organic rich muds can occur at surface; treeless in active areas with partial shrubs or tree cover elsewhere.

Lacustrine deposits. Sorted and stratified fine-grained sediments deposited in a modern, nonglacial lake; can be unvegetated or sparsely vegetated with grasses; exposed due to fluctuating lake levels.

Lacustrine delta: sand and gravel >2 m thick deposited at the mouth of a stream as it enters a standing body of water; fan-shaped feature with an upper surface that is flat and horizontal to slightly inclined.

LATE WISCONSINAN PROGLACIAL AND GLACIAL ENVIRONMENTS

Glaciolacustrine deposits. Sorted and stratified sediments deposited in a glacial lake; may support forest or be sparsely vegetated with shrubs and grasses.

Glaciolacustrine delta: sand and gravel >2 m thick deposited at the mouth of a stream as it entered a former glacial lake; fan-shaped feature with an upper surface that is flat and horizontal to slightly inclined; situated well above modern lakes and streams; can be an aggregate source.

Glaciolacustrine blanket: sand, silt, and clay >2 m of roughly equal thickness; well sorted and locally incised.

Glaciofluvial deposits. Sands and gravels deposited by glacial meltwater; can be massive to stratified, sorted to poorly sorted; typically above pre-existing Quaternary sediments, but can also overlie bedrock; can be an aggregate source.

Glaciofluvial plain: sands and gravels, typically several metres thick, deposited as a level or very gently sloping, planar surface near valley bottoms and adjacent to meltwater channels.

Glaciofluvial terrace: sands and gravels of variable thickness that form a planar, horizontal to gently inclined step-like surface; generally unpaired and incised by, and located above, a modern stream or abandoned meltwater course.

Glaciofluvial veneer: sand and gravels <2 m of variable thickness.

Glaciofluvial blanket: sands and gravels >2 m of roughly equal thickness.

Glaciofluvial fan: sands and gravels >2 m thick deposited as fan-shaped features with a convex upper surface; stratified and can be locally interbedded with diamictic; situated well above modern lakes and streams; at the lower ends of meltwater channels and the toe of slopes.

Hummocky glaciofluvial: sands and gravels, typically several metres thick, occurring as steep sided hills (karres) and hollows (kettles) with varied slope aspect forming irregular topography with local relief >1 m; deposited in a deglacial, ice-contact environment; steeply dipping bedding and collapse structures common.

Ridged glaciofluvial: sands and gravels occurring as long sinuous ridges (eskers) >2 m in height; massive to stratified; may include silts; deposited by glacial meltwater in contact with glacial ice.

Till deposits. Unsorted to poorly sorted diamictic deposited by a glacier; matrix and clast texture dependent on parent material and mechanism of transported and deposited; stratification and degree of consolidation also dependent on transport and depositional processes.

Till veneer: silt- and clay-rich diamictic <2 m of variable thickness; overconsolidated, typically massive and matrix supported; subglacially eroded, transported and deposited by active glaciers; often forms a transitional zone between thicker tills in valleys and on valley sides and bedrock above; can include discontinuous areas of colluvial veneer and bedrock; ideal sample medium for till geochemistry and mineralogical surveys.

Till blanket: silt- and clay-rich diamictic >2 m of roughly equal thickness; overconsolidated, typically massive and matrix supported; subglacially eroded, transported and deposited by stagnant ice during deglaciation; less consolidated than basal tills and have a higher percentage of gravel-sized material; may interfinger with glaciofluvial sands and gravels; overlies older glacial sediments and windows through it can expose underlying basal till; not generally sampled in till geochemical or mineralogical surveys.

Hummocky till: sand-rich diamictic, typically several metres thick, occurring as steep sided hills and hollows with varied slope aspect forming irregular topography with local relief >1 m; composed of ablation (englacial and supraglacial) tills deposited passively by melt out of stagnant ice during deglaciation; less consolidated than basal tills and have a higher percentage of gravel-sized material; may interfinger with glaciofluvial sands and gravels; overlies older glacial sediments and windows through it can expose underlying basal till; not generally sampled in till geochemical or mineralogical surveys.

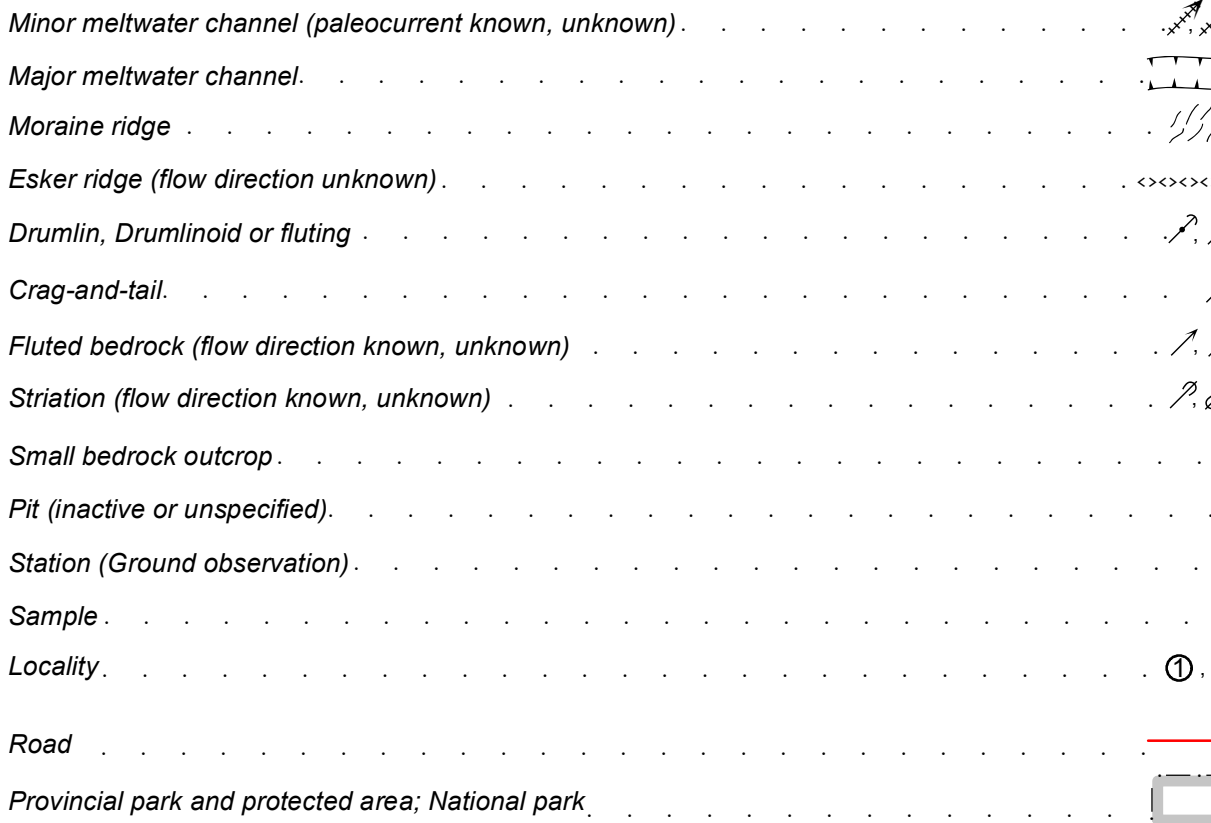
Ridged till: silt-rich diamictic deposited in elongate ridges one to several metres high, oriented perpendicular to ice-flow direction; intervening lows commonly filled with organic deposits; formed by ice thrusting during full glacial conditions; ideal sample medium for till geochemistry and mineralogical surveys.

Streamlined till: silt-rich diamictic that have been subglacially streamlined forming drumlins and flutes; streamlined landforms are typically <100 m long but can exceed 1.75 km, ideal sample medium for till geochemistry and mineralogical surveys.

PRE-QUATERNARY BEDROCK

Exposed in high ground of Shelford and Mosquito hills are Kasaska Group andesites (Cretaceous) and Endako Group basalts (Eocene to Lower Miocene). respectively. Bulkley Suite relates to intermediate intrusives (Late Cretaceous) host porphyry mineralization in the region and can be exposed in areally small and isolated topographic highs; additional bedrock exposures can be found in road and stream cuts and in areas mapped as till veneer.

Bedrock: bedrock outcrop; may include discontinuous areas of till or colluvial veneer.



MINERAL OCCURRENCES

Provincial MINFILE database (Labeled with name and MINFILE number)

Showing

MINFILE NUMBER	NAME	STATUS	COMMODITY	DEPOSIT TYPE*
093E 084	TETS	Showing	Copper, Zinc, Lead, Silver	05 Polymetallic vein Au-Pb-Zn-Ag, L01 Subvolcanic Cu-Ag-Au (Au-Sb)
093E 085	SHELFORD HILLS	Showing	Zinc, Lead, Gold	H04 Epithermal Au-Ag-Cu: high sulphidation
093E 092	RIP	Showing	Copper, Molybdenum	L04 Porphyry Cu +/- Mo +/- Au, L05 Porphyry Mo (Low F-type)
093E 094	DILLS, DUAL	Showing	Copper	
093E 097	HLV	Showing	Copper, Gold, Zinc	L03 Alkalic porphyry Cu-Au
093E 123	ROX 1	Showing	Gold, Silver	
093E 124	DAMBO	Showing	Gold, Silver	

*See Lefebvre and Ray (1995) and Lefebvre and Hoy (1996) for mineral deposit profile codes and definitions.

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093L03 LAMPREY CREEK	093L02 OWEN LAKE	093L01 COLLEYMOUNT
093E14 NEWCOMBE LAKE	093E15 NADINA RIVER	093E16 WISTARIA
093E11 TROITSIA LAKE	093E10 WHITESAIL REACH	093E09 GHITZU LAKE

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