

GEOLOGIC AND RADIOMETRIC SURVEY
OF PART OF THE
MONKTON-STARKSBORO AREA

by

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1983

Open-File Report No. 1983-3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.	1
Methods of Study.	3
Stratigraphy.	4
Radioactivity	7
Figure 1: Location Map Showing Field Area.	8
Figure 2: Map Showing Locations of Anomalies Found by Texas Instruments.	9
Figure 3: Field Area Map	10
Figure 4: Detailed Map of Part of Field Area	11
References Cited.	12

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to conduct a ground survey of the radiometric anomaly located in the Monkton and Starksboro area (see Fig. 1), where abnormal concentrations of radioactive material were found to be present by Texas Instruments (1976). They conducted a reconnaissance airborne gamma-ray survey of a portion of New England for the U. S. Energy Research and Development Administration. The object of their survey was to "define those areas showing surface indications of a generally higher uranium content (uraniferous provinces) where detailed exploration for uranium would most likely be successful."

In the Lake Champlain 2-degree quadrangle (1:250,000), Texas Instruments (1976) found "preferred" and "suspect" anomalies (see Fig. 2). "Preferred" anomalies are "more significant anomalies showing uranium enrichment over the mean values for the geologic map units involved and over the mean U/Th and/or U/K ratios for those units. Most of these suggest possibilities for vein-type uranium prospects, but a few appear to indicate potential stratiform deposits."

The study area is Texas Instrument's (1976) Location No. 21, which is a "preferred" anomaly (see Fig. 2). They found the following ppm eU in the study area:

3.4 ppm in the Winooski, Mallet and Dunham Dolomite and
Monkton Quartzite.

2.5 ppm in the Dunham Dolomite.

2.8 ppm in the Cheshire Quartzite.

Texas Instruments (1976) states that this occurrence "may be a vein-type accumulation, or may be similar to anomalies at Locations 5 and 6 (in the Milton area), which is a radioactive zone in the Milton dolomite along a mapped fault."

METHODS OF STUDY

The "preferred" anomaly in the Monkton-Starksboro area (Location No. 21), was studied by the authors. See Figure 3 for a map of the field area.

A very detailed survey of geology and radioactivity was begun along a predetermined grid system on Hogback Mountain (see Fig. 4). This detailed work was abandoned when no appreciable readings were found using a gamma-ray spectrometer. Instead, a reconnaissance survey was done covering the whole area (see Fig. 3), trying to find the high concentrations that Texas Instruments (1976) reported.

STRATIGRAPHY

The rock units encountered in this study include the Late Precambrian Fairfield Pond Formation and the Lower Cambrian Cheshire and Dunham Formations. The geology of these units in western Vermont was compiled by Doll, et al. (1961), and has more recently been described by Tauvers (1982), Gresory (1982), Myrow (1983), and DiPietro (1983). Significant radiometric anomalies were not detected in the study area, and no contacts between major rock units were observed.

FAIRFIELD POND FORMATION

This unit was observed in only one outcrop at the eastern edge of the reconnaissance survey. It was mapped in this area by Doll, et al. (1961), as part of the Pinnacle Formation, but was later recognized as the Fairfield Pond Formation by DiPietro (1983). It consists of a homogeneous, fissile, grey to green chloritic phyllite with local occurrences of thin sandy beds.

CHESHIRE FORMATION

Lower Argillaceous Member: The argillaceous member of the Cheshire Formation occurs locally at the core of a regional north-plunging anticline. The hinge of this structure extends along the northern flank of Hosback Mountain where detailed mapping was initially undertaken for

this study (see Fig. 4). The argillaceous Cheshire was also recognized in one hill on the east side of Route 116.

This member consists of thinly interbedded whitish and dark gray phyllitic units. Intense deformation and chlorite grade metamorphism have heavily overprinted and obscured primary features such as bedding and bioturbation. Thus, the argillaceous member is typically recognized by alternating thin bands of fine to medium sand and fine gray phyllite oriented parallel to the dominant regional schistosity. Thicker massive sand units occur locally in beds up to 8 feet thick. Myrow (1983) showed that the lower Cheshire in the Bristol, Vermont area represents a tidal flat and restricted basin environment which is overlain by the transgressive deeper water upper member.

Upper Massive Member: The upper member of the Cheshire Formation was identified in outcrops north of Hosback Mountain and in samples taken from a drilled water well to the east of Hosback Mountain. The upper member consists primarily of massively bedded, light gray, coarse grained quartzite with only minor thin phyllitic partings. It was shown by Myrow (1983) to represent high energy subtidal sand bodies deposited offshore from the lower Cheshire tidal flat sequence.

DUNHAM FORMATION

The Dunham Formation was described in detail for northwestern Vermont by Gregory (1982), who documented a

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the author to the editor of the journal, dated 1954. The letter discusses the author's interest in the subject of the article and mentions that the author has been working on this topic for some time. The author also mentions that the article is based on a series of experiments that were conducted in the author's laboratory.

2. The second part of the document is the main body of the article. It begins with a brief introduction to the subject of the article, followed by a discussion of the background and previous work in the field. The author then describes the experimental methods used in the study, including the apparatus and the procedures followed. The results of the experiments are then presented, and the author discusses the implications of these results for the field of study.

3. The third part of the document is a conclusion in which the author summarizes the main findings of the study and discusses the implications of these findings for the field of study. The author also mentions that the results of the study are consistent with previous work in the field and that the study has provided new insights into the subject of the article.

4. The fourth part of the document is a list of references, which includes a list of books, articles, and other sources that were consulted during the course of the study. The references are listed in alphabetical order and provide a comprehensive list of the sources used in the article.

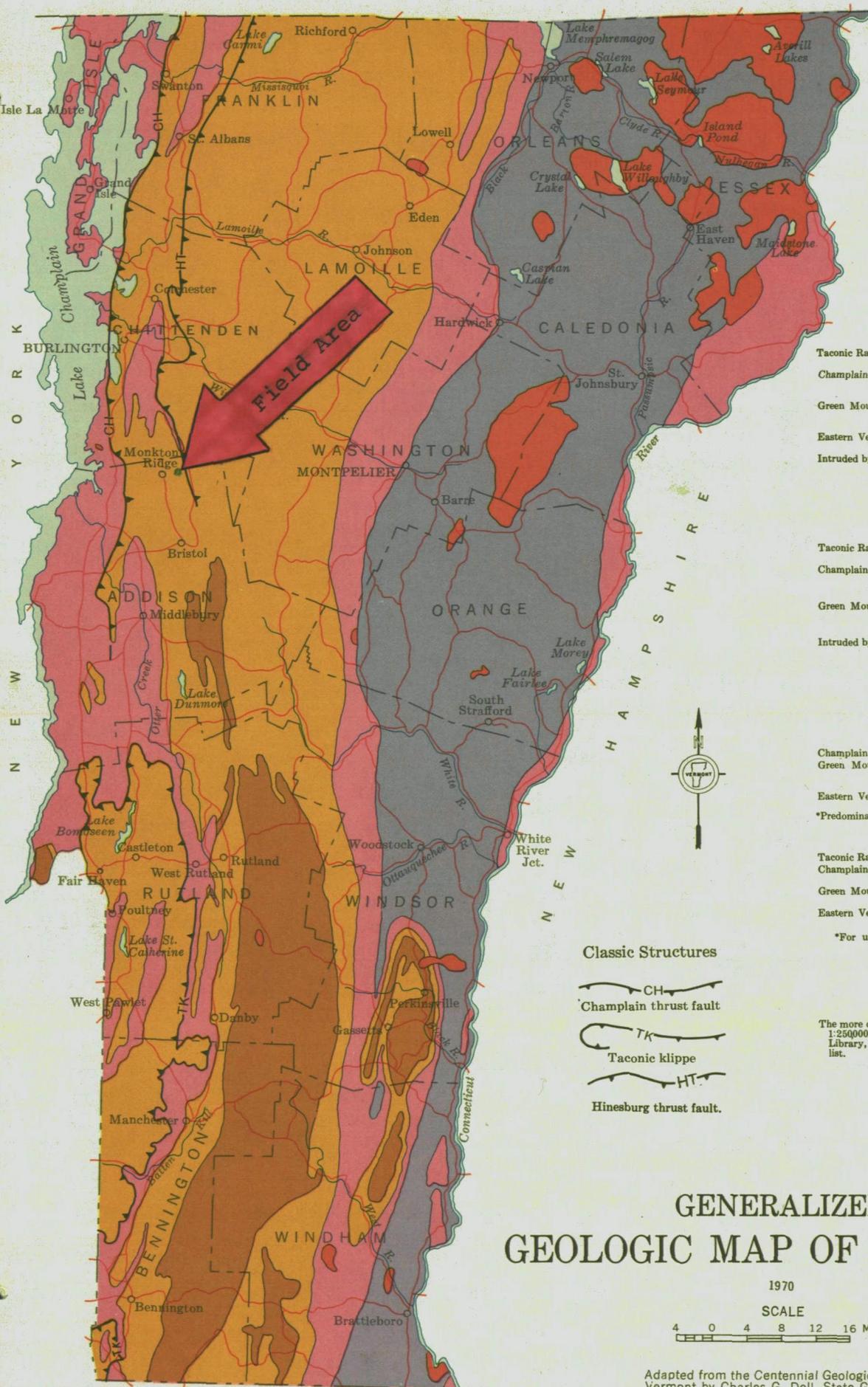
transgressive sequence of peritidal to subtidal shelf edge carbonate environments. No environmental analysis was attempted for this study. The Dunham is a highly varied unit consisting of thin to thick bedded dolomite with common zones containing vertical and horizontal worm burrows. Sandy beds up to 1 or 2 feet thick and occasional thin shaley partings were observed, with colors ranging from dark gray to cream to pink. One unit of dolomitic sandstone (blue color on Fig. 3), was located within the Dunham Formation and was estimated to be 40 to 60 feet thick. Cleavage and other deformation features are minimal throughout the Dunham in this area.

RADIOACTIVITY

No location in the study area, or just outside of the study area, were appreciable amounts of radioactivity found (see Fig. 3).

The highest readings in the area (40-60's) were found on Hosback Mountain in the quartzites of the lower member of the Cheshire Formation (see Fig. 4). Most of the readings in this lithology were uniformly in the 40's with one 50 and one 60. These two higher readings were not associated with any noticeable variation of the characteristics of the rocks.

The readings in the other lithologies in the study area ranged from 16 to 40, with most being in the 20's.



EXPLANATION

- Igneous Rocks***
Granite, syenite, basalt, dunite, peridotite, serpentinite.
- Silurian-Devonian**
Slate, phyllite, limestone, quartzite, conglomerate, greenstone, schist, amphibolite. Intruded by granite, and syenite.
- Ordovician**
Taconic Range—Slate, graywacke, quartzite, limestone, conglomerate, marble.
Champlain-Vermont valleys—Shale, dolomite, limestone, quartzite, phyllite, slate, sandstone, conglomerate, marble.
Green Mountains—Phyllite, schist, quartzite, greenstone, slate, graywacke, gneiss, conglomerate, amphibolite.
Eastern Vermont—Phyllite, quartzite, greenstone, schist, gneiss, slate, amphibolite.
Intruded by granite, syenite, basalt, ultrabasic rocks.
- Cambrian**
Taconic Range—Slate, graywacke, quartzite, limestone, phyllite, sandstone, marble, dolomite.
Champlain-Vermont valleys—Quartzite, dolomite, slate, phyllite, sandstone, shale, limestone, conglomerate, marble.
Green Mountains—Schist, phyllite, quartzite, graywacke, conglomerate, greenstone, dolomite, limestone, gneiss, amphibolite.
Intruded by ultrabasic rocks, basalt.
- Precambrian**
Champlain Valley (small area)—Gneiss, quartzite, granulite.
Green Mountains—Schist, gneiss, metagraywacke, quartzite, calcite and dolomite marbles, amphibolite.
Eastern Vermont—Gneiss, schist, quartzite, calcite, and dolomite marble, amphibolite.
*Predominant and important rocks in *Italics*.
- Earth Materials***
Taconic Range—Slate, marble.
Champlain-Vermont valleys Limestone, marble, clay, kaolin, roadstone.
Green Mountains—Talc, asbestos, verd antique marble, roadstone.
Eastern Vermont—Granite, talc, roadstone, copper (now inactive).
*For uses consult *The Mineral Industry of Vermont*, U. S. Bureau of Mines, Preprint, obtainable from Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402
Also, use information available from the mineral industries,
The more detailed Centennial Geologic Map of Vermont, scale 1:250,000, available from State Librarian, Vermont State Library, Montpelier, Vermont 05602. Write for publication list.

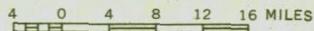
Classic Structures

- Champlain thrust fault
- Taconic klippe
- Hinesburg thrust fault.

GENERALIZED GEOLOGIC MAP OF VERMONT

1970

SCALE



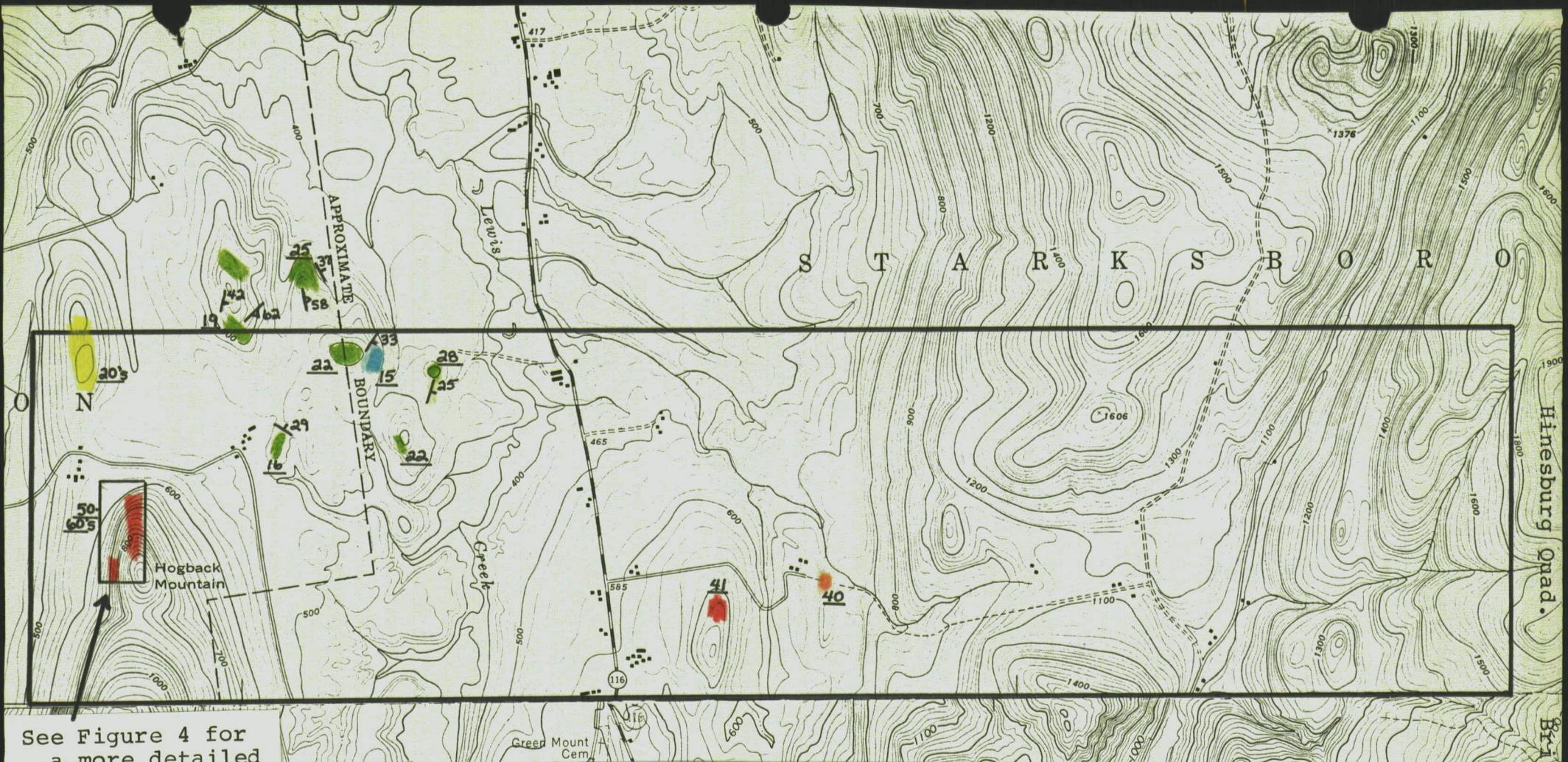
Adapted from the Centennial Geologic Map of Vermont by Charles G. Doll, State Geologist.

Figure 1. Location Map Showing Field Area.



Figure 2. Map showing locations of anomalies found by Texas Instruments (1976):

- Suspect
 - Preferred
- N ↑



See Figure 4 for a more detailed map of this area.

Figure 3. Field Area Map

EXPLANATION

- Outline of anomalous area (Texas Inst., 1976)
- Dunham Fm: Variable bioturbated dolomite and sandy dolomite.
- Dolomitic sandstone within the Dunham Fm.
- Cheshire Fm:
 - Upper Member--Massive, light gray, coarse grained quartzite.
 - Lower Member--Thinly bedded, highly cleaved argillaceous qzite.
 - Fairfield Pond Fm: Homogeneous gray to green chloritic phyllite.

50's cps using spectrometer (average of 5 one second counts).



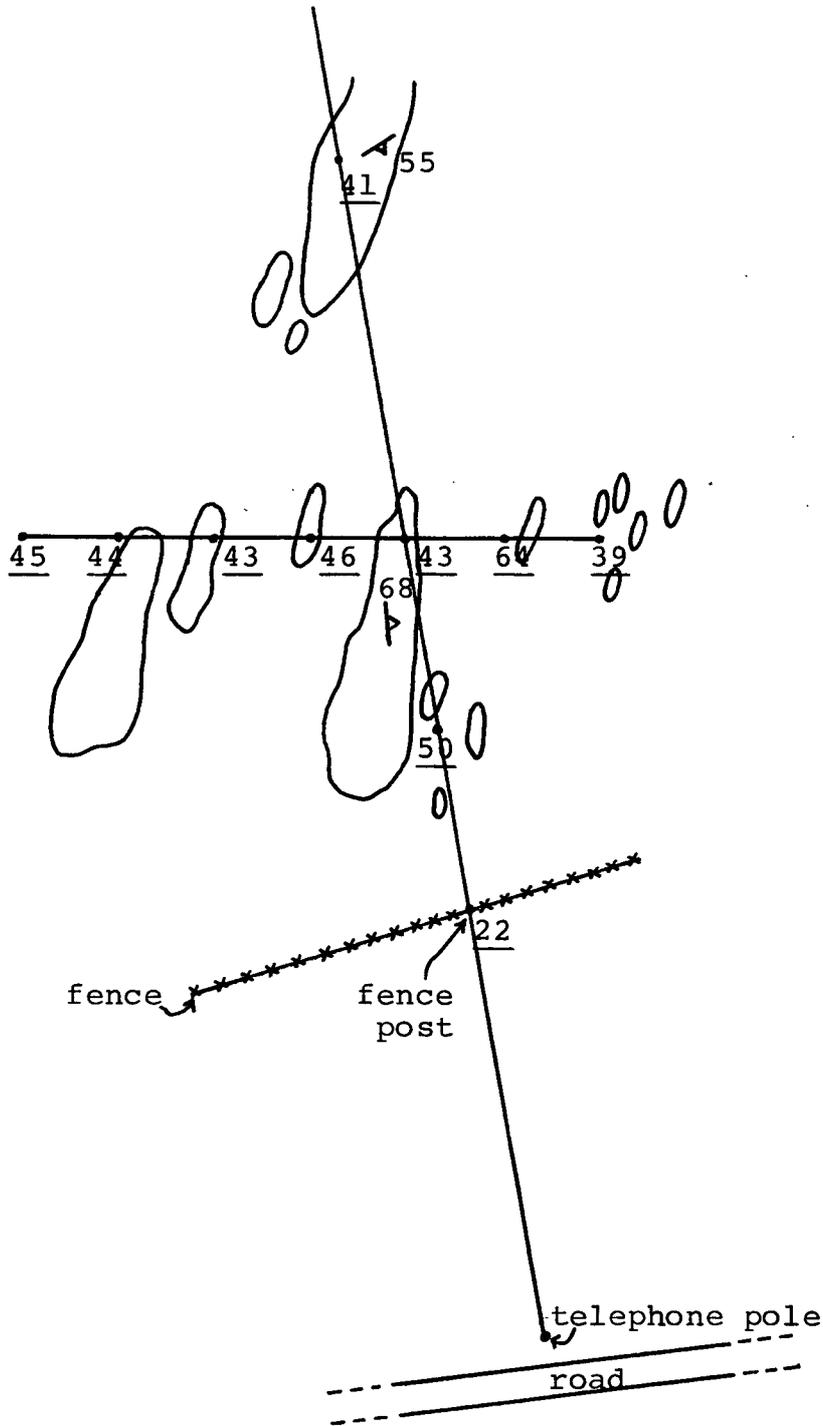


Figure 4. Detailed map of part

of the field area (see Figure 3 for location).

All rocks are lower member of the Cheshire Formation.



Scale 1:1,200

20 cps using spectrometer (average of 5 one second counts).

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