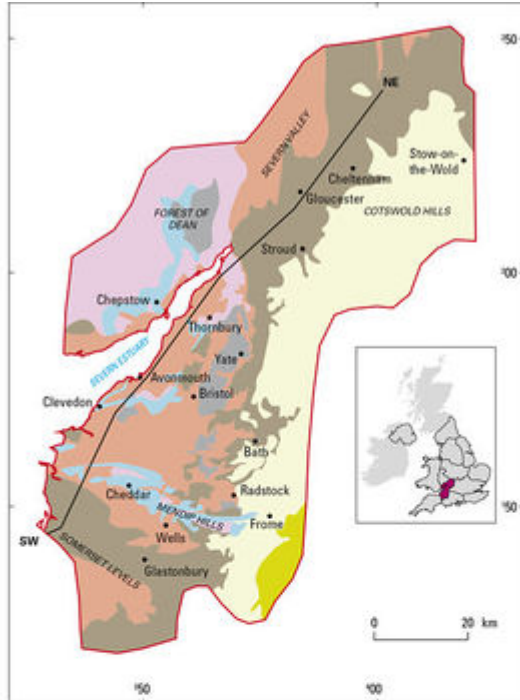


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Category:16. Bristol and Gloucester district

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Age (My)	Map/Section Descriptor	Geological sub-units	Text sub-units	Text Descriptor
90-145	Upper Cretaceous Sediments	Chalk Group Lower Cretaceous	Chalk a major aquifer	Younger Sedimentary Bedrock
145-200	Jurassic Sediments	Great Oolite Group Inferior Oolite Group Lias Group	Oolitic limestone, shelly limestone and mudstone Mudstone, limestone, shelly conglomerate	
200-250	Permo-Triassic Sediments	Penarth Group Mercia Mudstone Group Sherwood Sandstone Group 'Dolomitic Conglomerate'	Reddish sandstone and mudstone	
305-360	Carboniferous Rocks	Coal Measures Carboniferous limestone	Sandstone, mudstone, and coal Limestone	Older Sedimentary Bedrock
360-415	Devonian Rocks	'Old Red Sandstone'	Sandstone, siltstone and mudstone	
415-560	Lower Palaeozoic and Neoproterozoic Rocks	Older rocks		Basement Rocks

Geological sketch map and key showing the range and distribution of different rock types in the Bristol and Gloucester region, in relation to the major towns and cities. The extent of the Bristol and Gloucester region is identified on the inset map of the United Kingdom. P902245.

This account provides a broad perspective of the geology of the Bristol and Gloucester region, covering most of Somerset, Bristol, Bath, south Gloucestershire and the Forest of Dean. **Figure P902245** provides a geological sketch map and key of this region showing the rock types occurring in relation to the major towns and cities. The region is one of the most geologically varied parts of the country, with almost every geological time period represented. This account outlines the geology to a depth of at least a kilometre and summarises the current and historical use of the geological resources in the area.

It is perhaps no coincidence that William Smith, the 'Father of English Geology' produced the

World's first geological map in this region, based on the country around Bath. The region also hosts some well-known geological sites including Cheddar Gorge, the Bath Hot Springs and the Avon Gorge. Exploitation for mineral resources including lead, zinc, iron, coal and limestone (for aggregate and building stone) has taken place since Roman times. Consequently, there is a long heritage of geological research. The surface geology is reasonably well known, particularly from surface outcrops and especially in coalfield areas where records from coal mines, deep boreholes and exploration surveys provide information on the geology up to 300 m below the surface. Although geophysical seismic surveys, which provide information on the rocks by sending sound waves through the ground, have provided some data, the lack of deep boreholes means much of the geological structure and details of the rocks themselves below this depth remains poorly understood.

Subcategories

This category has the following 3 subcategories, out of 3 total.
The number of included categories (C), pages (P) and files (F) is stated in brackets.

- ► [Bristol and Gloucester district - summary](#) (4 P)
- ► [Bristol and Gloucester region](#) (54 P)

B

- ► [Bath - the geology of the area](#) (1 C, 18 P)

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