

OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

SUSQUEHANNOCK OVERLOOKS, LANCASTER COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

Susquehannock State Park, Lancaster Co., Drumore Twp.,
lat: 39.80351, lon: -76.28852 (parking); Holtwood 7.5-minute
quadrangle



0 0.4 0.8 Mi



Recommended Reading

Hill, J. C., 2007, Bedrock geologic map of the northern portion of the Holtwood and Wakefield quadrangles, Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., [Open-File Report OFBM 07-04.0](#), 16 p., 1 map, scale 1:24,000.

[Susquehannock State Park](#) web page of DCNR.

Geology

Vantage stops along Overlook Trail at Susquehannock State Park offer panoramic views of the Susquehanna River to the west and northwest, and the Conowingo Reservoir to the south as far as Maryland. The main viewing location, Hawk Point, is about 350 feet above the river. The entire visible area is located in the Piedmont Upland section of the Piedmont physiographic province. The bedrock at Susquehannock State Park is a pinnacle of a resistant layer of Octoraro Formation, which in this area is composed of the metamorphic rock schist. This structurally complex rock unit is thought to be late Proterozoic or early Cambrian in age.



View to the south from Hawk Point of the Conowingo Reservoir.



View to the northwest from Hawk Point of the Conowingo Islands.

To the northwest from Overlook Trail are views of the Conowingo Islands in the Susquehanna River. These islands also are resistant bedrock protrusions of the Octoraro Formation. There are over 60 islands in this group, which extends for about 3 miles. Upper Bear and Lower Bear are the largest islands. The northwest perimeter of Susquehannock State Park follows Wissler Run; the adjacent slope, steep and rocky, is composed of the same gray to silvery-gray schist. The most abundant minerals in this rock are quartz and muscovite.