

OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

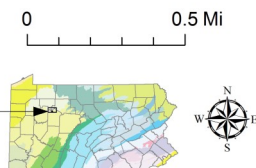
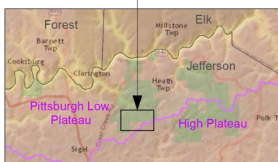
BEARTOWN ROCKS, JEFFERSON COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

Clear Creek State Forest, Jefferson Co., Heath Twp., lat: 41.30288, lon: -79.06026 (parking); Sigel 7.5-minute quadrangle



Geology

Beartown Rocks is a rock city with a view. Large blocks of rock, separated by narrow to wide “streets,” occupy a wooded knoll on state forestland. The rocks are erosion resistant, mostly light-olive gray, coarse-grained sandstone of the Pennsylvanian-age Pottsville Formation, approximately 320 million years old. The rocks have shifted and tilted after detaching from the bedrock during the last glacial period (although glaciers did not reach Jefferson County). Some of the blocks have become widely separated, probably first from jointing, then frost or ice wedging, and then from downslope sliding under near-glacial conditions. The sandstone is thin to medium bedded, and some sandstone layers display prominent crossbedding. Other layers show a distinct honeycomb weathering pattern. The site is less than a mile north of the Kellersburg anticlinal axis, which is oriented approximately N50°E. The viewing platform is at an elevation of about 1,884 feet.



Blocks of Pottsville Formation and the viewing platform at Beartown Rocks. A clear day will provide a view to the northwest of more than 20 miles of the High Plateau section of the Appalachian Plateaus physiographic province. Unpaved roads on state forestland must be accessed to reach the site, which is off Corbett Road (watch for the sign pointing to Beartown Rocks).

Recommended Reading

[Clear Creek State Forest](#) web page of DCNR.