

Pamlico terrace plain. This escarpment enters North Carolina from Virginia in the eastern part of Gates County (see Beckford and Edenton quadrangles), and runs in a nearly straight line a little west of south until it intercepts the coast in the western part of Carteret County. Its position outside of the areas covered by topographic maps is known only approximately for the greater part of the distance; however, Mr. B. L. Johnson has observed the escarpment a short distance to the eastward of the towns of Grantsboro and Arapahoe in Pamlico County. Along the crest of this escarpment throughout much of its extent are accumulations of wind-blown sand in the form of narrow ridges which probably originated at the time the shore line stood at the foot of the escarpment's slope. Reëntnants from the Pamlico plain extend up the river valleys for many miles as bordering terraces. In many places the Chowan plain is separated from these estuarine extensions by well-marked escarpments. Southward of Carteret County the Chowan plain extends nearly to the coast, being separated from the shore line by very narrow strips of the Pamlico terrace. The Chowan terrace plain, together with the escarpment separating it from the lower-lying Pamlico plain, has been traced northward through Virginia into Maryland.

North of Neuse River the materials of the Chowan formation rest for the most part upon beds of Miocene age. The estuarine extensions, however, occur far enough to the west to lap over upon Cretaceous beds. To the south of Neuse River the underlying deposits consist of Pliocene, Miocene, Eocene, and Cretaceous strata.

The surface of the formation forms a plain which slopes up from elevations of about 25 to 40 feet above sea level along its eastern edge to elevations of about 50 feet along the foot of the escarpment separating it from the Wicomico plain above. Where it passes up the river valleys, however, it probably reaches maximum elevations of 70 feet at the inland extremities of the extensions. In the interstream areas the plain presents broad, level tracts of land which are swampy in many places. Green Swamp in Columbus and Brunswick counties is believed to form a part of this plain. Waccamaw Lake in Columbus County probably occupies a shallow depression in the plain. Around the edges the plain has been dissected to some extent by stream erosion forming shallow stream incisions.

The materials making up the Chowan formation consist of sandy loams, more or less arenaceous clays, sands, and gravels. As in the case of the Pleistocene formations already described, the coarser materials occur at the base and grade up into the finer sands and loams at the top. In general, the materials are finer in texture than those of the