

Natural Resources Conservation Service A product of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local participants

# Custom Soil Resource Report for Union County, Pennsylvania

**Schweikert** 



# **Preface**

Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in survey areas. They highlight soil limitations that affect various land uses and provide information about the properties of the soils in the survey areas. Soil surveys are designed for many different users, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, agronomists, urban planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers. Also, conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the surveys to help them understand, protect, or enhance the environment.

Various land use regulations of Federal, State, and local governments may impose special restrictions on land use or land treatment. Soil surveys identify soil properties that are used in making various land use or land treatment decisions. The information is intended to help the land users identify and reduce the effects of soil limitations on various land uses. The landowner or user is responsible for identifying and complying with existing laws and regulations.

Although soil survey information can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning, onsite investigation is needed to supplement this information in some cases. Examples include soil quality assessments (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/) and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center (https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2 053951).

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

Information about soils is updated periodically. Updated information is available through the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the site for official soil survey information.

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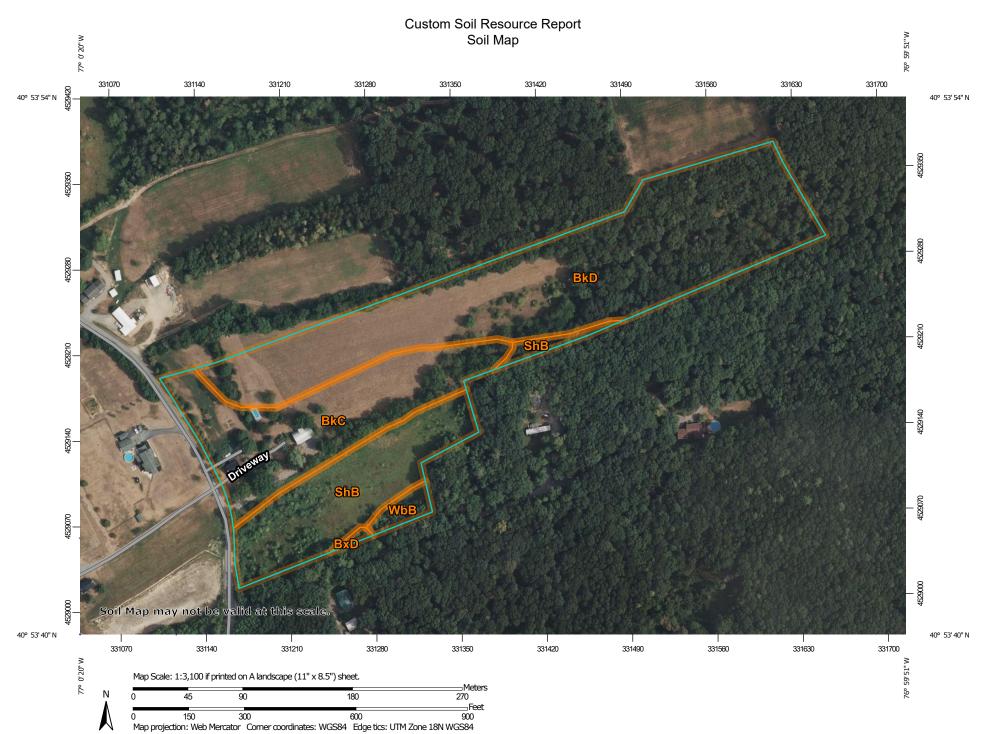
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# Soil Map

The soil map section includes the soil map for the defined area of interest, a list of soil map units on the map and extent of each map unit, and cartographic symbols displayed on the map. Also presented are various metadata about data used to produce the map, and a description of each soil map unit.



#### MAP LEGEND

#### Area of Interest (AOI)

Area of Interest (AOI)

#### Soils

Soil Map Unit Polygons



Soil Map Unit Lines



Soil Map Unit Points

#### **Special Point Features**

Blowout

Borrow Pit

Clay Spot

Closed Depression

Gravel Pit

Gravelly Spot

Landfill
≜ Lava Flow

▲ Marsh or swamp

Mine or Quarry

Miscellaneous Water

Perennial Water

Rock Outcrop

Saline Spot
Sandy Spot

Severely Eroded Spot

Sinkhole

Name of Slip

Sodic Spot

Spoil Area



Very Stony Spot



Wet Spot Other



Special Line Features

#### Water Features

Streams and Canals

#### Transportation

+++ Rails

Interstate Highways

US Routes

Major Roads

Local Roads

#### Background

900

Aerial Photography

#### MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:20.000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey URL:

Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Union County, Pennsylvania Survey Area Data: Version 17, Sep 7, 2023

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Jul 6, 2020—Nov 7, 2020

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

# **Map Unit Legend**

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
BkC	Berks channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	3.9	24.6%
BkD	Berks channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	8.6	53.8%
BxD	Buchanan channery loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, extremely stony	0.1	0.3%
ShB	Shelmadine silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	3.1	19.5%
WbB	Watson silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	0.3	1.7%
Totals for Area of Interest		16.0	100.0%

# **Map Unit Descriptions**

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it

was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, however, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An association is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

# Union County, Pennsylvania

# BkC—Berks channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes

#### **Map Unit Setting**

National map unit symbol: 2sgcg Elevation: 320 to 3,570 feet

Mean annual precipitation: 37 to 50 inches Mean annual air temperature: 47 to 56 degrees F

Frost-free period: 148 to 192 days

Farmland classification: Farmland of statewide importance

#### **Map Unit Composition**

Berks and similar soils: 85 percent Minor components: 15 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

#### **Description of Berks**

#### Setting

Landform: Mountain slopes, ridges

Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope, summit, shoulder

Landform position (three-dimensional): Upper third of mountainflank, side slope

Down-slope shape: Convex

Across-slope shape: Convex, linear

Parent material: Residuum weathered from shale and siltstone and/or fine grained

sandstone

#### Typical profile

Ap - 0 to 8 inches: channery silt loam

Bw1 - 8 to 14 inches: very channery silt loam
Bw2 - 14 to 26 inches: very channery silt loam
C - 26 to 36 inches: extremely channery silt loam

R - 36 to 46 inches: bedrock

#### Properties and qualities

Slope: 8 to 15 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: 20 to 40 inches to lithic bedrock

Drainage class: Well drained Runoff class: Medium

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low to high

(0.06 to 5.95 in/hr)

Depth to water table: More than 80 inches

Frequency of flooding: None Frequency of ponding: None

Calcium carbonate, maximum content: 1 percent

Gypsum, maximum content: 1 percent

Maximum salinity: Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)

Sodium adsorption ratio, maximum: 1.0

Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Very low (about 3.0 inches)

#### Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3e

Hydrologic Soil Group: B

Ecological site: F147XY008PA - Shallow Mixed Sedimentary Upland Other vegetative classification: Dry Uplands (DU3), Dry Uplands (DU2)

Hydric soil rating: No

#### **Minor Components**

#### Weikert

Percent of map unit: 10 percent

Landform: Ridges

Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope, shoulder

Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope

Down-slope shape: Linear Across-slope shape: Convex

Other vegetative classification: Droughty Shales (SD2)

Hydric soil rating: No

#### Brinkerton

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Landform: Ridges

Landform position (two-dimensional): Footslope Landform position (three-dimensional): Base slope

Down-slope shape: Concave, linear Across-slope shape: Linear, concave

Hydric soil rating: Yes

# BkD—Berks channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes

#### Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: 2sgb7 Elevation: 320 to 3,630 feet

Mean annual precipitation: 37 to 50 inches Mean annual air temperature: 47 to 56 degrees F

Frost-free period: 148 to 192 days

Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

#### **Map Unit Composition**

Berks and similar soils: 85 percent Minor components: 15 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

#### **Description of Berks**

#### Setting

Landform: Mountain slopes, ridges

Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope, summit, shoulder

Landform position (three-dimensional): Upper third of mountainflank, side slope

Down-slope shape: Convex

Across-slope shape: Convex, linear

Parent material: Residuum weathered from shale and siltstone and/or fine grained

sandstone

#### **Typical profile**

Ap - 0 to 7 inches: channery silt loam

Bw1 - 7 to 14 inches: very channery silt loam
Bw2 - 14 to 21 inches: extremely channery silt loam
C - 21 to 36 inches: extremely channery silt loam

R - 36 to 46 inches: bedrock

#### **Properties and qualities**

Slope: 15 to 25 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: 20 to 40 inches to lithic bedrock

Drainage class: Well drained Runoff class: Medium

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low to high

(0.06 to 5.95 in/hr)

Depth to water table: More than 80 inches

Frequency of flooding: None Frequency of ponding: None

Calcium carbonate, maximum content: 1 percent

Gypsum, maximum content: 1 percent

Maximum salinity: Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.0 mmhos/cm)

Sodium adsorption ratio, maximum: 1.0

Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Very low (about 2.9 inches)

#### Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 4e

Hydrologic Soil Group: B

Ecological site: F147XY008PA - Shallow Mixed Sedimentary Upland

Other vegetative classification: Dry Uplands (DU2)

Hydric soil rating: No

#### **Minor Components**

#### Weikert

Percent of map unit: 10 percent

Landform: Ridges

Landform position (two-dimensional): Shoulder, backslope

Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope

Down-slope shape: Linear Across-slope shape: Convex

Other vegetative classification: Droughty Shales (SD2)

Hydric soil rating: No

#### Brinkerton

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Landform: Ridges

Landform position (two-dimensional): Footslope Landform position (three-dimensional): Base slope

Down-slope shape: Concave, linear Across-slope shape: Linear, concave

Hydric soil rating: Yes

#### BxD—Buchanan channery loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, extremely stony

#### **Map Unit Setting**

National map unit symbol: 2z1n9 Elevation: 350 to 1,960 feet

Mean annual precipitation: 37 to 50 inches Mean annual air temperature: 50 to 55 degrees F

Frost-free period: 155 to 177 days

Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

#### Map Unit Composition

Buchanan and similar soils: 90 percent

Minor components: 10 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

#### **Description of Buchanan**

#### Setting

Landform: Hillslopes

Landform position (two-dimensional): Footslope, backslope Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope, base slope

Down-slope shape: Concave, linear Across-slope shape: Concave, linear

Parent material: Fine-loamy colluvium derived from sandstone and shale

#### Typical profile

Oi - 0 to 2 inches: slightly decomposed plant material Oe - 2 to 2 inches: moderately decomposed plant material

A - 2 to 4 inches: channery loam
BE - 4 to 12 inches: channery loam
Bt1 - 12 to 20 inches: channery loam
Bt2 - 20 to 29 inches: channery loam
Btx1 - 29 to 35 inches: channery loam
Btx2 - 35 to 50 inches: channery loam
C - 50 to 71 inches: very channery loam

R - 71 to 81 inches: bedrock

#### **Properties and qualities**

Slope: 8 to 25 percent

Surface area covered with cobbles, stones or boulders: 6.0 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: 24 to 30 inches to fragipan; 60 to 79 inches to lithic

bedrock

Drainage class: Moderately well drained

Runoff class: High

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low to

moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr)

Depth to water table: About 15 to 24 inches

Frequency of flooding: None Frequency of ponding: None

Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Low (about 3.7 inches)

#### Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 6s

Hydrologic Soil Group: C/D

Ecological site: F130AY006PA - Quartzitic Footslopes And Terraces,

F127XY012WV - Convergent Uplands

Hydric soil rating: No

#### **Minor Components**

#### Laidig

Percent of map unit: 7 percent

Landform: Hillslopes

Landform position (two-dimensional): Footslope Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope

Down-slope shape: Convex

Across-slope shape: Linear, convex

Hydric soil rating: No

#### Andover

Percent of map unit: 3 percent

Landform: Hillslopes

Landform position (two-dimensional): Footslope, toeslope Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope, base slope

Down-slope shape: Convex

Across-slope shape: Linear, convex

Hydric soil rating: Yes

## ShB—Shelmadine silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes

#### **Map Unit Setting**

National map unit symbol: I4wv Elevation: 430 to 1.850 feet

Mean annual precipitation: 36 to 46 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 40 to 60 degrees F

Frost-free period: 130 to 220 days

Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

# **Map Unit Composition**

Shelmadine and similar soils: 80 percent

Minor components: 20 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

#### **Description of Shelmadine**

#### Setting

Landform: Drainageways
Down-slope shape: Concave
Across-slope shape: Concave

Parent material: Loamy till

**Typical profile** 

H1 - 0 to 7 inches: silt loam
H2 - 7 to 24 inches: silty clay loam
H3 - 24 to 50 inches: channery loam
H4 - 50 to 70 inches: channery loam

#### **Properties and qualities**

Slope: 3 to 8 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: 18 to 30 inches to fragipan

Drainage class: Poorly drained

Runoff class: Very high

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low to

moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr)

Depth to water table: About 0 to 6 inches

Frequency of flooding: None Frequency of ponding: None

Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Low (about 3.2 inches)

#### Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 4w

Hydrologic Soil Group: C/D

Ecological site: F147XY011PA - Poorly Drained Fine Mixed Floodplain

Hydric soil rating: Yes

# **Minor Components**

#### Watson

Percent of map unit: 10 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

#### **Alvira**

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Landform: Hillslopes

Landform position (two-dimensional): Footslope Landform position (three-dimensional): Interfluve

Down-slope shape: Concave Across-slope shape: Concave

Hydric soil rating: No

#### **Albrights**

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

# WbB-Watson silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes

#### **Map Unit Setting**

National map unit symbol: 14x3 Elevation: 430 to 1,850 feet

Mean annual precipitation: 36 to 46 inches

Mean annual air temperature: 40 to 60 degrees F

Frost-free period: 130 to 180 days

Farmland classification: All areas are prime farmland

#### Map Unit Composition

Watson and similar soils: 80 percent Minor components: 20 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

#### **Description of Watson**

#### Setting

Landform: Valley sides

Landform position (two-dimensional): Footslope Landform position (three-dimensional): Base slope

Down-slope shape: Linear Across-slope shape: Linear

Parent material: Old till derived from sedimentary rock

#### **Typical profile**

H1 - 0 to 9 inches: silt loam

H2 - 9 to 27 inches: gravelly silty clay loam
H3 - 27 to 45 inches: gravelly clay loam
H4 - 45 to 61 inches: channery loam

#### **Properties and qualities**

Slope: 3 to 8 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches

Drainage class: Moderately well drained

Runoff class: High

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low to

moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr) Depth to water table: About 18 to 33 inches

Frequency of flooding: None Frequency of ponding: None

Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Low (about 3.9 inches)

#### Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 2e

Hydrologic Soil Group: C

Ecological site: F147XY006PA - Mixed Limestone Lower Slope

Hydric soil rating: No

#### **Minor Components**

#### Allenwood

Percent of map unit: 10 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

#### **Shelmadine**

Percent of map unit: 5 percent Landform: Drainageways Down-slope shape: Concave Across-slope shape: Concave

Hydric soil rating: Yes

#### Alvira

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Landform: Hillslopes

Landform position (two-dimensional): Footslope Landform position (three-dimensional): Interfluve Down-slope shape: Concave

Across-slope shape: Concave

Hydric soil rating: No