Introduction to the Bedrock Geology of Cerro Gordo County, Iowa

The area that now comprises Cerro Gordo County was originally part of the ancient Interior Seaway during the Mesozoic Era, which flooded much of the region. The last major transgression of the sea occurred during the Tertiary Period, approximately 3.5 million years ago, when the sea covered much of the Midwest. The last time the sea covered the area was during the Pleistocene Epoch, about 100,000 years ago, when glacial advance caused the sea to rise again. The resulting glacial lake, named Glacial Lake Iowa, retreated to its present extent between 10,000 and 12,000 years ago, and the Mississippi River cut through it to form its present course. The effects of these events can be seen today in the erosional features and deposits that form the landscape.

The geology of the area is complex, with a variety of rock types and formations. The most prominent feature is the Mississippi River, which has carved through the landscape and created valleys and bluffs. The river has also deposited sediment, creating terraces and floodplains. The area is also rich in mineral resources, including coal, sand and gravel, and aggregates. The geology of the area is important for understanding the natural environment and for economic development.

The mapping area is within the northeastern portion of the state of Iowa, specifically within Cerro Gordo County. The area is characterized by a variety of bedrock formations, including the La Salle Sandstone, the Cedar Valley Group, and the Lime Creek Formation. These formations are truncated by the glacial lake and have been affected by post-glacial erosion. The geology of the area is important for understanding the history of the region and for economic development.

The map shows the distribution of the bedrock formations and the age of the sediments. The formations are colored to represent their age, with older formations in darker colors. The map also shows the location of the Mississippi River, which has carved through the landscape and created valleys and bluffs.

The map is an important tool for understanding the geology of the area and for economic development. It provides information on the distribution of the bedrock formations and the age of the sediments, which is important for understanding the natural environment and for economic development.