

# The Usual Suspects

## Exotic Toolstones in Quoddy Region Archaeological Assemblages

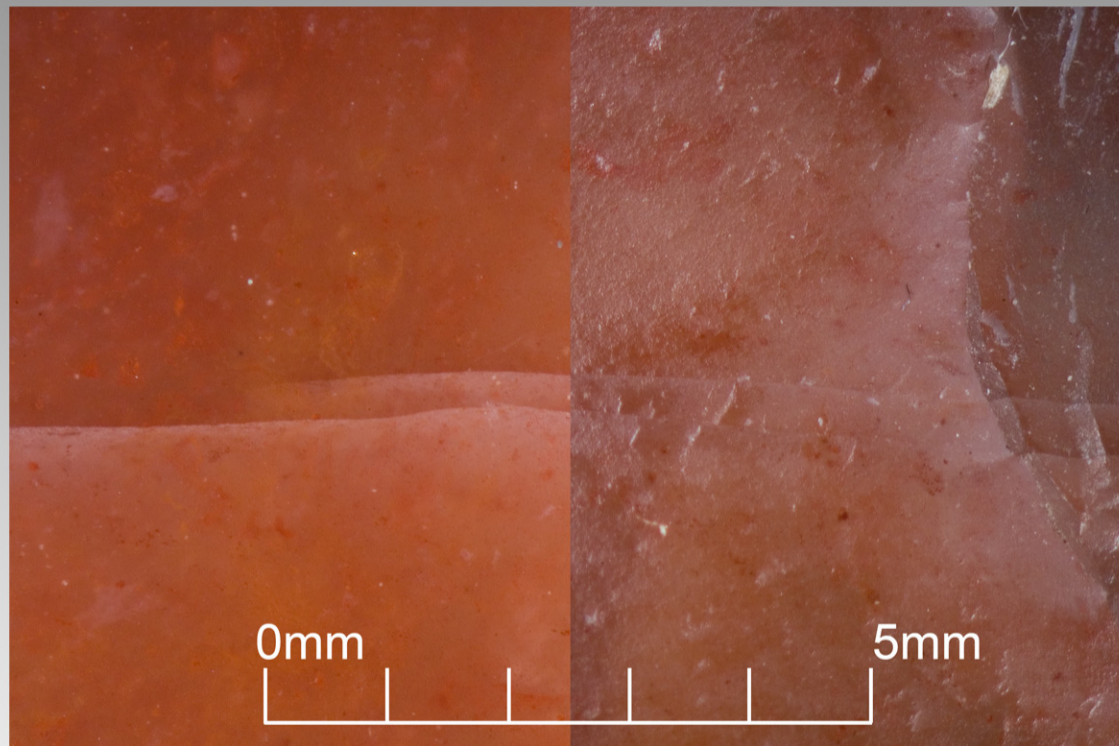
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(All artifacts illustrated are from Deer Island Point, Charlotte County, New Brunswick)

### Washademoak Multi-coloured Chert



Top: dorsal and ventral surfaces of four unifacial scrapers  
Bottom: photomicrographs (10x), left = dry, right = wet



Colour: red variant  
Transparency: highly translucent  
Variation: vague and indistinct but complex  
Lustre: vitreous (fresh), silky (weathered)  
Fracture: smooth conchoidal  
Salient features: large-scale strain fractures

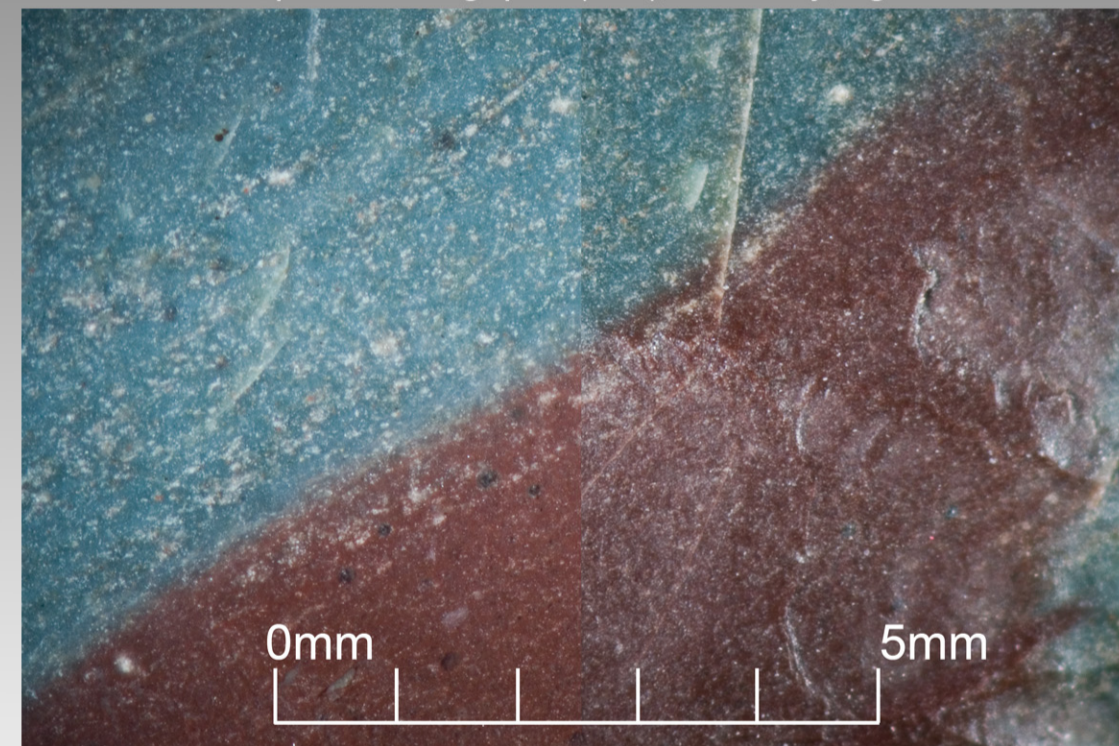
These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials associated with Carboniferous bedrock at the Washademoak Lake Chert Source, Queens County, New Brunswick.

Black, D.W., and L.A. Wilson 1999. The Washademoak Lake Chert Source, Queens County, New Brunswick, Canada. *Archaeology of Eastern North America* 27:81–108.

### Munsungun Chert



Top: (left) unifacial scraper, (right) bifacial tools  
Bottom: photomicrographs (10x), left = dry, right = wet



Colour: red and green variants  
Transparency: opaque  
Variation: simple, distinct  
Lustre: dull to waxy  
Fracture: smooth conchoidal  
Salient features: small circular radiolarian microfossils

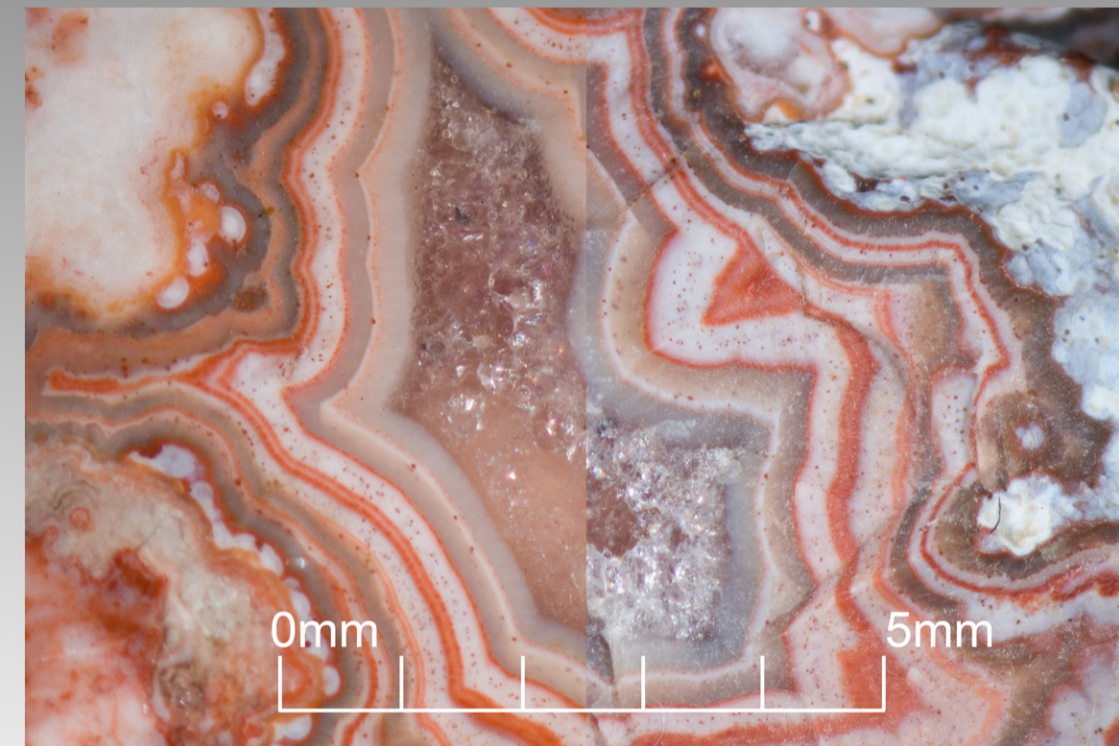
These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials associated with Ordovician bedrock at the Munsungun Lake source area in Aroostook County, Maine.

Pollock, S.G., N.D. Hamilton and R. Bonnichsen 1999. Chert from the Munsungun Lake Formation (Maine) in Paleoamerican Archaeological Sites in Northeastern North America: Recognition of its Occurrence and Distribution. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 26:269–293.

### Minas Basin Multi-coloured Chert



Top: dorsal surfaces of 12 unifacial scrapers  
Bottom: photomicrographs (10x), left = dry, right = wet



Colour: various reds, yellows and white  
Transparency: patchy translucency to opaque  
Variation: complex and highly distinct  
Lustre: waxy  
Fracture: conchoidal to sub-conchoidal  
Salient features: agate fortification structures enclosing drusy quartz mosaics

These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials associated with Mesozoic bedrock in the Minas Basin/North Mountain area of Nova Scotia.

Deal, M. 2005. Vignette: Distribution and Utilization of Scots Bay Chalcedony. <http://www.mun.ca/archaeology/scotsbay.htm> (accessed: Aug. 23, 2005).

### Kineo-Traveler Mountain Porphyry



Top: (left) unifacial scraper, (centre & right) projectile points  
Bottom: photomicrographs (10x), left = dry, right = wet



Colour: light grey/green, weathers to white  
Transparency: semitranslucent (groundmass), transparent (quartz), opaque (feldspar)  
Structure: aphanitic groundmass with randomly distributed phenocrysts, occasionally flow-banded  
Lustre: greasy (fresh), chalky (weathered)  
Fracture: conchoidal to sub-conchoidal  
Salient features: feldspar and quartz phenocrysts

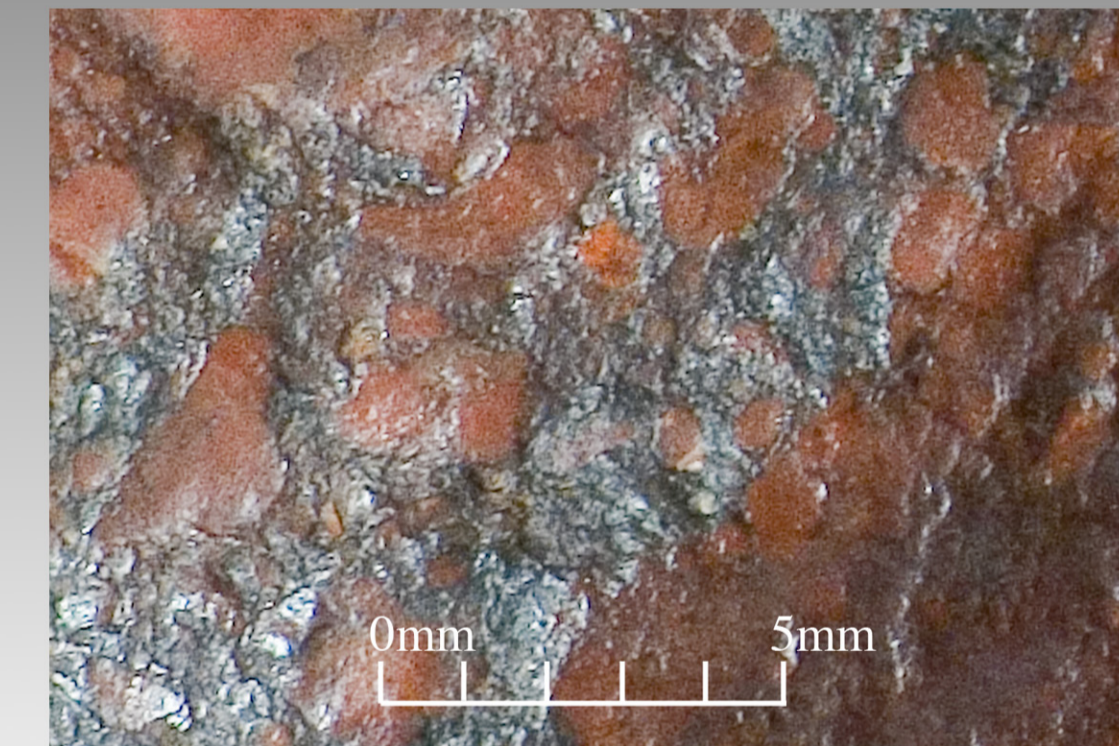
These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials associated with Devonian bedrock in the Piscataquis Volcanic Arc, Piscataquis County, Maine.

Doyle, R.G. 1995. Appendix 6: Lithic Materials. In *Diversity and Complexity in Prehistoric Maritime Cultures: A Gulf of Maine Perspective*, by B.J. Bourque, pp. 297–316. Plenum Press, New York.

### Tobique Chert/Rhyolite



Top: two retouched flakes  
Bottom: photo enlargement (5x)

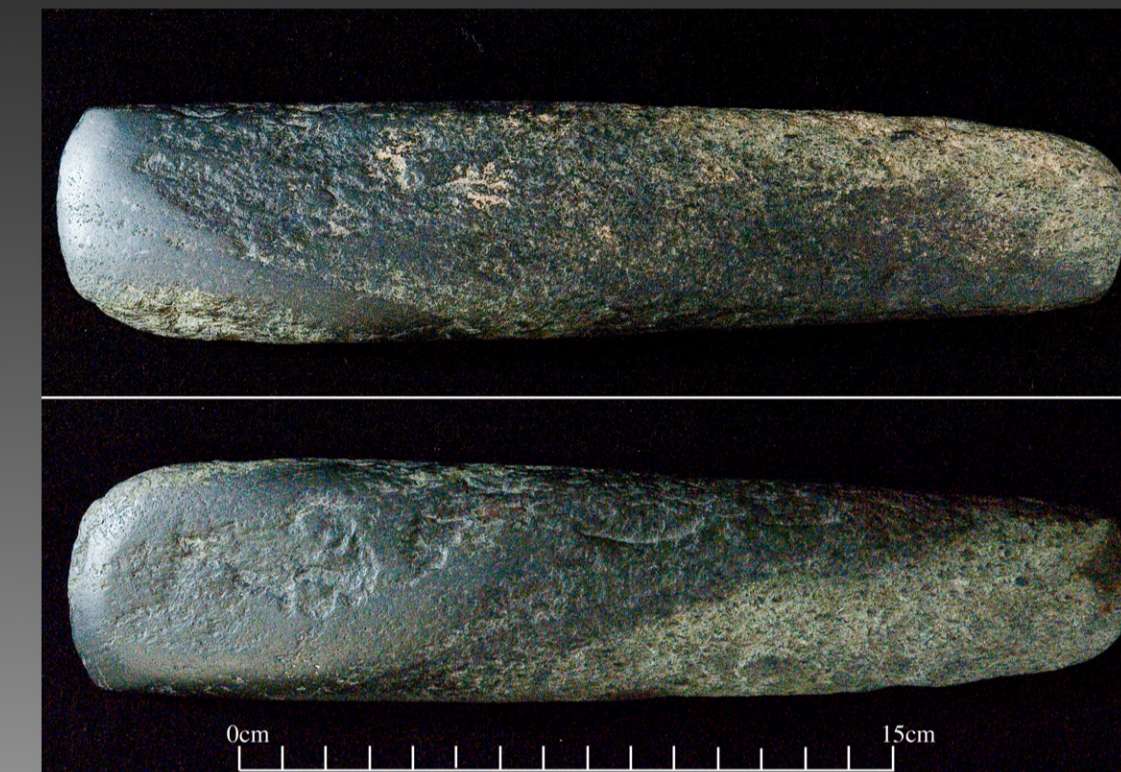


Colour: red and black  
Transparency: opaque, occasional patchy translucency  
Variation: simple and distinct  
Lustre: dull  
Fracture: sub-conchoidal  
Salient features: scaly fracture surfaces, red and black variation

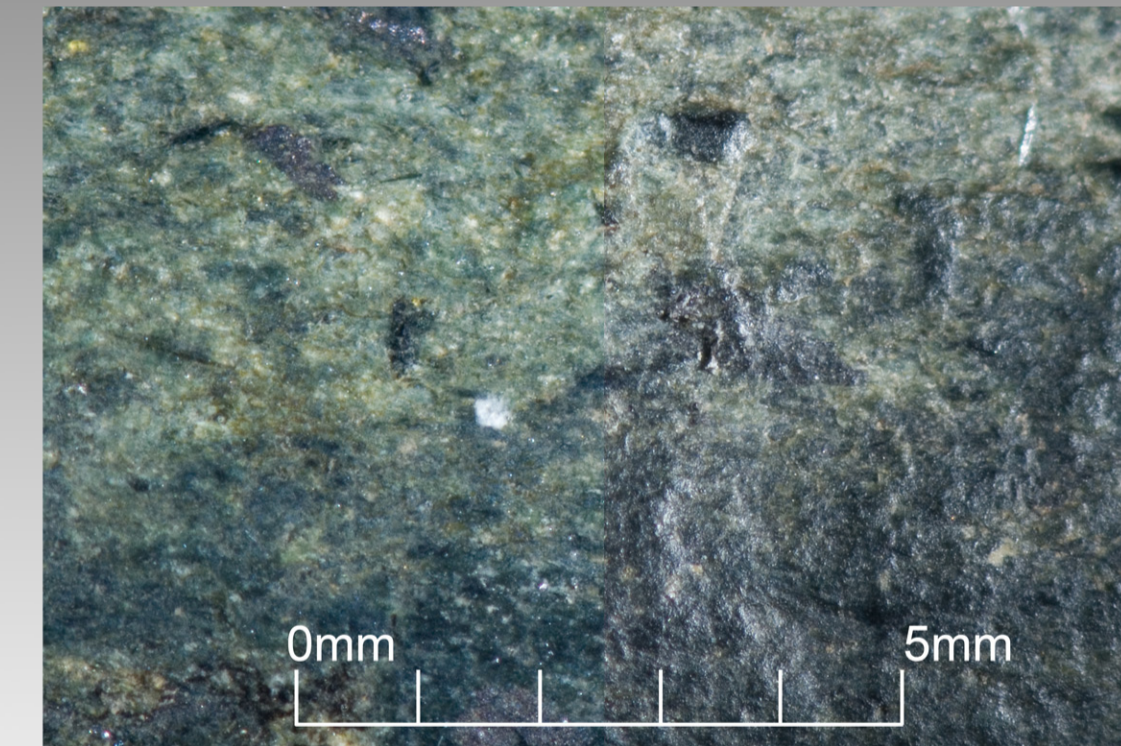
These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials recovered as cobbles in secondary geological deposits around the junction of the Tobique and Saint John rivers in Victoria County, New Brunswick.

Burke, A.L. 2000. *Lithic Procurement and the Ceramic Period Occupation of the Interior of the Maritime Provinces*. Unpublished PhD dissertation, Department of Anthropology, State University of New York, Albany (pages 206–208).

### Greenstone Tuff



Top: biconvex groundstone axe  
Bottom: photomicrographs (10x), left = dry, right = wet



Colour: dark grey/green  
Transparency: opaque  
Structure: fine-grained groundmass, laminated  
Lustre: bright (fresh), dull (weathered)  
Fracture: blocky  
Salient features: differentially weathered laminae, ilmenite porphyroblasts

These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials used during the Archaic Period in Maine and New Brunswick to make groundstone tools. Their source may be near Greenville, Piscataquis County, Maine.

Suttie, B.D. 2005. *Archaic Period Archaeological Research in the Interior of Southwestern New Brunswick*. Unpublished MA thesis, Department of Anthropology, UNB, Fredericton (pages 185–187).