

The Usual Suspects

Local Toolstones in Quoddy Region Archaeological Assemblages

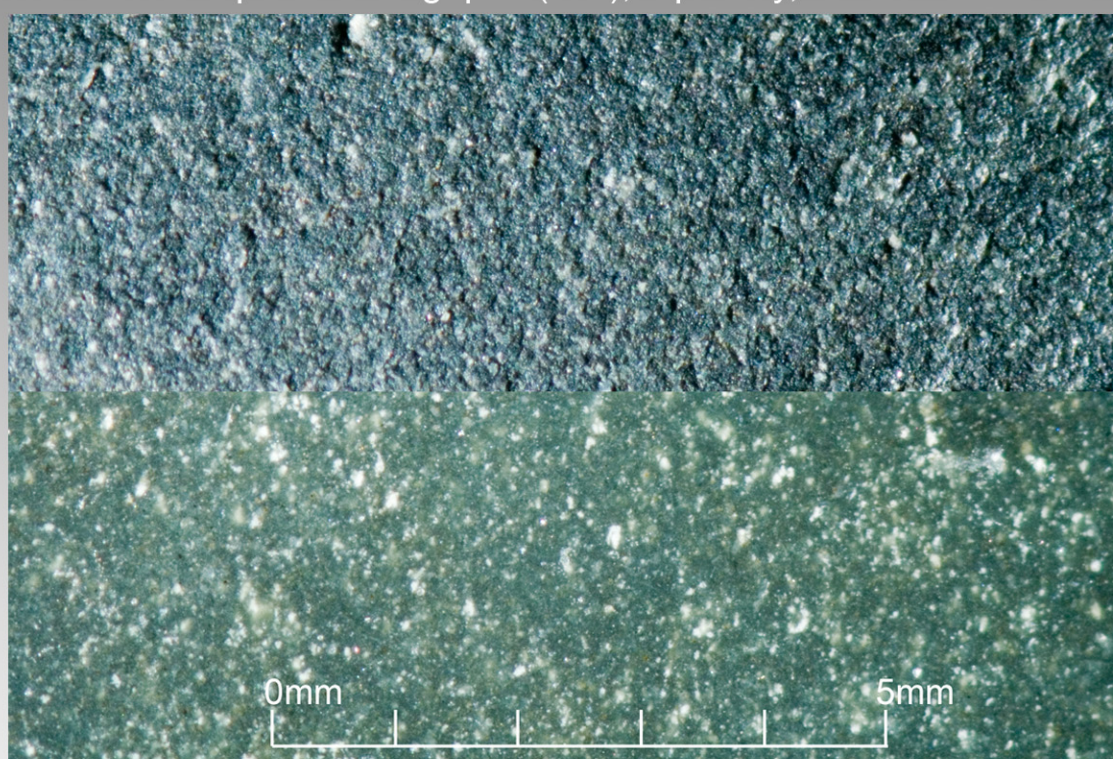
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(All artifacts illustrated are from Deer Island Point, Charlotte County, New Brunswick)

Apple-green Glassy Rhyolite



Top: bifacial tools and projectile points
Bottom: photomicrographs (10x), top = dry, bottom = wet



Colour: grey/green
Transparency: semi-translucent to opaque
Structure: homogenous, microcrystalline
Lustre: vitreous to dull
Fracture: smooth conchoidal
Salient features: most specimens exhibit small white spots in the groundmass

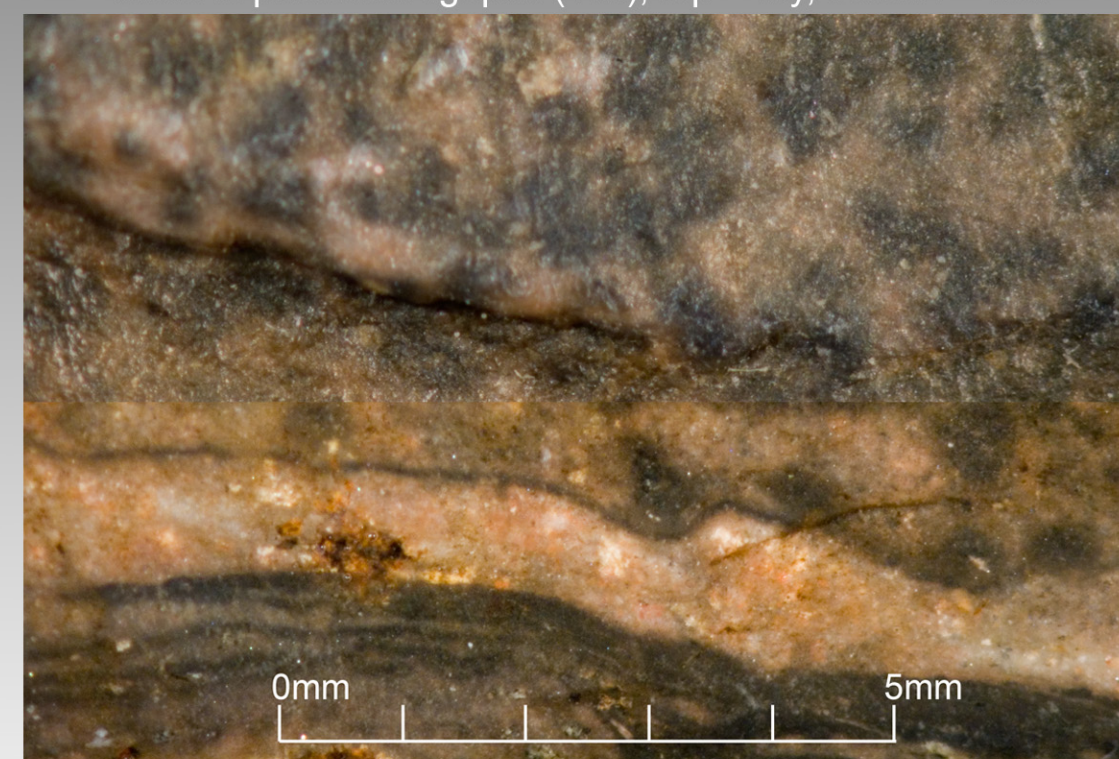
These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials recovered as cobbles in secondary geological deposits around Passamaquoddy Bay.

MacDonald, S.L. 1994. Exploring Patterns of Prehistoric Lithic Material Use in the Insular Quoddy Region, Charlotte County, New Brunswick. Unpublished MA thesis, Department of Anthropology, UNB, Fredericton (pages 159–160).

Flow-banded Spotted Rhyolite



Top: projectile point
Bottom: photomicrographs (10x), top = dry, bottom = wet



Colour: brown to light brown to light grey-blue
Transparency: opaque
Structure: microcrystalline, distinctly flow-banded
Lustre: vitreous to dull
Fracture: smooth conchoidal
Salient features: alternating colours (flow-banding) small indistinct dark brown spots on light brown bands

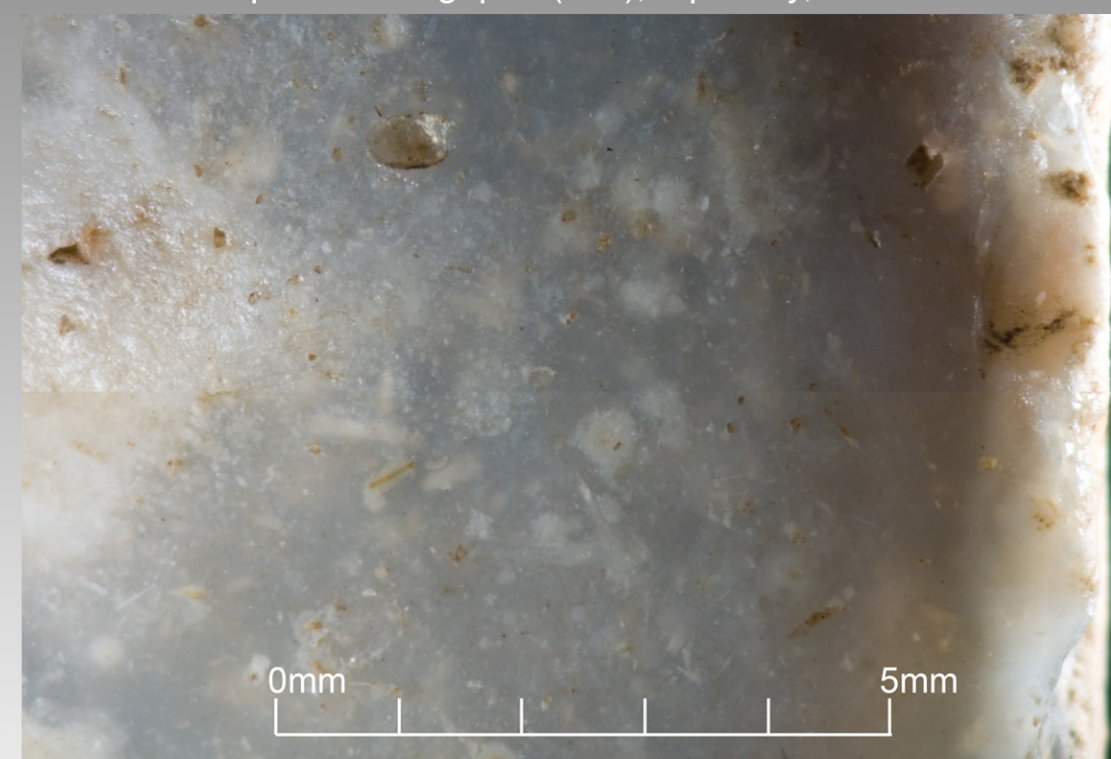
Based on the presence of cobble cortex on some specimens, these toolstones probably occur as cobbles in secondary geological deposits around Passamaquoddy Bay.

Black, D.W. 2000. Rum Beach and the Susquehanna Tradition in the Quoddy Region, Charlotte County, New Brunswick. Canadian Journal of Archaeology 24(1&2):89–106.

White-spotted Translucent Chert



Top: unifacial scraper
Bottom: photomicrographs (10x), top = dry, bottom = wet



Colour: light grey to white (occasional pink areas)
Transparency: translucent
Structure: microcrystalline
Variegation: vague and indistinct
Lustre: waxy
Fracture: smooth conchoidal
Salient features: translucency, chalky cortical surfaces

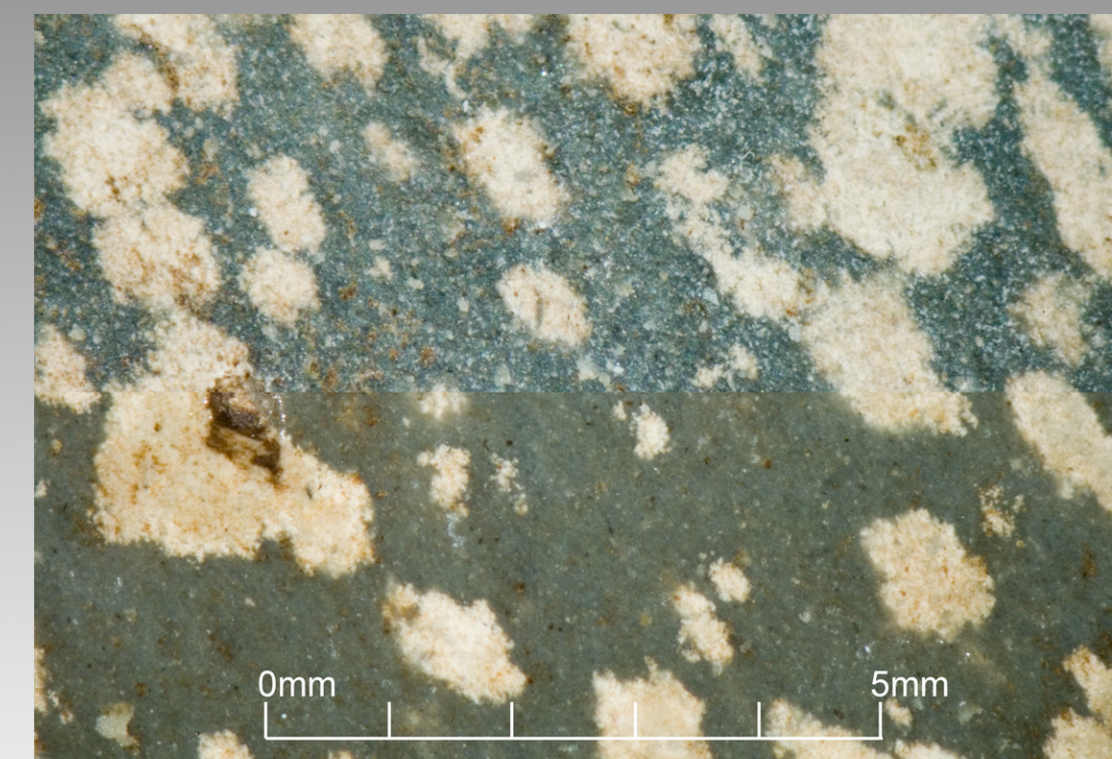
The geological source of this material is unknown. Its characteristics and archaeological distribution suggest it may come from a Carboniferous-associated source in southern New Brunswick.

MacDonald, S.L. 1994. Exploring Patterns of Prehistoric Lithic Material Use in the Insular Quoddy Region, Charlotte County, New Brunswick. Unpublished MA thesis, Department of Anthropology, UNB, Fredericton (pages 144–145).

Hinkley Point Metasediment



Top: bifaces and biface fragments
Bottom: photomicrographs (10x), top = dry, bottom = wet



Colour: light grey/green
Transparency: semi-translucent
Structure: microcrystalline
Lustre: vitreous to dull (green areas), dull (white areas)
Fracture: smooth conchoidal
Salient features: relatively large irregular white patches

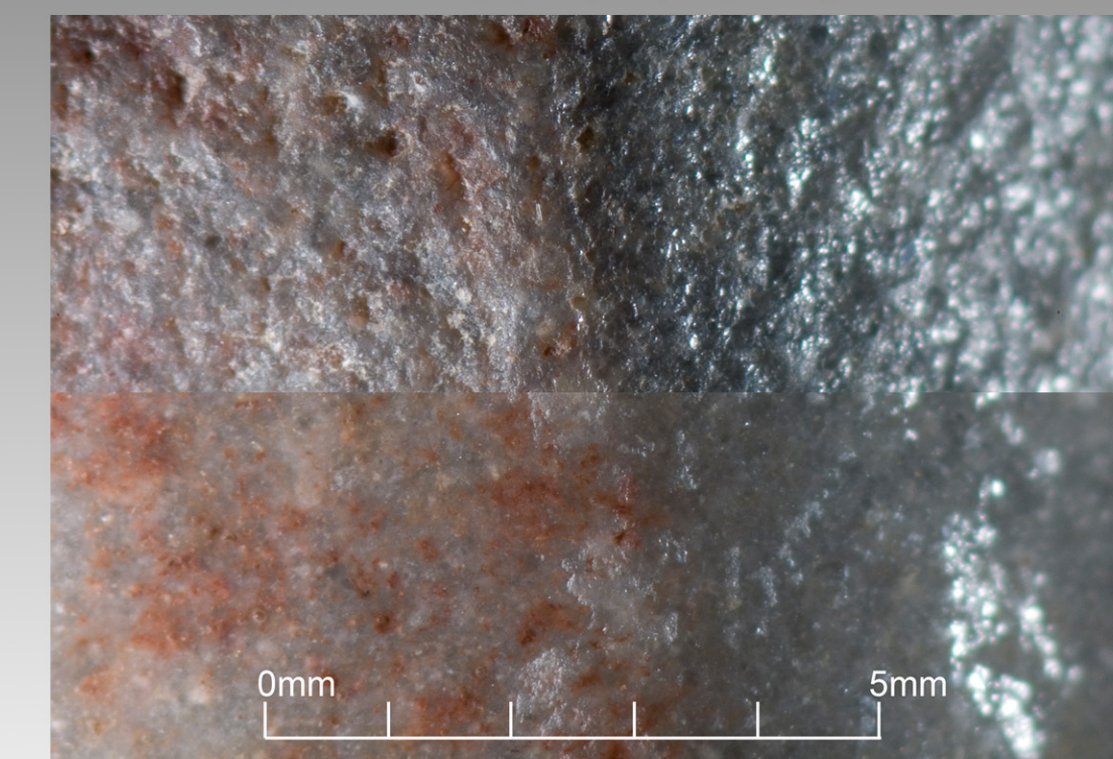
These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials associated with Silurian bedrock outcrops on the west side of Hinkley Point, near Dennysville, Maine, USA.

Crotts, A. 1984. Pattern and Variation in Lithic Resource Exploitation in Passamaquoddy Bay, Charlotte County, New Brunswick. Unpublished MS thesis, Institute for Quaternary Studies, University of Maine at Orono (pages 57–58).

Perry Formation Grey Quartzite



Top: pointed biface fragments
Bottom: photomicrographs (10x), top = dry, bottom = wet

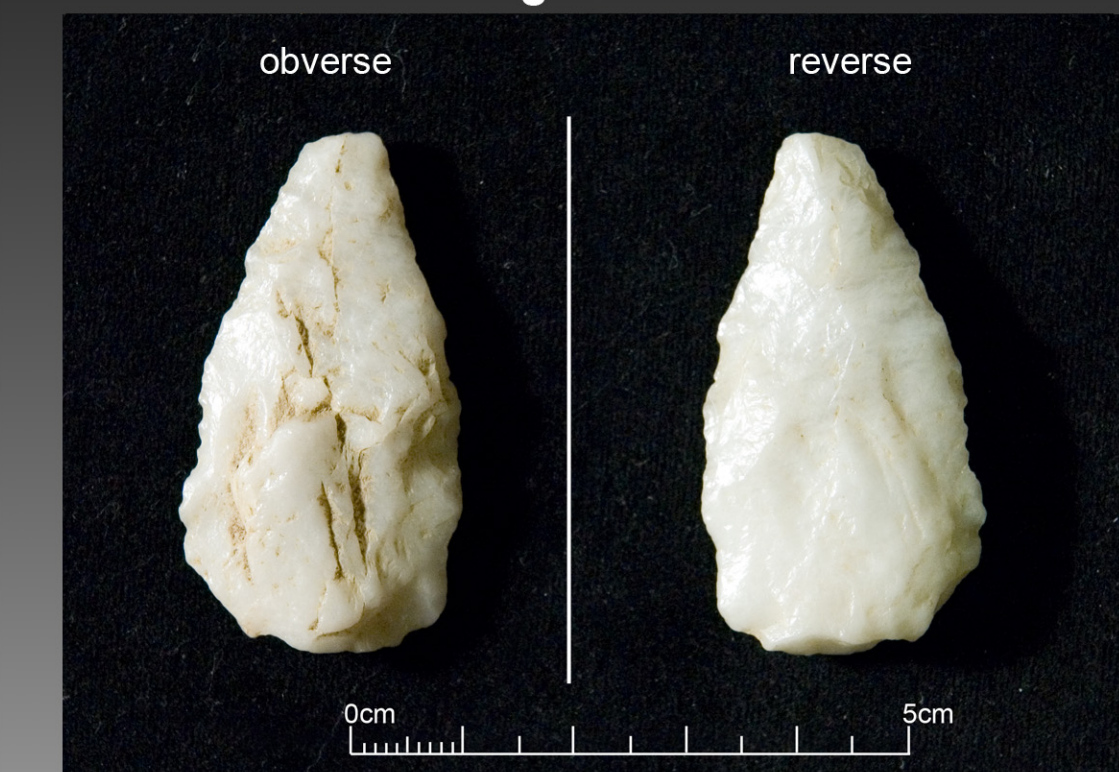


Colour: medium grey with reddish cortex
Transparency: semi-translucent
Structure: microcrystalline
Lustre: vitreous
Fracture: smooth conchoidal
Salient features: uniform grey colour, reddish cortex

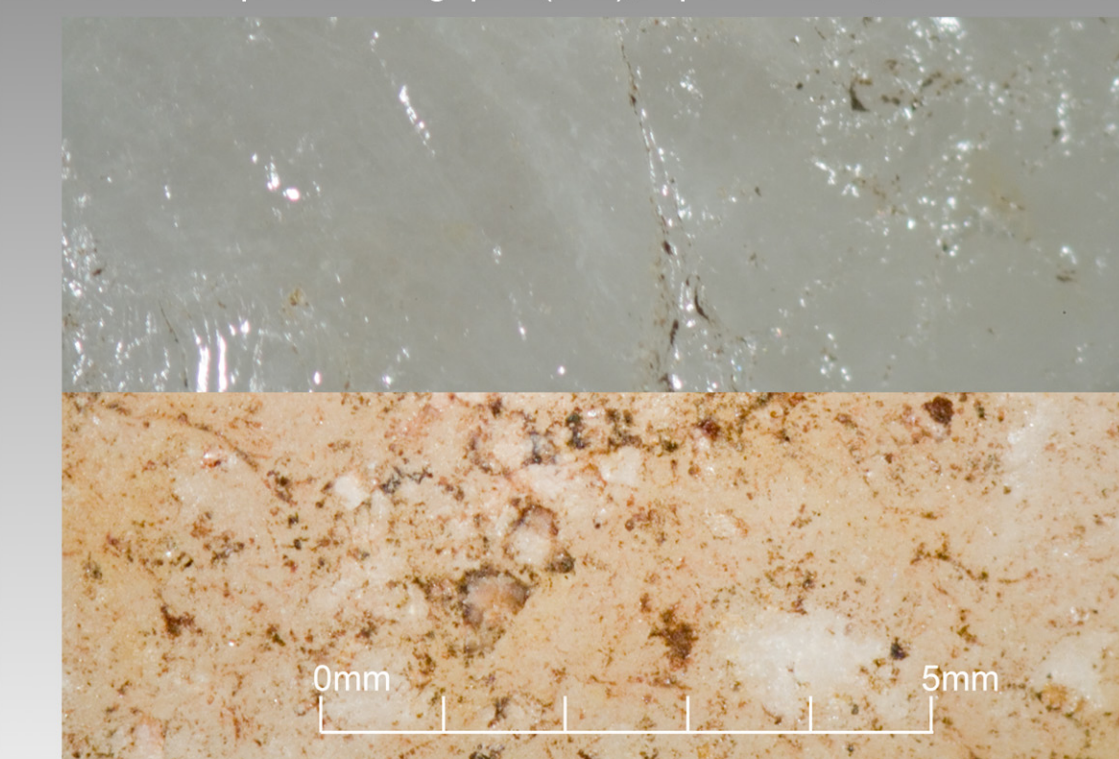
These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials occurring as clasts in the Devonian-aged Perry Formation conglomerate and as cobbles in secondary geological deposits around Passamaquoddy Bay.

MacDonald, S.L. 1994. Exploring Patterns of Prehistoric Lithic Material Use in the Insular Quoddy Region, Charlotte County, New Brunswick. Unpublished MA thesis, Department of Anthropology, UNB, Fredericton (page 146).

Bull Quartz



Top: broken projectile point
Bottom: photomicrographs (10x), top = fracture, bottom = cortex



Colour: white to light grey with reddish cortex
Transparency: translucent to opaque
Structure: massive, sutured quartz crystals
Lustre: vitreous to greasy
Fracture: conchoidal to sub-conchoidal to blocky
Salient features: white colour and massive structure

These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials occurring as veins in the Silurian-aged Mascarene Formation volcanics, as clasts in the Perry Formation conglomerate, and as cobbles in secondary geological deposits around Passamaquoddy Bay.

MacDonald, S.L. 1994. Exploring Patterns of Prehistoric Lithic Material Use in the Insular Quoddy Region, Charlotte County, New Brunswick. Unpublished MA thesis, Department of Anthropology, UNB, Fredericton (page 141).