Deer Hill Mineral Collecting Site

Geology:

The Deer Hill amethyst locality is a pegmatite of granitic composition. The term pegmatite simply means the individual mineral grains are relatively large; upwards of 3-5 cm., whereas in granite the average individual grain size is much smaller. The Deer Hill location has produced a large amount of amethyst (purple quartz) as well as many other minerals, including feldspars of many varieties, beryl, garnet, columbite, pyrite, and muscovite. The collection area on Deer Hill is located on the southeast side of the hill where you can dig through glacial sediments under the surficial deposits.

Location:

From Route 113 in Stow, Maine, turn onto Deer Hill Rd. (FR9; closed seasonally). Follow Deer Hill Rd. 2.2 miles to the Deer Hill Mineral Site Trailhead. From the trailhead, follow the yellow blazed hiking trail 0.1 miles to a fork in the trail. Bear right for 0.4 miles to Permit Area 1, bear left for 0.4 miles to Permit Area 2.

GPS Coordinates:

- Deer Hill Mineral Site Trailhead: 44.231500, -70.979900

Collecting Tips:

For best results, use a shovel and a sifting screen to find amethyst crystals located in the sandy soil. Bring newspaper or baggies for specimens collected and a field guide for rocks and minerals.