



Moat Mountain Mineral Collecting Site

Geology:

The Moat Mountain Mineral Collecting Site is located on the contact zone of two rock units: the Conway granite and Moat volcanics. The Moat volcanics are large deposits of volcanic debris that were ejected from the Earth by ancient volcanoes nearly 200 million years ago. Conway granite crystallized from a magma beneath the Earth's surface after the eruptions that formed the Moat volcanics. As the magma of the Conway granite rose against the overlying Moat volcanics, fluids were trapped as bubbles within the magma. The magma solidified and crystals had the space to grow within the fluid bubbles frozen in the rock. Today, crystal-bearing bubbles in granite (known as miarolitic cavities or pockets) are common in the Conway granite at its contacts with the Moat volcanics.

Location:

From West Side Road in Conway turn onto Passaconaway Road. Travel 1.2 miles and turn right onto High Street (dirt road). This road leads into the White Mountain National Forest, passing a gate at 1.4 miles. At 1.7 miles, bear left and continue 0.7 miles to the parking area at the end of the road. The Moat Mountain Mineral Collecting Site is a 0.9 mile hike from the parking area. On the Mineral Site Trail, keep right at both branches.

GPS Coordinates:

- Moat Mineral Collecting Site Trailhead: 44.021700, -71.169500

Collecting Tips:

The most common finds in this area are small smoky quartz crystals embedded in the Conway granite. Collectors look for minerals in rock fragments and dig and sift loose material searching for crystals. Others dig around ledges hoping to find a crystal pocket in the bedrock.