Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
Geoscience and Mines Branch

Open File Map ME 2017-032

Geoheritage Sites of Nova Scotia

Compiled by J. H. Calder and J. C. Poole

Scale 1:500 000

20 0 20 40 60 km

Halifax, Nova Scotia
2017

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Descriptive Text

The Geoheritage Sites on this map are derived from the Nova Scotia Geoheritage List and represent sites that tell the story of the geological and cultural evolution of Nova Scotia, and in some cases of Earth itself. The list comprises both natural geological sites and cultural sites that commemorate or explore the ties that the people of Nova Scotia have with the Earth and with geological resources that have shaped our history.

Natural sites are categorized by three levels of significance: (1) globally unique; (2) globally or internationally significant; and (3) exceptional examples of geological phenomena.

The list draws upon the collective wisdom of many geoscientists and interested members of the public, over many years of exploration of Nova Scotia's geology. Many of the sites were recorded on the Geological Highway Map of Nova Scotia published by the Atlantic Geoscience Society.

More detailed information about these Geoheritage Sites and other Geoheritage Resources for the Province of Nova Scotia is available at http://novascotia.ca/natr/meb/geoheritage-resources/.

Fossils in Nova Scotia are protected under the Special Places Protection Act (https://cch.novascotia.ca/exploring-our-past/special-places); collecting requires a heritage research permit from the Nova Scotia Museum (https://cch.novascotia.ca/exploring-our-past/special-places/palaeontology-permits-and-guidelines).

When visiting a Geoheritage Site, please obtain the permission of the landowner. Please follow the outdoors ethics principles of Leave No Trace Canada (http://www.leavenotrace.ca).

NOVA SCOTIA

Geoscience and Mines Branch

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March 7, 2017

Map Notes

GIS databases, cartography and reproduction by Jeff Poole and Angie Barras of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Geoscience Information Services Section, 2017. The GIS databases and map were developed using ArcGIS® 10.2.

Universal Transverse Mercator Projection (UTM), Zone 20, Central Meridian 63°00' West. North American Datum (NAD) 1983, Canadian Spatial Reference System (CSRS) 98.

Base and digital data derived from the Nova Scotia Topographic Database (NSTDB). Copyright Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of Nova Scotia. The NSTDB is available from the Department of Internal Services, Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre (NSGC), Armherst, Nova Scotia.

Shaded relief image derived from a 25 m Digital Elevation Model of the Province of Nova Scotia, DP ME 56, version 2, 2006. Azimuth of 315°, sun angle of 45° and a vertical exaggeration of 10.

Recommended Citation

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Natural Site 1144:

(Map_ID 87)

Old Wife, Five Islands Provincial Park

Geological Period: Triassic-Jurassic

Approximate age: 200 million years

Significance: One of the world's best exposures of rocks that record the geological events that heralded one of Earth history's five mass extinction events, this one at the close of the Triassic Period. Recorded in the dramatic sea cliffs are orangey-red rocks of the Blomidon Formation, topped by dark basalts of the North Mountain Formation that cooled from vast outpourings of lava as the giant continent Pangea began to rip apart. The global environmental change that resulted eliminated the competitors of early dinosaurs and led to the dinosaurs' reign until their extinction, some 135 million years later.

Note for visitors: Mind the rapidly rising tides of the Bay of Fundy, which are the highest in the world. Check with the park office at the entrance to Five Islands Provincial Park to find out when it is safe to round the Old Wife.

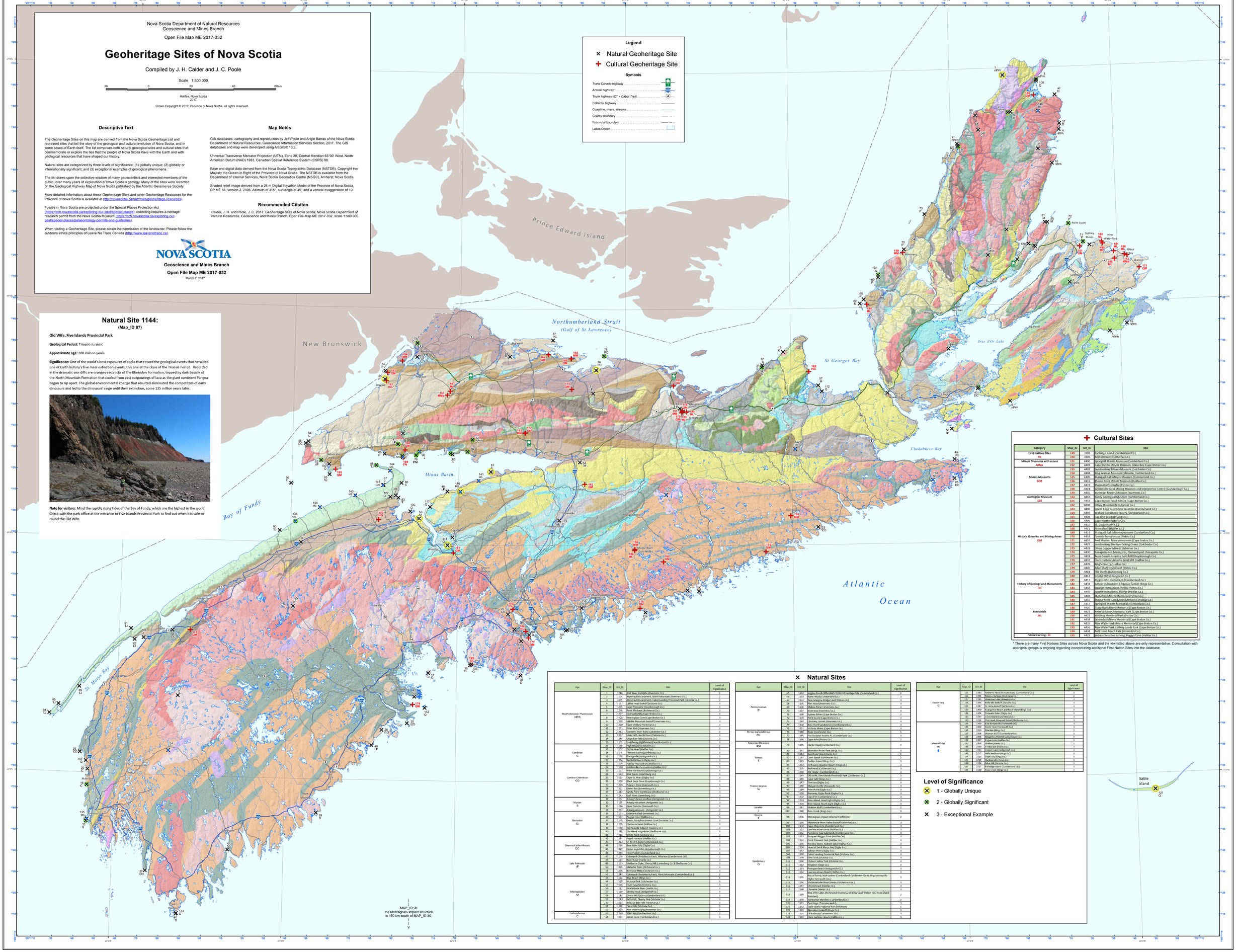
Legend

✕ Natural Geoheritage Site

✚ Cultural Geoheritage Site

Symbols

Trans Canada highway
Arterial highway
Trunk highway (CT = Cabot Trail)
Collector highway
Coastline, rivers, streams
County boundary
Provincial boundary
Lakes/Ocean


Prince Edward Island
New Brunswick
Northumberland Strait
(Gulf of St Lawrence)
St Georges Bay
Bras d'Or Lake
Chedabucto Bay
Minas Basin
Bay of Fundy
St. Marys Bay
Atlantic
Ocean
Sable Island
Point Aconi
Sydney Mines
New Waterford
Glace Bay
Dominion
Louisbourg
Inverness
Port Hood
Mabou
Cheticamp
Port Hastings
Port Hawkesbury
Canso
Antigonish
Pictou
Tatamagouche
Wolfville
Kentville
Annapolis Royal
Digby
Yarmouth
Shelburne
Liverpool
Lunenburg
Chester
Mahone Bay
Bridgewater
Shubenacadie
Truro
Amherst
Springhill
Parrsboro
Windsor
Hantsport
Kingsport
Wolfville
Middleton
Bridgetown