

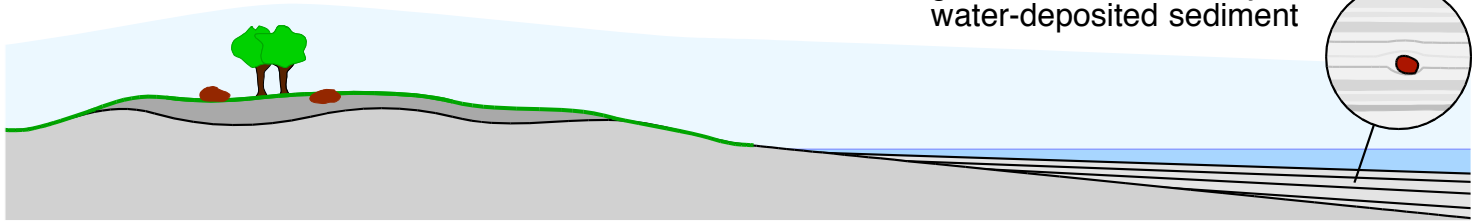
Erratics and dropstones

Erratic

A boulder that is found on or in till, and is unlike the underlying bedrock (hence the name)

Dropstone

A single sedimentary particle much larger than the multitude of grains around it in a layered water-deposited sediment



SIMILARITIES

A larger particle than the multitude of particles among which it is found, and thus a sedimentological anomaly

Deposited by moving but melting ice, and thus evidence of glaciation

DIFFERENCES

Found on or in glacial till on land

Deposited by a glacier on land

Large (several centimeters to a few meters in diameter)

Sufficiently large to have enough internal variability to be linked to a source rock from which it was eroded

Found in sediments that were deposited in the ocean (or in a lake).

Deposited from an iceberg at sea (or in a lake) that had broken off from a glacier

Typically small (millimeters to a few centimeters in diameter)

Typically so small as to be mono-mineralic and therefore commonly not linkable to a specific source, unless as a group from which an average composition can be estimated