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We acknowledge that UNB is located on surrendered and unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet people).

Evidence for Late Maritime Archaic period occupations in interior riverine New Brunswick

Middle Wolastoq

Phillips flat is a multi-component site on a series of terraces opposite the mouth of Eel River. GFC and Noel Moulton dug an eight-foot-long exploratory trench and recovered an adze, gouge, and slate bayonet tip. GFC later surface collected a plummet after the flat had been plowed.



Artifacts from Phillips Flat. Left: obverse and reverse faces of a large pecked, ground, and polished adze. Middle: obverse and reverse faces of a half-channelled gouge. Right: obverse and reverse faces of a knobbed plummet (upper); profile view and obverse face of slate bayonet tip (lower).



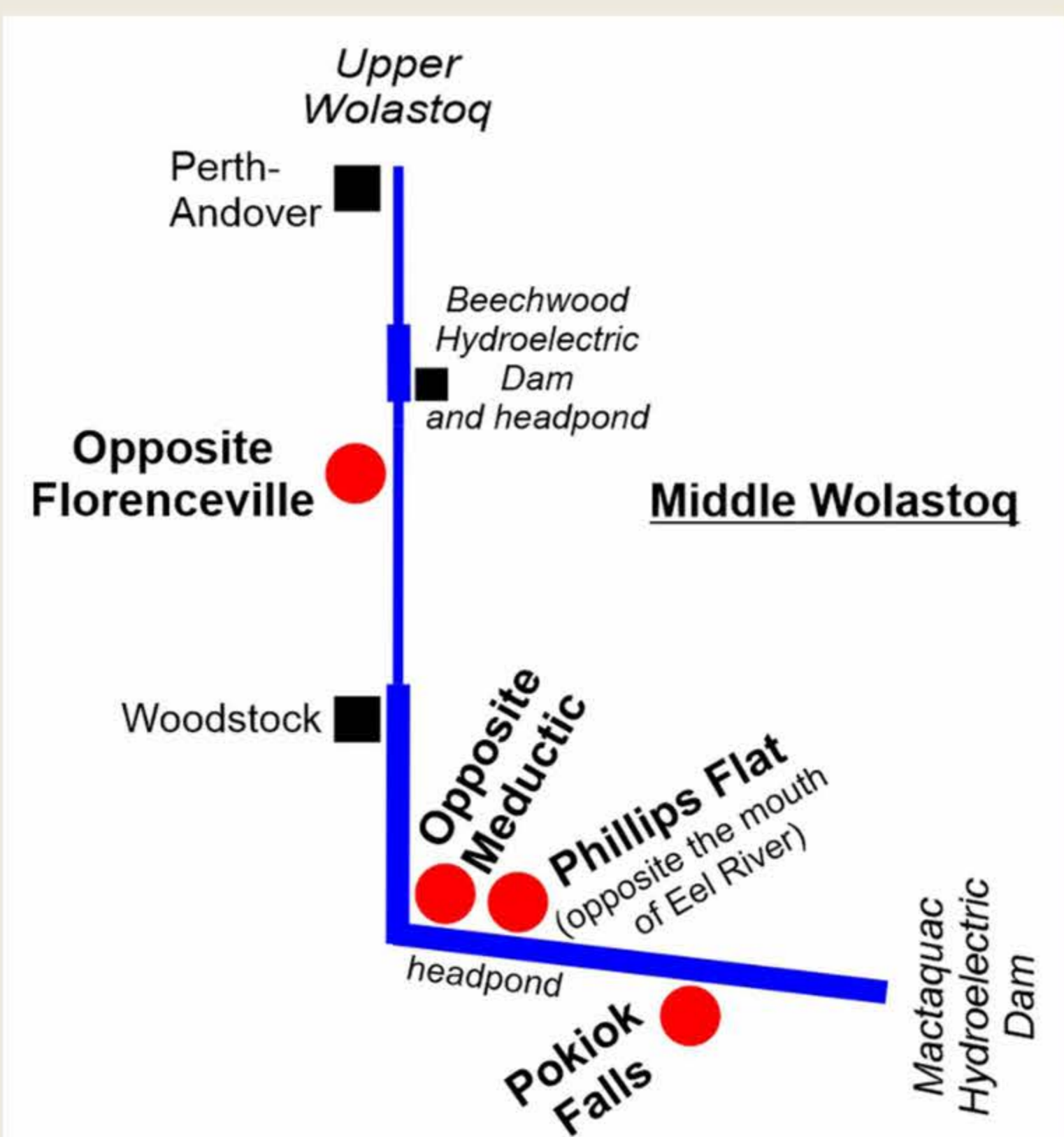
The mouth of the Pokiok Stream where this half-channelled gouge was found has been submerged by the headpond of the Mactaquac Dam.



A knobbed plummet recovered from opposite Meductic Flat (left) and a faceted plummet recovered from opposite Florenceville (right).



A pecked and ground adze, contracting stemmed projectile point, and fishhook shaped plummet recovered from the margins of the Middle Wolastoq.



For more than a century, Late Maritime Archaic occupations have been documented in riverine and coastal Maine. Contemporary and comparable occupations also have also been revealed in Newfoundland, Labrador and on the Quebec North Shore. In contrast, the Canadian Maritimes in general, and interior and northern New Brunswick in particular, have often been viewed as an area of sparse Late Maritime Archaic occupation — in effect, a hinterland between two Archaic culture areas. We believe this is a misconception resulting from the effects of sea-level rise, dam construction, and under-reporting of archaeological finds from some parts of the region.

Sea-level rise and coastal inundation have been much greater in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of St. Lawrence than in coastal Maine and most of Newfoundland and Labrador. Diagnostic artifacts recovered from intertidal zones on the Bay of Fundy attest to the Late Archaic sites that once existed there. The two Late Archaic mortuary/ceremonial sites excavated in southern New Brunswick — at Cow Point and Portland Point — both arguably are estuarine sites preserved only because of the unusual geomorphology of the Lower Wolastoq (Saint John River).

Here we present evidence indicating that Late Maritime Archaic occupations were as broadly distributed along the Middle Wolastoq, Tobique and Miramichi valleys as they were in interior riverine Maine. Many of the artifacts we illustrate here are from the George Frederick Clarke Artifact Collection, curated by the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Brunswick. Dr. G.F. Clarke (GFC), a dentist, writer and avocational archaeologist, excavated and collected in central New Brunswick from the 1920s to the 1960s, before and during the period of hydroelectric dam construction on the Wolastoq and the Tobique. Some artifacts from GFC's collection bear ochre-coloured stains, suggesting they were recovered from Late Archaic mortuary/ceremonial features comparable to those found on the Maine rivers. Several of the sites where these artifacts were recovered are now beneath the waters of anthropogenic headponds.

One irony of this presentation is that GFC did not accept any evidence for human occupations in central New Brunswick earlier than about 2000 years before European Contact. He recognised that some artifacts he found would have been assigned by professional archaeologists to what was then called "The Red Paint Culture." However, he devoted an entire chapter of his archaeology book, *Someone Before Us*, to refuting the concept of a culture predating the immediate ancestors of the Wolastoqiyik, Peskotomuhkatyik and Mi'kmaq (Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and Micmac peoples).

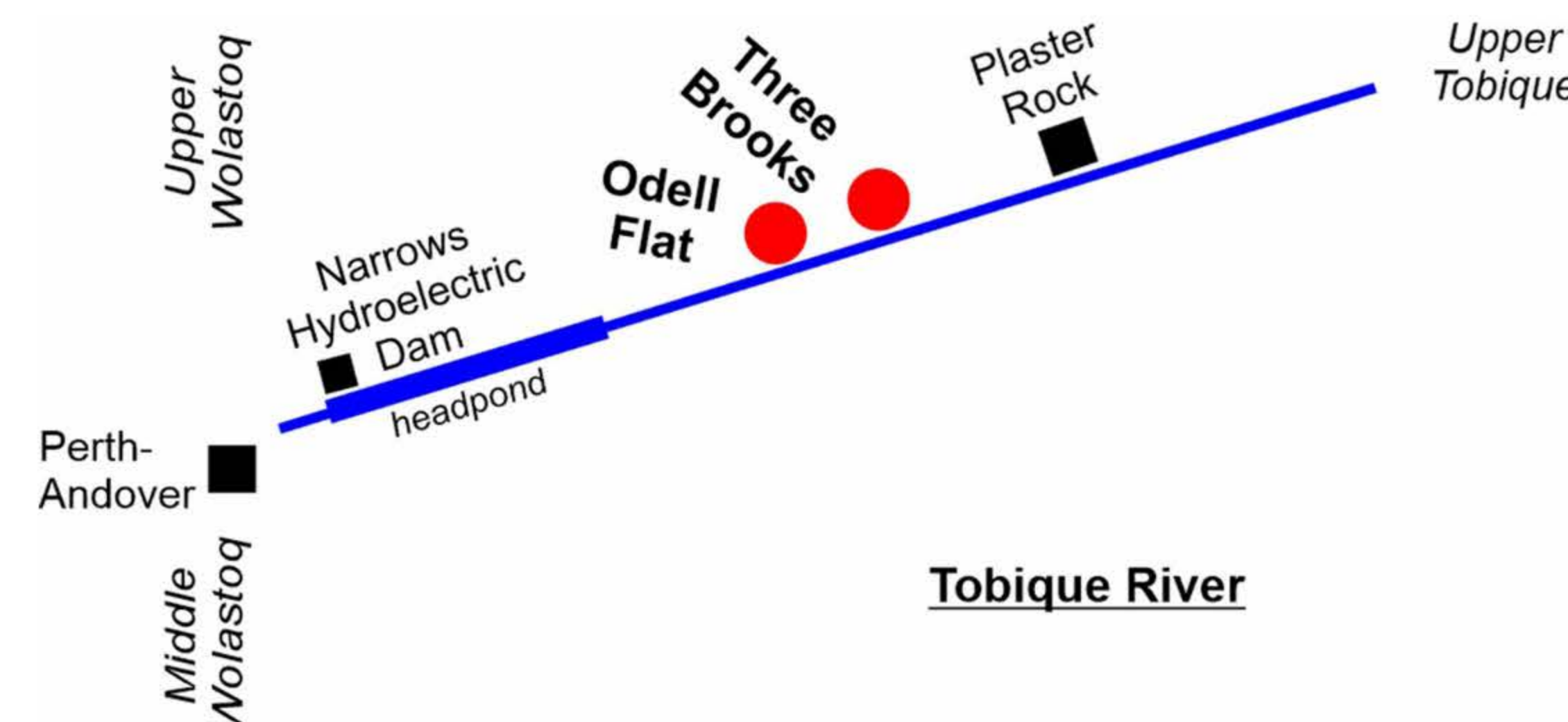
Tobique River



Tobique artifacts. Left: four gouges recovered from the Three Brooks site. These gouges are made from green laminated metamorphics that appear similar to materials used for ground stone tools found at Cow Point. Middle: knobbed ground stone tool recovered from the terrace opposite Odell stream. Right: stemmed projectile points; the top right and bottom left points were recovered from the Three Brooks site.

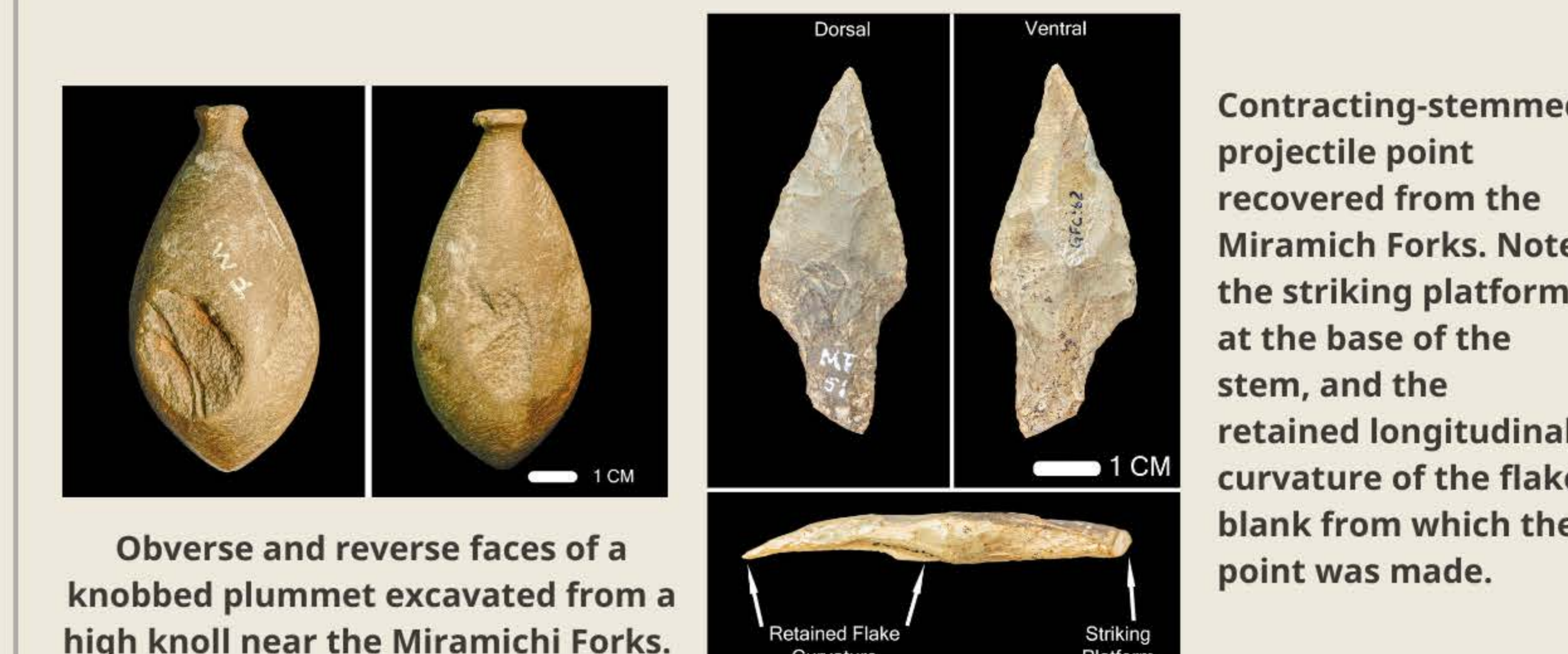
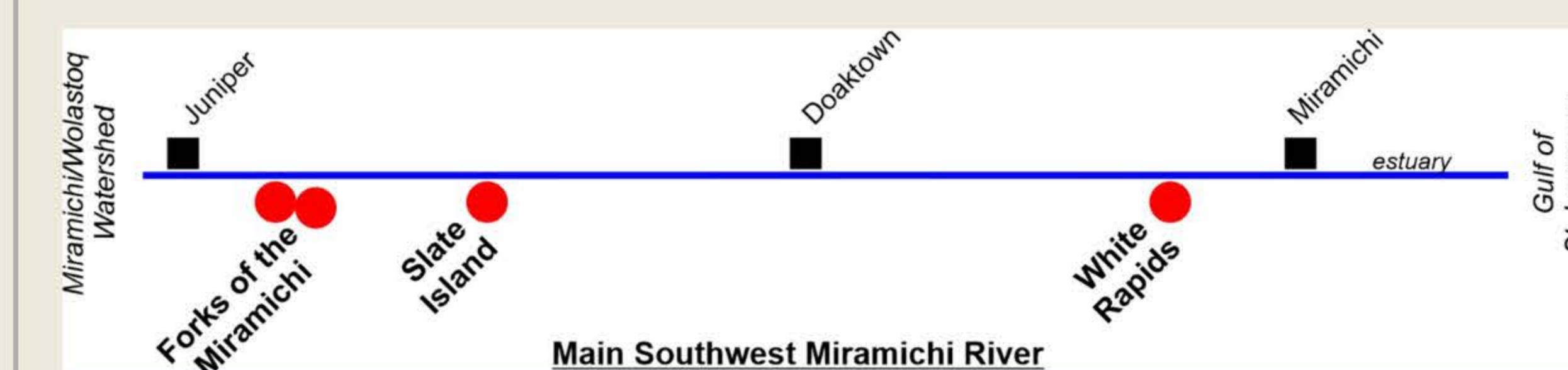
The Three Brooks site is located below the confluence of Three Brooks and the Tobique River. It is a large multi-component site on a series of terraces that form part of a farm. GFC noted that the site produced more gouges than any other site he investigated.

Odell Flat is located a short distance downstream from the Three Brooks site on a flat opposite the mouth of the Odell Stream.



Main Southwest Miramichi River

GFC owned a fishing camp, near Juniper, where the headwaters of the Main Southwest Miramichi River (MSMR) come together. He investigated a large site that was located just downstream from his property on the south bank of the river. The plummet was an isolated find excavated from the top of a high knoll near the Miramichi Forks.



Obverse and reverse faces of a knobbed plummet excavated from a high knoll near the Miramichi Forks.

Contracting-stemmed projectile point recovered from the Miramichi Forks. Note the striking platform at the base of the stem, and the retained longitudinal curvature of the flake blank from which the point was made.



Obverse and reverse faces of a slate bayonet fragment. Note the contracting stem.



Large pecked, ground, and polished slate gouge from White Rapids, MSMR.



There is evidence of Late Maritime Archaic occupation on islands in the MSMR. For example, an avocational archaeologist recently recovered a large pecked and ground stone adze/gouge from Slate Island.

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