

# **Boulder Lithogeochemistry Study**

## **Deer Lake area (NTS 92P/9)**

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## **Introduction**

This report describes the results of a surface boulder lithogeochemical study carried out in September 1998 over a 10 km<sup>2</sup> area south of Deer Lake, B.C. The study compares surface boulder geochemistry and lodgement till geochemistry down-ice from an area containing sulphide mineralization. Several other boulder geochemical studies have demonstrated the application of this technique for mineral exploration in Canada (Earle *et al.*, 1998; Earle *et al.*, 1990). The location of the Deer Lake area is shown in Figure 1. The locations of the 23 boulder sample sites, known mineral occurrences and lodgement till samples collected in the area as part of a regional till geochemical survey (Paulen *et al.*, 2000) are shown in Figure 2. Bedrock geology, mineral occurrences and the distribution of gold, arsenic and copper are briefly described in this Geofile Report. All of the geochemical data are included, along with a preliminary interpretation of the results.

## **Geology**

The area at the south end of Deer Lake is underlain by a northwest trending belt of Late Triassic to Jurassic Nicola Group volcanic, sedimentary and intrusive rocks (Campbell and Tipper, 1971). From north to south, beginning at the north end of Deer lake, the sequence of east-west striking Nicola Group rocks comprises andesite, siltstone, limestone and andesite. A small hornblende diorite body 200-300 metres south of the lake intrudes the limestone and andesite. There are two mineral occurrences in the area where boulder samples were taken (Figure 2). The PYCU occurrence (MINFILE 092P 136), west of Deer lake, is reported to contain up to 10 percent pyrite and pyrrhotite disseminated in volcanic rocks that have been intruded by pyroxenite, gabbro and granite. The Lakeview occurrence (MINFILE 092P 010) southwest of Deer lake is a small skarn with lenses of chalcopyrite, magnetite, pyrite and pyrrhotite close to the limestone-diorite. Bedrock in the Deer lake area is partly covered by 1-2 m of lodgement till deposited by a northwest to southeast ice advance.

## **Sample collection**

Composite boulder samples were collected using procedures described by Earle *et al.*, (1990). Thirteen samples were collected at 50 m intervals along an east-west line and eleven samples were collect at 100 to 150 m intervals along a road running northwest (Figure 2). At each site a composite boulder sample was collected by taking chips from ten or more boulders found within approximately 20 metres of the sample site. Samples were taken from the largest and most angular boulders observed, without bias toward material of a specific lithology or apparent alteration. At each site the numbers of boulders of different lithologies, the average size, the average angularity, the relative density and any other relevant information regarding boulders

(e.g. presence of sulphides) was recorded. This information together with sample location coordinates (UTM NAD 27) is listed in Table 1. A duplicate boulder sample (DL8B111) was taken at site DL8B110. These two samples were taken from separate sets of boulders.

### ***Sample Analysis***

Composite boulder samples were jaw crushed to - 4 mm size at the British Columbia Geological Survey laboratory. The - 4 mm size of the samples and a blind duplicate sample (DL8B110) were steel milled to < 0.150 mm (-100 mesh) by ACME Analytical Ltd., Vancouver, B.C . The milled samples and a reference standard were analysed for minor and trace elements by neutron activation analysis (INA) at Activation laboratories Ltd., Ancaster, Ontario and by aqua regia digestion-inductively coupled plasma emission/mass spectroscopy (ICP-ES/MS) by ACME Analytical Ltd.

### ***Results***

The INA and ICP-ES/MS analytical results for the boulder samples are listed in Table 1. Data for selected trace elements in the duplicate boulder samples (DL8B110 and DL8B111) and in the blind duplicate crushed rock samples (DL8B110 and DL8B110REP) are shown in Table 2. The results indicate that for most trace elements (e.g. Au, Cu, Pb, Zn, Mo) the percentage mean difference (%DIFF) for the duplicate crushed rock samples is less than 20 percent, but for the duplicate boulder samples the percentage mean difference can range from 1 percent (e.g. Ag) to more than 200 percent (e.g. Au). The median and third quartile values for all elements are also listed in Table 1 and values at or above the third quartile are identified in bold type. The distributions of gold, arsenic and copper in the boulder and till samples are shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5. Till geochemistry is distinguished from boulder geochemistry by open symbols.

Table 2. Results of duplicate boulder and duplicate crushed rock sample analyses. The % DIFF = (ABS(X1-X2)/(X1+X2)/2)) x 100 where X1 and X2 are the first and second duplicate analyses.

Element	Units	Field Duplicates			Laboratory Duplicates		
		DLB8B110	DLB8B111	% DIFF	DLB8B110	DLB8B110R	% DIFF
Au	ppb	<2	13	273	<2	<2	0
Ag (ICP)	ppb	60.5	60.1	1	60.5	63.2	4
As (INA)	ppm	25.4	35.1	32	25.4	23.4	8
As (ICP)	ppm	21.8	32.2	39	21.8	23.1	6
Ba	ppm	990	890	11	990	890	11
Cd	ppm	0.28	0.60	73	0.28	0.34	19
Co (INA)	ppm	33	26	24	33	32	3
Co (ICP)	ppm	22	20	10	22	22	0
Cr	ppm	167	116	36	167	161	4
Cu	ppm	49.8	92.6	60	49.8	48.6	2
Fe (INA)	%	6.90	5.96	15	6.90	6.72	3
Fe (ICP)	%	3.71	3.54	5	3.71	3.68	1
Mo (ICP)	ppm	1.2	9.2	154	1.2	1.4	15
Mn (ICP)	ppm	592	528	11	592	601	2
Ni (ICP)	ppm	34	32	6	34	35	3
Pb (ICP)	ppm	4.3	5.1	17	4.3	3.6	12
Sb (INA)	ppm	4.7	5.1	8	4.7	4.6	2
Sb (ICP)	ppm	1.1	1.8	48	1.1	1.3	17
Sc (INA)	ppm	27.9	20	33	27.9	27.6	1
Se (ICP)	ppm	2	7.1	112	2	1.9	5
V (ppm)	ppm	87	116	29	87	86	1
Zn (ppm)	ppm	60.5	60.1	1	60.5	63.2	4

The highest gold (86 ppb) in boulders occurs at station DL8B119 whereas the highest copper (830 ppm), molybdenum (18.7 ppm), arsenic (72.2 ppm) and silver (1774 ppb) occurs at station DL8B120, 100 metres to the north-west of DL8B119. By comparison to the boulder sample geochemistry, a basal till sample (989195) approximately 150 metres north-east has 360 ppb gold, 52.2 ppm arsenic and 1067 ppm copper. Geochemical profiles for gold, arsenic, copper and silver in boulder samples from sites along the ice-flow direction from DL8B121 to DL8B116 are shown in Figure 6. The distribution of these elements is consistent with a bedrock source for the mineralized boulders in the area between the Lakeview occurrence and site for DL8B119. There is a smaller gold-copper-lead-silver boulder geochemical anomaly at the western end of the east-west line of samples (Stations DL8B101, DL8B103).

## **Conclusions**

A boulder geochemical survey near Deer Lake in south-central British Columbia has identified a significant gold-arsenic-copper-silver-molybdenum anomaly extending several hundred metres down ice from an area containing skarn-type sulphide mineralization. The head of the boulder geochemical anomaly is close to a strong gold- arsenic-copper geochemical anomaly in lodgement till.

## **References**

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- Paulen, R.C., Bobrowsky, P.T., Lett, R.E., Jackaman, W., Bichler, A.J. and Wingerter, C. (2000): Till geochemistry of the Chu Chua-Clearwater area B.C. (Parts of NTS 92P/8 and 92P/9); *B.C. Ministry of Energy and Mines Open File 2000-17*.

Table 1. Boulder sample field and analytical data

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ELEMENT	Au	Ag	As	Ba	Br	Ca	Co	Cr	Cs	Fe	Hf	Mo	Na	Ni	Rb	Sb	Sc	Se	Sr	Ta	Th	U	W	Zn	La	Ce	Nd	Sm	Eu	Tb	Yb	Lu
UNITS	ppb	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	%	ppm	ppm	ppm	%	ppm	ppm	%	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	
METHOD	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA
DETECTION	2	5	0.5	50	0.5	1	1	5	1	0.01	1	1	0.01	20	15	0.1	0.1	3	0.05	0.5	0.2	0.5	1	50	0.5	3	5	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.05
DLB8B101	<b>22</b>	-5	<b>23.8</b>	440	-0.5	<b>9</b>	28	121	-1	6.69	2	-1	2.05	<b>-33</b>	-15	<b>3.8</b>	24.4	-3	-0.05	-0.5	2.6	1.9	-1	<b>164</b>	<b>12.6</b>	26	<b>14</b>	3.7	<b>1.5</b>	-0.5	<b>2.3</b>	0.32
DLB8B102	-2	-5	18.8	<b>670</b>	-0.5	<b>11</b>	29	<b>189</b>	-1	7.9	2	-1	1.42	-31	40	3.2	22.8	-3	<b>0.07</b>	-0.5	2	-0.5	-1	99	10.2	24	<b>14</b>	3.5	1.3	-0.5	2	0.35
DLB8B103	<b>28</b>	-5	10.6	620	-0.5	6	29	111	-1	6.82	2	3	2.27	<b>-35</b>	-15	2.6	27	-3	-0.05	-0.5	2.6	1.4	-1	156	-0.5	<b>27</b>	12	3.5	<b>1.4</b>	-0.5	<b>2.6</b>	0.37
DLB8B104	8	-5	18.2	550	-0.5	<b>10</b>	28	64	-1	7.83	1	-1	1.55	-32	33	<b>3.8</b>	26	-3	<b>0.07</b>	-0.5	2.5	<b>2.3</b>	-1	140	16	34	<b>15</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	-0.5	<b>2.5</b>	0.35
DLB8B105	17	-5	<b>40.1</b>	<b>890</b>	-0.5	7	31	82	2	7.13	2	3	1.73	<b>-34</b>	<b>60</b>	3	25	-3	-0.05	-0.5	2.1	2.1	-1	87	12.2	26	12	<b>3.9</b>	1.3	<b>0.8</b>	2.1	0.33
DLB8B106	-2	-5	11.6	440	-0.5	<b>9</b>	29	25	-1	7.92	1	<b>10</b>	1.49	<b>-34</b>	25	2.8	<b>35.9</b>	-3	0.06	-0.5	1.8	-0.5	1	<b>166</b>	10.3	21	11	<b>4.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	-0.5	2.2	0.3
DLB8B107	10	-5	17.4	360	-0.5	8	<b>34</b>	57	-1	8.7	2	-1	1.26	<b>-34</b>	-15	<b>4.8</b>	<b>36</b>	-3	-0.05	-0.5	1.5	-0.5	1	146	10	24	<b>13</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>	-0.5	2.2	0.33
DLB8B108	10	-5	9.3	500	-0.5	<b>11</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>149</b>	-1	7.48	1	-1	1.65	<b>-35</b>	-15	2.5	<b>31.2</b>	-3	-0.05	-0.5	<b>3.1</b>	1	-1	<b>159</b>	11.6	24	10	3.1	1.2	-0.5	1.6	0.23
DLB8B109	3	-5	12.9	590	-0.5	7	<b>46</b>	<b>232</b>	-1	7.6	1	-1	1.55	<b>-34</b>	44	1.6	<b>33.5</b>	-3	<b>0.09</b>	0.7	1.1	1.3	-1	<b>186</b>	7.7	15	7	2.6	0.9	-0.5	1.7	0.25
DLB8B110	-2	-5	<b>25.4</b>	<b>990</b>	-0.5	8	<b>33</b>	<b>167</b>	-1	6.9	2	2	2.19	<b>212</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>27.9</b>	-3	<b>0.11</b>	-0.5	2.3	-0.5	-1	-50	10.1	23	11	3.1	1.2	-0.5	2.1	0.33
DLB8B111	13	-5	<b>35.1</b>	<b>1000</b>	-0.5	<b>9</b>	26	116	-1	5.96	2	<b>7</b>	<b>2.18</b>	-32	<b>55</b>	<b>5.1</b>	20	<b>8</b>	-0.05	-0.5	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>	-1	150	16	<b>27</b>	12	3.6	1.3	<b>0.6</b>	2.2	0.32
DLB8B112	8	-5	14.5	420	-0.5	<b>11</b>	28	54	-1	7.75	1	<b>7</b>	1.17	-29	-15	2.9	<b>27.9</b>	-3	<b>0.09</b>	-0.5	1.2	-0.5	<b>2</b>	130	8.9	19	<b>13</b>	3.4	1.3	-0.5	1.6	0.29
DLB8B113	<b>29</b>	-5	14	440	-0.5	7	<b>42</b>	<b>163</b>	-1	<b>9.28</b>	-1	-1	1.62	<b>-34</b>	32	2.9	<b>29.7</b>	-3	-0.05	-0.5	2.6	1.9	-1	143	11.4	25	11	3.5	<b>1.4</b>	-0.5	1.8	0.29
DLB8B114	4	-5	18.3	600	-0.5	8	<b>33</b>	<b>126</b>	-1	<b>8.92</b>	1	-1	1.46	<b>-35</b>	<b>59</b>	2.6	<b>36.3</b>	-3	-0.05	-0.5	1.1	-0.5	-1	<b>159</b>	8.5	21	12	4.2	<b>1.4</b>	-0.5	2.1	0.3
DLB8B115	<b>19</b>	-5	10.9	560	-0.5	7	31	71	-1	7.08	1	-1	1.87	-32	-15	2.1	<b>29.4</b>	-3	<b>0.08</b>	-0.5	2	2.4	-1	178	11.8	25	<b>15</b>	3.6	1.3	-0.5	2.2	0.29
DLB8B116	15	-5	10.7	630	-0.5	<b>10</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>170</b>	-1	8.46	2	-1	1.42	<b>-35</b>	43	2.6	<b>33.9</b>	-3	0.06	-0.5	1.4	-0.5	-1	147	8	18	9	3.2	1.3	-0.5	2.2	0.32
DLB8B117	-2	-5	11	520	-0.5	7	32	68	-1	<b>8.59</b>	-1	-1	2.01	<b>-34</b>	-15	2.3	<b>33.1</b>	-3	-0.05	-0.5	1.7	-0.5	-1	173	<b>14.2</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	0.36
DLB8B118	<b>75</b>	-5	12.3	590	-0.5	<b>9</b>	31	24	1	8.16	1	<b>4</b>	1.87	-32	-15	2.9	27.1	-3	-0.05	-0.5	<b>3.5</b>	1.6	<b>2</b>	140	11.2	24	11	3	1.1	<b>0.6</b>	1.9	0.31
DLB8B119	<b>86</b>	-5	20.8	290	-0.5	<b>15</b>	<b>34</b>	37	-1	10.7	1	<b>11</b>	0.86	-28	-15	3.5	18.2	-3	-0.05	-0.5	2.1	2.2	-1	153	10.6	24	10	3.3	1.3	-0.5	1.9	0.28
DLB8B120	<b>47</b>	-5	<b>72.2</b>	640	-0.5	<b>9</b>	28	36	-1	7.15	2	<b>21</b>	1.38	-32	-15	<b>9.4</b>	22.2	-3	-0.05	-0.5	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.5</b>	2	142	<b>16.5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>17</b>	3.5	1.1	-0.5	<b>2.3</b>	0.37
DLB8B121	7	-5	19.1	<b>990</b>	-0.5	6	31	124	3	7.02	2	2	2.1	<b>-34</b>	<b>45</b>	3	20.8	-3	<b>0.07</b>	-0.5	2.8	1.8	-1	130	11.8	23	11	3.2	1.2	-0.5	1.9	0.3
DLB8B122	4	-5	6.2	<b>690</b>	-0.5	6	<b>33</b>	67	2	8.45	2	-1	2.21	<b>-38</b>	-15	1.9	<b>32.7</b>	-3	-0.05	-0.5	<b>4.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	2	194	<b>14.8</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4.1</b>	1.2	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>	0.39
DLB8B123	4	-5	10.2	610	-0.5	8	<b>34</b>	103	-1	7.28	1	-1	1.98	<b>-37</b>	<b>52</b>	2.4	<b>33.8</b>	-3	-0.05	-0.5	2.7	1.6	-1	-50	12.3	<b>29</b>	<b>13</b>	3.7	<b>1.5</b>	-0.5	2	0.3
DLB8B124	7	-5	<b>25.9</b>	<b>690</b>	-0.5	<b>9</b>	25	116	4	<b>9.05</b>	2	6	1.91	<b>-33</b>	-15	4	18.5	-3	-0.05	-0.5	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>	-1	154	<b>13.9</b>	25	12	3.2	1.1	-0.5	<b>2.5</b>	0.37
DLB8B125	7	-5	7.8	420	-0.5	6	27	49	2	6.1	2	-1	2.43	<b>-37</b>	<b>82</b>	2.7	27.2	-3	-0.05	-0.5	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	1	153	12.4	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	3.6	<b>1.4</b>	-0.5	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.42</b>
Median	8	-5	14.5	590	-0.5	8	31	103	-1	7.75	2	-1	1.73	-34	25	2.9	27.9	-3	-0.05	-0.5	2.5	1.6	-1	150	11.6	25	12	3.5	1.3	-0.5	2.2	0.32
3 Quantile	19	-5	20.8	670	-0.5	9	33	126	-1	8.46	2	4	2.05	-32	45	3.8	33.1	-3	0.07	-0.5	3.1	2.3	1	159	12.6	27	13	3.9	1.4	-0.5	2.3	0.35

Table 1. Boulder sample field and analytical data

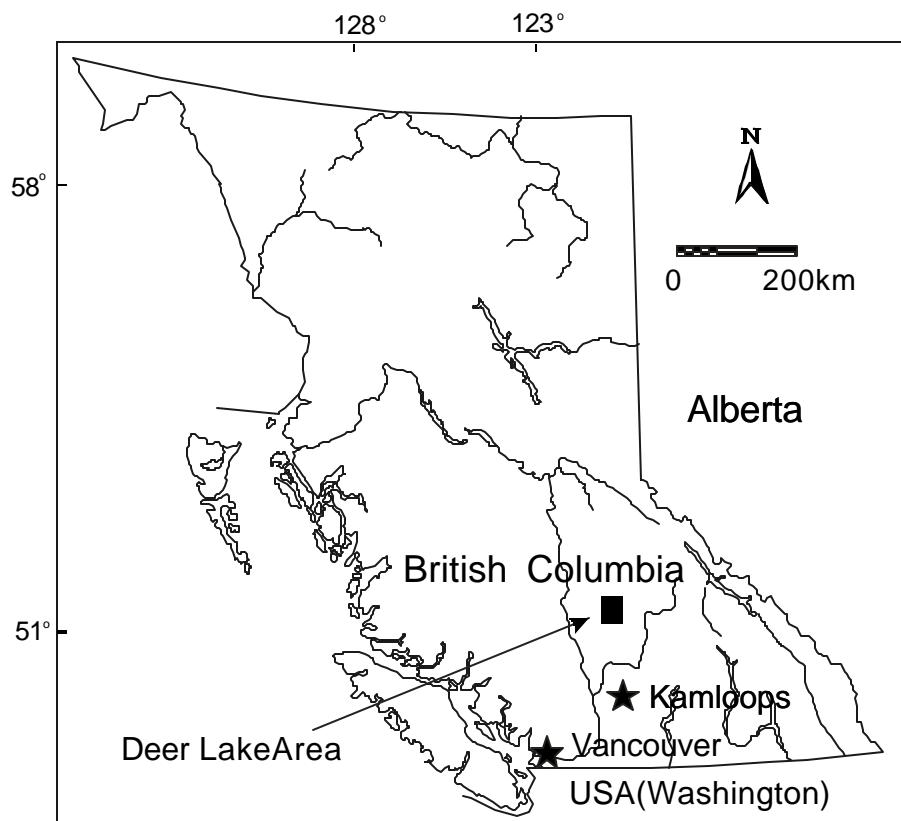
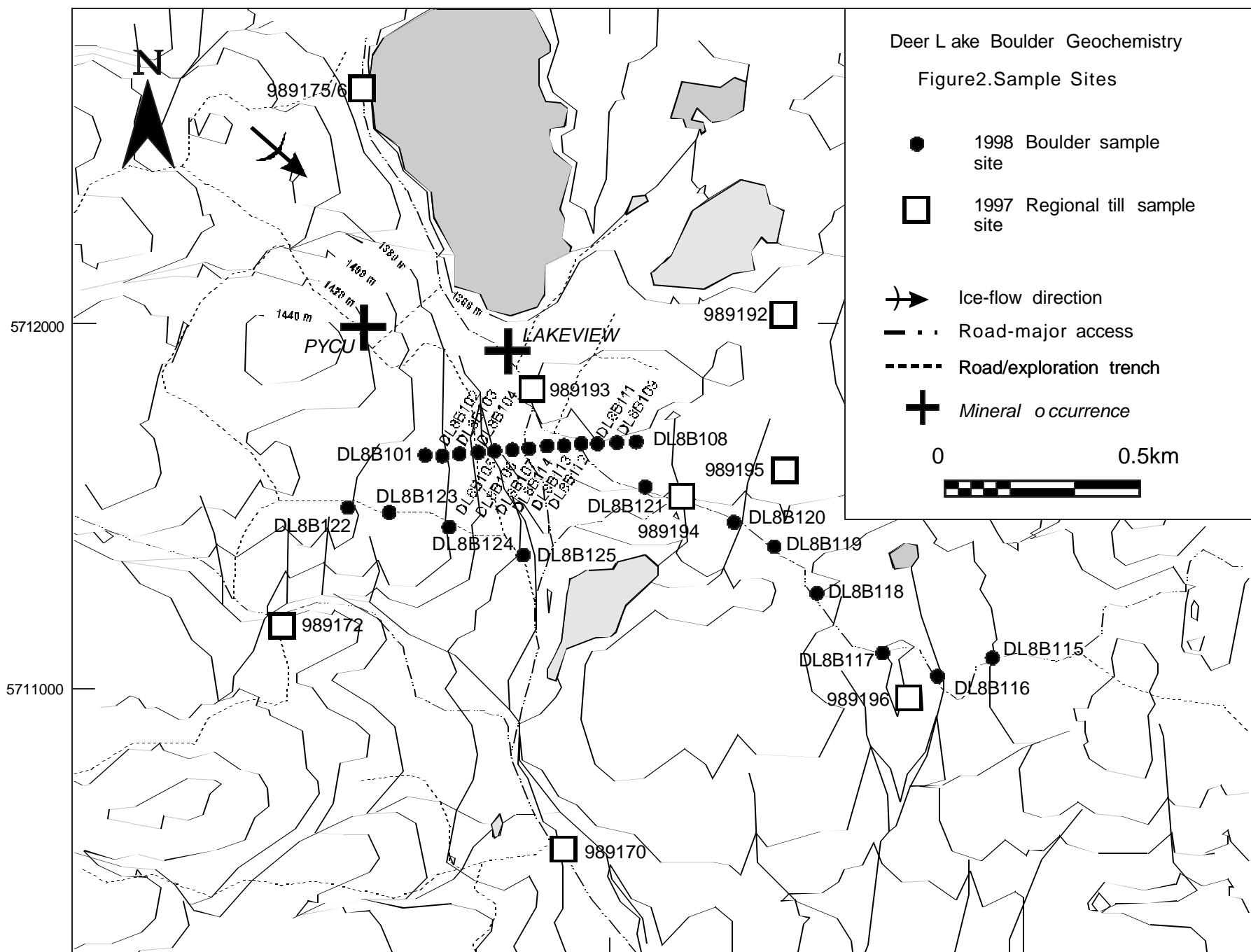
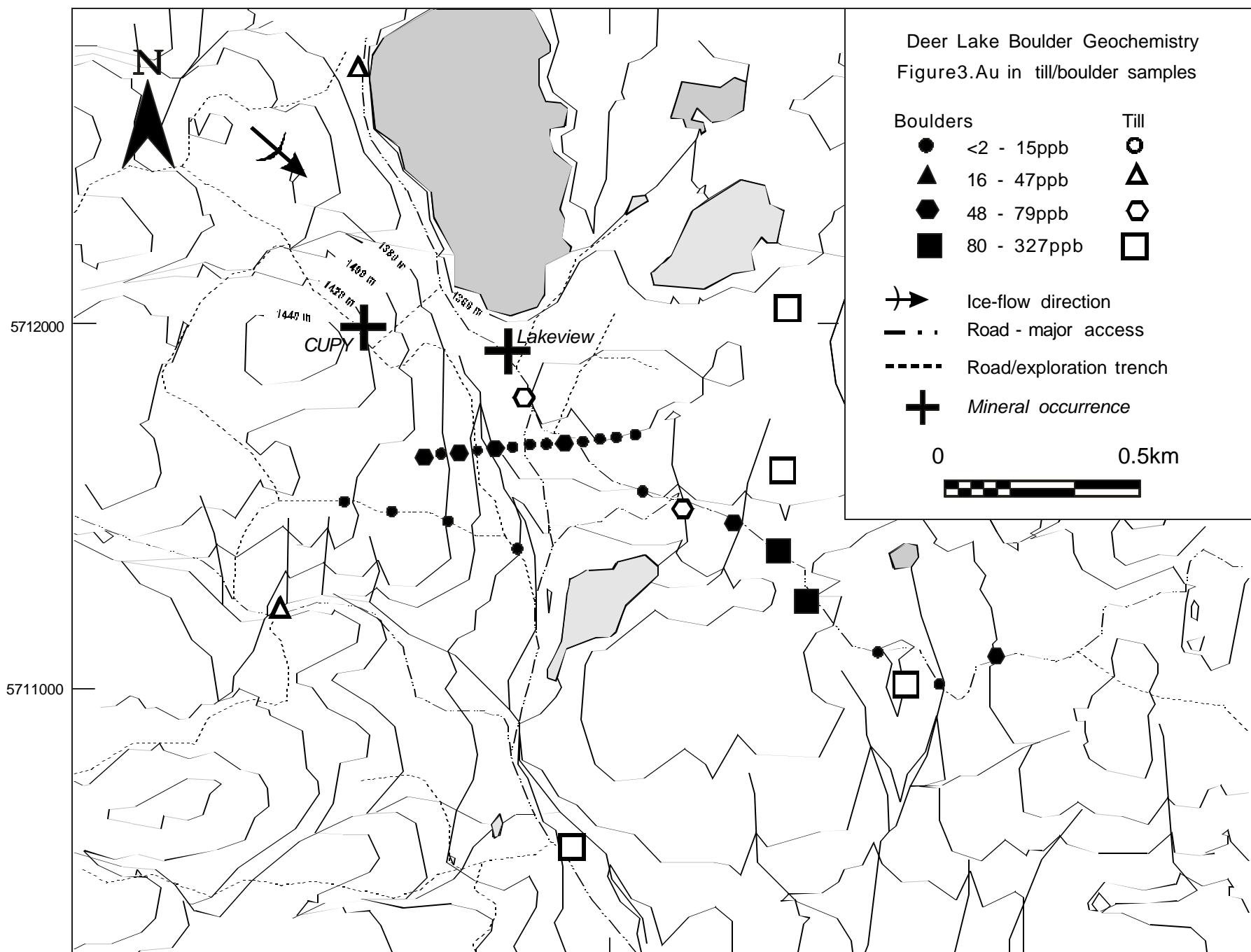


Figure 1.Location of the Deer Lake area

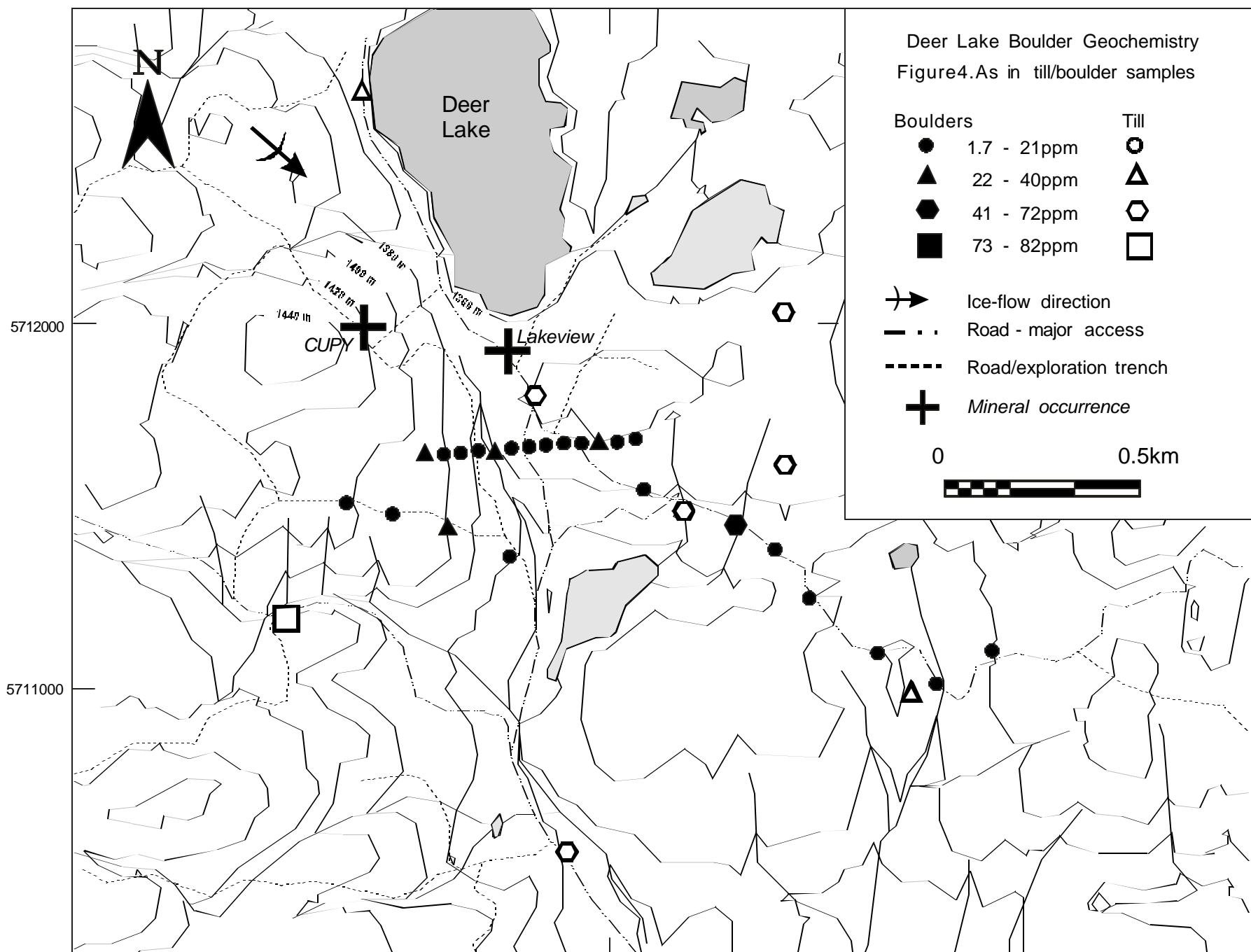
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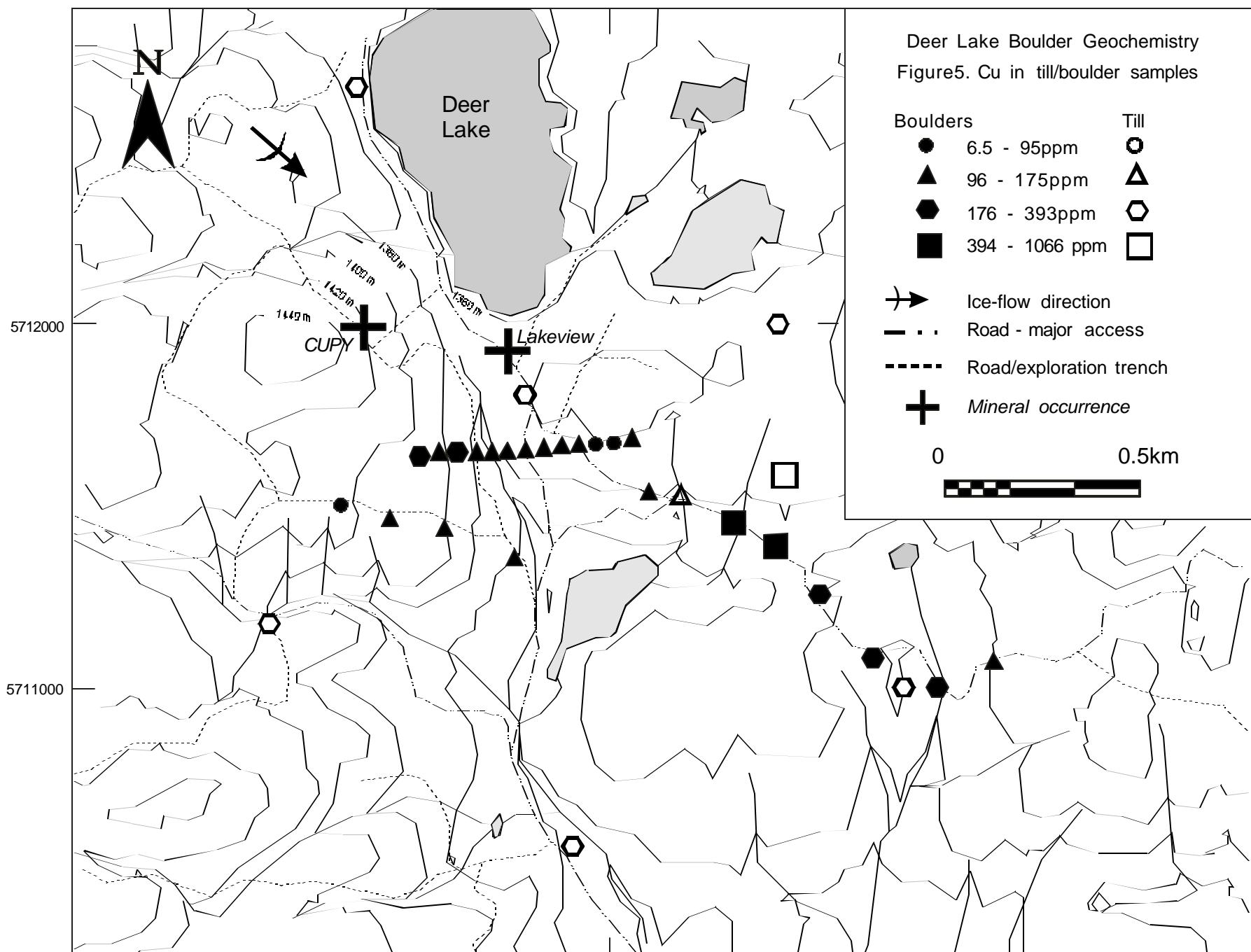
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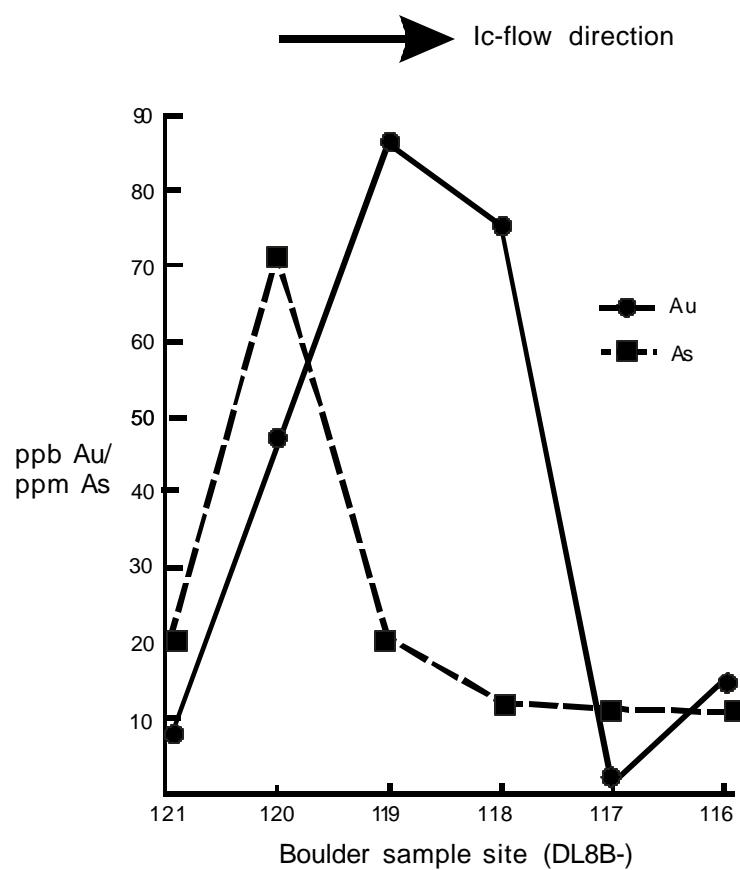
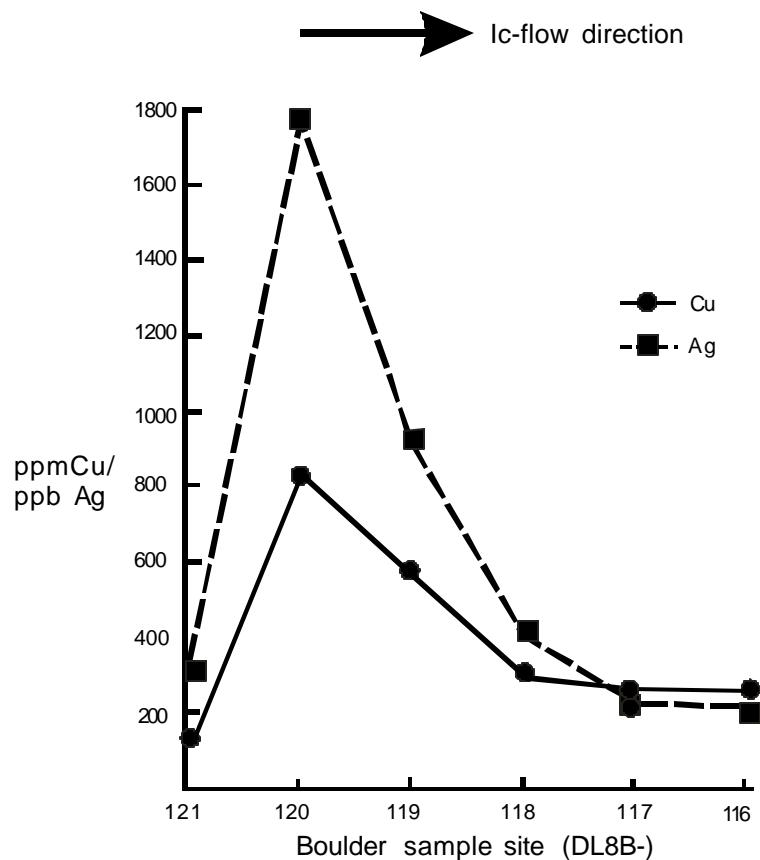


Figure 6. Down-ice boulder geochemistry profiles