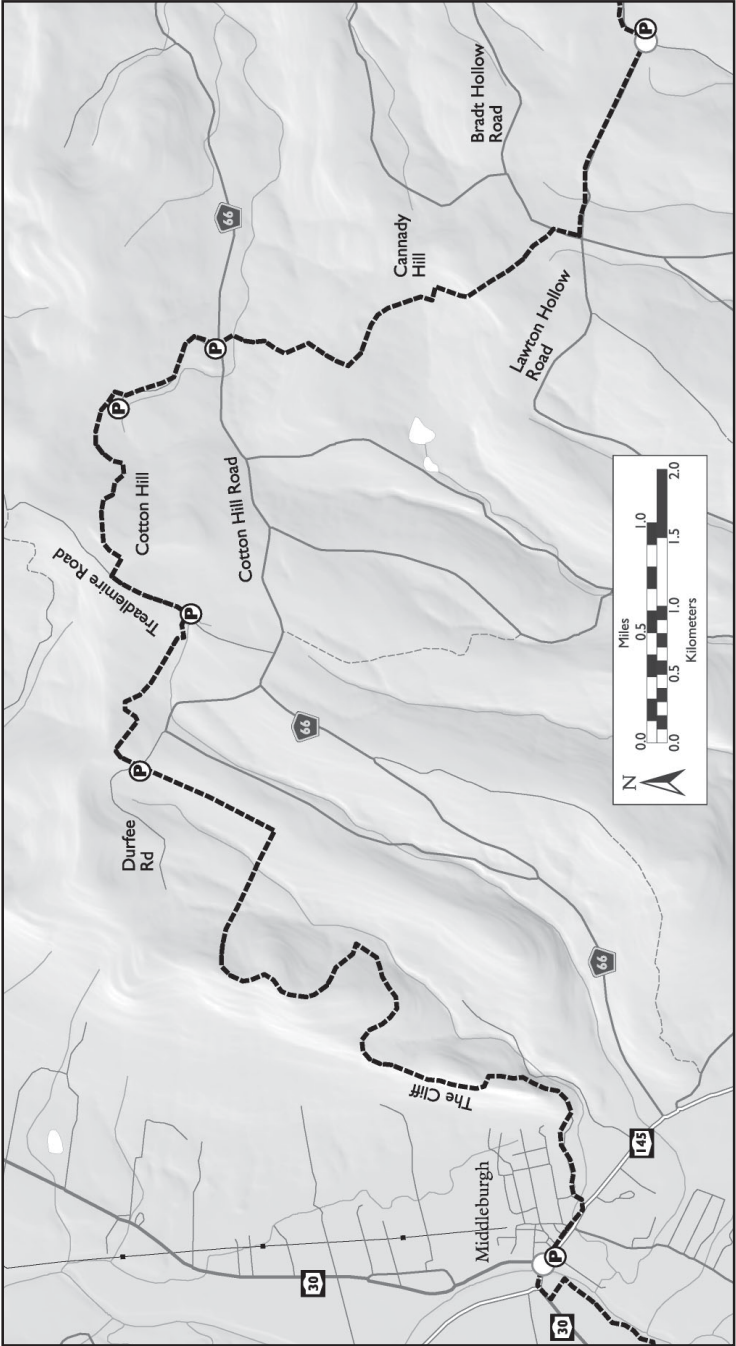


Capital District

These northernmost sections of the Long Path slope down from the edge of the Catskills into the edges of the Mohawk River Valley. The hills of the western sections give way to gentle rises and falls shaped by glaciers and water punctuated by sharp cliffs of escarpments formed by tilted rock layers. Most of the lands have been settled for a long time and have remained productive farm or forest. Much of the trail passes through nature that has been coerced by civilization to behave in certain ways, either by being farmed for generations, or used as a managed forest for the supply of lumber.

Field near East Berne





30. Middleburgh to Albany County Line

Features: The Cliffs of Middleburgh, Cotton Hill, Canady Hill

Distance: 12.10 miles

USGS Map Quads: Middleburgh, Schoharie, Rensselaerville

Trail Conference Maps: none

General Description

After leaving Middleburgh, the Long Path ascends the cliffs. The trail route meanders from the eastern slopes, looking down into “The Gorge,” to the western slopes, which follow the edge of the cliffs. Along the cliffside, there are spectacular views across and down the Schoharie Valley. Caution is required at all viewpoints, as they drop right off. Beyond the cliffs, the trail crosses the head of “The Gorge,” then traverses three sections of Cotton Hill State Forest. The hike through Cotton Hill is a pleasant variety of trail and old woods roads. The forest varies from hemlock to red and white pine. As you enter each section of the forest, a climb to a high point is required. The Cotton Hill sections revolve around the northeast corner of Schoharie County. The section ends spectacularly; after the trail crosses Canady Hill, there are great open views to the Catskills and Partridge Run and Cole Hill in Albany County. The last mile of this section to the Albany county line is on Lawton Hollow Road. The eastern and western ends of this section follow private property, while the middle 5 miles are on state land.

Access

Take the New York State Thruway to Exit 21 (Catskill). Take NY Route 23 west about 8 miles to NY Route 145. Take NY Route 145 west about 30 miles to the Village of Middleburgh. The trail section begins at the intersection of NY Route 145 and NY Route 30 in the Village of Middleburgh.

Parking

0.00 Village of Middleburgh. (18T 554551E 4716419N)

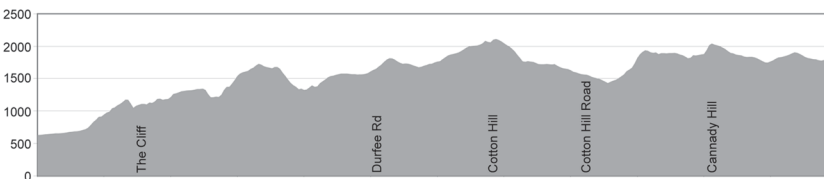
5.10 Durfee Road. (18T 558339E 4719698N)

6.55 Treadlemire Road. (18T 559554E 4719264N)

7.80 At the end of the access road north of Cotton Hill Road. (Unlocated)

8.45 Cotton Hill Road. (18T 561596E 4719032N)

11.90 On Lawton Hollow Road at the Albany county line. (18T 564048E 4715801N)



Camping

6.95 Cotton Hill Lean-to.

Camping is allowed in the Cotton Hill State Forest 150 feet away from the trail and water.

Trail Description

0.00 The trail turns east on NY Route 145 through the village of Middleburgh.

0.35 The trail follows Straub Lane past the Cliffside Senior Apartments to a hedgerow. Follow a hedgerow to the base of the cliffs.

0.75 The trail turns right to follow the base of the cliffs for 200 feet and then turns left to follow a steep and rocky trail up the cliffs.

1.10 A logging road leads right to the bottom of “The Gorge.” Just past the logging road there is a view right across “The Gorge” to Cotton Hill State Forest. As the trail continues to climb it intersects several logging roads. The Long Path follows the leftmost road as it ascends.

1.40 A fork to the left leads to southern cliffs. After 200 feet the Long Path intersects the main north-south trail along the cliff edge and turns right. If you are making a short loop from Middleburgh, turn left and follow the cliff trail down into Middleburgh. Be careful on this trail, as it is steep and rocky. If you are continuing on the Long Path northern extension, it is worth of several hundred feet to the left for a spectacular view across the Schoharie Valley to Vroman’s Nose. To continue north on the Long Path here, turn right and follow the cliffs. Please be careful here as the cliff trail, to the left, is also blazed in Long Path aqua.

1.65 Reach a spectacular view across the Schoharie Valley. There is a view south across the Village of Middleburgh to Vroman’s Nose and Vroomansland. Looking west across lands of the Middleburgh Rod and Gun Club are the hills that lead to Cobleskill. As the trail continues along the cliffs there are occasional views across the valley. The forest is red and white pine.

2.05 The trail intersects a series of logging roads and turns right to cross the ridge to the east, passing through a recently logged area. As the trail swings to “The Gorge” side of the ridge it intersects several logging roads. The Long Path stays to the right above “The Gorge.”

2.35 A logging road leads right to the bottom of “The Gorge.” Just beyond, a faint old road leads left back to the cliff. The Long Path continues straight ahead.

2.45 The Long Path turns right, leaving the logging road to descend steeply toward “The Gorge.”

2.60 The trail turns left and ascends steeply back to the ridge.

2.75 Rejoin the logging road and turn right as it continues uphill.

3.00 Pass a logging road that leads left. Fifty feet past the logging road the Long Path turns left and ascends back to the cliffs, passing through a recently logged area.

3.15 The trail turns right on a woods road paralleling the cliff. Shortly, the trail crosses another logging road and ascends a 1,700-foot hill that is the



Cotton Hill lean-to

highest on the cliffs. As it descends from the high point, the trail crosses two logging roads; the first heads right, the second left.

3.70 The trail turns right, leaves the woods road, and descends to the head of “The Gorge.” At this point the trail climbs gradually, then makes a right jog on an old woods road, and continues to descend, joining a stream in a hemlock forest.

4.05 The trail crosses three streams at the head of “The Gorge.” Between the streams, there are views north through an open field. On the right past the second stream is a dense Norway spruce forest.

4.30 Cross the third stream and ascend to Cotton Hill State Forest.

4.50 The trail crosses the boundary into Cotton Hill and turns left to follow a narrow strip of state land along the ridge.

4.70 Cross power lines with a view left toward the cliffs. The trail continues north through hemlocks.

5.30 The trail crosses Durfee Road. There are parking areas both to the left and right. The trail continues uphill through red and white pine.

5.40 The trail reaches the top of the hill, bears right, intersects a woods road, and descends.

5.60 The trail turns left on another woods road. To the right is an old well that was once used by firefighters in the 1930s to fill “Indian Fire pumps” that they carried on their backs.

5.70 The trail turns right and descends to another woods road, following an old stone wall.

5.90 The trail turns left on another woods road and gradually ascends to the state forest boundary.

6.00 The trail turns right, leaves the woods road and descends to a gorge. At

the gorge the trail turns left and follows the gorge through hemlocks to Treadlemire Road.

6.35 The trail turns left and follows Treadlemire Road uphill, passing some houses. There are views to the Catskills back along the road.

6.75 A small parking area is here. The trail turns right and re-enters Cotton Hill State Forest. Shortly the trail turns left and passes underneath a small rock ledge as it ascends.

6.85 The trail turns left and follows a western escarpment to the top of Cotton Hill.

6.95 The trail passes the Cotton Hill Lean-to.

7.00 Turn right and cross Cotton Hill, which at 2,114 feet is the highest point on this section. A radio tower may be visible through the woods to the left. Begin descending following the north border.

7.45 The trail turns left, levels off and crosses a stone wall at a corner boundary of Cotton Hill. The trail bears right, makes a short descent, and then levels again.

7.95 The Long Path turns right on a logging road and emerges at an open field that was the site of an abandoned farm. It is possible to drive in to this point, though the road is in barely passable condition. The trail continues along this access road, which is the boundary between state land on the left and private land on the right.

8.35 Another road comes in from the left. Continue ahead.

8.65 The trail crosses Cotton Hill Road and descends to cross a bridge across the stream. It then begins to ascend.

8.75 The trail turns right on an old woods road and continues to ascend.

9.00 Left is a faint old road. The Long Path bears right and ascends more steeply, crossing another old road.

9.15 The trail turns right, leaving the woods road, and climbs very steeply to a shoulder of Canady Hill. At the top of the hill, the trail continues south along Cotton Hill's eastern boundary. The trail begins to descend.

9.45 Just before reaching another boundary corner, the trail crosses a logging road. At the boundary corner, the trail turns east, staying inside state land.

9.65 The Long Path leaves state land and turns right to follow a logging road through a recently logged area. Camping, fires, etc. are prohibited beyond this point. This area is confusing, as it is crisscrossed by many logging roads. The Long Path stays to the rightmost road.

9.95 The logging road turns right and descends. The Long Path turns left on an older road, bears left again uphill through the woods, then turns right on a woods road 100 feet below Canady Hill.

10.25 The trail turns left and climbs very steeply over Canady Hill.

10.40 Over the top of Canady Hill, the trail emerges on an open field with a spectacular view. From the right, you see the Blackhead Range in the Catskills, Partridge Run and Cole Hill. In the far left is the Albany Doppler Radar Tower in Berne on the Long Path. Continue downhill, following the right side of a hedgerow. The trail crosses the hedgerow and descends on a grassy road.

10.95 The Long Path turns right on Canady Hill Road.

11.05 Go left on Lawton Hollow Road. There are views to the Catskills and Green Mountains of Vermont along the way.

12.10 Cross into Albany County. To continue, stay on Lawton Hollow Road.