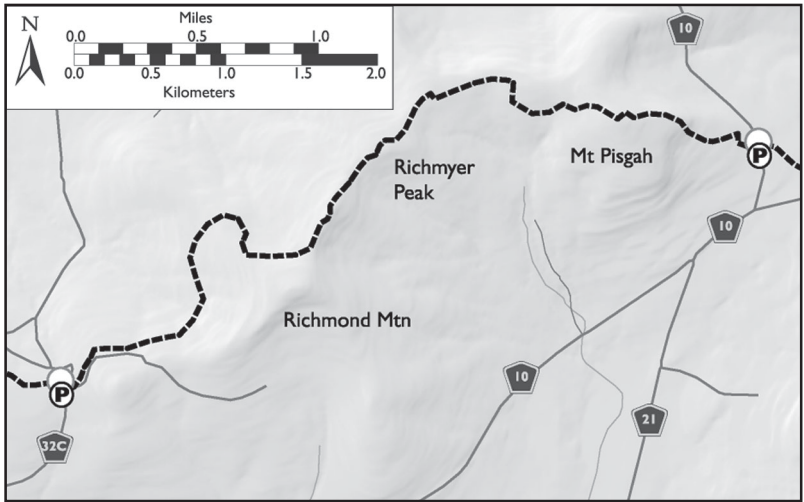


Northern Catskills

As the Long Path heads west and then north, the tall mountains of the Catskills are soon left behind; they become lower and lower until they are mere hills standing above the plain. Much of the trail now parallels the Schoharie Valley, an important route into the Catskills from points north. Early Dutch settlers made their homes here; there are many reminders of their past in the names of the places one passes. A major feature of the area is the reservoir complex maintained by the New York State Power Authority. In addition to hydroelectric power, the Schoharie Reservoir is a member of the great Catskill water reservoirs that supply distant New York City with clean drinking water.

Wildflowers by the trailside





25. Greene County Route 10 to Greene County Route 32C

Features: Mt. Pisgah, Richtmyer Peak, Richmond Mountain

Distance: 4.50 miles

USGS Map Quads: Hensonville, Durham, Livingstonville, Ashland

Trail Conference Maps: none

General Description

After a short section on private land, this section of the Long Path enters the first of many state reforestation areas between the Catskills and the Mohawk River. The trail climbs steeply up Mt. Pisgah and follows the ridgetop for the rest of the way, passing through both mixed deciduous forests and plantations of red pine and Norway spruce. There are several good views, both north towards the southern Adirondacks, and south towards the Blackhead Range and the Devil's Path. The first 0.55 miles of the section goes through private land and is marked with aqua Long Path paint blazes, while the rest of the section is on state land and is blazed with blue DEC trail markers.

Access

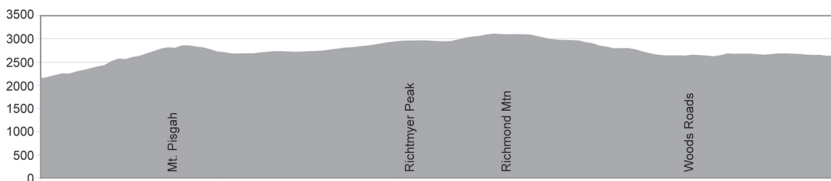
Take the New York State Thruway to Exit 21 (Catskill). Continue on NY Route 23 west approximately 20 miles to the Town of Windham. In Windham, turn right on Mitchell Hollow Road (Greene County Route 21) and go north about 5 miles to Greene County Route 10. Turn right on Route 10, which continues east for a very short distance and then curves left. Cunningham Road continues straight ahead here; stay on Route 10. About 0.6 miles past the curve, the Long Path begins where a woods road goes off to the left.

Parking

0.00 Greene County Route 10 about 100 feet south of the trailhead. (18T 563182E 4691621N 18T 563182E 4691621N)

4.20 Intersection of CCC Road and woods road on left. (Unlocated)

4.50 Intersection of CCC Road and Greene County Route 32C. There is room to park several cars on the shoulder of CCC Road. In winter, Route 32C is plowed only up to 0.3 miles from the trailhead and no parking is allowed at the end of the road. It is a snowplow turnaround. (18T 558523E 4690176N)



Trail Description

0.00 From Greene County Route 10, the Long Path proceeds uphill on a quarry road that is blocked by a metal chain to prevent vehicle access. The trail-marked with aqua paint blazes, follows the quarry road for about 250 feet, turns left and passes through a red pine plantation. It then turns right and skirts the south side of the quarry. The trail reaches an interesting rock wall, follows it to the right, then makes a sharp switchback to the left and passes through a cleft in the cliff. It continues gradually uphill through the woods.

0.25 The trail turns right onto an eroded woods road and continues uphill.

0.35 The Long Path turns right onto another woods road and then immediately turns left and begins climbing steeply. The trail crosses a rock wall and begins an extremely steep climb. Mt. Hayden can be seen from here when there are no leaves on the trees.

0.55 The trail crosses the state land boundary and enters the Mt. Pisgah Re-forestation Area. The trail blazing now changes to blue DEC trail markers. The trail continues uphill, intersects a woods road and finally turns left for the final ascent to the summit of Mt. Pisgah.

0.85 Reach the summit of Mt. Pisgah. This was formerly the site of a summit observatory. Remnants of the well that supplied water to the site may still be seen. To the south is the old carriage road that provided access from the valley. The summit was once cleared of vegetation, but today it is covered with a mature Norway spruce and red pine grove. There is a view to the north of the Helderbergs and the Adirondacks in the distance. From the summit, the Long Path descends through the forest. It approaches the state land boundary, where it turns left and continues to descend on state land. There is an interesting contrast here between the deep greens of the spruce and pine grove and the lighter greens of the deciduous forest to the right. After a while, the trail leaves the evergreen grove and continues to descend.

1.25 Reach the col between Mt. Pisgah and Richtmyer Peak. The trail now begins a gradual ascent, skirting below private land to the north. It turns right, ascends to the top of the ridge and then turns left to follow the ridge. After a level stretch, the trail continues to ascend to Richtmyer Peak.

2.20 The Long Path reaches the flat summit of Richtmyer Peak. To the left, there is a seasonal view through the trees towards the Blackhead Range. The trail then turns right and makes a very short descent to the col between Richtmyer Peak and Richmond Mountain. The trail continues along the ridge and climbs to the east summit of Richmond Mountain.

2.60 Reach the east summit of Richmond Mountain. To the left, a short side trail leads to a view to the south, with the Blackhead Range, Kaaterskill High Peak and the Devil's Path visible. The Long Path continues along the ridge and descends to the col between the two peaks of Richmond Mountain. Here it levels off and follows the north shoulder of the main peak of Richmond Mountain, then begins a steep descent, avoiding private land.

3.35 Turn right, onto a woods road, and continue to descend. Another woods



The Blackhead Range from Richmond Mountain

road joins from the right. The trail continues ahead to the left.

3.50 The trail levels off and turns left onto another woods road. This road was used by the state to log adjacent lands.

4.20 Turn right onto CCC Road, a dirt road marked as a state motor vehicle trail, and descend gradually.

4.50 Reach an intersection with Greene County Route 32C. To the left, Route 32C descends to Windham. To the right, CCC Road leads to Conesville in Schoharie County. To continue, cross Route 32C and continue along the ridge.