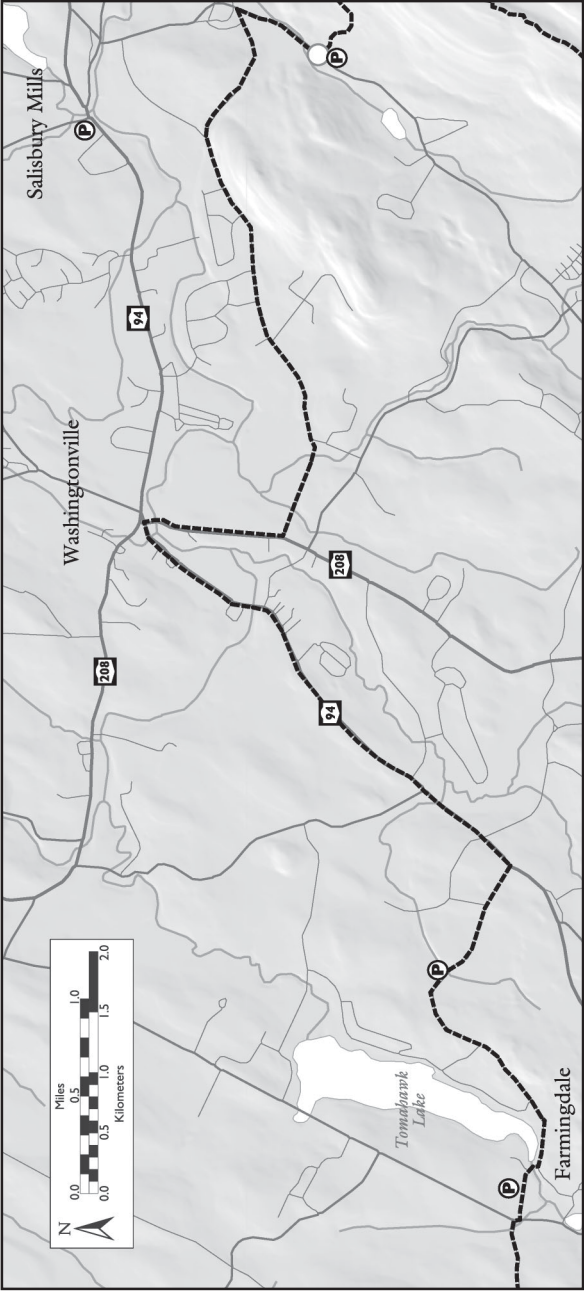


Orange County and The Shawangunk Ridge

These sections of the Long Path provide the bridge between the low mountains of the Hudson Highlands in the south and the beginnings of the Catskills in the north. In between lie many small villages and towns set in the gently rolling hills of Orange County. Although not as exciting as sections further north or south, walking the backroads of Orange County move one into an older time and a way of life different from the frenetic pace of city living. It is only by walking the roads ordinarily driven that one can appreciate the different pace of rural living and its dependence on the pace of nature rather than the pace of people. The northern sections pass along the Shawangunk Ridge into Minnewaska State Park, one of the most beautiful and interesting areas of the Hudson Valley. Though certainly not the highest or the most exotic park in New York, it is one of the most colorful in character with its rich and varied flora, fauna, and vistas.

Pool on the Sanders Kill, Minnewaska State Park





9. Salisbury Mills to NY Route 211

Feature: Road walk through hilly farm country

Distance: 18.30 miles

USGS Map Quads: Cornwall, Maybrook, and Goshen

Trail Conference Maps: none

General Description

This section follows roads that run parallel to the Moodna Creek and an abandoned railroad. Initially the trail passes north of Woodcock Hill through the town of Washingtonville. Then, as the area becomes open country, the Long Path passes several horse and dairy farms. The trail along NY Route 94 affords wonderful views east to Schunemunk Mountain with expanses of open fields and small woods in the foreground. It passes Tomahawk Lake, a residential community, and several horse and dairy farms, and offers frequent views of the higher hills in the distance. It crosses the Wallkill River, the most significant watercourse in the area. This section is suitable for bicycling since it is relatively free of truck traffic. Future plans are to re-route the footpath off the roads.⁸

Access

Take the New York State Thruway to Exit 16, Harriman. Go west on NY Route 17/future Interstate 86 three miles to Exit 130. Follow NY Route 208 north to Clove Road (Orange County Route 27). Turn right on Clove Road and continue for about 4 miles until reaching Hil-Mar Lodge in Salisbury Mills.

Parking

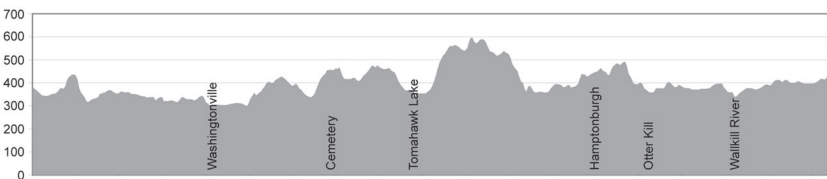
0.00 Hil-Mar Lodge. (18T 573446E 4585058N)

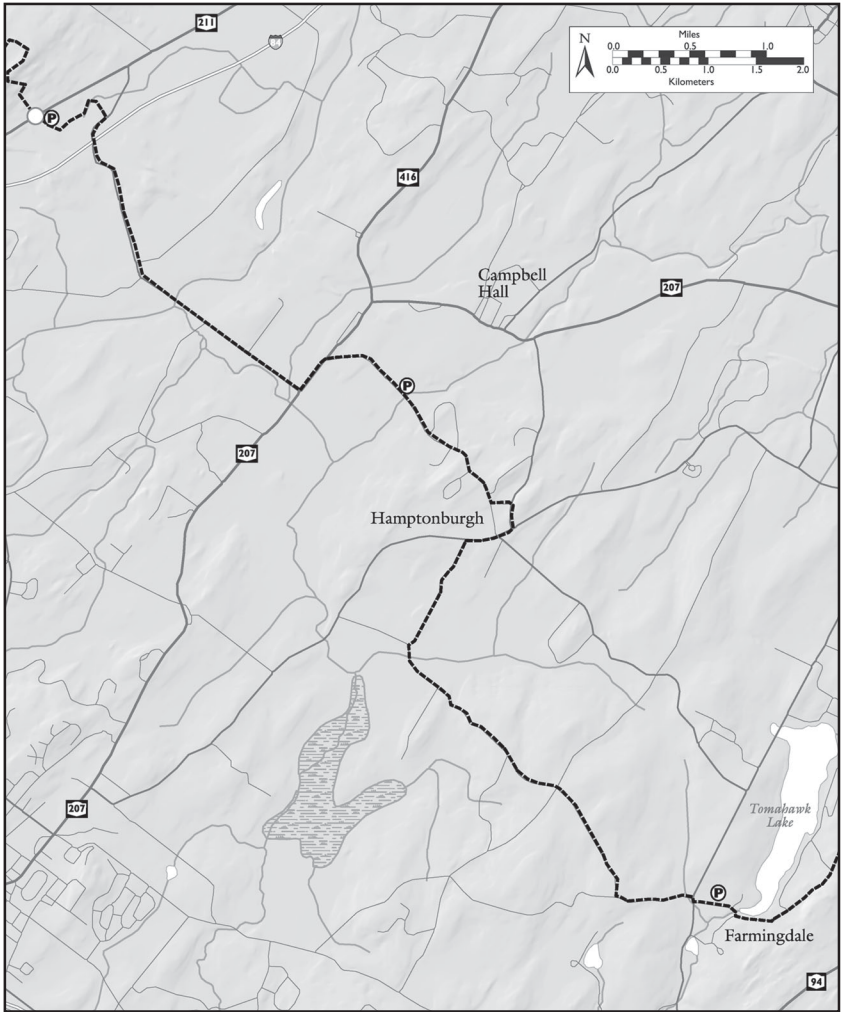
7.30 Farmingdale Road (limited parking). (18T 565849E 4584057N)

8.90 At Hulsetown Road. (18T 563851E 4583476N)

13.90 To right at Metro-North passenger station. (18T 561269E 4589178N)

⁸ Side-trips can be made to Thomas Bull County Park and historic sites, as well as to the picturesque county seat of Goshen and the Trotting Horse Museum.





18.30 On Hidden Drive at NY Route 211. (18T 556904E 4591745N)

Trail Description

0.00 Turn right onto Clove Road (Orange County 27) and continue north along the road.

0.50 The trail turns left onto an abandoned paved road, a private driveway. The condition of the pavement worsens as the road continues, gradually ascending. The road goes mainly through woods but also passes several fields and a small pond.

0.90 The road begins to descend.

1.10 The trail turns right, leaving the road, and enters an open field. Follow the right side of the field. The trail re-enters the woods at the far end of the field. The trees here are very thin and the blazes may be difficult to see. The trail meanders, crosses stone walls in several places, and follows streambeds that are frequently muddy.

1.40 Cross a rutted woods road.

1.60 Reach paved Woodcock Mountain Road. Turn left onto it.

4.20 Reach NY Route 208. Turn left and then turn right when Route 208 reaches the light onto Hudson Street.

4.80 Reach NY Route 94. Turn left and follow this busy road north. Be sure to stay to the left and well outside the white line of the shoulder as you walk this road. This is a major artery and there are several blind turns where speeding cars have little warning of people on the side of the road.

6.00 Pass Tuttle Road. The area opens up and a view of the long ridge that characterizes Schunemunk Mountain appears to the east.

6.60 Turn right onto Farmingdale Road. There is a large farm with a County Gift Shop on the corner.

7.30 Reach the abandoned Erie Railroad rail bed as it crosses a wetland. There is limited parking along the road here. The Long Path continues west after passing the rail bed, following Farmingdale Road past wetlands and scattered residences.

7.80 Heard Road goes right. Continue on Farmingdale Road.

8.20 Pass a small old cemetery on the left.

8.60 Reach a bridge crossing the southern end of Tomahawk Lake.

8.90 Cross Hulsetown Road onto Goshen Road. Cross Conrail Maybrook-Warwick Line railroad tracks and head uphill.

9.40 Turn right onto Purgatory Road. Not long after, distant hills and farmlands come into view.

10.20 Cross Ridge Road. After cresting the hill, there are distant views of the Shawangunks. Pass several farms.

11.70 There is a large horse farm on the left. Turn right onto Pische Road.

12.50 Turn right onto Sarah Wells Trail, (Orange County Route 8). Sara Wells and her husband Thomas Bull were the founding settlers of Orange County. (Having had 17 children they did it almost single-handedly!) Be sure to stay well on the shoulder.

12.70 Turn left onto Egbertson Road (Orange County Route 77).

- 13.90** Cross under the Marcy-South Power Lines, then cross Station Road, Campbell Hall. To the right is the Metro-North passenger station; to the left an abandoned rail bed heads south to Goshen.
- 14.50** Turn left onto NY Route 207. This is a major road, so stay on the shoulder.
- 14.70** Turn right onto Stony Ford Road (Orange County Route 53).
- 15.80** Reach the bridge across the Wallkill River.
- 16.00** Stony Ford Road goes off to the left; continue straight on County Route 53.
- 16.90** Cross under the Metro-North Port Jervis Line railroad bridge.
- 17.10** Cross under Interstate 84. Continue to the end of a guardrail on the left side.
- 17.75** Turn sharply left after the guardrail and follow the cut path through the field.
- 18.10** Turn right onto Hidden Drive.
- 18.30** Arrive at NY Route 211. To continue on the Long Path, cross Route 211 and stay on Hidden Drive. Parking is possible along one side of Hidden Drive.