

Be part of the future.
Preserve our landscape.

Directions

The trail head is located on the north side of Route 202, 3.2 miles west of the village of Bantam and approximately 300 feet west of the entrance of Garland Road and east of the Shepaug River bridge.

The Trail Description

The stem trail proceeds upslope through oak-birch-hemlock forest, occasionally crossing small seasonal streams and boulder-strewn areas. It then descends between ancient 'borrow pits' where stone was extracted, and finally meets the laneway of the old turnpike and bears right. The loop portion of the trail begins about 50 feet further along where one leg continues up the old road and the other turns left towards the river. Taking the latter option, one shortly reaches the river's edge. The trail heads upstream, occasionally passing old stone walls, sometimes on level floodplain and sometimes along rocky riverbank. Ahead lay the ruins of a large dam, and directly across the river the remains of stone foundations and spillways. This is the site of the Hitchcock-Pratt iron forge (west side, 1782) and the Peters Forge (east side, 1799); these forges converted pig iron into iron bars and sheets. The trail ascends the dam, and continues upstream to Tumbledown Brook. Here the trail turns to the right and follows the brook uphill. At the top, the remains of ancient bridge abutments can be observed. The trail is moderately level and turns south, eventually meeting up with the old turnpike roadway. The abandoned laneways lying ahead and to the left both lead shortly to private property. Turn right and follow the roadway downhill to complete the loop. From this point, return to the trailhead via the stem trail.

Preserve Policies

- Stay on designated trails
- No motorized vehicles
- No fires, swimming, hunting or trapping
- Wear orange during hunting season
- Help keep the preserve clean—no littering or dumping

Thank You

The land was donated to LLT by C. A. Litchfield Land, LLC in 2015.

JOIN US.

Become a member.

Each membership level entitles you to one year of basic benefits including: a window decal, bi-annual newsletter, email updates and knowing that you are contributing to Litchfield open space.

- Individual annual membership \$35
- Family annual membership \$50
- Supporter..... \$100
- Patron \$250
- Benefactor.....\$1000

Name _____

Address _____

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Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

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Be a part of the Team!

I would like to:

- Volunteer.** Please contact me to learn about current opportunities in land monitoring, special events, office support, or other activities.
- Donate skills and talents** _____
- Talk about donating land or an easement**

Payment Methods

(Thank you for your tax-deductible contribution.)

- Matching gift from my employer (Please include your employer's matching gift forms.)
- Online at www.litchfieldlandtrust.org
- OR return this card to us with a check payable to **LLT:**

Litchfield Land Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 712
Litchfield, CT 06759



For more information:

Call: 800-361-9310

Email: info@litchfieldlandtrust.org

Visit: litchfieldlandtrust.org



Shepaug Crossing Preserve

Shepaug Crossing Trail

80 Acres

2.3 Miles • Moderate/Difficult

3.2 miles west of the village of Bantam on Rt. 202

The trail, indicated by blue blazes, consists of a main stem and a loop.

The route mostly traverses moderate slopes, but includes a relatively short steep portion and occasional rocky and wet areas.

Litchfield Land Trust is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is the preservation and conservation of open space, including farm and forest land, and the natural resources located thereon, primarily in the town of Litchfield for the benefit and education of the public.