



Area 46

BREWSTER FARM AND JONES TRAIL



Trail Section: Unpaved Section of Lounsbury Lane

Size: 108 acres

ACCESS/PARKING: On the south side of Lounsbury Road, about 0.6 miles west of the intersection with Cains Hill Road, across from Banks Hill Place. At the end of the paved portion of Lounsbury Lane, about 1.2 miles north of the intersection with Florida Hill Road. Limited parking is available at each access point. [GPS Address: 100 Lounsbury Lane]

DIFFICULTY: 1 hour, moderate terrain, with some sections of rough terrain.

FEATURES: The red-blazed Jones Trail runs on woodland hills and marshland around the Brewster Farm, one of two remaining working farms in Ridgefield. The trail includes views of the surrounding hills, the stone walls that crisscross the property, and the fields. The trail runs largely on private property that has been conserved from development. Starting on Lounsbury Road across from Banks Hill Place, it quickly goes left through a cut in the stone wall and runs generally south-east from Lounsbury Road to Lounsbury Lane. Wooden bridges and stepping stones cross wet sections.

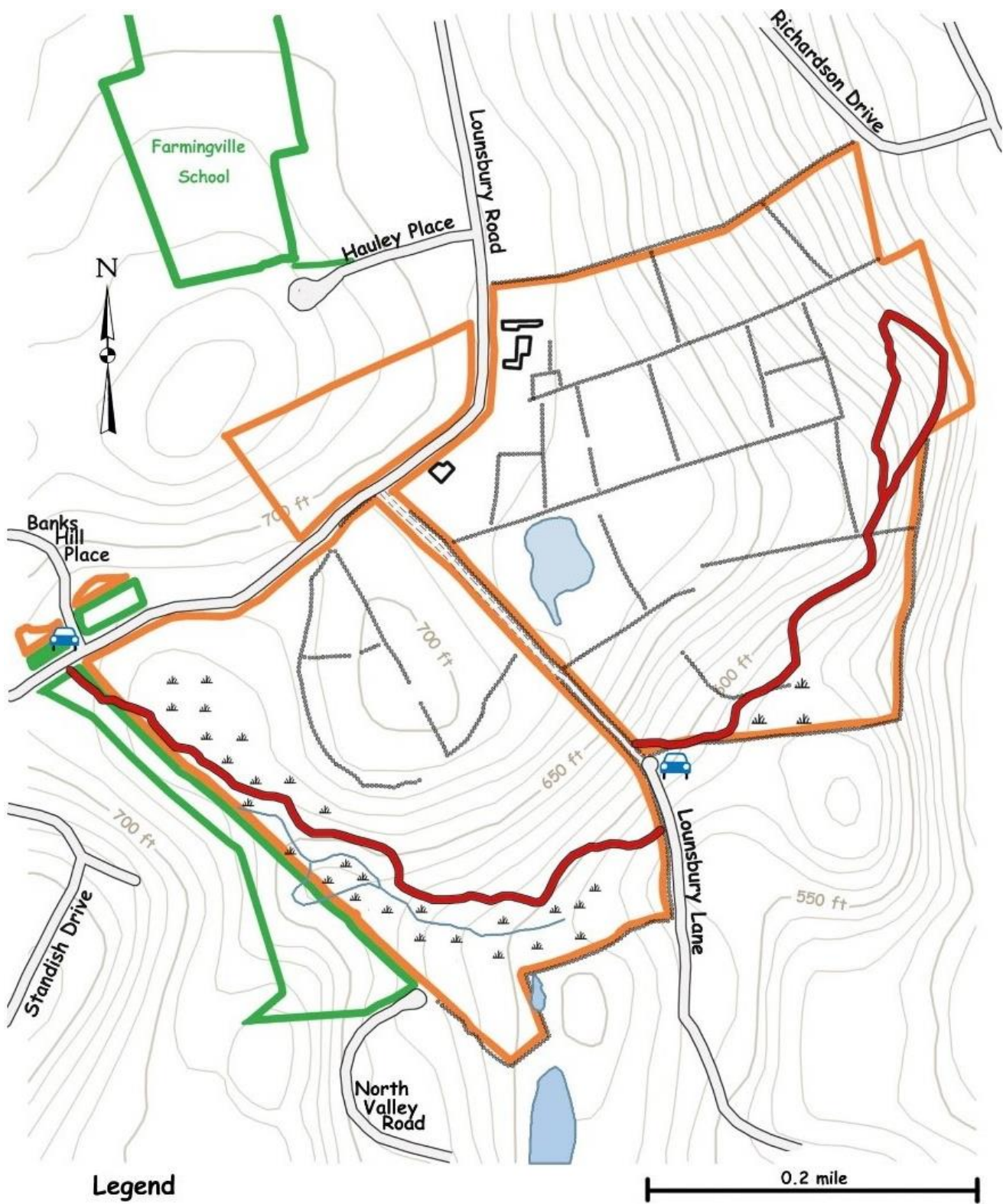
After about a quarter mile, the trail merges briefly with an old wood road, and then cuts away again to parallel the stream and wetlands. (Note: outside of this brief intersection, the wood roads are not public trails.) When the trail emerges onto the paved portion of Lounsbury Lane (the second access point), follow the lane uphill for 30 yards and look to the right for the cutaway in the stone wall and the red blazes of the Jones Trail

Crossing wetlands and a stream, the trail bears off northward, up a hill, and along a ridge. Emerging through another barway, the trail offers a view of the Hickories organic field. The Lost and Found Loop splits off, traversing low on the hill, doubling back just before a faint stream, and then traverses back on the high side through a dramatic blowdown. Follow the trail to the start of the loop.

HISTORY: The Brewster Farm, also known as The Hickories Farm, became a farm over 250 years ago. The Lounsbury family purchased 46 original acres in 1839. Two of the Lounsbury sons became governors of Connecticut. In 1936, the Brewster family purchased the property and continued to farm the land. In 1997, Ridgefield purchased the development rights to the property through a conservation easement. The easement allowed for the creation of trails throughout the property that are available for public use.



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Legend

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|  Conservation Area |  Stonewalls |  Wetlands |
|  Open Space Boundary |  Parking | |
|  Trail | | |



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