

COLONIAL TRINEBAND FIELD - Wegner Property

Location

Terry's Plain Road at Goodrich Road. Park along the west side of Goodrich Road where the soil is firm.

Distance

Various

Terrain

Easy



Features

Beginning in 1685, the field had been a training ground for the town militia. Be sure to read the inscription on the marker at the corner of Terry's Plain and Goodrich roads explaining the use of the field for militia training. The field has been continuously farmed at least since the 1650s.

Gaze from the hills on the west to the floodplain and picture the scene as it was over three centuries ago. From this location the geological boundaries where the ridge meets the glacial terrace and the terrace drops to the current floodplain can be readily seen. The terrace/floodplain boundary drops 20 to 30 feet along the western edge of the long, narrow hayfield that runs along the western side of Goodrich Road. The handful of trees, brush, and tall weeds here and on the other side of the road provide shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals that use the field for food.

Although walking in the field during the summer growing season is discouraged, a dead-end path runs from Goodrich along the tree line on the southern edge of the field. Along this path the field borders a row of pine trees and an alder swamp, an ideal place to watch birds and small mammals. To see the steep drop to the floodplain up close, cross Goodrich Road and the long, narrow hayfield to the west. From this vantage point you will see a brush swamp that leads directly to the river. This land is a state wildlife management area and is stocked with pheasants for hunting from October to mid-winter. We do not advise people to walk in this area during those months.

CASE PROPERTY/WET MEADOW

Location

Continue down Goodrich Road to Ferry Lane. Note two markers, one describing the Pent Road Ferry.

Distance

Various, short

Terrain

Easy



Features

In the 1600s Ferry Road continued to the center of town and connected the town's two militia fields. There was no bridge at the time; people crossed the river by ferry. Also state wildlife land, this is a great place to observe hawks and a myriad of other wildlife.

Further down Ferry Lane toward Terry's Plain Road lies the Land Trust's 11-acre Case Property. Part of the Simsbury Land Trust's management plan for this property was restoring approximately six acres at the center of the site to a natural wet meadow habitat. There is a network of walking paths throughout the site, and these provide great views of the meadow and the tremendous variety of plant life, insects, birds, and small mammals that abound there. Hikers will pass through a section with a cattail swamp, alder thickets, and saplings of evergreen and hardwood, a sharp contrast to the more open stretches.

Penwood Brook, which runs through the property along the north boundary on its way to the river, adds another wildlife corridor to the site. The "duck pond" at the northeast corner is actually a manmade fire pond leased and maintained by the volunteer fire department. As with the Wegner property, we ask that hikers respect the signs that indicate points where the paths enter neighboring private property.

THE KETCHIN QUARRY

Location

On the east side of Quarry Road just north of Pharos Farm, park on the expanded shoulder of the road (marked by Simsbury Land Trust sign). Walk 30 feet up to a narrow landing to view the vertical stone ledges outlining the quarried area. Do not proceed into the quarry or attempt to climb the walls because of the danger of poor footing, vertical drops, and rock slides.

Distance

0.25 miles

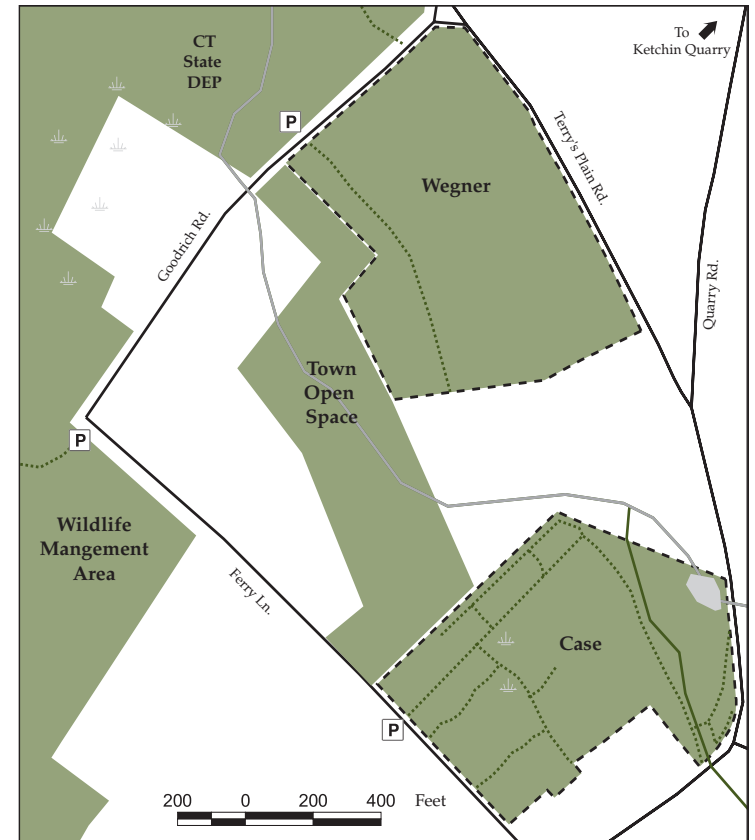
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Description

Dating back at least to the early 1800s, this quarry was part of a nearby farm and provided stone for various small projects such as foundations, wells, and fences. In the early 1890s William Ketchin and his father, two of the area's best known masons, purchased the quarry and made it into a sizable commercial venture. Over the next 25 years, stone from this quarry was used to build many of the Ensign Bickford buildings as well as the current Webster Bank, the Methodist Church, Central School, The Belden School (current Town Hall) and the Tariffville Fire Station, among others. Today the Simsbury Land Trust owns the quarry. Watch for informational signs along the way.

THE TERRY'S PLAIN AREA MAP



- Trails
- Roads
- Open Space
- Boundary
- Streams

