



Britton Forest Trails Challenge Hike

79 acres owned by the Hanover Conservancy

The Britton Forest is in the northeast corner of Hanover on Iby (Iby) Road, located off the north end of Three Mile Road. Park at the end of Iby Road and look for the trailhead kiosk for both the Britton and Mayor-Niles Forests. The trail to the left takes you into the Britton Forest. The hike briefly follows an old Class VI Road (Plummer Hill Road), then turns right onto the Black Bear Loop Trail (yellow blazes). When you reach the start of the loop, keep left and follow the trail clockwise around the loop. This is a moderately challenging, 1-mile hike.

Destination: Midway around the loop you will discover exposed slabs of stone and soon after, an extremely large glacial erratic. Look for the destination marker along the trail just opposite this enormous boulder which was pulled from Holt's Ledge in Lyme by glacial activity and deposited here by the melting ice more than 14,000 years ago.

Features and History: Located on the western slope of Moose Mountain, this land was gifted to the Hanover Conservancy by Doug and Katharine Britton in 2018. It protects important high-elevation forest habitat and includes a headwater stream which you cross twice along the loop trail. The Britton Forest is surrounded on three sides by permanently protected and/or public land: the Conservancy's Mayor-Niles forest to the south, the Town of Hanover's Plummer Tract to the north, and the Appalachian Trail corridor to the east. To avoid disturbing prime bear habitat in the parcel's northern half, the Black Bear Loop Trail was purposely constructed in the south corner. The map makes note of a "big maple" along the trail. While much of the forest habitat is younger due to logging activity, this maple is estimated to be more than 100 years old.

Destination Marker