

COCHRANE LANE CLIFFS (Welsford, NB)

Duration: about 3 hours for the route marked with arrows on the Hiker Map.

Difficulty: Challenging due to the Boulder Field and the Pooh's Corner ascent.

Cochrane Lane Cliffs is a well-known rock climbing area in the Welsford area.

The trails are a means of getting to the climbing areas, so side trails can be sketchy in places.

The Boulder field, Gollum's cave, Pooh's corner, Pyramid wall, and the cliff top in front of Pyramid wall, are all interesting places to see.

The trail and cliffs near Golum's Cave, Cheekbone and Poohs Corner are closed until Aug 01, due to Peregrine Falcon nesting.



CAUTIONS:

Many of the side trails are poorly marked, so bring a trail map and compass.

Some trails involve scrambling over large (sometimes tippy) granite boulders.

Pack light and bring sufficient water.

STAY WELL BACK from both the tops and bottoms of cliffs.

Not a place for young children.

Not a place for flip-flops and sandals.

All this land is either private farm land or military, so use it with respect and GET A PASS!

Cochrane Lane Cliffs are within area 40 of CFB Gagetown, which means that you must get a pass from the military before going into the area, and sometimes the area is closed to the public.

Unfortunately this discourages many hikers, but the process is simple, and the people at Range Control are polite and helpful.

The Cochrane Lane hike is worth the effort.

(GETTING YOUR PASS)

1. The day before your planned hike, call 422-2000-3121 (Range Control) and ask if Cochrane Lane Cliffs in area 40 will be open for recreational use on your chosen day. If planning ahead, you could initially check a week or so prior to your hike, but I would still check again before actually going there.
2. Drive to the top of Petersville hill on highway 7, take the off-ramp and park at the guardhouse.
3. Everyone must go inside with their id and register with the Commissionaire.
4. Put the pass on your windshield.
5. When done your hike, call 422-2000-3121 and let them know that you are leaving area 40.

GETTING THERE:

From the Irving in Welsford, take the old highway (Eagle Rock Rd) south for 1.6 km before turning left onto Cochrane Lane.

Drive 2.5 km and you will see a gravel pit on the left. Turn around and drive back past the pit and park along the road, not blocking the gate.

Pass through the gate and follow the footpath to the LEFT of the pit, up through the field and into the woods.

About 400 meters into the woods, you will see a red sign-in box and a large flat rock nearby.

Signing your name in the book is part of the experience.

At the red sign-in box, the trail splits:

Straight ahead: (trail marked GOLUM'S CAVE)

The trail soon enters a boulder field which is crossed diagonally to the right until you reach Gollum's Cave. From the cave, you can continue on across another boulder field to reach Pooh's Corner and the Waterfall wall.

To the left of the Waterfall wall, a very steep roped trail ascends to the top of Cheekbone wall.

Right hand trail: (trail marked WATERFALL + L SHAPED)

This main trail continues on and eventually reaches a primitive campsite.

There are various side trails to the left, which go to points at the cliff wall.

1: Waterfall Wall (easier than the Gollum's cave route)

2: Down Home/Minkey

3: Pyramid

4: Simpson/L Shape

At the camp site, a trail to the left goes on to Joes Garage/Stairway/Attic, while trails to the right go to New Age and Exfoliated.

HIKER MAP ROUTE:

If you follow the arrows on the Hiker Map, you will keep STRAIGHT at the red box and soon enter the boulder field. Once in the boulder field, go diagonally to the RIGHT and UP across the boulders.

The route may be flagged with orange tape. Part way across the boulder field you will reach Gollum's cave, which is crevice formed when a large stone slab shifted against the cliffs.

From Gollum's Cave, continue across the boulder field to the Waterfall wall, which can be totally dry in the summer. Here you will also find a very steep, rope assisted climb to the top of the cliff at Pooh's Corner. Climbing up and back again can take 45 minutes but it's a good spot for pictures and a snack.

The trail then turns sharply RIGHT and DOWN across some large boulders, making its way back to the main trail. Once at the main trail, turn LEFT and head towards Pyramid Wall.

As you approach Pyramid wall, you will see a rock face through the trees on your LEFT. Walk up towards the cliff face to see why it is called Pyramid.

On the RIGHT side of the main trail is a cliff top that makes a great lunch spot, but keep well back from the edge.

From here, you can continue on to the Campsite etc.; but at this point I usually return via the main trail to the red sign-in box, and then back to the pit.

Dave Suttie, Nov 2017

Closed until Aug 01 for
Peregrine Falcon nesting.

Cochrane Lane Cliffs (HIKER MAP)

- *Please respect the access agreement with C.F.B. Gagetown
- *Please take care to observe seasonal raptor closures (partial closure until Aug 01)
- *Dogs should be under control at all times, and on-leash in the farmer's field
- *Human waste should be buried at least 200 feet from crags, trails, streams, and campsites.
- *Remember to Leave No Trace... and pack out what you find

HIKER ACCESS INFO:

To check if the Cochrane Lane Cliffs are open for "Recreational Use" on a certain day, call 422-2000-x3121 and ask about Cochrane Lane Cliffs in Area 40.

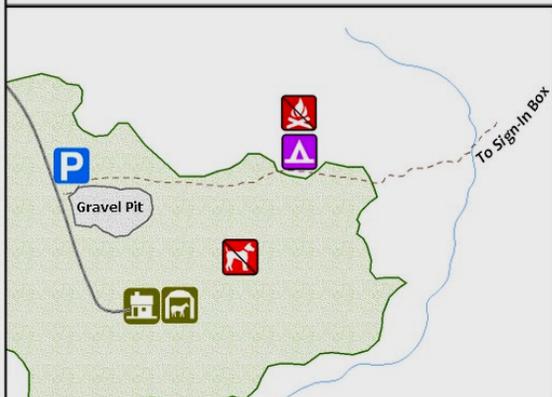
To obtain a day pass, stop at the gatehouse on Petersville Hill and show your ID and vehical registration to the guard. All hikers must show id.

From the Irving in Welsford, take the old highway (Eagle Rock Rd) south for 1.6 km before turning left onto Cochrane Lane. Drive 2.5 km and you will see a gravel pit on the left. Turn around and drive back past the pit and park along the road, not blocking the gate. Pass through the gate and follow the footpath to the LEFT of the pit, up through the field and into the woods. About 400 meters into the woods, you will see a red sign-in box and a large flat rock nearby.

Hike duration: about 3 hours

CAUTIONS:

- Keep well back from the high cliff edges along the trails.
- The talus fields are not suitable for small children or pets.
- The trail up to Pooh's Corner is very steep and rope assisted.
- The side trails are a bit indistinct.
- Waterfall wall is often dry in the summer.



- Farmer's Field
- Talus Field
- Streambed (Seasonally Dry)
- Climber's Trail
- Broken Cliff-line, Choss, or No-Man's Land
- Solid Cliff-line with Established Routes

