

38. Ancient Sea Shore

This is another fascinating geological site on the Long Path. The rocky outcropping north of Route 29 consists of a quartz conglomerate. The quartz rocks and gravel comprising the stone is made up of angular fragments held together with silica sand. Professor James H. Stoller, for many years head of the Geology Department of Union College in Schenectady, has postulated that this rock represents broken fragments of Potsdam Sandstone from a cliff of that rock which was at the edge of an ancient Cambrian sea. Wave action undercutting the sedimentary rock caused fragments to be broken up, but before they became rounded from erosion the pebbles were buried along the sea shore and later consolidated by pressure from later sediments.

