

OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

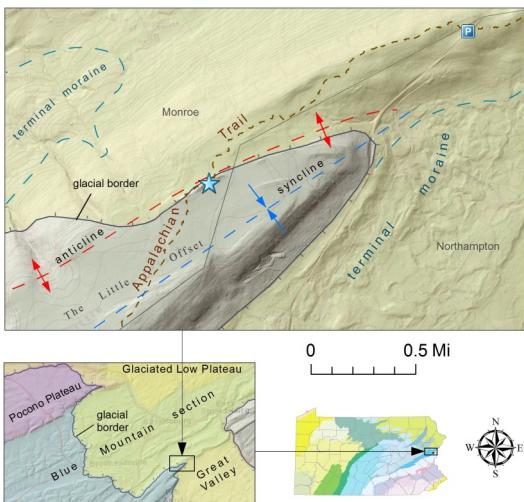
WOLF ROCKS, MONROE COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

Appalachian Trail, Monroe Co., Hamilton Twp., lat: 40.93537, lon: -75.19696 (parking); lat: 40.9256, lon: -75.2212; Stroudsburg 7.5-minute quadrangle



Recommended Reading

Epstein, J. B., 1969, Surficial geology of the Stroudsburg quadrangle, Pennsylvania-New Jersey: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., [General Geology Report 57](#), 67 p.

Wilshusen, J. P., 1983, Geology of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., [General Geology Report 74](#), 121 p.

Geology

Along the Appalachian Trail in eastern Pennsylvania, Wolf Rocks offers an outstanding vista to the north of the escarpment of the Glaciated Pocono Plateau above the topographically lower Blue Mountain physiographic section. The bare rock here is Silurian-age quartzite (approximately 435 million years old) of the Shawangunk Formation. It underlies the Kittatinny Mountain ridge called The Little Offset and crops out in a narrow band of resistant rock. It contains some quartz pebbles and is correlated to the Tuscarora Formation to the west. The rocks are folded in the area, and Wolf Rocks is positioned on the north limb of a syncline (downfold) that trends northeast. The rocks dip to the southeast.

Wolf Rocks is along the southernmost point of Wisconsinan glaciation on the Appalachian Trail. The advance of glacial ice stopped nearby, as shown by a terminal moraine of boulders, gravel, silt, and sand just east and northwest of The Little Offset. The moraine, which is at a lower elevation of around 1,100 to 1,200 feet, was deposited by the final push of ice and meltwater. The resulting irregular (hummocky) topography is evident on aerial photographs and lidar-based maps, such as the location map on this page.



Outcrop of the Shawangunk Formation, a light-gray, coarse-grained, crossbedded quartzite. Westward view is of the ridges and valleys of the Blue Mountain physiographic section.

View to the northwest from Wolf Rocks, which is at an elevation of about 1,620 feet. The Glaciated Pocono Plateau can be seen in the distance. On the right, the Shawangunk Formation dips to the southeast.

