

Basin 16: Upper Connecticut River and small tributaries.

Including the following sites:

Sutton Brook Falls

Sutton Brook, Barnet

Glen Falls

Glen Falls Brook, Fairlee

See the appendix for:

McIndoe Falls

Connecticut River, McIndoe VT,
and Monroe, NH

Cow Meadow Ledges

Dieing Branch, Barnet

Basin 16 extends for about 120 miles along the Connecticut River in northeastern Vermont. All the sites we looked at are in the south half of the basin; at present the north half is unknown. Some of the most remote and untravelable mountain country in Vermont lies in the upper Nulhegan watershed in the upper part of this basin, and it is possible that there are a number of interesting sites in the basin which haven't been found.

Report 86, Sutton Brook Falls, Sutton Brook, Barnet, Caledonia County, Vermont.

- Site 992, surveyed 11 October 1983 by P.F. Zika.

A series of small falls and cascades crossed and altered by Interstate 91.

Atlas map 35, USGS St. Johnsbury 7.5' quadrangle. From the Town of Barnet, go north on U.S. Route 5 about 1.5 miles, and at the second I-91 overpass, you take a secondary road west. The cascade is on the south side of this road. Part of it is above I-91, part replaced with a culvert, and part below I-91.

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The site is in open birch-hemlock woods, with no houses near. There are excellent views of the highway embankments and culverts.

Sutton Brook is a lowland stream averaging two to five feet across, with a narrow floodplain below the lower falls. The water is clear and odorless and seems to be clean, but no insects other than caddisflies were found.

Above the interstate, there is a 20 foot high cascade; below it there are several low cascades and a seven foot high falls with a 20 foot pool below it.

- The rocks are micaceous schist with almost vertical bedding, mapped as the Gile Mountain formation, of lower Devonian age. There are no potholes, rippled or sculptured rocks. The rock is slightly limy.

The vascular plants at the site itself are quite ordinary and not diverse. On a sandy bank 30 yards above the brook Aster undulatus and Lechea intermedia occur in good numbers. Both are uncommon in northern Vermont.

Mosses were common and moderately diverse. No rare species were seen.

The upper site is rather ugly because of the logging and the highway, and does not seem to receive much use. The lower site is cut off from the surface roads by the highway and is only lightly used by fishermen and hunters.

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Summary: Woodland setting, poor rocks, average botany, varying from no seclusion or wildness at the upper site to moderately wild below the highway, clean site, clean water, no swimming, barely used.



SUTTON BROOK FALLS

Plants of Sutton Brook Falls

Bryophytes

Myurella sibirica	Thuidium sp.
Brachythecium oxycladon	? Isoptyrigium sp.
Pohlia wahlenbergii	Eurynchium riparioides
Amblystegium riparium	Brachythecium sp.
Unknown from Dicraniaceae	Dicranum fuscescens
Coniocephalum conicum	Cephalozia sp.
Mnium sp.	Plagiochila asplenioides
Climacium dendroides	

Vascular Plants

Tsuga canadensis	Polypodium virginianum
Betula alleghaniensis	Dryopteris marginalis
Acer spicatum	Oxalis montana
Pinus strobus	Plantago major
Solidago flexicaulis	Chrysanthemum leucanthemum
Aster puniceus	Taraxacum officinale
Eupatorium maculatum	Poa pratensis
Scutellaria lateriflora	Aster cordifolius
Cystopteris bulbifera	Dryopteris intermedia
Barbaria vulgaris	Epipactis helleborine
Rubus odoratus	Myosotis scorpioides

Report 87, Glen Falls, Glen Falls Brook, Fairlee, Orange County, Vermont.

Sites II and JJ (the Vermont Atlas incorrectly implies there are two waterfalls on Glen Falls Brook), surveyed 28 September 1983 by P.F. Zika.

A short gorge and large high-angle cascade.

Atlas map 28, Mt. Cube 15' quadrangle. From the fishing access on the west side of Lake Morey walk south past a gravel pit on the right (west) to a tennis court on the left (east). Opposite the court are two converging paths leading west 0.1 mile to the the falls.

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The site is a wooded mountainside ravine, in hemlock forest, about 200 yards from the shore of Lake Morey. There is a small water supply dam above the ravine and there are many summer camps on the lake.

The brook is a tiny mountain stream, mostly under three feet wide, with clean cold water.

In the ravine and below the dam there is a gorge about 100 feet long by 40 feet wide with jagged vertical walls 20-30 feet high. Near the bottom of the gorge, there is a steep cascade (almost a falls) 25 feet high with a shallow pool ten feet across at its base.

The rock is schist, and is mapped as the Meetinghouse member of the Gile Mountain formation, described as schistose quartzite of lower Devonian age. It is not limy, and has no potholes or sculpture.

The site is very dark and there are only a few higher plants.

Bryophytes were moderately common along the stream and on the gorge walls. No collections were made.

The site does not have an obvious access trail and appears not to get too much use. There is no fishing or swimming, but there are some nice views from the edge of the gorge.

A pretty place, quite undisturbed, and probably impressive at high water.

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GLEN FALLS

Summary: Woodland and mountain setting, average rocks, average botany, moderately wild and private, clean site, clean water, no swimming or fishing, amount of local use unknown, large cascade in a natural setting.

Vascular Plants of Glen Falls

Tsuga canadensis
Betula alleghaniensis
Acer pensylvanicum
Dryopteris intermedia
Lonicera canadensis

Aster cordifolius
Aster divaricatus
Hamamelis virginiana
Polystichum acrosticoides
Solidago caesia