

## **DIRECTIONS TO FOREST BIRD MONITORING PROGRAM SITE AT:**

### **BRISTOL CLIFFS WILDERNESS AREA**

**Bristol, VT**

Site established by Ernie Buford, 1999.

Directions updated by Ron Payne and Ian Worley, 2014

From Route 116 in West Lincoln, turn south onto York Hill Road (over green steel bridge). Continue up this road for 1.7 miles. Turn into the small parking lot for Bristol Cliffs Wilderness Area on the right where the road (also known as West Hill Road) levels off and takes a sharp left turn.

**Directions to the transect:** *Bearings are True North, not magnetic (magnetic declination is +15 degrees).*

Navigate using GPS or smartphone app such as *Avenza* with a georectified pdf map (available on VCE website) to find the points; use the bearings and distances only for backup/situational awareness.

The hike to the transect can be tricky. It takes 20-30 minutes from the parking lot. Technically there are no trails in wilderness areas, however, there is a well-worn trail that goes a short distance into the area, and a very primitive trail following a fading woods road that can be discerned all the way to the transect. Follow the well-worn trail straight in from the parking lot. Beyond the trail register do not follow the main trail, which turns left, but proceed straight ahead on a less-worn trail to the stream. Cross on the rocks and slog across a small seep (fern/sedge patch) to a barely recognizable trail in the faint roadbed that leads to the transect. Recognizing the roadbed cut is key! In 2014 the roadbed cut was discernable most of the time, and it proceeds pretty much straight to the transect. Watch for a very big sugar maple (44.09290, -73.02306), which in 2013 was quite healthy. This tree marks the departure from the roadbed to Point #1.

**POINT #1:** Beginning at the old maple follow a bearing of **289°** for about 50m to Point #1, located on an 18"dbh sugar maple. Yellow flagging was fixed on the tagged tree. The site is just to the southwest of the fading woods road mentioned above. Flagging and tag were in place in 2014.

**POINT #2:** Continue on a bearing of **282°** for about 200m to Point #2, located on a 2.5"dbh beech about 20m upslope (westerly) of three huge boulders.

**POINT #3:** Proceed on a **194°** bearing ~180m to a chest-high boulder about 10m before the now-tiny stream. Point 3 is located on a 12"dbh sugar maple 2m east of the boulder.

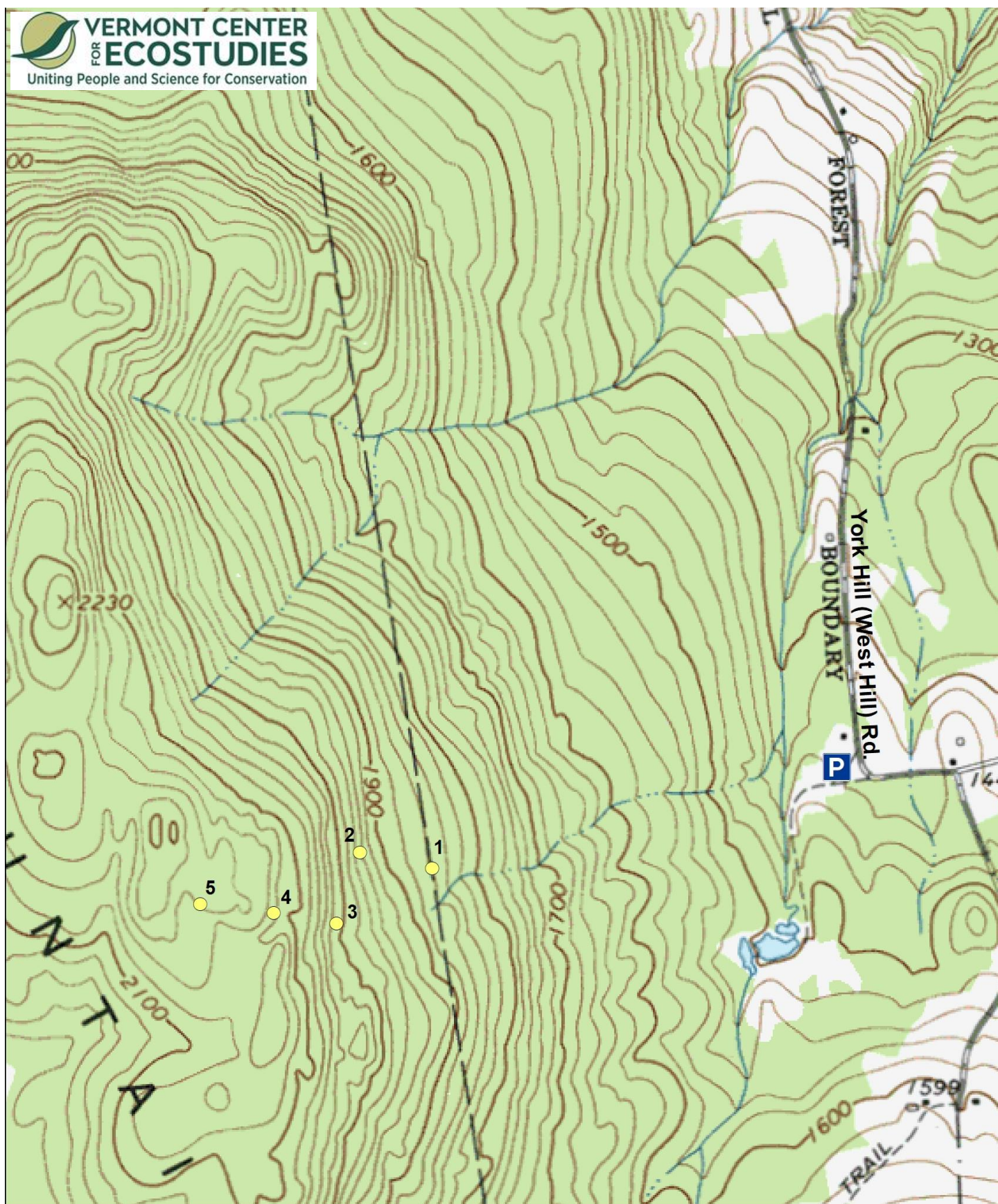
**POINT #4:** Climb the hill along a **286°** bearing for 150m where you will meet the stream, which makes a big U-turn around a steep rocky knoll after a steep climb. Cross the stream and follow it (upstream) around the U-turn, and climb the bank to the west. Point 4 is located several meters uphill from the stream on an **11"dbh red maple**. Point 4 is just E of a rotting tree trunk with three healthy ~10"dbh trunks arising from it.

**POINT #5:** Continue on a **277°** bearing for 160m. Point #5 is a tagged white birch on the far side of slight knoll with several other white birches nearby.

#### Point Count Coordinates (Decimal Degrees)

Point	Lat	Long
1	44.0930325	-73.0236072
2	44.0933329	-73.0255598
3	44.091950	-73.026180
4	44.0923023	-73.0298568
5	44.0921420	-73.0278827

*NOTE: Surrounding each point count station are three vegetation plots, each located 30 m away on **magnetic** bearings of 0°, 120°, and 240°. They are labeled with treetags inscribed with the point count number and a letter corresponding to the bearing: B (0°), C (120°), and D (240°). Be careful not to confuse these points with the actual point count stations.*



200 100 0 200 Meters



**Forest Bird Monitoring Program -- Bristol Cliffs Wilderness Area**

● Point Counts