

large, open areas of land where you may prefer to exercise your pet:

Link Common (22 hectares)

Access from the A449 Worcester Road at Malvern Link.

Malvern Common (60 hectares)

Note: stock may graze here in autumn

Access from the A449 Wells Road, between Great Malvern and Malvern Wells.

Newland Common (6.5 hectares)

Access from the A449 Worcester Road at Newland.

Poolbrook Common (10 hectares)

Access from the B4208 Poolbrook Road at Poolbrook.

Woodford Meadow (2 hectares)

Access from Albert Road North (behind the Malvern Hills College) in Great Malvern.

All are close to Malvern town centre. Car parking is available at the car parks on the commons.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DOG OWNERS

1. Keep your dog under control at all times and do not allow it to chase stock or disturb wildlife. REMEMBER that worrying, which includes chasing, is an offence for which the destruction of the dog can be ordered.

2. If you lose your dog, encounter a stray dog, or see a dog worrying sheep, report it to the police or the dog warden.

3. Collect your dog's waste and either dispose of it in a dog bin, or take it home with you.

Useful numbers

Police: 0845 7444888

Dog warden (office): 01684 862151

(out of hours): 01684 892701

Conservators: 01684 892002

The Malvern Hills Conservators

The Malvern Hills Conservators are one of Britain's oldest conservation bodies and a registered charity. They own, or have under their jurisdiction, most of the Malvern Hills and Commons (a total area of 1,200 hectares or 3,000 acres) and manage them to preserve their unique ecology and natural beauty.

For more information about the Conservators and their work, please contact:

The Malvern Hills Conservators, Manor House,
Grange Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3EY

Office open weekdays 9am–1pm and 2pm–4pm.

Telephone: 01684 892002 Fax: 01684 577457

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www.malvernhills.org.uk

Charity No. 515804

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Retriever (Louise Cox)

Malvern Hills

Enjoying the
Malverns with
your dog



The Malvern Hills and Commons are a wonderful place to walk dogs and the Malvern Hills Conservators welcome dog owners and their pets onto their land. However, in order to ensure that the hills and commons are a pleasure for everyone, the Conservators ask dog owners to help them in the following ways:

Is your dog "Sheep Safe"?

The Conservators' flock of Cheviot ewes plays an essential role in the conservation of the hills and the wildlife and monuments on them; the sheep keep the grass close-cropped, which prevents bracken, gorse and trees becoming established. However, in 2003 twelve sheep were killed by dogs, or so badly mauled in dog attacks that they had to be humanely destroyed. This is the worst extreme of sheep worrying, but a dog simply cornering or chasing sheep – even if it does not actually attack – is also very serious, as this causes so much stress that pregnant ewes can miscarry or give birth to stillborn lambs.



The dog's chase instinct is useful to the shepherd, but causes him problems if not controlled

The central (from the Wyche Cutting to Wynd's Point) and southern (from British Camp south) Malvern Hills, Castlemorton and Hollybed Commons and Old Hills are grazed by sheep and other animals and you should keep your dog at heel or, preferably, on a lead in these areas unless you are certain that he or she can be trusted around livestock. We also recommend that you put your dog on a lead when crossing the cattle enclosures on the northern Malvern Hills.

Be wildlife aware

Sheep are not the only creatures on the Malverns that can be frightened by dogs. Skylarks nest on the ground and so are particularly vulnerable to disturbance; this is thought to be a significant factor in their declining numbers on the hills and commons.

Research has shown that a running dog causes Skylarks to abandon their nests for many metres around, leaving their eggs to chill and their chicks vulnerable to predators. Multiply this by hundreds of dogs a day and you can imagine how seriously it affects the Skylark's chances of survival. Please help us conserve the Skylark and other ground-nesting birds by keeping your dog under close control on the hilltops and commons between March and July (the nesting season).

Get into training

If your dog can't resist the urge to chase livestock, or is difficult to control in other ways, then details of local trainers offering "Sheep Safe" and other dog training courses are available from the Conservators' offices. Training sessions really do work – it takes as little as six sessions to teach a dog to ignore sheep – and they will make walks on the Malvern Hills much more fun for both of you.

In the meantime, you may find a retractable lead gives you more control, whilst allowing your dog to get plenty of exercise.



After just six lessons, this group of dogs have learnt to ignore sheep

Cleaning up after your dog

Dog fouling is an increasing problem on the Malvern Hills. As well as being an unpleasant nuisance, it represents a health hazard for people and animals, as dog excrement carries bacteria that can cause blindness in children and stillbirths in sheep.

Please help us keep the Malvern Hills and Commons clean by collecting your dog's waste and either disposing of it in the bins or taking it home with you. Importantly, please do not leave bags with dog waste in them lying on the hills and commons, as even biodegradable bags take many months to break down.

Alternative exercise areas

There is nowhere on the Malvern Hills and Commons that you cannot exercise your dog off the lead, providing it will not chase sheep or other animals. If your dog is difficult to control around livestock, then the Conservators own several other