

The presence of indicator species such as yellow archangel, pignut, dogwood and bluebell shows that **Fish Pool Leys Coppice**, between Jubilee Drive and Ledbury Road, is an ancient woodland. The multi-stemmed hazel and chestnut stools confirm that, as its name suggests, this wood was managed for coppicing.

In Mathon, the Conservators have recently acquired **The Hacketts**, 20 hectares of unimproved meadow and ancient woodland which give wonderful views of the Malvern Hills.

Powick

Old Hills has many interesting historical features, including remnants of medieval ridge and furrow. Oliver Cromwell's parliamentarian army camped here in September 1651 before winning the decisive Battle of Worcester. Local commoners still graze animals, including geese, on the common land.

Castlemorton and Hollybed

Castlemorton Common is a relic of Malvern Chase, the royal hunting ground which stretched from the Malvern Hills to the River Severn. Large areas of the common have never been cultivated and are still grazed by commoners' cattle and sheep. Castlemorton Common is a notable site for one of Britain's rarest trees, the black poplar, and has been declared a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in recognition of its national importance as a plant and wildlife habitat. The area around the **Mill Pond** in **Golden Valley** is a favourite local beauty spot.

Grass Verges

One of the most attractive features of the Malvern area are the broad grass verges along the roads. Many of these are owned and maintained by the Malvern Hills Conservators, including those at Sherrard's Green, Poolbrook, Hall Green,

Guarlford, Newland Green, Townsend Way and the Rhydd. Along Guarlford Road, the verges are old grassland with a high number of wildflower species and are managed as a hay crop.

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.

A map highlighting the location of all the land owned by the Malvern Hills Conservators can be viewed or purchased at the Conservators' Office.

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

E mail: conservators@malvernhills.org.uk
www.malvernhills.org.uk

Charity No. 515804

Published 2004

Cover image: Wild garlic at Fish Pool Leys Coppice
Photography by Vincent Dolan



Malvern Hills Green spaces and hidden places



The Malvern Hills Conservators are best known for caring for the hills after which they are named, but they also own and protect many other green spaces in the area. Like all land owned by the Conservators, the woods, meadows, commons and ancient tracks featured in this leaflet are open to the public. We hope you enjoy exploring them.

Around Malvern

Situated close to the centre of Great Malvern off Albert Road North, **Woodford's Meadow** is named after Guy Woodford, a local resident who spearheaded the campaign to save this green space for the townspeople. Between Great Malvern and Malvern Wells, the 60 plus hectares of Malvern Common are a mix of open grassland, magnificent mature trees, streams, ponds and species-rich wetlands.

In West Malvern, **Horsecroft Coppice** is an almost untouched ancient woodland, with high numbers of the nationally rare wild service tree, whose berries were once used to cure colic and dysentery. The large amount of dead wood in the coppice makes it a very biodiverse habitat, of particular value to beetles. **Walmspout Coppice** has largely been grazed out, but has some small-leaved limes, which indicate that it is an ancient (at least 400 years old) semi-natural woodland. The nearby meadows are noted for their wetland flora. **Park Wood** is another ancient semi-natural woodland, which is home to plants like field maple and dog's mercury, as well as being the site of old limekilns and quarries.

In North Malvern, **Kendalls Common** houses the pound and stocks, whilst in nearby **Lodge Fields**, there are old stone boundary walls and a bank and ditch marks the site of the hedgerow which once divided the meadow.

Link Common stretches for 22 hectares between North Malvern and Malvern Link. In Victorian times, Link Common was the place where day-trippers



Yellow archangel is one of a number of ancient semi-natural woodland indicator species. These plants take several centuries to colonise an area, so their presence in significant numbers indicates that the woodland has existed for at least 400 years.



The Mill Pond at Golden Valley



Wood Street

from the industrial towns of the Midlands converged before heading up to the hills; today, the two annual fairs on the common continue a centuries-old tradition.

Around Guarlford

Wood Street, part of an ancient drover's track which ran from the river crossings at the Rhydd and Clevelode, across the Malvern Hills at the Wyche Cutting and down the Purlieu into Herefordshire, has definitely been in use from Anglo Saxon times and possibly dates from the prehistoric era. Today it is a green lane which starts in Guarlford and runs towards Great Malvern; at the end of Wood Street, a series of footpaths lead across fields to the town. **Jack Pits Lane** is a remnant of the historic "wastes" of the manor of Malvern and is also now a green lane.

The Ryhdd and Clevelode

Originally major wharfs and crossing points on the River Severn, all that remains of these once busy villages is a few cottages and the foundations of lost buildings. The Conservators care for **Rhydd Green**, where offenders against the laws of the royal forest were hung in medieval times, and a section of the riverbank at **Clevelode**. Clevelode village was known for its basket weaving in the Middle Ages and osiers still grow in abundance along the riverbank; the stone for Malvern Priory was unloaded at the wharf here.

Colwall and Mathon

Ballard's Land, a series of small meadows adjacent to the Malvern Hills, has interesting unimproved grassland flora and is the best site in Herefordshire for Heath-Spotted Orchids. Nearby, at **Colwall Lands**, south of the Purlieu, the underlying limestone creates a good habitat for common rock rose and salad burnet.

We have been told that many of the “Hidden Places” are so well hidden that some people have not been able to find them from the information given on the original printed leaflet. We have now added this extra page of information to our Web Site version of the leaflet giving grid references for all the places referred to:-

“Hidden Place”	OS Grid Reference	Addition Information	Add your own notes
Ballard's Land	764 426		
Clevelode	835 468		
Colwall Lands	762 439		
Fish Pool Leys Coppice	761 404		
Horsecroft Coppice	76177 46804	Go through Outdoor Centre	
Jack Pits Lane	801 454		
Kendalls Common	77402 46872	Off the Purlieu	
Link Common	780 472		
Park Wood	76312 44309		
Rhydd Green	836 451		
The Hacketts	756 440		
Wood Street	809 449		