

St. Ann's Well

How is the organisation funded?

Most of the cost (around £450,000 per year) of managing the land under the jurisdiction of the Conservators is met by a levy on Council Tax payers from the Wards of Malvern, together with the parishes of Colwall, Guarlford and Mathon. This levy is collected on behalf of the Conservators by the District Council. The balance is largely made up by income from car parking and, increasingly, grants from outside funding bodies.

Accountability

There is an Annual Meeting of Council Tax payers each July. Accounts for the year may be obtained prior to the meeting from the Conservators' Office. Residents living in the levied areas are represented by an elected member whose name and telephone number are available at the Conservators' Office.

Car parks

The money collected from car parks goes directly back to conserve the Hills and Commons. This income is around £95,000 per year and is vital in supporting our work. Twelve month car parking permits are available at a cost of £2 for levy payers and £25 for others. Please contact the Office for more details.

Management

Our biggest challenge is in fact to keep the Hills and Commons as they are today. If we do not get grazing back, the woody vegetation will grow up to the top of the Worcestershire Beacon and we will lose the wonderful views, as well as the habitats of several rare species of wildlife. A conservation flock of Cheviot and Hebridean sheep is being used to target grazing to the south of British Camp and we are taking measures to encourage more commoners to exercise their grazing rights.

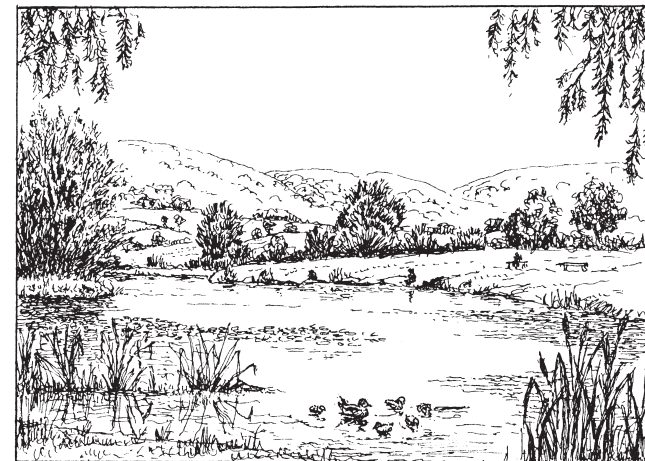
More information

If you would like to know more about the Hills and Commons, the Conservators, the Malvern Hills Acts, or the Byelaws, please call at the Conservators' Office (opposite the Malvern Theatres), or visit our web site at www.malvernhills.org.uk. Illustrated talks about any aspect of the Conservators' work can be organised through the Office.

Maps and Guides showing footpaths are on sale at Malvern Tourist Information Office.



MALVERN HILLS CONSERVATORS



The Millpond, Golden Valley

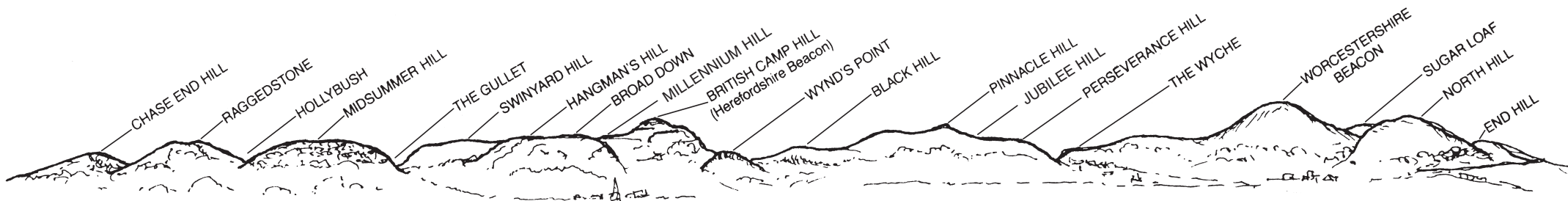
MANAGING THE HILLS FOR YOU TO ENJOY



Manor House, Grange Road, Malvern WR14 3EY

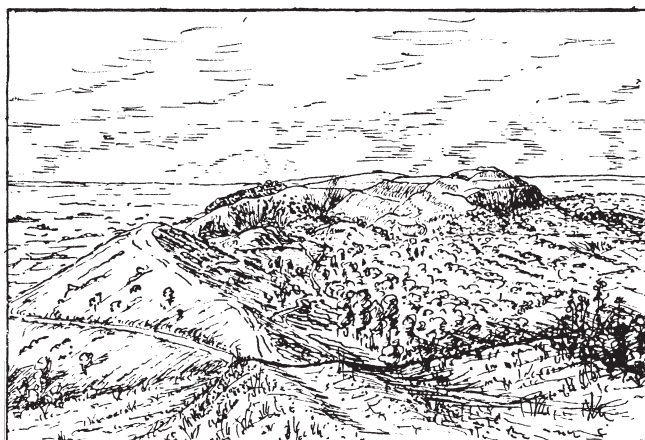
Tel : Malvern (01684) 892002

February 2005



Who are we?

Set up under the Malvern Hills Acts 1884 to 1995, the Board of Conservators consists of both elected and nominated members. The Wards of Malvern and the Parishes of Colwall, Guarlford and Mathon elect, in all, eleven representatives every four years. The Malvern Hills District Council nominates eight members; the Herefordshire Council nominates two; the Worcestershire County Council nominates two; certain Parish Councils of areas around the Hills nominate five; and the Church Commissioners one.



British Camp from Pinnacle Hill

What do we do?

The Conservators care for most parts of the Hills and the surrounding Commons, some other parcels of land and many roadside verges. The total area under their jurisdiction is now over 1200 hectares (3000 acres). By law, it is their duty to prevent encroachments on these areas; to keep them open and unbuilt on for the recreation and enjoyment of the public; to conserve the Hills and Commons; and to protect the ancient rights of the registered commoners. These objectives sometimes conflict, although we aim to find the most appropriate balance.

How do we work?

The Board meets in the Council House Committee Room at 7.00 p.m. on the second Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November. At these meetings the Board considers the reports presented by its committees and officers and questions from the public. If you wish to make a point or ask a question, please contact the Director beforehand. All the Board and Committee meetings are open to the public, except where litigation or financially sensitive matters are involved.

How does the work get done?

The Board employs a Director, and his team includes a Conservation Officer with particular responsibilities for land management and the organisation of the work programme of the Operations Manager, Field Staff and contractors. There are also two Wardens and additional voluntary Wardens who, when patrolling the Hills, are able to meet, inform and help visitors, whilst at the same time encouraging respect for the countryside. We are interested in hearing from anyone who would like to help out as a Voluntary Warden or join in our conservation days.



The conservation flock