From St Ann's Well, the path takes you through patches of woodland until an uphill climb brings you to a grassy opening. The pathway running across the grass to the right will take you into Earnslaw Pool. (If you are joining this walk from Earnslaw car park, take the Easier Access Path from the car park to Earnslaw Pool and join the walk from here).

Earnslaw Pool is a former quarry now filled with spring water and covered in water lilies in the summer. The shrubs and terracing in this area were formerly part of the gardens of Earnslaw House

Turn right out of the quarry and follow the pathway leading uphill on your right all the way to the ridge and the cairn at the Goldmine.

There have been various attempts to mine gold at this site; the first mining charter was granted in Elizabeth 1st reign. None were successful, although spectacular buried treasure has been found elsewhere on the hills – notably a gold coronet set with precious stones, which a cottager dug up in 1650.

From the Goldmine, descend the other side of the ridge, following the path signed for Hayslad on the cairn. This leads to the southern entrance to West of England car park. Turn right and follow the lane back to your car. When you reach the middle of the car park, you may want to take a detour to Hayslad spring by following the path through the grass on your left.

Reaching the walks from Great Malvern (Approx. 0.8 miles/1.3 km from Great Malvern Station to St Ann's Well)

From Great Malvern Station, turn right and then left onto Avenue Road. At the T junction turn left onto Church Street and follow the road uphill to the T junction with Bellevue Terrace. Cross the road and turn left and then right into Rosebank Gardens. Go up the Ninety Nine Steps at the back of the garden and at the top of the steps, cross the road to take the lane leading steeply uphill. This brings you to St Ann's Well, from where you can join either walk.

Additional Information

Access for all

The Conservators have recently constructed two Easier Access Trails to enable not only wheelchair users, but everyone who finds the steeper slopes difficult, to enjoy the beauty of the Malvern Hills. The trails start from Earnslaw car park and Blackhill car park. There are dedicated disabled parking bays at both car parks; disabled parking bays will be provided at all MHC car parks during the course of 2004/2005.

Malvern Hills Conservators

Set up under the Malvern Hills Acts 1884 to 1995, the Malvern Hills Conservators are one of Britain's oldest conservation charities. They own, or have under their jurisdiction, most of the Malvern Hills and Commons (a total areas of 1,200 hectares, or 3,000 acres) and manage them to preserve their unique ecology and natural beauty.

To find out more about the Conservators and their work, visit the website **www.malvernhills.org.uk** or drop in to the Conservators office, opposite the Malvern Theatres. The office is open to the public **9am-1p**m and **2pm –4pm** on weekdays.

Contact Details

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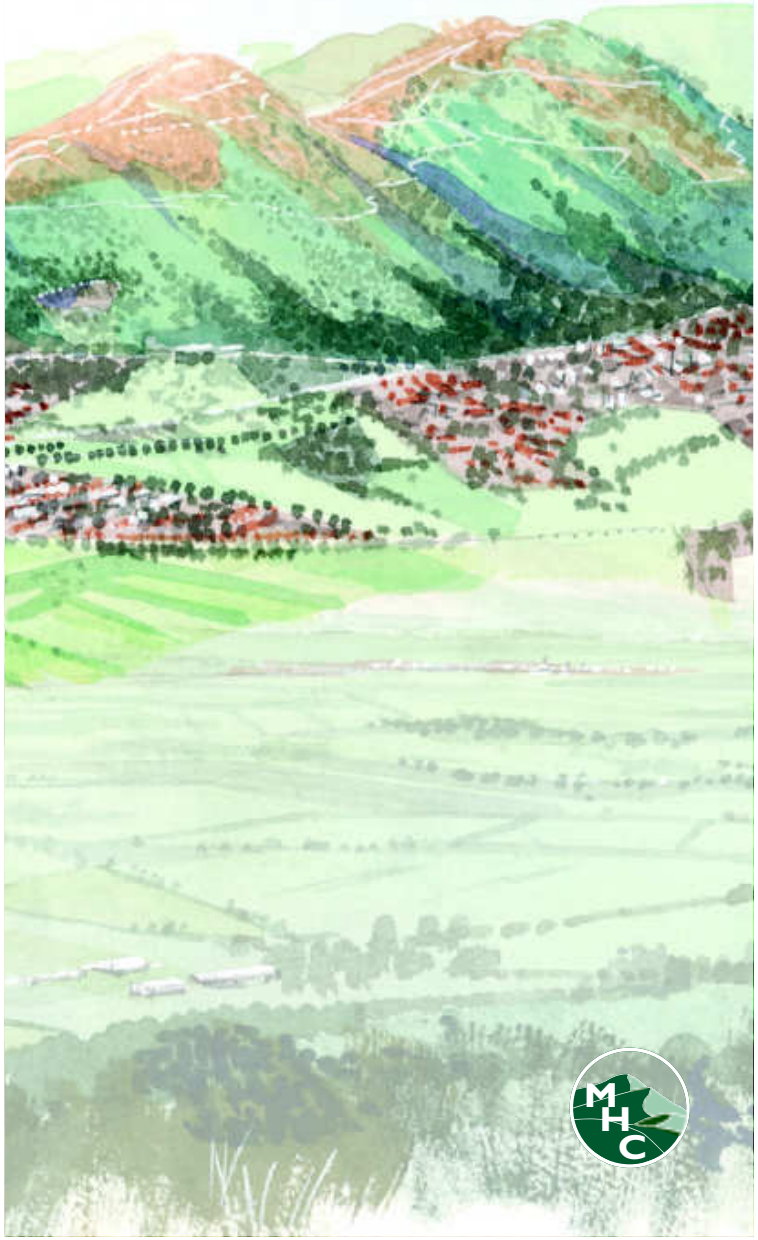
The Countryside Agency

Malvern Hills
Walks on the northern Hills



Walks on the northern Hills

This leaflet highlights two circular walks on the northern Hills which can be combined into a 6 mile/10 km (approx.) circuit. Both walks can be accessed from Great Malvern, as well as car parks on the Hills. There are many more paths to explore in the area; leaflets and guides can be obtained from the Conservators' Office or Malvern Tourist Information Centre.

Walk from North Quarry Car Park
Approx. 2.8 miles/4.5 km, 1¾ hours

North Quarry is one of many former quarries along the length of the Hills. Malvern stone had always been quarried on a small scale, but when it proved ideal for road building at the beginning of the 20th century, the booming industry threatened to destroy the Hills and their famous ridge line. The Malvern Hills Conservators were instrumental in closing down the quarries and have since landscaped many of them to soften the scars they left.

From North Quarry car park, take the broad path uphill and follow it until you descend to reach the junction with the tree-lined path up Happy Valley. Cross the valley and take the path sweeping uphill on your left. Where this path forks, turn right and uphill, going across the four-way junction at the top (signed Sugarloaf) and over the ridge to pick up the contour path running around Table Hill.

This path is **Lady Howard de Walden Drive** which, like many of the other paths on the Hills, was created in the Victorian era when Malvern was in its heyday as a resort and wealthy visitors flocked to take the water cure. Lady Howard de Walden's mansion (now St James' School) is the large house below you at the start of the drive.

Continue to follow this path all the way around Table Hill and North Hill, taking the main uphill path at every junction. This will ultimately bring you in a circle back to the four-way junction where you turn left and downhill to St Ann's Well. At the bottom of this path, turn left again, crossing Happy Valley to rejoin the path to North Quarry car park, or make a detour to St Ann's Well, where you can get refreshments and also join the other walk in this leaflet.

Around **North Hill**, you may well see the **Galloway and Belted Galloway cattle** who are the latest recruits to the Conservators conservation team. The cattle trample down bracken and other invasive species and prevent saplings from getting established. Without them and the sheep grazing further south, the Hills would eventually be covered in trees and scrub.

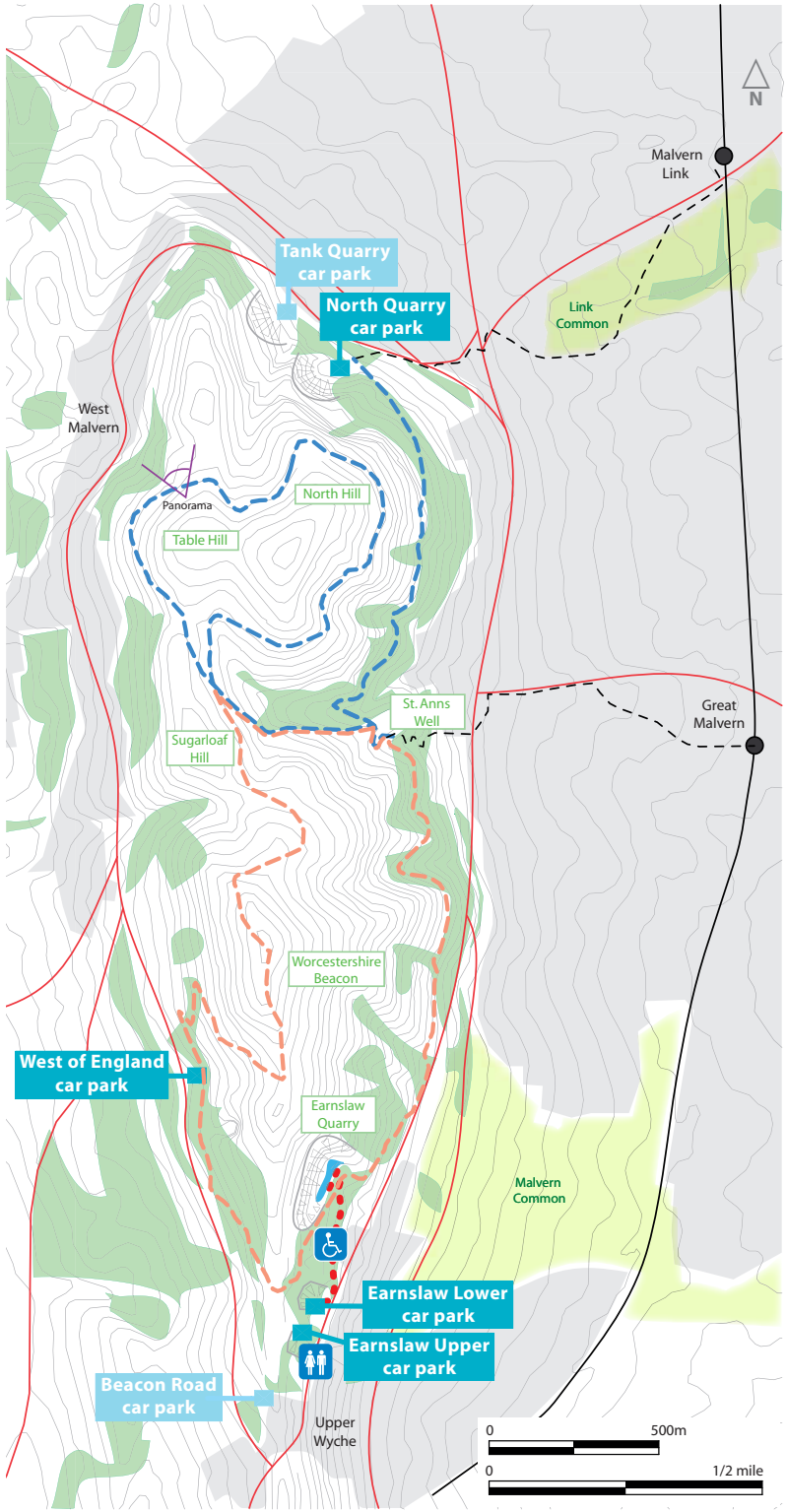
Walk from West of England Car Park (or Earnslaw car park).
Approx. 3.5 miles/5.6 km, 2 Hours

From the northern section of West of England car park, walk up the grassy bank towards the Hills and turn right onto the car track. Follow the grass track that leads uphill from here and zigzag your way up to the summit of the Worcestershire Beacon.

The Beacon is the highest spot on the Malvern Hills, with spectacular 360° views. The toposcope on the summit (designed by Troyte Griffith, one of the people Elgar immortalised in the Enigma Variations) will help you identify the landmarks.

Take the broad path that leads down the northern side of the Beacon to the round directional cairn. From here, follow the broad path ahead (signed North Hill) until the junction of four paths, where you turn downhill and right to St Ann's Knoll. At the T junction, turn right and follow the pathway behind the wellhouse.

St Ann's Well was a popular port of call for water cure patients, who followed a regime which included being woken at 6am, wrapped in wet sheets for an hour, enduring an ice cold shower and then hiking up the Hills to drink water from the springs – all before breakfast. Today you can still refresh yourself with a draught of Malvern water from the spout, or enjoy a cup of tea and a cake from the café.



KEY

Built-up areas	Railway	Earnslaw Upper	High capacity car park
Woodlands	Walk from North Quarry	Beacon Road	Low capacity car park
Commons	Walk from West of England car park		Public Toilets
Main roads	Walking routes to train stations		Easier Access Trail