



Cycling on the Malvern Hills and Commons

The Malvern Hills and surrounding commons are a wonderful place to cycle. The landscape is criss-crossed by numerous bridleways and rides here offer magnificent views across Herefordshire, Worcestershire and beyond.

The Malvern Hills Trust owns, protects and manages the unique cultural heritage, wildlife and geology of this iconic English landscape for the benefit of the local community and the hundreds of thousands of visitors who come each year.

We have been caring for the Malvern Hills and surrounding commons since we were established in 1884 by an Act of Parliament and are a registered charity.

www.malvernhills.org.uk



Rights of Access

We welcome cyclists to explore the bridleways of the Hills.

In the 1884 Act of Parliament, horses and walkers were given a right of access over all land under our jurisdiction.

Aside from Bridleways and Byways, there is **no right of access** for cyclists on the Hills and Commons.

This is the [standard of cycling access](#) across much of England.

To find out where bridleways are located on the Hills, you can check [here](#) or refer to an [Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 190](#). Please be aware that there are no bridleways on the Herefordshire side of the Hills.



Safe and responsible riding

In order to work more closely with mountain bikers the Trust invited local cyclists to join a mountain biking working group.

The Trust and mountain biking representatives are now working together to identify paths where permissive access for cyclists may be provided. These paths will be on established tracks and we hope to have them officially open and signposted in spring/summer 2017.

For all cyclists using the Hills and Commons we ask you to abide by the following Code:

- **Please leave no trace or trail.** Leave things as you find them, and please take litter home with you.
- **Plan your route** so that you avoid riding tracks where cycling is not permitted. The Malvern Hills are a shared landscape with many types of users, please help to make them a place that everyone can enjoy.
- Please help us **prevent new tracks** from forming by not cutting through vegetation or travelling over grassy areas. Creating new tracks leads to a number of issues including rain water channelling which further damages important archaeology, protected habitats and established paths further down slope.
- Please **don't construct jumps**. Digging or moving earth can have a detrimental effect on the wildlife of the area. As the majority of the Hills and Commons are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, these activities are an offence for which you could be prosecuted.
- Please **be mindful of livestock** and give animals chance to move out of the way. Much of the Hills are registered Common Land and you should expect to see livestock anywhere at any time.
- Always **give way to horse riders, walkers and runners** who are likely to be travelling at a slower speed than you. Avoid surprising other visitors to the Hills by calling out, but give them time to gather up small children or dogs.
- Be particularly **careful at junctions** and blind bends where other visitors may be out of sight.



Caring for the landscape

The whole area of the Hills are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and are therefore nationally protected. Within this area there are also highly sensitive areas which require an even greater level of protection.

Scheduled Monuments – British Camp, Midsummer Hill (National Trust) and the Shire Ditch marked in *orange* on maps

These archaeological monuments are nationally important and are legally protected from damage. Erosion can threaten the integrity of these monument which are thousands of years old, and the unique way they have been built means that they cannot be repaired. Please help us prevent erosion on these monuments.

- Cycling is not permitted on the monuments
- You are permitted to ride where a bridleway crosses a monument but do not ride off the track on the grassy areas.
- Take extra care in wet conditions.

Highly sensitive wildlife areas marked in *red*

The Hills and Commons are a fantastic place for wildlife and many rare and protected species can be found here. Many of our rarest plants are can be found on very tops and the upper slopes of the Hills.

- Sensitive grassland habitat can take years to recover following erosion. Further water erosion can extend the period of recovery.
- Adders are a protected species and sensitive to disturbance. They're hidden on the bracken slopes of the Hills.
- Ground nesting birds, particularly the meadow pipit, are at risk of disturbance in the spring and summer months. Keeping to paths minimises the chance of a deserted nest.
- Bluebell bulbs sit just under the surface of the woodland and can be easily damaged along with other woodland flora such as wood anemone and wild garlic.

Easier access routes – Jubilee Drive path and Black Hill Easier Access paths marked in *yellow*



Some paths on the Hills and Commons are for walkers only and cycling and horse riding is not permitted. Here, walkers with less mobility or families with pushchairs and small children are encouraged to enjoy the Hills at their own pace. Please allow visitors to walk with confidence, without the worry of having to move away from faster traffic (horses or cyclists) by staying off these paths. All of these paths are signposted.



Malvern Hills Trust

Look after yourself

- Remember to wear a cycle helmet which conforms to recognised safety standards
- Livestock grazing the Hills are contained within temporary electric fencing. Sticking to bridleways and permissive routes will help stop you getting caught up in electric wire.

Supporting the management of the Malvern Hills and Commons

The Malvern Hills and Commons are managed and cared for by a registered charity.

With over 1 million visits each year, the maintenance of the paths and the conservation of the SSSI and ancient monuments is a significant cost and amount of work.

Please help us conserve the Hills, their important features and this special place for the future by cycling responsibly.

Keep in touch with the Trust on Facebook and Twitter. If you see something untoward whilst out riding, please let us know info@malvern hills.org.uk or call 01684 892002

If you'd like to find out more about the Malvern Hills Trust, how we care for the Hills and Commons and the special wildlife, archaeology, geology and history, come along to some of our public events

Looking for something a little more adventurous?

With a large number of visitors in a concentrated area you may wish to visit these nearby centres if you're a thrill seeking rider!

[Forest of Dean Cycling Centre](#)

[Ribbesford Bike Park](#), Wyre Forest

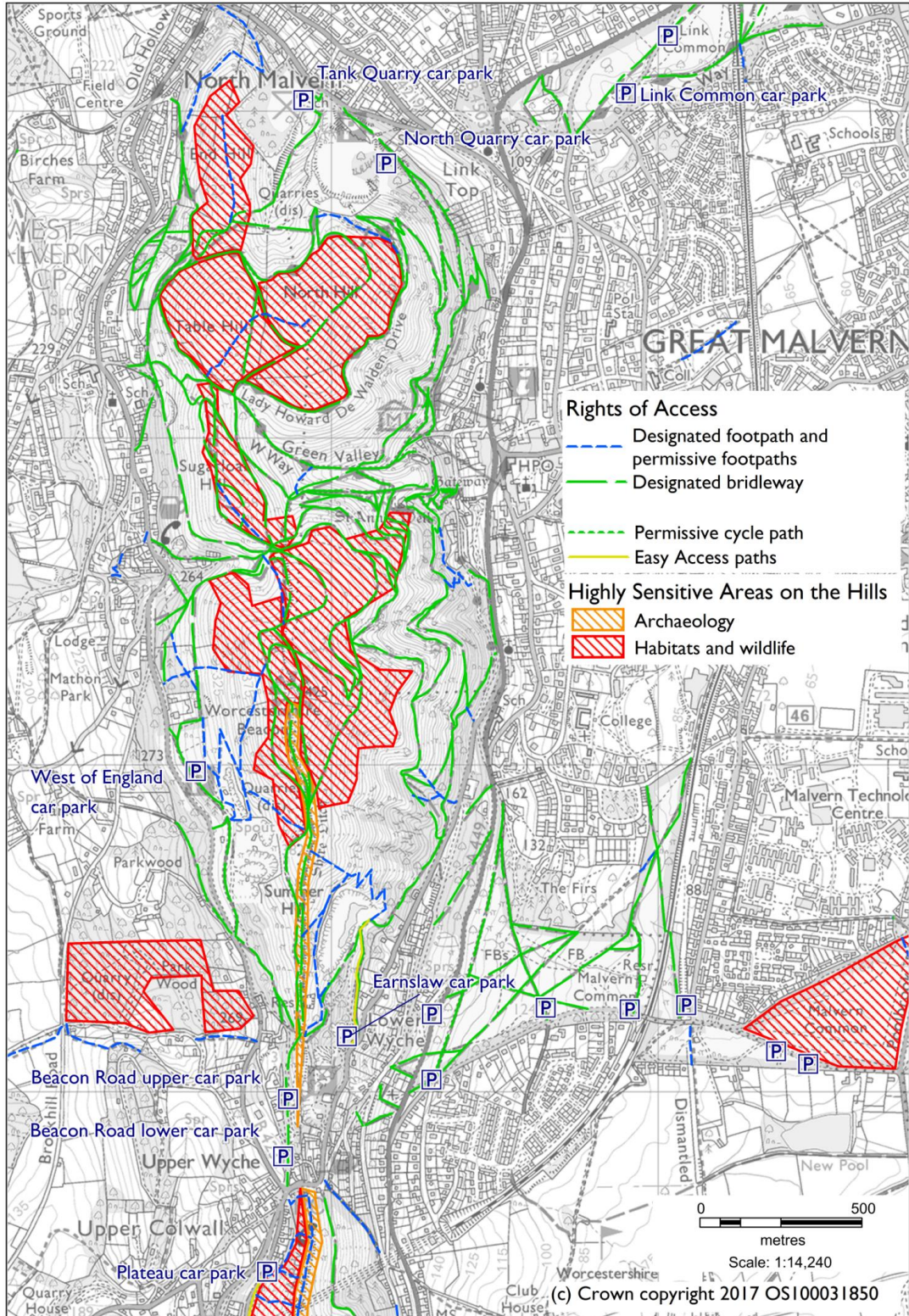
[Cwmcarn](#), Newport, South Wales

[BikePark Wales](#), Merthyr Tydfil

[417 Project](#), Cheltenham



The Northern Hills



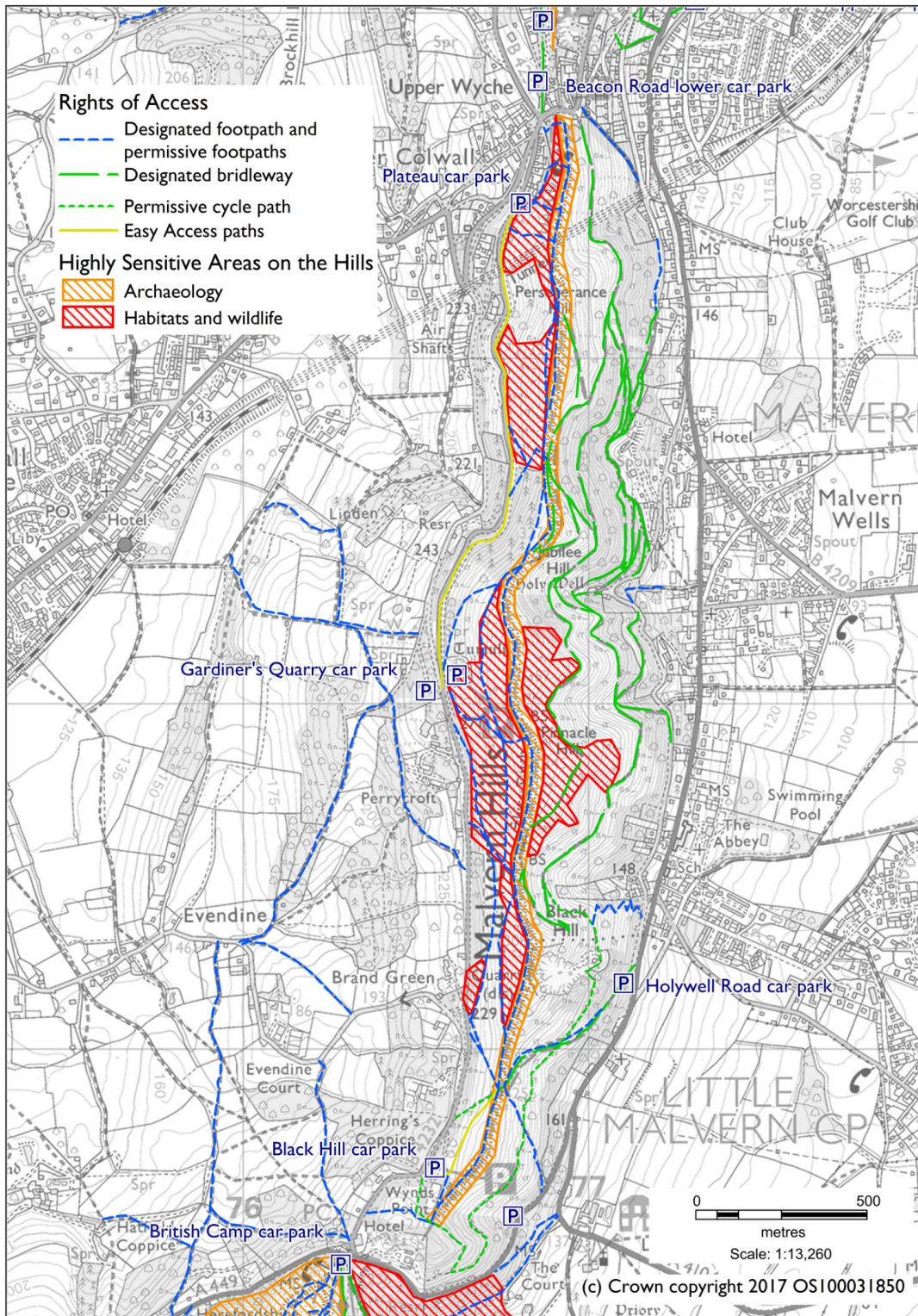
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Malvern Hills Trust, Manor House, Grange Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3EY

Malvern Hills Trust is the working name of Malvern Hills Conservators. Registered charity no.515804. Vat No. GB 275 8803 21



The Central Hills



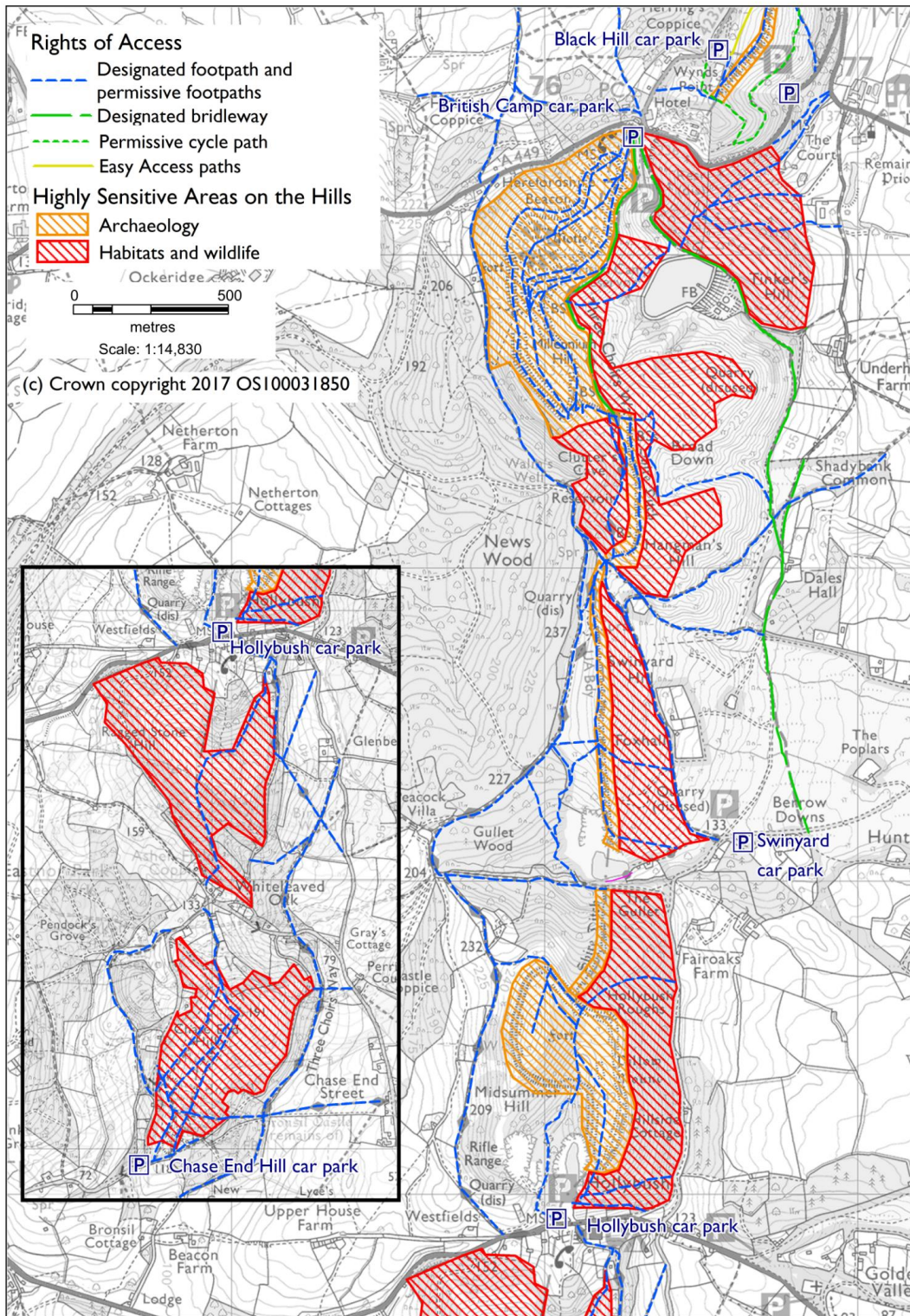
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The Southern Hills



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