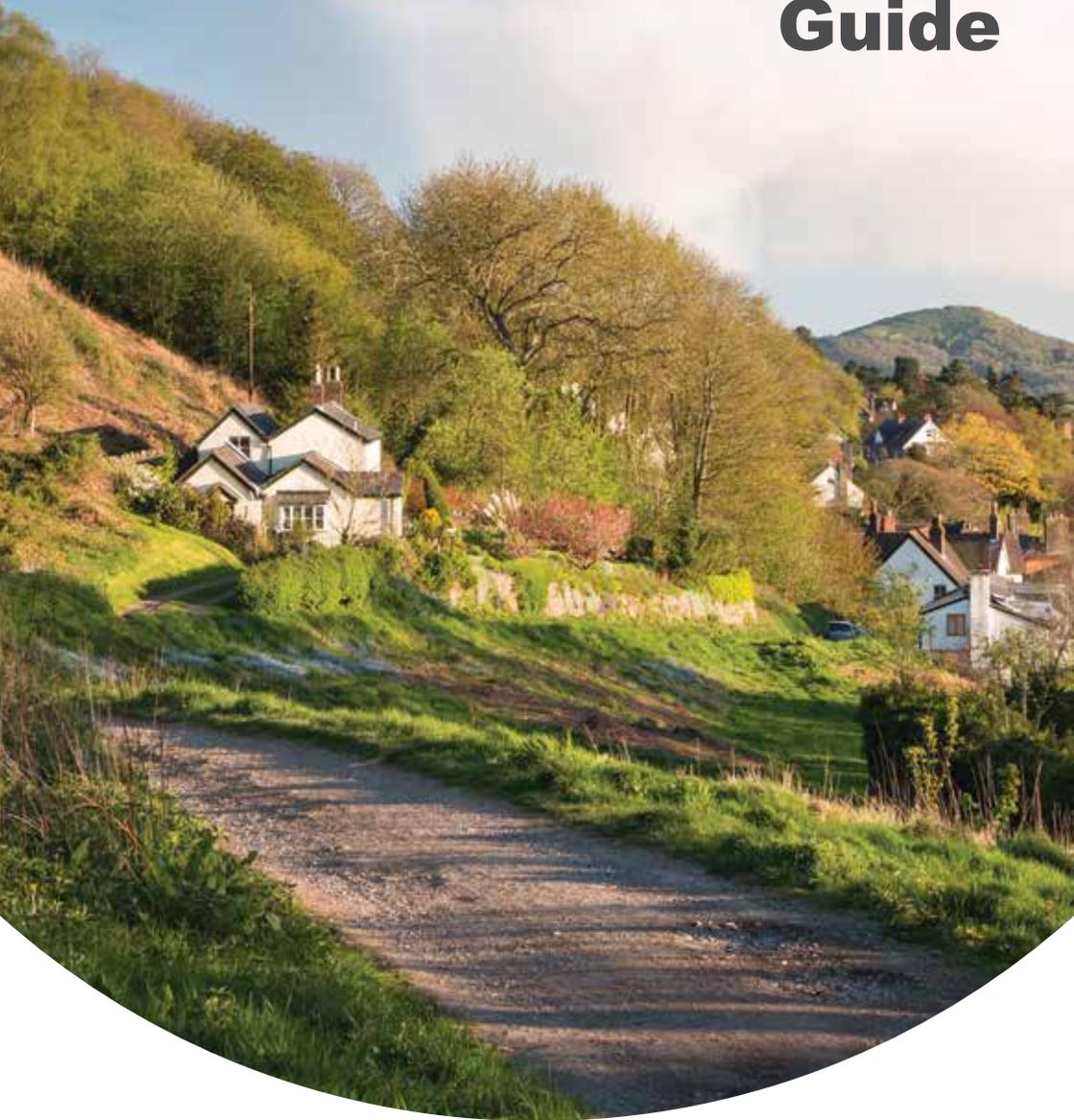


Good Neighbours' Guide



Malvern Hills Trust

We are fortunate to live near to a very special landscape: the Malvern Hills and Commons. Much of this landscape is managed by the Malvern Hills Trust (MHT) for the benefit of local people and visitors.

This leaflet tells you a little more about the land, the work of MHT and how you can help to keep it special.

The Malvern Hills and Commons is an iconic and cherished English landscape, the majority of which falls under the care of MHT. As such, this mosaic of grasslands, scrub and woodland is open to the public for quiet recreation throughout the year. It is of national importance for its wildlife, geology, archaeology, and landscape character. It forms the centrepiece of the designated Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

This landscape was considered so special that in 1884 an Act of Parliament was passed to safeguard it and create this body to protect and manage it. Today, the Malvern Hills Trust is a charity managed by 29 Board Members and day-to-day work delivered by a team of staff, helped by volunteers. We have the twin purposes of conserving the Hills and Commons whilst maintaining access for the many hundreds of thousands of visitors who enjoy them each year.



Our staff and volunteers at work

Managing this landscape involves a wide range of tasks. You are most likely to see our wardens and field staff out and about. Wardens patrol the area seven days a week, helping the public, maintaining car parks, enforcing the byelaws, picking up litter and running volunteer days. Field staff undertake mowing, path maintenance, safety work and habitat management. There is plenty of work to do in keeping this place special and you can help too.

Our land management

We undertake a variety of work including grazing of livestock, woodland work, hay-making and safety work. In places, tree felling is sometimes necessary for safety reasons and also to maintain the characteristic open hilltops and commons. All our work is guided by our Land Management Plan. This is published on our website.

A few simple tips on how you can help look after this landscape

- If you see any issues, such as flytipping, on our land please let us know.
- Please park in the car parks provided rather than on the common or access tracks (easements).
- Please take your litter home when you can. Bins on Trust land are not for domestic or business waste.
- Be ready to encounter livestock anywhere and at any time.
- Contact us before undertaking any work on MHT land.
- We recommend that you should be familiar with our byelaws. These can be found on our website www.malvern hills.org.uk/visting/byelaws-and-policies
- If you witness any antisocial behaviour then contact us, or if serious, the police.

Hard copies of our publications and information can be provided on request.

Boundaries

If you're a neighbouring property owner, boundary features between your property and land under our care, such as fences, ditches and hedges, are usually your responsibility to maintain. Please ensure the location of your boundary features do not creep out (encroach) onto MHT land but remain in the correct definitive line. If you are uncertain as to where the boundary lies or wish to do major works on your boundary features please get in touch before starting work. Our contact details can be found at the end of this leaflet.

We spend many days per year clearing away flytipping to keep the area safe and attractive for everyone. Please help us by not tipping waste or garden refuse over your boundary onto our land; as well as being unsightly, this can smother natural habitats. You should also not undertake any cutting of grass, shrubs or trees, or place obstacles such as posts or stones or any plant on MHT land.

As a property owner you have a right to cut back any vegetation overhanging your property to the boundary line. If you wish to do this then do please get in touch with us. More information on tree management can be found on our website.

Parking and driving

MHT maintains 17 car parks around the Hills and Commons. Please use these and refrain from driving over MHT land other than on a road or a lawful easement (see opposite). Parking should only be in a designated car park not on other MHT land. Vehicles left on MHT land may be removed.



Car park passes and charges

All funds raised from car parking go towards the conservation and maintenance of the Hills and Commons. Daily charges are payable at MHT car parks and tickets are valid across all MHT car parks on the date of purchase. Annual car passes for use in all our car parks are also available to everyone and are great value even if you only visit the Hills a few times a year. Those residents who live within the precept-paying area pay a much-reduced rate on an annual car pass.

Easements

Many properties have a right of access across MHT land, called an easement. In most cases the maintenance of any vehicular right of way is the responsibility of the property occupiers who use it. Easements are restricted in their size, use and track surface type. Parking is not permitted on any easement. Please contact us if you wish to modify or resurface your easement or request a new one. Any new easements need to be approved by our Board and an application form is available on request.

Activities on MHT land

Where possible we will try and accommodate short term use of our land for activities such as events, utility works, storing materials or access when there are no alternatives. To make sure these activities don't damage the land or conflict with someone else's event, all such activities need permission so please get in touch beforehand so our staff can advise you. Any unlawful items may be removed and impounded.

Common land and livestock

Most MHT land is common land, meaning it is subject to certain rights of local people, called commoners, and protected by the Commons Acts. Commoners' rights are attached to individual properties and the register of rights is held by the County Council. The most widespread right is to allow livestock to graze. These animals may lawfully be put out onto the common anywhere and at any time. Property owners on or near the



common must therefore ensure their own boundaries are secure against wandering livestock. Remember that livestock will be found on roads near the commons where they have the right of way and drivers should use due care and appropriate speed. Every year cows and sheep are killed and maimed by vehicles.

More information on Common Land is available at www.foundationforcommonland.org.uk/

Dog walking

The Hills and Commons are a great place to walk your four-legged friend, but please be aware that you may meet livestock anywhere and at any time. Please keep your dog under close control at all times – dogs can kill livestock and disturb wildlife. Other visitors to the Hills may not be comfortable with dogs. The police will take action where dogs harm livestock. Please pick up dog poo and put it in a bin or take it home with you. Lost dogs can be reported to the dog warden (see contacts).

Plants and trees

We take great care to conserve and protect the important wildlife and habitats of this area but they are easily damaged and can be overrun by garden plants. Please keep your bulbs or plants for your garden.

The cutting of any plant or tree, alive or dead, is not permitted under the byelaws except that some Commoners' with a specific right of estover may undertake minor harvesting. Those rights are limited and are specified in the county commons register. See Boundaries for more information on trees.

Memorials

Scattering ashes is a way for people to remember a loved one. To keep the Hills natural for everyone we would ask that you be sure to scatter the ashes to the wind and avoid the main ridgeline. Likewise, please do not plant or place any objects as part of a memorial such as a stone or wreath. Thank you.

Byelaws

There are 42 byelaws that regulate the activities that can or cannot be carried out on MHT land. Copies of these byelaws are available from our

office or website, but to help you this leaflet has highlighted many of the topics relevant to you as a local resident. Please note that breaches of a byelaw could incur enforcement, a fine or police action.

How you can support MHT

You can help look after this amazing place by becoming a volunteer working either in the office or out on practical tasks, or you could help look after your local patch by becoming a volunteer site warden.

Donations and legacies can help us deliver the general work of managing the Hills and Commons or fund special projects such as pond restorations, path improvements or species conservation. Please make a donation through Just Giving.



Please get in touch for further information.

T: 01684 892002 (out of hours calls will be redirected to a warden on duty)

E: info@malvernhills.org.uk

W: www.malvernhills.org.uk

You may find these other contact numbers useful:

Emergency services 999

Police non-emergency 101

Malvern Hills District Council 01684 862151

Dog warden 01905 822799 (office hours) or 01562 733175 (out of hours)

Herefordshire Council 01432 260000



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.

Malvern Hills Trust is the working name of the Malvern Hills Conservators (Registered Charity 515804).

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

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