

The Malvern Hills you never see

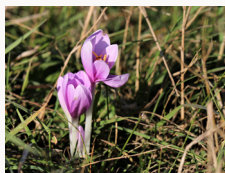


A behind-the-scenes look into summer on the Malvern Hills

Founded by an Act of Parliament, we're a small charity that cares for the iconic Malvern Hills and Commons.

Read on to learn about work taking place on the Hills, the decisions being made, and what to look out for this season.

In summer the Hills are managed sensitively to protect newborn wildlife and thriving habitats. Vegetation is cut back from paths and car parks, and Rangers help everyone to enjoy them safely.



Saving one of the UK's rarest wildflowers

Volunteers cut and raked bracken at the Purlieu Fields, Colwall. Done to protect Meadow Saffron, a near-threatened native wildflower in the UK.

This delicate flower - which is on the UK's red list for plants - would have died out without conservation intervention. Bracken can smother low-lying plants and flowers by blocking access to light.



By actively managing certain habitats, we're able to protect sensitive species and support nature recovery.



To get involved in regular conservation volunteer days, search "Malvern Hills volunteer".



Malvern Hills Trust

Thank you to long-serving Ranger

After more than 20 years with the Trust, Rich has retired.

🌱 During that time, Rich built strong relationships with volunteers and the local community. He has helped visitors enjoy the Hills safely while responding to incidents such as accidents, livestock worrying and fires.



We would like to thank Rich for his years of dedicated service to the Hills and wish him every happiness in his retirement.



Summer highlights

Everything comes to life in summer.

Bats fill the skies at night to forage. Reptiles like lizards, slow worms and snakes may be seen basking in the sun. Summer birds such as swifts, swallows and flycatchers return to the Hills.

The Malvern Commons are home to an abundance of orchids and butterflies. Elsewhere, a mixture of fine grasses, herbs, marshes and heathland supports a wide variety of wildlife.

Trialling a more accessible hand gate

We use hand gates to enable public access into areas where livestock are grazing. Grazing by cattle and sheep helps manage vegetation, reducing the risk of fires during dry spells and keeping the iconic views open.

🌱 We've been working with partners, including the Disabled Ramblers, to design a better, more user-friendly hand gate. It will make it easier for horse riders and people on mobility scooters to move between fenced areas.

How we've been caring for the Hills and Commons

Our field team help to keep over 80 miles of hill paths open and accessible. The team keep fast-growing vegetation under control by mowing and strimming.

Thanks to a grant from Malvern Hills National Landscape, we now have a new remote-controlled mower. The team have named it “David Mowie”.

The new machine will make it easier and safer to manage sensitive and steep grasslands, such as the Iron Age hillfort at British Camp.



Local people helping shape the future of the Hills

More than 100 people attended our recent meet-and-greet events to share their views on how the Malvern Hills and Commons are managed.

The events helped explain some of the challenges facing the Hills, such as climate change and increasing visitor numbers. They also highlighted the actions needed to adapt to keep them special.

This feedback will inform the next Land Management Plan, which guides how the Hills and Commons are cared for. A draft will open for public comment by late 2026.

Find out more –
malvernhills.org.uk/LMP

Are you interested in what's happening with the Malvern Hills Bill?

Keep updated or read and learn the facts about the Bill at
malvernhills.org.uk/bill



Help keep the Hills safe this summer

As warmer weather brings more people outdoors, a few simple choices can make a big difference for people, wildlife and the landscape.

Thank you to the member of the public who alerted us to a fire at Happy Valley in May, which damaged an acre of land. Thankfully, no one was harmed.

Since then, our Rangers have put out several portable BBQs and found the remains of small campfires. Leaving portable BBQs at home and bringing a picnic instead is a simple way to help protect this special landscape.

We're also asking visitors not to swim in water bodies on our land. Unknown hazards and cold water can make swimming very dangerous. Please look out for signs and help keep yourself and others safe.

Malvern Hills Trust is the working name of the Malvern Hills Conservators (Registered Charity no. 515804)

Come behind the scenes

Want to know what really goes into caring for the Hills and Commons?

Join us for a relaxed family day. Meet your local ranger, see the new robot mower "David Mowie" in action, and learn about wildlife on the Hills. Kids can complete activities and collect stamps to earn their own Junior Ranger badge, too!

5th August 2026 - 10am-12pm

Lower Cockshot Road car park,
Link Common, WR14 2UE

Find out more -

Malvernhills.org.uk/discovery-day

Stay connected

If this update has helped you to feel more in touch with how the Hills are being cared for and why, you can sign up to receive our email newsletter.

Sign up via:

Malvernhills.org.uk/newsletter



Malvern Hills Trust

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