

THE MALVERN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Discovery Walk No 7



Back to Nature in Malvern Wells



Points of Interest

- A** St Wulstan (Wulfstan) c1008-95 A Benedictine monk, bishop of Worcester. Born of Anglo-Saxon parents in Warwickshire and educated at the abbeys of Evesham and Peterborough. Once ordained he was offered a richly endowed church but he refused and became a Benedictine monk at Worcester Cathedral Priory. About 1050 he was made prior of 12 monks. In 1062 he became bishop and was one of the best examples of combining the roles of monastic superior and diocesan bishop. He was one of only a few Englishmen to retain high office to the end of William the Conqueror's reign. He died at the age of 87.
- B** Hornyold. Land in this area was owned by Alfonso Otho Gandolfi Hornyold (The Duke) who died in March 1906. The Hornyold family has held estates in Worcestershire since the time of Henry III. They developed a pottery business at Hanley Castle area and they bought up surrounding lands increasing their wealth. The land around the old hospital site was sold in 1919 to Fredrick Samuel Wilson Smith. There is still to this day a member of the Hornyold family living in The Hanley area.
- C** Black Hill Quarry also known as Little Malvern or Berington's Quarry. The land was part of the Berington Estate and, although a small amount of quarrying started in about 1880, commercial quarrying did not commence until it was leased from 1909 to 1930 to Pyx Granite Company Limited. They constructed a substantial self-acting railway from the quarry to the Wells Road for transporting the stone. The base to the winding drum at the quarry and two substantial concrete structures at the bottom of the incline, (just before note **II**), can still be seen. The provision of the Malvern Hills Act of 1924 was that the lease would not be renewed when it expired and The Conservators bought the mineral rights in 1925 to prevent further quarrying. The land remained in the ownership of Little Malvern Estates until 2002 when it was purchased by Malvern Hills Conservators. The Malvern Hills Conservators are one of the oldest conservation bodies in the country and were set up look after the Malvern Hills.
- D** Assarts. The area now known as Upper Welland was formally Assarts Common. Two roads carry the name Assarts in the area. The origin of the name stems from the time when a licence was required to clear the land for farming. This licence was known as permission to assart.
- E** Abbey International College. Miss Edmunds started Abbey School on this site in 1876. It was later taken over by Miss Florence Judson, whose mother, Margaret Judson, had started a school in Blockley. Miss Florence brought the school from Blockley to Hazelbank in Malvern Link before taking over the school at the Wells from Miss Edmunds. Florence and her sister, Alice, ensured that the Judson family ran the school until 1942. In 1979 The Abbey School amalgamated with St. James's in West Malvern and this was called St. James's and The Abbey for the next 7 years. The Abbey International College took over the site back at the Wells and still operates there today.
- F** St. Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve. Formerly a hospital of the same name, it was built to accommodate the American wounded in the D-day invasion of WWII. After the Americans left it became a TB hospital. From 1962 to its closure in 1987 it was used as a psychiatric unit and rehabilitation hospital.



St Wulstan's as it was

Essential Information

Starting Point	St Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve, St Wulstan's Drive, Upper Welland, Malvern Wells OS Reference 780414
Distance	Approximately 4 miles
Maps	OS Explorer 190 (1:25000)
Terrain	Tracks, fields, bridleways and some roads. Some steep climbs, generally good but could be muddy in places in wet weather.
Refreshments	None on the walk route but filled rolls, food and drink can be purchased at the Spar store in Upper Welland village, Upper Welland Road.
Public Transport	Buses 343 and 675 stop on the Wells Road at the junction of Upper Welland Road. Only the 343 goes down Upper Welland Road to either Assarts Lane or the Spar village store. There is no bus service travelling up to the Wells Road from the Spar village store.
Car Parking	St Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve has a small car park.
Toilets	There are no facilities on this walk.

St Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve is owned by Malvern Hills District Council. The route crosses some land owned and managed by The Malvern Hills Conservators.

When out walking, please follow the COUNTRYSIDE CODE.

*Use alternatives to your car whenever possible.
Keep to the public rights of way and designated areas of public access when crossing farmland.
Use appropriate gates and stiles to cross field boundaries.
Leave gates as you find them or follow signs.
Avoid damaging or disturbing wildlife, including plants and trees.
Keep dogs under close control and always clean up after them.
Guard against all risk of fire.
Take your litter home and dispose of it responsibly.*

This is one of a series of Discovery Walks which enable people to understand and appreciate the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. For further details please contact the AONB office: Tel: 01684 560616. www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk.

This leaflet has been compiled by Malvern Wells Parish Council



The Malvern Hills AONB Partnership exists to secure the conservation and enhancement of this special area.

Designed and Produced by Jaro 01989 563302 www.jaro.co.uk

St Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve

Birds:

Blue tit, great tit, coal tit, long tailed tit, goldfinch, greenfinch, chaffinch, bullfinch, woodpigeon, collared dove, green woodpecker, great spotted woodpecker, starling, robin, blackbird, song thrush, mistle thrush, fieldfare, redwing, magpie, carrion crow, rook, jackdaw, jay, kestrel, sparrowhawk, tawny owl, buzzard, goldcrest, willow warbler, garden warbler, blackcap, chiffchaff, whitethroat, wren, dunnock, pheasant.

Butterflies:

Brimstone, comma, orange tip, meadow brown, ringlet, common blue, small heath, small copper, gatekeeper, green-veined white, large white, small white, marbled white, peacock, red admiral, small tortoiseshell, speckled wood, small skipper, hedge brown.

Other insects include glow-worm, hornet, grasshoppers, dragonflies, ants, bees and 191 species of beetle.

Reptiles and amphibians: slow-worm, common lizard, frog, grass snake.

Wildflowers include:

Yarrow, bugle, scarlet pimpernel, cow parsley, cowslip, common knapweed, common mouse-ear, rosebay willow herb, dyers greenweed, ox-eye daisy, ribwort plantain, bluebell, daisy, meadow buttercup, buddleia, teasel, broom, meadowsweet, common fumitory, cleavers, lady's bedstraw, herb robert, cut-leaved cranesbill, doves-foot cranesbill, ground ivy, hogweed, St Johns wort, cats ear, white dead-nettle, red dead-nettle, nipplewort, meadow vetchling, lesser hawkbit, common toadflax, honeysuckle, greater birds foot trefoil, tree lupin, musk mallow, scented mayweed, black medick, dogs mercury, common poppy, green alkanet, creeping cinquefoil, selfheal, dog rose, bramble, common sorrel, common figwort, biting stoncrop, hoary ragwort, ragwort, groundsel, white campion, hedge mustard, bittersweet, black nightshade, perennial sow thistle, prickly sow thistle, hedge woundwort, lesser stitchwort, greater stitchwort, common chickweed, devils-bit scabious, white comfrey, dandelion, red clover, white clover, colts-foot, gorse, western gorse, common nettle, great mullein, germander speedwell, wall speedwell, ivy-leaved speedwell, common field speedwell, thyme leaved speedwell, hairy tare, common vetch, grass vetchling, smooth tare, field pansy, dog violet, mistletoe, ragged robin.

Trees:

There are also lots of different trees and shrubs, notably the introduced specimen trees such as blue atlantic cedar, deodar, californian redwood, amalanchier, leylandii, flowering cherry, laburnum, cotoneaster, holm oak, apple, acer, walnut, copper beech, lombardy poplar and blue pine. Shrubs include forsythia, philadelphus, broom, tree poppy, winter jasmine, fuschia, laurel, rhododendron, roses and viburnum. There is also a good variety of native trees, including mature pollard oak and ash, the beech and hornbeam hedges plus birch, willow, yew, spindle, hawthorn, blackthorn, poplar, rowan, horse chestnut, alder, field maple and crab apple.



St Wulstan's as it is today