

Knapp & Papermill
Reserve

Ravenshill Wood
Reserve

Crews Hill Wood
Reserve



Wildlife & Landscape Trail

A circular walking route including three
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
Nature Reserves

Produced by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust with support from
the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural
Beauty Partnership

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Wildlife & Landscape Trail

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust is a charity dedicated to the conservation of wildlife in Worcestershire. It is part of the largest voluntary organisation in the UK concerned with aspects of wildlife conservation. Worcestershire Wildlife Trust has over 17,000 members and cares for more than 70 nature reserves.

Since it was founded in 1968, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust has been:

Establishing nature reserves and encouraging others to do so.

Working with landowners and planners to ensure that wildlife is always taken into account.

Helping everyone, particularly young people, to understand, appreciate and participate in conservation of wildlife and the environment.

Undertaking surveys, which monitor the health of Worcestershire's wildlife.

For more information about Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, please visit www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk

Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally protected landscape. The AONB designation recognises that the natural beauty of the area is of great importance and that it is in the nation's interest to conserve it.

The Malvern Hills AONB Partnership helps to conserve and enhance the distinctive and characteristic features of the area such as its landscape, wildlife, geology and archaeology. The Partnership does not own or manage any land directly but provides a strategic direction for the area and helps to coordinate the activities of those who influence it. Local authorities, government bodies, parish councils, landowners, communities and voluntary groups are all involved in looking after the AONB.

Key aims of the AONB Partnership include encouraging sustainable forms of transport and ensuring that tourism, recreation and access respect the special qualities of the area. People should enjoy the AONB in an informed and responsible way.

More details about the AONB and the work of the AONB Partnership can be found at www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk.



The Wildlife & Landscape Trail

It is the complex geology and geomorphology, which creates the diversity of landscape in the area to the north of the Malverns. Ancient Silurian rocks outcrop here, limestones and sandstones form the wooded ridges of the Suckley Hills and the rounded hilltops above the Teme Valley. The Knightsford Gap at Knightwick was formed by glacial meltwater in the last ice age cutting into the hills and causing the River Teme to change its north-south course and flow east. More can be found out about the area's fascinating 400 million year old story from the panel on the top of Round Hill on the Worcestershire Way.

The trail described leads through a varied landscape of woodland, plantation, orchard, pasture and farmland. In spring and summer you pass through meadows full of wild flowers and grasses, including, knapweed, yellow rattle, self-heal, crested dogs tail, sweet vernal grass, cowslip and green-winged orchid. During warm days they dance with meadow brown butterflies and demoiselle damselflies.

This area has an abundance of footpaths. The trail described here only covers a small number, much more time would be required to properly explore and enjoy the landscape and wildlife of the Suckley Hills and Teme Valley.



General information about the trail

Maps: Ordnance Survey Explorer 204, Landranger 149 & 150

Total Distance: 13.5km Stiles: 7

Start Point Grid Ref: SO 751 522

Location: 6 miles west of Worcester, close to the villages of Alfrick, Suckley & Knightwick

Terrain: Mainly pasture and woodland, some steep slopes. Paths can become muddy and slippery during winter; during the summer areas can become overgrown with nettles and brambles. Some fields may contain grazing animals.

Facilities: Limited parking can be found at the Knapp & Papermill Nature Reserve and Ravenshill Wood Nature Reserve. The nearest town is Bromyard however the village store in Alfrick is well stocked. The Fox and Hounds Public House is very close to the route and the Talbot at Knightwick a traditional coaching inn offers B&B, excellent food and has its own micro brewery.

See back page for more information on local amenities, bus and cycle routes.

1

Section 1: Knapp & Papermill Nature Reserve entrance to Upper Tundridge Farm



● Kingfisher



● Wild Service



● Dormouse

Walk up past the small pond on your left to the Information Centre and then down a steep incline with the lovely bubbling Leigh Brook on your left. Look for the azure flash of a kingfisher as you descend into the smaller of two meadows. You can follow a circular trail through the woodlands to your right which contain some fine oaks, wild service, an indicator of ancient woodland and both small and large-leaved lime, these woods are home to dormice so look for signs like nibbled hazel nuts. If you carry on through to 'Big Meadow' keep a look-out for green winged orchids and in summer an abundance of meadow brown butterflies. You may also see the ethereal banded and beautiful demoiselles. Follow the track down through a gate and carry on with the Leigh Brook still to your left, you may be able to smell the pungent scent of wild garlic. Pass through another gate and drop down a steep path to a bridge, which takes you out of the reserve. Go past Nightingale Bower cottage and take an immediate right turn through the woods still following the stream until the path meets an open field. Go through the gate and follow the path to the left through another gate. Cross a stile and take the track out to the road where you turn left again across another stile into an open field. Walk across past an old willow and through a gate onto a track which passes Lower Tundridge Farm and out onto the road. Turn left here then right to Upper Tundridge Farm.

Stile Count: 2 Distance: 3km



2

● Beautiful Demoiselle



● Common Spotted Orchid



● Buzzard

Section 2: Upper Tundridge Farm to Crews Hill Wood Nature Reserve

Walk up past the Oast House and turn left onto the bridleway which takes you across a field towards the woodland. Look out for buzzards circling overhead and turn to admire the view before taking the track straight on into the woodland. As you rise onto the Suckley Hills to meet the Worcestershire Way the wood at first consists of tall conifers with a few hazel trees. As you follow the Worcestershire Way you start to see remnants of hazel coppicing and more mixed woodland, with ash, oak, sycamores, elderberry and climbing honeysuckle. At the next meeting of ways turn right along a ridge, look out for common spotted orchids at the tracks edge. Take a second right turn then a left fork over a stile into an orchard then cross the road still following the Worcestershire Way path until you reach the entrance to Crews Hill Wood Nature Reserve (marked by a Wildlife Trust board). As you pass through the wood keep an eye out for wood anenomes, wild service and the magnificent rare large-leaved limes on the banks of the deep gullies left by quarrying in the area. Follow the Wildlife Trust path signs till you reach the road entrance.

Stile Count: 0 Distance: 2.9km

3

Section 3: Crews Hill Wood Nature Reserve entrance to Ravenshill Wood Nature Reserve

At the entrance cross the road to a track which leads down past The Crest and onto a path on the left. Keep following the Worcestershire Way until you come to a right fork which leads you into Ravenshill Wood.



● Tims Pool



● Great Spotted Woodpecker



● Barley

Pass the Quarry Cottages and go over a stile. Notice the tunnel of fine small-leaved limes before taking the next right fork and crossing a stile onto a path with high-sided hedges either side. This comes out onto the road at the side of Hill Orchard. Turn right and follow the road to the entrance of Ravenshill Wood Nature Reserve. Marked trails guide you around the wood past Tims Pool where you may see many dragonfly and damselfly species including emperor, brown hawkler, common and ruddy darter. The varied woodland encourages birds like woodpeckers and nuthatches, and foxes are a common sight. Here you will also find a small visitors centre with trail guides and information about the reserve. If you turn left at Hill Orchard the road takes you to the Fox and Hounds public house where you can get a good range of homemade meals and real ales.

Stile Count: 2 Distance: 3.1km

4

Section 4: Ravenshill Wood Nature Reserve entrance to Alfrick village centre

From Ravenshill entrance turn right and follow the road past a large pond. Turn left onto the bridleway and follow the line of trees (in summer the adjacent field may contain oilseed rape). Follow the line of the hedge and at the first corner head out diagonally across the field, looking across to your right for some stunning views of the Malverns; if the path across the field is overgrown carry on along the line of the hedge. Keep going until you reach a gate, go through it and keep right until you pass through another gate at the end of the tree line. Turn right down to a metal gate and exit onto Green Street. Carry on right down past Finches Nest, looking out for poppies in the field edges and skylarks overhead.



● Poppies



● Fox



● Big Meadow

When you meet Folly Road turn right, to take you into Alfrick village where you can find refreshments at the village store.

Stile Count: 0 Distance: 1.9km

5

Section 5: Alfrick village to the Knapp and Papermill Nature Reserve entrance

From the village centre head toward Alfrick Pound and Suckley, past the pretty Church of St Mary Magdalene, the nave of which dates back to Norman times. Follow the road until you reach a footpath sign and stile on the left. Go over the stile, cross the field to another stile and look across lovely views of the Teme Valley. In the next field cross to another stile up a bank, follow the line of the fence on the right to a gate on the far side of the field, pass through this onto a track. Take a right turn down onto a high-sided rough path where care should be taken in wet weather, follow this track out onto the main road and turn left to bring you back to the entrance to the Knapp & Papermill.

Stile Count: 3 Distance: 1.6km



KEY

- Public right of way -----
- Permission footpath -----
- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve -----
- Sections ●

Knapp & Papermill Reserve

ALFRICK CP

Suckley Hills

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The Knapp and Papermill Reserve

Section 1

This peaceful reserve covers 27 hectares of old meadows, woods and orchards in the Leigh Brook valley. There are three marked trails around the reserve. The numbered trail is described in full in the guide, which is available from the Information Centre. Also available are activity sheets for children and adults to make your walk more interactive.

Please contact the reserve warden Fergus Henderson on 01886 832065 for more details about the reserve and an annual guided walk around three local nature reserves.



The Long Trail



Start: Outside Information Centre
Length: 3km
Terrain: Hilly and uneven.
Track down to Daffodil Field suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs with care on steep gradient.
Waymark: Follow the yellow discs






The Short Trail



Start: Outside Information Centre
Length: 1km
Terrain: Hilly and uneven.
Track down to Daffodil Field suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs with care on steep gradient.
Waymark: Follow the blue discs



Key

-  Nature Trail
-  Reserve Boundary
-  Compartment Boundary
-  Public Footpaths
-  Access Points



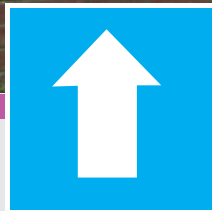
Big Meadow ▶

Ravenshill Woodland Reserve

Section 4

This 20 hectare woodland near Alfrick is privately owned and is sensitively managed for conservation. The woods are part of an ancient forest, which once stretched from Wyre Forest to the Forest of Dean. Marked trails guide you around the wood but you may prefer to use a network of narrower quieter paths. Trail leaflets are available from the Discovery Centre along with activity sheets for children to make your walk more interactive.

Please contact the wardens Trevor and Annette Smart on 01886 821661 for more details about the reserve.
email: wardens@ravenshillwood.org.uk



The Long Trail

Start: The Discovery Centre

Length: 1.5 miles

Terrain: Reasonably flat and even but can be very muddy during wet weather. Track to Tims Pool suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Waymark: Follow the blue signs



The Short Trail

Start: The Discovery Centre

Length: 0.5 miles

Terrain: Reasonably flat and even but can be very muddy during wet weather. Track to Tims Pool suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.



Waymark: Follow the red signs

Section 4

4



Key

-  Nature Trail
-  Reserve Boundary
-  Footpath



Tims Pool ▶

Local Amenities

Africk Post Office & Store

6, St. Marys Crescent, Alfrick,
Worcestershire WR6 5HW.
Tel. 01886 832528

Suckley Post Office & Store

Longley Green Suckley . Worcestershire WR6 5DU.
Tel. 01886 884201

Chirkenhill

Farmhouse B&B Accommodation, Sarah Wenden,
Leigh Sinton, Malvern,
Worcestershire WR3 5DE.
Tel. 01886 832205.
www.chirkenhill.co.uk

Frome Valley English Table Wines

David & Clare Longman, Brockbury Hall, Colwall
Worcestershire WR13 6EH.
Tel. 01684 540432.
Email sales@fromewine.co.uk

Hammonds Natural Meat

Pewcroft Farm, Suckley Road, Knightwick,
Worcestershire WR6 5QQ.
Tel. 01886 884221

Happy Meats Limited

Bank House Farm, Stanford Bridge, Worcestershire
WR6 6RU.
Tel. 01886 812 485.
Email info@happymeats.co.uk

Knightwick Butchers

Knightwick, Worcestershire WR6 5PH.
Tel. 01886 821585

Ledbury Cider & Perry Co.

Mr Brian Wilce, Old Kennels Farm,
Bromyard Road, Ledbury, HR8 1LG.
Tel. 01531 635024.
Email wilceoldkennelsfarm@btinternet.com
www.ledburycider.co.uk

Teme Valley Market

Local goods & produce. Second Sunday of every
month.
11am-1.30pm at The Talbot public house at
Knightwick
Tel. 01886 821235

The Fox & Hounds

Lusley, Knightwick, Worcestershire WR6 5QT.
Tel. 01886 821228

The Nelson Inn

Longley Green, Suckley, Worcester, Worcestershire
WR6 5EF.
Tel. 01886 884530

Whitbourne Ceramics

Whitbourne Hall, Whitbourne,
Worcestershire WR5 5SE.
Tel. 01886 821923.
Email: sales@whitbourneceramics.co.uk

The Talbot at Knightwick

Restaurant and B & B.
Tel. 01886 821235.
Email: info@the-talbot.co.uk
www.the-talbot.co.uk



Cycling

The Malverns Offroad Cycling Maps
Map 2 – West
Published by “Offroad Cycling”
Tel. 01531 633500
Email: colin-palmer@branchline.demon.co.uk

Illustrates 8 circular routes on bridleways and quiet
lanes to the north & west of the Malvern Hills

Cycle Hire

Saddlebound Cycles	Ledbury 01531 633433
Cycles Clements	Ledbury 01531 632213
Peddlers	Worcester 01905 24238



Public Transport

Bus 420 Hereford to Worcester via Knightwick and
Bus 423 Bromyard to Worcester via Suckley and
Alfrick.

Details from Herefordshire Council on
Tel. 01432 260211
www.herefordbus.info



Joining is easy

Yes, I would like to join
WORCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Please tick a membership category and annual subscription

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- I cannot join today but enclose a donation of £

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Worcestershire's wildlife needs your help if it is to survive and prosper in an increasingly hostile world. One of the best ways of helping is to support your local Wildlife Trust by becoming a member or by sending a donation to help fund our vital conservation work. The Wildlife Trusts are a nationwide network of local trusts which work to protect wildlife in town and country. Through their care of 2,500 nature reserves, The Wildlife Trusts are dedicated to the achievement of a United Kingdom richer in wildlife.

In Worcestershire we have already:

- established over 70 nature reserves
- encouraged the return of otters
- the support of over 17,000 members
- gained a reputation second to none
- inspired thousands of children through under standing local wildlife

In Worcestershire we aim to:

- conserve and restore endangered wildlife habitats
- protect our precious rivers and wetlands
- involve children in the environment and conservation
- purchase more reserves, especially old meadows

In Worcestershire we need:

- more members
- more money for our work
- more volunteers
- **YOUR SUPPORT**

The details you have given will be recorded on Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's database. This information will be used to provide you with membership magazines, news of events and volunteering and opportunities to support our work.

Please return this form, with payment to
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust,
FREEPOST (WR28) Worcester WR3 7BR.

You do not need to use a stamp but using one will save us money.
Tel: (01905) 754919.

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Wildlife & Landscape Trail

A circular walking route including three Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves



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