

malvern hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Welcome to the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

This leaflet is a guide to the places you can visit. The area is one of 46 similar areas in Great Britain, whose distinctive character and natural beauty is so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard it. To find out more about all these areas, visit www.landscapesforlife.org.uk

The land within the Malvern Hills AONB is owned and managed by individuals and organisations. The most significant holdings belong to Eastnor Estate, whose property can be visited www.eastnorcastle.com and the Malvern Hills Trust www.malvern hills.org.uk

The Trust is the public body charged with looking after their hills and commons for conservation and the enjoyment of the public. Its land within the AONB is shown on the map in pink.

This information was compiled in 2022: it is only a guide and should be checked at source. Do contact the Malvern Hills AONB Office should you spot inaccuracies. Please pass this guide on to others.



WALKING, CYCLING, ACTIVITIES

6 Start of the Alfrick and Suckley Hills Geopark Trail

This 5 mile circular geology and landscape trail forms part of the larger Geopark Way. This trail takes the walker to visit exposures of the underlying rocks and explains the history of the rocks that give form and life to the landscape.

8 Start of the Wildlife and Landscape Trail

An 8.5 mile trail that takes in three nature reserves, Crewshill, Knapp and Papermill, and Ravenshill explaining the structure of the landscape and the wildlife on the way.

10 Start of Knightwick and Storridge Cycle Route

A 26 mile cycle route on surfaced roads that climbs 1400ft along the way. It takes in three nature reserves, interesting geological sites and local pubs.

16 Mountain Biking Routes

Three signposted mountain bike routes start from North Quarry car park. The short, medium and long routes follow bridleways and permissive cycle paths around the Hills. Route cards can be picked up from Tourist Information Centres and GPX files can be downloaded.

18 Start of Miles without Stiles Route around Cradley and Mathon

A circular walk of 3 miles visiting the villages of Mathon and Cradley. Herefordshire Council has created this walk free from stiles allowing easier access to the countryside. The leaflet describes the historical features to be found along the way.

22 Start of Springs and Spouts of the Northern Hills Walk

A circular walk of around 8 steep miles that crosses the hills. The springs and spouts gave rise to much of Malvern's existence through the 'water cure'. The walk passes many of these springs and spouts and the leaflet explains the geology and history en route.

23 Start of Discovery Walk 4: Science and Trains

An 8 mile circular walk on the eastern side of the hills that takes in features such as Great Malvern's Victorian listed railway station and tells the story of the crucial role that Malvern played in the development of radar in the Second World War.

24 Start of the Literary Trail around the Malverns

The Malvern area has inspired many writers. This guide brings together, with quotes and illustrations, those connections. Groups that might want to book a guided tour should phone the AONB Office on 01905 845055.

25 Start of Discovery Walk 6: Hills and Hops at Mathon

A circular walk of nearly 7 miles that traces a route around the ancient parish of Mathon. The leaflet explains the history of Mathon, its famous hops and takes the walker through traditional old orchards.

29 Earnslaw Easier Access Trail

The Malvern Hills Trust has created a 400m route that runs from the car park to a spectacular flooded quarry, known locally as the 'hidden lake'.

31 Start of the Malvern Hills and Mathon Geopark Trail

A 9 mile circular walk through the Silurian hills to the West of the Malvern Hills and onto more ancient Pre-Cambrian Malverns. Visiting many rock exposures, their roles are explained in the formation of the landscape. The leaflet has been assembled by the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust.



The Scooter on the Malvern Hills

32 Tramper Malvern Hills Geocentre

The scooter is available to hire from Café H₂O and can be used on the popular route up to the Worcester Beacon.

35 Colwall Orchard Heritage Trail

A 2.8 mile circular walk that takes in the history and wildlife of Colwall's once vast fruit industry. The guide is available to buy from local shops and online.

41 Start of Colwall and Cradley Cycle Route

Starting at Colwall Church, this 15 mile circular route takes the rider on a fairly flat route through Mathon and Coddington. On the way the leaflet highlights points of interest.

46 Start of Discovery Walk 1: Martin Brent & 5: Hill and Valley

Both these circular walks start at Colwall Railway station.

The Martin Brent follows a 7 mile route through Colwall and around the foothills of the Malverns. Named after a former Parish Clerk, the leaflet notes buildings and views that are met on the way.

Hill and Valley is a 6 mile walk up onto the Malvern Hills and around the Iron Age hill fort of British Camp.

48 Start of Discovery Walk 2: Two Churches and a Vineyard Walk

Starting at Colwall Church, this 5 1/2 mile circular walk goes out to Coddington Church. The guide picks out points of interest along the way.

49 Start of Miles without Stiles Route around Colwall

A 2 mile walk designed by Herefordshire Council, free from stiles, takes the walker around Colwall Village and onto the lower slopes of the Malvern Hills.

51 Start of Springs and Spouts of the Middle Hills Walk

A 4 1/2 mile circular walk that passes many of the springs and spouts that made Malvern famous. The leaflet explains the geology and gives the history of each spring.

52 Start of Discovery Walk 7: 'Back to Nature' walk in Malvern Wells

Beginning at St Wulstan's Nature Reserve, this is a 4 mile route around Malvern Wells along track, footpaths and roads. An information board at the reserve provides notes on local wildlife. Points of interest include Black Hill Quarry, and the Abbey International College.

57 British Camp and Bromesberrow Cycle Route

A 20 mile road ride of moderate difficulty which runs through the Bromesberrow Estate, visiting the settlements of Ledbury and Colwall. The route takes in a number of pubs and cafes as well as sites of historic interest.



Black Hill Easier Access trail

58 Black Hill Easier Access

A gentle walk to the ridge of the hills for the less able to experience the beauty of the Malvern Hills. The wheel friendly paths run 200 metres from the car park. Along the walk are benches and perches to rest and enjoy the views.

65 Ledbury Cycle Hire

In the town of Ledbury, this centre has a wide range of bicycles available for hire, including one tandem. Bikes are booked in advance and can be hired for half a day, one full day or up to seven days.



Castlemorton Common

69 Start of Discovery Walk 3: Commons, Churches and a Castle

A gentle 5.6 mile walk, mostly along footpaths, and some roads, within the Malvern Hills AONB, which takes in the local Castlemorton Common, several churches and pubs for refreshment.

71 Start of the Ledbury Loop Cycle Ride

A 17 mile, signposted cycle route on surfaced roads which passes through the Eastnor Estate and by local churches, pubs and tea rooms.

74 Eastnor Pottery

A pottery centre located in the Eastnor Estate in Herefordshire which runs courses and workshops for adults and children: advanced booking is required.



Bluebells above Brand Green

THE NATURAL WORLD

3 Ravenshill Woodland Reserve

This private woodland is open to visitors and has a small information centre at the car park where visitors can learn about the natural history of the woodland. The reserve is one on Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Wildlife and Landscape Trail.

4 Crews Hill Wood Nature Reserve

In the care of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, this reserve is close by the Ravenshill Woodland Reserve and forms one of the three reserves visited on the Wildlife and Landscape Trail.

7 Blackhouse Wood Nature Reserve

A fantastically rich ancient semi-natural woodland belonging to Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

11 Knapp and Papermill Nature Reserve

This nature reserve is run by the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust covering 67 acres. The Leigh Brook flows through it and within its boundaries are woodland, old meadows, orchards and picnic benches. There is also a small visitor centre on site.

14 Whitman's Hill Quarry

A disused limestone quarry that is visited for its exposures of mudstones and limestones containing extensive fossil remains. Visiting by arrangement only; contact the Earth Heritage Trust.

26 Littlely Coppice Nature Reserve

Gifted to Herefordshire Wildlife Trust in 2020, it's a magical woodland in every season.

53 St Wulstan's Nature Reserve

This relatively new reserve was set up in 1997 on land previously used as a US Army Base, a TB hospital and psychiatric hospital. An information board in the car park gives an introduction to the site and some of the wildlife that can be found there.

64 Frith Wood

This is a Forestry Commission owned broad-leaved and conifer woodland in Herefordshire. An information board with a map of a 4 mile walking route and points of interest can be found at the north and south entrances to the wood. The walk includes some steeper gradients and rough ground.

70 Hollybed Farm Meadows Nature Reserve

A Worcestershire Wildlife site with wildflower meadows and old orchards



Obelisk, Eastnor Park

HERITAGE & CULTURAL SITES

17 North Malvern Clock Tower

Started in the early 19th century as a water tank, this clock tower has been added to over time. Within the base of the tower are information boards about the building and its surrounding landscape. For more information about the history of Malvern and its water visit Malvern Spa Association's website.

19 Ditches & Banks of the North Malvern Hills

A guide to how new owners divided up the land acquired through Charles 1st's attempts to raise funds to fight the Civil War. Only recently discovered, you can follow the ditches and banks on a walking app.

21 St Ann's Well Café

This building has long been associated with the 'water cure' and has some information boards explaining its role. To this day, St Ann's Well is not accessible to visitors by vehicle.

34 Picton Gardens

Containing the National Collection of Michaelmas Daisies, these gardens are open to the public and especially worth visiting in early autumn.

36 Three Counties Showground

Many events and shows take place during the year at this major show ground which lies beneath the eastern flank of the Malvern Hills.

42 Coddington Vineyard

This is a small English vineyard planted in 1985 with a large ornamental garden.

47 Holywell

Holywell is where Malvern water was originally bottled in 1622. The public can visit the rest room where information boards tell the interesting story of the well. It is the only place where Malvern water is commercially bottled.

56 St Wulstan's Elgar's Grave

St Wulstan's church is where the composer, Sir Edward Elgar is buried. The composer lived in Great Malvern towards the end of his life and took inspiration from the hills for some of his pieces.



Little Malvern Priory

62 Little Malvern Priory and Court

A 12th century Benedictine monastery whose remaining Priory church is open during daylight hours. Next door is the Court and gardens: once attached to the Priory, it is now open on specific days only.

73 Eastnor Castle and Grounds

Pictured on the front of this leaflet, the castle was built in the early 1800s beside a large deer park with the more recent Woodshed Cafe at the entrance. The castle and its grounds have an arboretum and a hedge maze which are open to the public on selected days from Easter to September

77 Clenchers Mill

This 18th century timber-framed mill, part of the Eastnor Castle Estate. The mill retains most of its machinery, some of which is wooden, and includes a pair of millstones and a recently restored bolter. The 1820 iron overshot waterwheel is one of the oldest in the county. It can be visited on National Mill Day.

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Refreshments

1	The Talbot	01886 821235
2	Fox and Hounds Inn	01886 821228
5	Alfrick Shop	01886 821228
9	The Glass House, Holloways	01886 884665
12	The Nelson Inn	01886 884530
13	Suckley Post Office	01886 884201
15	The Hop Shed	01886 884110
15	The Red Lion Inn	01886 880318
20	Sugar Loaf Café	01684 588971
21	St Ann's Well Café	01684 560285
27	The Brewers Arms	01684 568147
30	The Wyche Inn	01684 575396
32	Café H2O	01684 252414
33	The Railway Inn	01684 578859
37	Café Morso	01684 540144
38	The Chase Inn	01684 540276
39	The Cottage in the Wood	01684 588860
40	Bhan Thai Restaurant	01684 575065
43	The Pavilion	01684 541254
44	Colwall Park Hotel	01684 540000
45	Thai Rama IV Restaurant	01684 541563
50	The Kettle Sings	01684 540244
54	The Loose Box Café	01684 649059
55	Yew Tree Inn	01684 540498
59	The Marlbank Inn	01684 310603
60	The Farmers Arms	01531 634766
61	The Malvern Hills Hotel	01684 540690
61	Sally's Place	07790 209288
63	The Wellington Inn	01684 540269
66	Plume of Feathers	01684 833554
67	Rufz Refreshments	01531 650176
68	The Robin Hood	01684 833212
72	The Woodshed Café	01531 633160
76	Farmers Arms	01684 833308

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ANNUAL EVENTS

- Autumn in Malvern Festival
- Colwall Orchard Group Events
- Herefordshire Walking Festival
- Ledbury Poetry Festival
- Malvern Autumn Show
- Malvern Hills Trust Events Programme
- Malvern Walking Festival
- RHS Malvern Spring Festival
- Royal Three Counties Show
- Well Dressing

LEDBURY

Market House

A 17th Century black and white market house can be found in the centre of the town. Formerly a storage house for grain, wool and hops, a traditional market is now held here on Tuesdays and Saturdays with stalls of local produce including fish and vegetables.

St Michael and All Angels

This was an established church at the time of the Norman conquest. Its presence is recorded in the Domesday book and has been a place of worship for over a thousand years. It unusually also has a tower which is separate from the nave, one of only seven in Herefordshire.

Church Lane

One of the most photographed streets in the UK, this cobbled street is closely lined by black and white timbered buildings. Walking from the market house towards the church there is a fantastic view of the church spire. Also along this lane are two museums, a pub and tea rooms.

Painted Room

A mysterious building with a room filled with painted frescoes by an unknown artisan. The decoration mirrors the fashion of the time in tudor mansions for wall hangings and frescoes in a workman's house.

Butcher Row House Folk Museum

Formerly an old butcher's house, this black and white building is now a museum. Its exhibition holds reproduction helmets and breastplates from the battle of Ledbury in 1645, as well as Victorian costumes and folk objects.

Heritage Centre

This centre holds displays and exhibitions throughout the year relating to the history of Ledbury and Herefordshire. Past displays include information on the poet Elizabeth Barrett-Browning, and the Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark.

Ledbury Cycle Cider Route

A 20 mile cycle route along quiet lanes around some of England's finest cider-growing areas.

Ledbury Swimming Pool

01531 632890

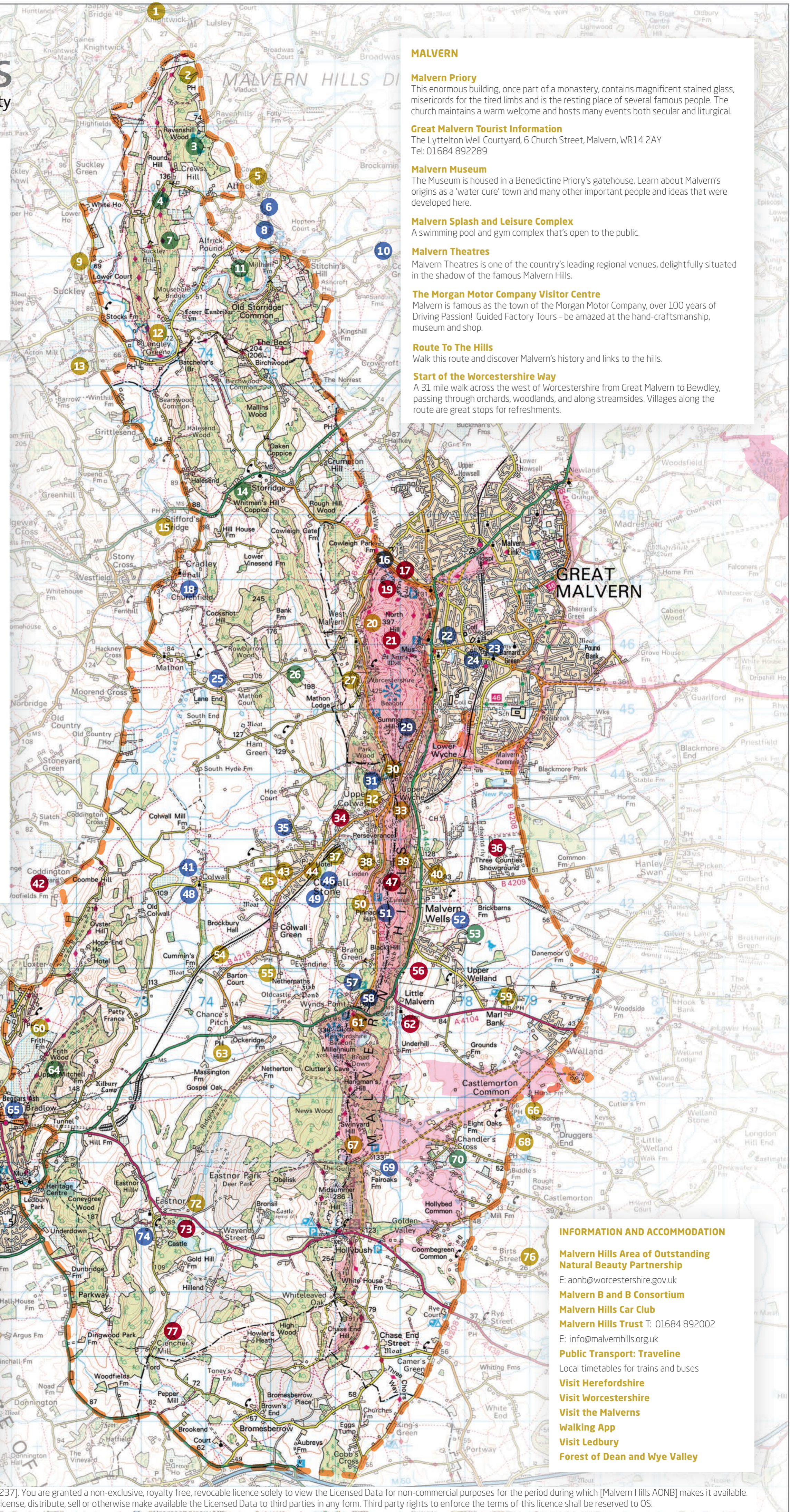
Ledbury Theatre

For shows talks and events

MAP KEY

- Malvern Hills AONB Boundary
- Malvern Hills Trust Land within the AONB.
- Walkers and horse riders have a right of access (except where signposted). Access for cyclists is along bridleways and permissive cycle paths. A map of access is available from local TIC's or online.
- Activity site
- Nature site
- Heritage/cultural site
- Refreshments

Scale 1km 1mile



MALVERN

Malvern Priory

This enormous building, once part of a monastery, contains magnificent stained glass, misericords for the tired limbs and is the resting place of several famous people. The church maintains a warm welcome and hosts many events both secular and liturgical.

Great Malvern Tourist Information

The Lyttelton Well Courtyard, 6 Church Street, Malvern, WR14 2AY
Tel: 01684 892289

Malvern Museum

The Museum is housed in a Benedictine Priory's gatehouse. Learn about Malvern's origins as a 'water cure' town and many other important people and ideas that were developed here.

Malvern Splash and Leisure Complex

A swimming pool and gym complex that's open to the public.

Malvern Theatres

Malvern Theatres is one of the country's leading regional venues, delightfully situated in the shadow of the famous Malvern Hills.

The Morgan Motor Company Visitor Centre

Malvern is famous as the town of the Morgan Motor Company, over 100 years of Driving Passion! Guided Factory Tours – be amazed at the hand-craftsmanship, museum and shop.

Route To The Hills

Walk this route and discover Malvern's history and links to the hills.

Start of the Worcestershire Way

A 31 mile walk across the west of Worcestershire from Great Malvern to Bewdley, passing through orchards, woodlands, and along streamides. Villages along the route are great stops for refreshments.

GREAT MALVERN

INFORMATION AND ACCOMMODATION

- Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership
E: aonb@worcestershire.gov.uk
- Malvern B and B Consortium
- Malvern Hills Car Club
- Malvern Hills Trust T: 01684 892002
E: info@malvern hills.org.uk
- Public Transport: Traveline
Local timetables for trains and buses
- Visit Herefordshire
- Visit Worcestershire
- Visit the Malverns
- Walking App
- Visit Ledbury
- Forest of Dean and Wye Valley