

# Malvern Hills

## Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

### Annual Report 2006/07



# Chairman's Foreword

I have great pleasure in commending our annual report for 2006/07.

This has been a year of considerable achievement in the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The implementation of our flagship Malverns Heritage Project continues with good progress made in the restoration of Malvern's distinctive water features and in securing a better future for grazing in the area. Once again, the project has demonstrated the value, and indeed the necessity, of working in partnership with others to meet commonly shared goals and to realise a collective vision for the future.



JAC study tour

Closer partnership working has also been a key feature of our work to better understand the Malvern Hills AONB and the condition of those features that make this area so special. A fruitful working relationship with the University of Worcester has yielded our first ever 'State of the AONB' report. Through joint working with our sister AONBs in the West Midlands we have also secured a stronger evidence base for the AONB and a clearer understanding of the area's biodiversity. Such collaborative working is especially important to a small AONB like ours and is likely to remain a key way of saving resources and maximising value for money in the future.

The year also stands out as the first in which we implemented the Government's Sustainable Development Fund in the Malvern Hills AONB. We were able to provide financial support to 13 local projects in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Together, these innovative projects have helped to demonstrate how we can all tread more lightly in this nationally important area.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we have made progress in placing the management and direction of the Partnership on a surer footing. A Partnership action plan and monitoring report have been produced and such documents will now guide our work and help to demonstrate success against the agreed management plan. The Joint Advisory Committee's study tour around the Eastnor Estate also helped to inform the work of the Partnership as well as providing a wonderful day out.

Cllr Ted Roberts

Chairman of the  
Malvern Hills AONB  
Joint Advisory  
Committee



# The Malvern Hills AONB

## Statistics

**Size:** 105 sq. kms  
(Magic, 2003)

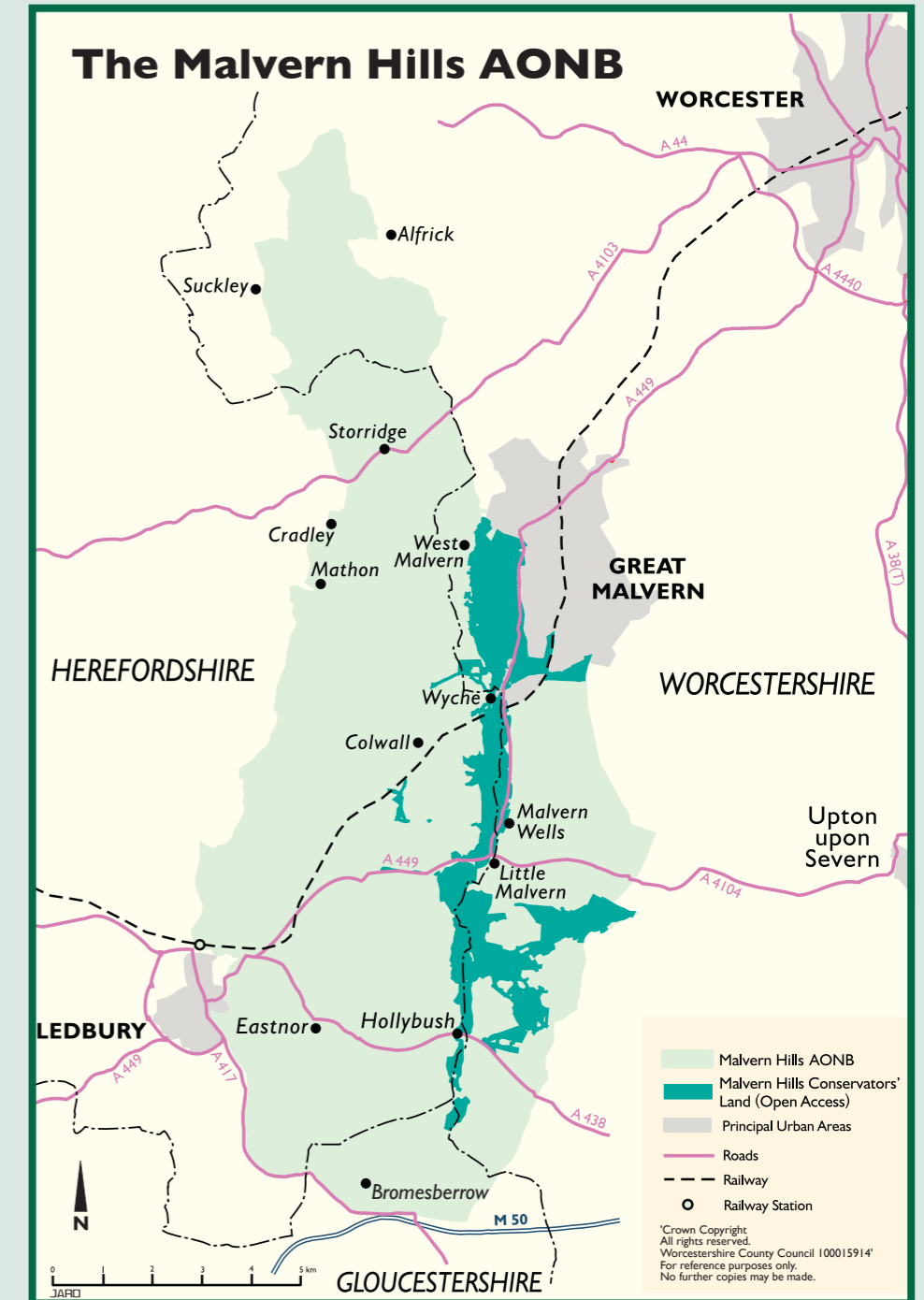
**Administrative area:**  
% of AONB in Herefordshire Council: 58.52%  
% of AONB in Worcestershire County Council: 35.83%  
% of AONB in Gloucestershire County Council: 5.72%  
(data derived from UK borders)

**Population:** 12,657  
(Oxford mid-1998 estimates, ONS)  
% of population over 59 yrs of age: 25.49%  
(Oxford mid-1998 estimates, ONS)

**Land cover and land use:**  
% of AONB as Grade 1 Agricultural Land: 0.35% (Defra)  
% of AONB as Grade 3 Agricultural land: 64.65%  
% of AONB as urban land: 2.84%  
% of AONB as ancient semi-natural woodland: 6.19% (English Nature)  
% of farms classing sheep as the main agricultural enterprise: 40.7%

**No. of SSSIs:**  
15 (English Nature)

All figures taken from 'The Malvern Hills Statistical Digest, 2003'



# Malverns Heritage Project

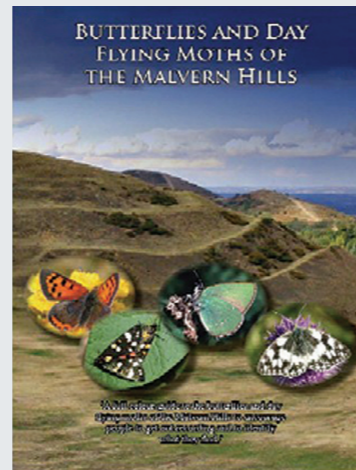
The Malverns Heritage Project focuses on two elements of Malvern's heritage: its ancient grazed hills and the water that flows from them. The project is largely funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, with cash contributions from Natural England, the Malvern Hills Conservators and Worcestershire County Council. The project is bringing in national funds of almost £750,000 over a three year period.

## Hills and Commons

The first element is to help restore the grazing on the hills and the commons of Castlemorton and Chase End. Following the successful installation of two cattle grids in 2005/06 significant time was spent this year on the application process for installing two further grids, on the Highway at Chase End Hill. The 'grazing project' was also bolstered by the installation of an electric gate on the west side of British Camp to keep livestock from straying onto the road.

Butterfly surveys funded by the project have resulted in a "Butterfly and Day Flying Moths" booklet for the Malvern Hills which was published this year. This has drawn in volunteers to monitor the success of the grazing by evaluating species that have benefitted from the project.

Following widespread consultation with local interests a plan for conserving Castlemorton as an actively grazed common has been produced. Consultation work culminated in an Open Day when local people were able to see exhibits from many different organisations and to discuss issues with those organisations representative of the interests of the common. Key participants included the Malvern Hills Conservators (the owners of Castlemorton Common), Open Spaces Society, British Horse Society, Butterfly Conservation, Castlemorton Commoners Association and Natural England.



Butterflies booklet



Castlemorton Common open day

# Malverns Heritage Project

## Wells and Spouts

The famous water of the Malvern Hills will soon be flowing from another spout thanks to restoration work at the North Malvern Clock Tower – one of the key landmarks in the area. Tree clearance by the Malvern Hills Conservators revealed that the building is far more extensive than many had realised. Clearance work also uncovered the original path to the tower which had long since been 'lost'.



North Malvern Clock Tower - before



North Malvern Clock Tower - work in progress

A dowser visited the area over the winter and was able to advise on underground water routes which will help us to reconnect further springs around the Hills. The collaborative body for the water element of the Malverns Heritage Project is the Malvern Spa Association. The Association has been key in assisting with the restoration work and has also made progress this year on redesigning their website to incorporate new educational pages on Malvern's hydrogeology, the history of the water supply and the medicinal history of the area's water.



Dowsing at the Wyche Spring

# Sustainable Development Fund

The Sustainable Development Fund is a Government grant scheme to support projects that bring social, environmental and economic benefits to National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales. 2006/07 was its first year of operation in the Malvern Hills AONB.

Through the year a total of 13 projects were supported with grants of between £1000 and £9000. Recipients of grants included private companies, charitable bodies, schools and local authorities.

Some project highlights for the year are summarised below.

## Malvern Hills Coppice Network

A network was established to put those who own and manage coppice woodlands in touch with coppice workers and those who use coppice products. Subsidised training courses were provided and woodland management equipment was purchased to assist network members in coppicing activity. A website ([www.malvernhillscoppicenetwork.org.uk](http://www.malvernhillscoppicenetwork.org.uk)) and promotional material were also produced to help foster more sustainable management of our native woods.



Coppice Network

## Green tourism in Colwall

The owners of an organic plant nursery diversified their business activity by establishing a small bunkhouse, campsite, 'organic' shop and visitor centre on site. The project makes use of its position close to a train station and in the heart of a village to test the notion of sustainable tourism – visitors are only allowed to stay at the campsite if they arrive on foot, horse or bicycle!



Caves Folly Bunkhouse

## Worms and Bran

Working in association with the University of Central England, Bubble House Worm Farming Enterprises conducted a trial of a new form of technology for turning canteen waste into compost. The technology is a form of active bran that has been inoculated with Effective Micro-organisms which speed up the process of decomposition. Once the food waste has been fermented in this way it is fed to worms for vermicomposting. The trial was conducted at two schools in the AONB and at the Malvern Hills Outdoor Centre. In a 10 week trial period over one tonne of organic waste was diverted from landfill. Following the success of the trial other schools in the area have shown an interest in using the technology.

# Sustainable Development Fund

## Staying longer at the Three Counties Showground

With over 1 million visitors a year, the showground is a major attraction on the edge of the AONB. A series of leaflets promoting walks, horse rides and cycle rides have been produced which use the showground as a start and finish point. The aim is to reduce the use of the private car in the AONB and to encourage visitors to stay in the area longer, thus benefiting local businesses.

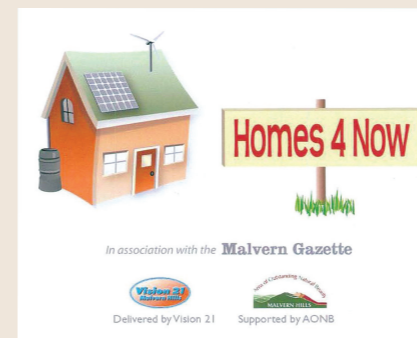
## Homes4Now

Malvern Hills District Council and the associated Local Strategic Partnership organised an exhibition promoting sustainable living to local people. The two-day event hosted 35 stands and displays as well as a series of presentations, all aimed at providing practical ideas on topics such as saving energy, harnessing renewable energy, sustainable house design and recycling.

## Other SDF projects were as follows:

- The Bulmer Foundation – promotion of a Masters degree in Sustainable Development Advocacy
- Malvern Hills Conservators – volunteer training
- The Soil Association – food and farming workshops
- St Mary's First School, Bromesberrow – establishment of an Eco Club
- Floating Lotus – construction of geodesic domes as mobile venues for community events
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust – landscape and geology trail guide
- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust – fencing at the Knapp and Papermill Nature Reserve

In total £55,381 of grant was allocated to SDF projects. This grant helped to lever in £95,699 of match funding.



Homes 4 Now poster



Bubble House worms newspaper headline © Worcester News

Funding for Sustainable Development Projects is also available in 2007/8. For further information visit [www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk](http://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk)



Bromesberrow School Eco Club

# Geology

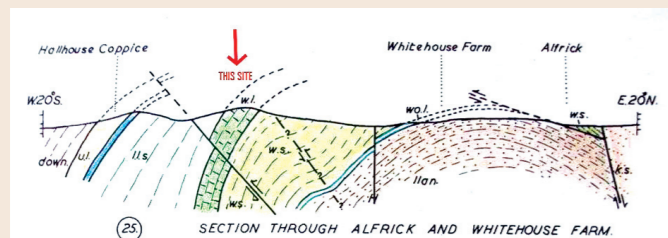
The AONB forms a key part of the Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark. The Geopark is a non-statutory, European designation, which denotes that the geology of the area is of international importance.

## RIGS Designation

The number and condition of Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) is one of the key indicators used to monitor the state of the AONB (see page 16). Detailed surveys were carried out this year at 10 little known geological sites in the north of the AONB based around Suckley, Cowleigh Bridge and Longley Green. The sites cover a range of geological formations from the Precambrian Malverns Complex to Silurian Much Wenlock Limestone. 5 of these sites have already been approved for formal RIGS designation and the remaining 5 are likely to be designated in due course.

## The Geopark Way

The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust began development work on a 2 year project to research and write a long distance landscape and geology walking trail through the Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark. The trail will pass through the AONB from north to south. Work this year focussed on agreeing the route in consultation with local people and key partners and identifying key features to interpret along the way. Special emphasis is being placed on sustainability in respect of transport to and from the trail and the economic benefits it may bring to local businesses.



Geology at a RIGS site, from Reeve (1953)

## Midsummer Hill Walking Guide

Midsummer Hill is one of the premiere sites in the AONB, not just for its geology but because of its rich archaeological association (it is a Scheduled Ancient Monument) and its important biodiversity. The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust produced their latest walking guide in a series of high quality 'Explore' publications. However, this new production comes with a twist. Thanks to some funding from the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund, a greater emphasis has been placed on encouraging people to access the site without using a private car, thus helping to safeguard the tranquillity of the AONB.



Midsummer Hill

# Historic Environment

## Herefordshire Beacon

The iron-age hill fort that sits atop Herefordshire Beacon is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM) and one of the most recognisable landscape features in the Malvern Hills AONB. It is also a popular destination with recreational users and its steep ramparts make it susceptible to erosion both from visitors and from the elements. English Heritage has entered into a new management agreement with the Malvern Hills Conservators (the landowners) to fund erosion repair on the citadel – a medieval earthwork within the hill fort itself. Wooden retaining boards will be used to hold new soil in place, in time these boards will rot away and vegetation will take hold to stabilise the steep slopes.



British Camp

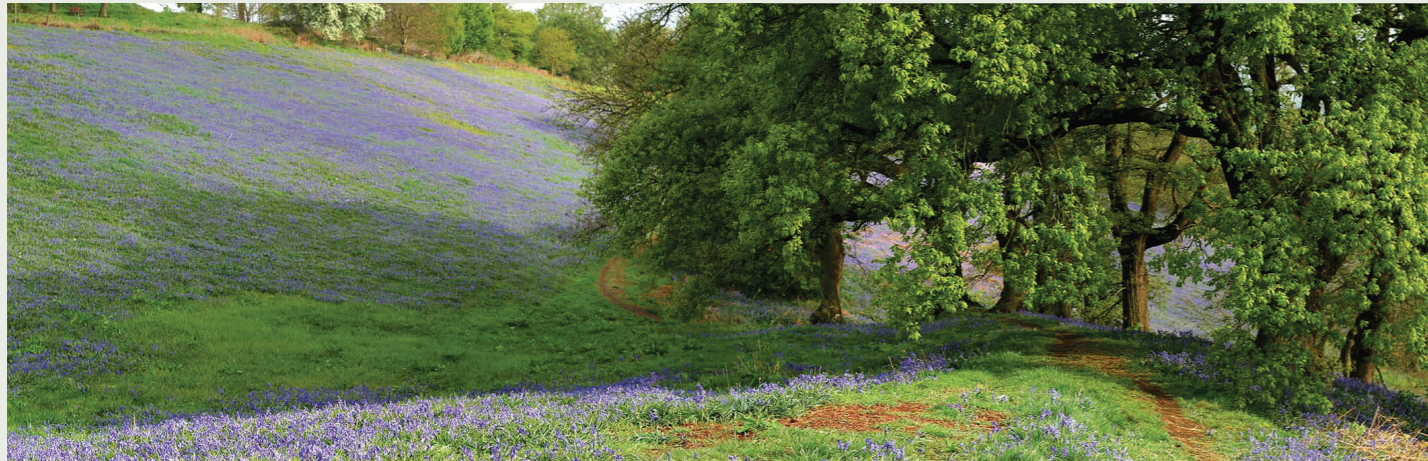
## Bronsil Castle

Bronsil Castle is another Scheduled Ancient Monument that illustrates the richness of the historic environment in the area. The 'castle' is actually the remains of a fifteenth century fortified house and is the only Scheduled Ancient Monument in the AONB to be recorded on the English Heritage 'Buildings at Risk' Register. This year English Heritage gave its biggest ever grant in the West Midlands region to help arrest the decline of the monument. Funding was used to remove trees that were growing out of the interior of the moated site and damaging the masonry footings. The management agreement includes a provision for maintenance. All the work is being managed by Eastnor Estate.



Tree work at Bronsil Castle

# Landscape & Biodiversity



## Trees and volunteers

Worcestershire County Council continued to operate its highly successful tree warden scheme with volunteer wardens active in most parishes within the Worcestershire side of the AONB. The importance of the wardens in providing advice, monitoring and planting new trees cannot be overstated. An exciting development this year has been the securing of Heritage Lottery Funding for the Worcestershire Veteran Tree Project. This will help to ensure that our most venerable trees are recorded and protected.

## Grants

Thanks to funding from Natural England small scale conservation grants were used throughout the AONB to plant and lay hedgerows and to plant new trees, including the creation of a small woodland.

## Understanding our Commons

Herefordshire Council continued its work to survey and record the county's common land. National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys were carried out at Coombe Hill and Oyster Hill. The work was financially supported through the AONB Partnership.

## Stewardship of the land

The new top tier of agri-environment support schemes (Higher Level Stewardship) promotes integrated management for biodiversity, landscape, access and conservation of the historic environment. The Malvern Hills Conservators have worked hard this year, with the support of Natural England and English Heritage, to prepare a Farm Environment Plan and a Higher Level Stewardship application for the northern and central hills. The application covers approximately 450 hectares of land and, if approved, will represent a major boon to the future care of this area.



Large oak at Coddington

# Landscape & Biodiversity

## Special Wildlife Sites

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust undertook a complete review of non-statutory Special Wildlife Sites within the county. The aim was to re-assess the value of each of the sites through site survey, to de-notify those that no longer meet the agreed criteria for inclusion and, where relevant, to consider designating new sites. Following the review there are now 21 Special Wildlife Sites that lie wholly or partly within the Worcestershire part of the Malvern Hills AONB. These sites cover almost 550 hectares of land and water.

## Burying overhead electricity cables

The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM) have agreed that electricity companies can bury some low voltage overhead wires in AONBs and then reclaim this expenditure at a later date. The aim is to improve the landscape and visual amenity in these nationally important areas. Throughout the year a small working group within the Malvern Hills AONB identified over 7.5kms of overhead line which is felt to be particularly detrimental to the special landscape of the area. This includes power lines at:

- St Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve, Malvern Wells
- Eastnor Estate
- Coddington
- Bromesberrow
- Mathon

Following consultation with landowners, these separate schemes have been submitted to Central Networks for further consideration and assessment. It is hoped that 2008 will see the first overhead power lines transferred underground as part of this scheme.



Power lines

# Transport

## The Hills Hopper

The Hills Hopper is a weekend and bank holiday bus service (between April and October) which operates within the AONB. The bus aims to provide an alternative to the private car at peak leisure times and is financed through the Malvern Hills Rural Transport Partnership. This year was the most successful year yet for the Hills Hopper Service. Key details are as follows:



Hills Hopper

- 2341 passengers were carried throughout the season (an increase of almost 30% on 2005)
- Subsidy per passenger (excluding marketing) was £1.53
- 8000 timetables were printed and distributed to Tourist Information Centres, accommodation providers, etc
- A user survey indicated that people were very satisfied with the service and valued it highly

# Strategy & Planning

## Planning Applications

Development Control is carried out in the AONB by Local Planning Authorities, working to an agreed policy framework. Planners and planning committees do vital work in helping to conserve the special character and features of the AONB. The need to maintain the integrity of the AONB was cited as a key factor in determining a number of planning applications throughout the year.

## Strategy

The AONB Unit made formal responses to consultations on the following:

- Herefordshire Council Community Strategy Action Plan
- Forest of Dean District Council Landscape Supplementary Planning Document
- Worcestershire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Malvern Hills District Council Draft Sustainable Community Strategy
- Geodiversity Action Plans for Herefordshire and Worcestershire
- Joint West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Revision (Spatial Options)

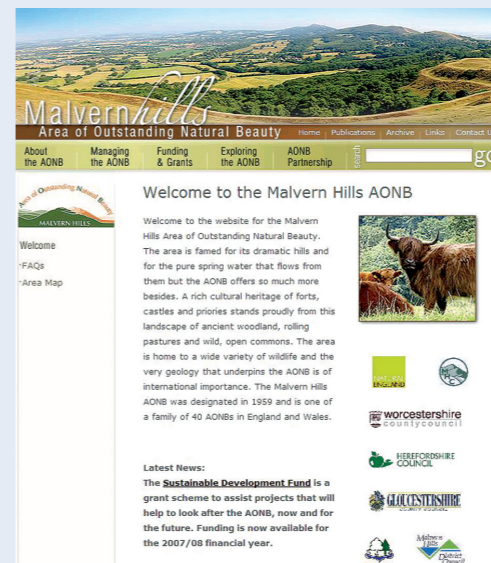
# Communication, Education & Awareness

## Communication review

An external review into how the AONB Partnership goes about raising awareness and communicating with others was commissioned. Despite some notable successes the review concluded that there is considerable room for improvement. A series of detailed and specific recommendations were made in areas such as branding, publications and working more effectively with partners. Based on these findings the Partnership's involvement in a Malvern Hills and Severn Vale newspaper and in a joint newsletter was discontinued.

## Website

The Malvern Hills AONB website was completely redesigned and a range of new content was added. The site now holds detailed information on the AONB Partnership and a catalogue from which most AONB publications can be downloaded. The revamped website was launched in September 2006 and has been a big success with 274,934 hits recorded between September 2006 and March 2007. Data on usage also revealed that the number of visitors to the site increased by 142% between October 2006 and May 2007.



www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk

## Working together

The year was marked by a much closer and more effective working relationship with four other AONBs in the West Midlands region. These joint initiatives have helped to save resources and to strengthen the value of the work that has been delivered. The following table highlights key area of collaborative work.

Task	AONB Partners
Awareness raising presentations to local authority staff	Cotswolds, Wye Valley
Collection of data to form an AONB evidence base	Cannock Chase, Shropshire Hills, Wye Valley
Preparation of a scoping study on the capture of biological information	Wye Valley

## JAC study tour

After a two year break the AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) regained its tradition of study tours with an informative and stimulating day out around the Eastnor Estate. The day was hosted by James Hervey-Bathurst and the JAC learnt much about the successes and challenges of managing a large estate.

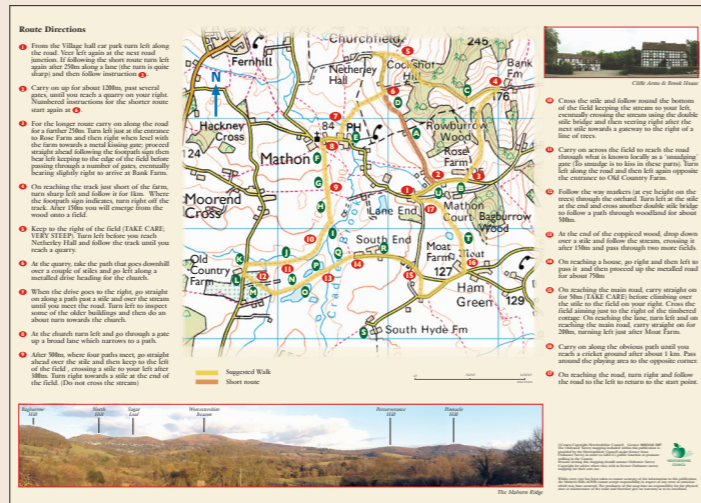


JAC Group photo

# Understanding & Enjoyment

## Discovery Walks march on

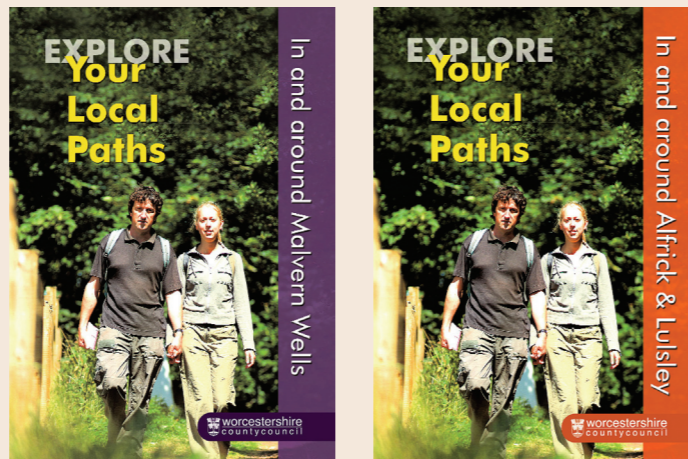
The ever-popular series of Discovery Walks was extended yet further this year with new guides produced for Malvern Wells and Mathon by members of the local community. The aim is to provide local people and visitors with an enjoyable and informative walking experience. It is also hoped that the guides may reduce the tendency for people to head to the main ridge of the Malvern Hills which can be subject to heavy recreational pressure at peak times. The Discovery Walks publications can be downloaded from [www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk](http://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk).



Mathon Discovery Walk

## Celebrating Parish Paths

Worcestershire County Council used the AONB parishes of Malvern Wells, Alfrick and Suckley as a test bed this year for the production of its new Parish Paths guides. The guides provide local people with a map of all the local paths and bridleways which can be found on their doorsteps, together with key information about these routes and local features of interest. It is hoped that this information may also help to reduce car use amongst local walkers and riders. The Parish Paths Leaflets Project was part funded by Natural England.



Parish Paths Guides

## Nature in the north

The Knapp and Papermill, Ravenshill Wood and Crews Hill Wood are three nature reserves in the north of the AONB. The Worcestershire Wildlife Trust produced a Wildlife and Landscape Trail guide this year which links these reserves together and encourages visitors to explore their rich variety of wildlife, landscape and geology. For more information visit [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk)



Nature Trails Guide

Discovery Walk

# Understanding & Enjoyment

## Access for All

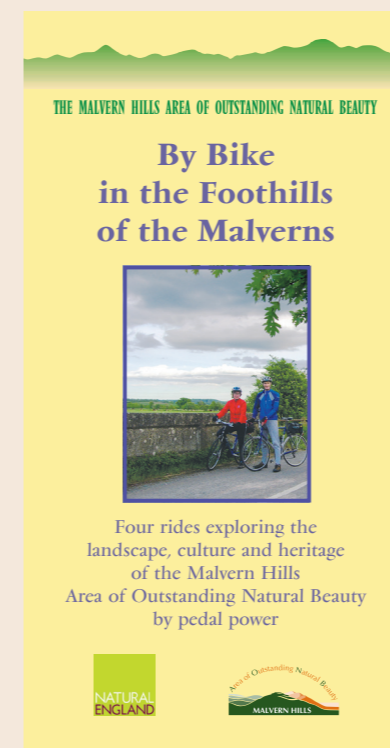
The current AONB Management Plan recognises that countryside recreation facilities for some sectors of society are currently less than adequate in the AONB. Significant steps towards addressing this problem were made this year when Herefordshire Council commissioned an audit of the accessibility of paths and tracks in the parishes of Colwall, Mathon and Cradley. Using the recommendations arising from this work, a series of practical improvements were carried out including the removal of stiles, installation of pedestrian gates, path improvements and drainage works. The ultimate aim is to link the three villages and to create a complete barrier-free route through the area. The work helps to address objectives in Herefordshire Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan and was part funded through the AONB Partnership.

## Signs Audit

The AONB Unit commissioned an audit of all path related signage in the area. This information will be shared with local authorities leading to discussions about the style and design of signs within the AONB.

## Pedal power around the AONB

The AONB offers some fantastic cycling opportunities, on little used roads and quiet lanes through a variety of different landscapes and settings. A new guide has been produced which makes it easy for people to discover the special features of the AONB by bike. Cyclists are offered a choice of 4 marked routes, ranging from a pleasant 15 mile meander around Colwall and Cradley to a demanding 60mile excursion around the AONB involving almost 3000 ft of climbing! It is hoped that the cycle guide will prove popular locally but will also help to attract those from further field who might wish to spend a few days exploring the area.



Cycle Guide



Cyclists at the Wyche Cutting

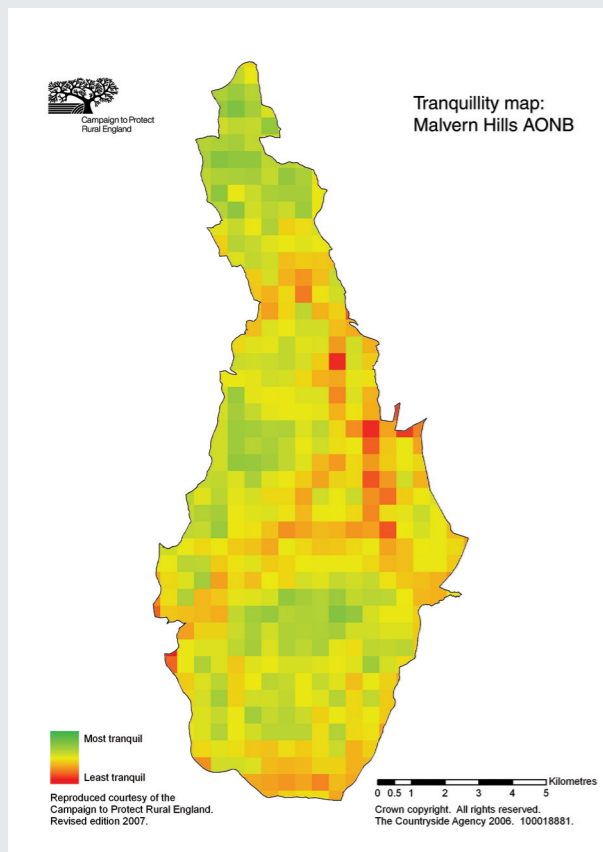


# Monitoring

A concerted effort has been made this year to improve our knowledge of the AONB and its special features. Collecting data can be a slow and difficult process but it is necessary work, to enable us to understand how the area is changing, to inform decision-making and to provide a gauge of the effectiveness of the AONB management plan in conserving and enhancing the AONB.

## State of the AONB report

In last year's annual report we reported that the Centre for Rural Research (at the University of Worcester) had produced a methodology for recording change in the condition of the AONB and its special features. This year we used this methodology to produce the first ever report on the state of the Malvern Hills AONB. The report contains indicators on the condition of landscape, geology, biodiversity, tranquillity and various other attributes. For the first time it establishes an AONB baseline against which future change can be monitored.



## Building an evidence base

Whilst the state of the AONB report (see above) paints a picture of the condition of key features of the AONB, it does not provide information on the range of socio-economic factors that may affect its future. To plug this gap an evidence base has been assembled which provides an up-to-date picture of factors such as environmental resources, population levels and house prices within the area. The evidence base will be used to help inform the review of the AONB management plan. This data collection repeats an exercise that was originally conducted in 2002 so the new evidence base should also help to identify trends in the area.

## Scoping study on biological data in the area

The AONB management plan contains an objective to establish an agenda for research on the state of the AONB's biodiversity resources. A big step was taken towards this objective with the completion of a scoping study by Herefordshire Biological Records Centre. The study assesses all existing biological data sets in the area and identifies the options and costs involved in establishing a baseline of the area's biological resources.

## Species surveys

A number of partners continued their programmes of species survey work. AONB resources were used to help support:

- Reptile surveys on the northern Malvern Hills (Malvern Hills Conservators)
- Dormice surveys in numerous woodlands around the AONB (Herefordshire Action for Mammals)



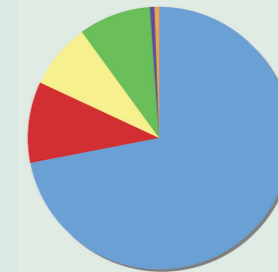
Adder © Ian Butler

# AONB Unit Report

## Finances

### Unit Income

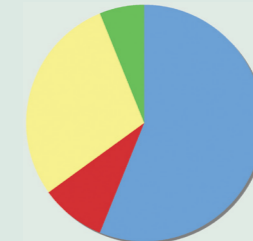
Natural England	£115,255.69
Herefordshire Council	£15,856
Worcestershire County Council	£12,442
Malvern Hills District Council	£14,000
Gloucestershire County Council	£1,010
Forest of Dean District Council	£818
<b>Total</b>	<b>£159,382</b>



	72%
	10%
	8%
	9%
	0.5%
	0.5%

### Unit Expenditure

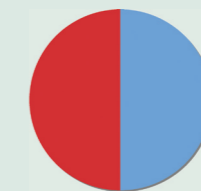
Staff costs (inc, travel and training)	£86,758
Accommodation and office costs	£13,815
Partnership Budget	£44,482
Partnership Running costs	£8,620
<b>Total</b>	<b>£153,675</b>



	56%
	9%
	29%
	6%

### Projects income and expenditure

Natural England contribution	£12,608
Partner Contributions <sup>1</sup>	£12,608
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£25,216</b>

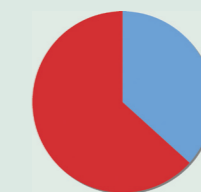


	50%
	50%

<sup>1</sup> Herefordshire Council, Worcestershire Council, various landowners, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

### Sustainable Development Fund income and expenditure

Natural England grant	£55,381
Partner Contributions	£95,699
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£151,080</b>



	37%
	63%

## Staff

As with the previous year, 2006/07 was marked by significant changes in the staff Unit. Victoria Oaten replaced Rupert Johnson as Heritage Lottery Fund Project Officer. A new Team support Officer post was created and occupied successfully by Anika Backhouse and then Julie Muller. The year closed with the following structure in place:

AONB Manager	Paul Esrich
AONB Assistant Manager	David Armitage
Heritage Lottery Fund Project Officer	Victoria Oaten
Team Support Officer	Vacant

# About the Malvern Hills AONB

## The purpose of AONB designation

The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape. In pursuing this, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, and other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities.

Recreation is not an objective of the designation but the demand for recreation should be met insofar as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other land uses.



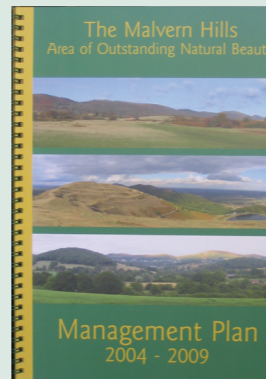
Hay cutting at Longley Green

## The AONB Management Plan

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 places a statutory duty on relevant local authorities to produce an AONB Management Plan. A five year Management Plan for the Malvern Hills was produced in 2004 and this provides the framework for maintaining the special character of the area.

The Management Plan describes the following vision for the AONB:

“The vision is one of a landscape in perfect balance with its communities, economies and visitors, where the special qualities – the landscape, wildlife, cultural heritage and tranquillity – are cherished, and conserved and which in return deliver a sustained high quality of life for its residents, wonderful opportunities for visitors to sample local food and picturesque scenery, a skilled labour market and diverse economy of agriculture and high tech industries.”



## The AONB Partnership

Local authorities, government bodies, parish councils, landowners, communities and voluntary groups are all involved in helping to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB. The governance structure of the AONB Partnership is as follows:

Title	Purpose	Participants
Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)	To coordinate the management of the AONB and the implementation of the AONB Management Plan.	Representatives from a variety of public, private and voluntary sector bodies.
Steering Group	To provide guidance, advice and support to the Joint Advisory Committee and Staff Unit.	Officers from funding local authorities, Natural England and the Malvern Hills Conservators.
Staff Unit	To assist the Joint Advisory Committee in fulfilling its duties.	AONB Unit Manager and staff.

# AONB Governance

## Joint Advisory Committee 2006-07

Chairman	Councillor E. Roberts	Forest of Dean District Council (also representing Gloucestershire County Council)
Vice Chairman	Dr B. Smith Councillor R. Mills Councillor B. Ashton Councillor D. Rayner Councillor S. Young Councillor P. Rumney Mrs N. Carless and Ms J. Bowden	Malvern Hills Conservators Herefordshire Council Herefordshire Council Worcestershire County Council Malvern Hills District Council Malvern Hills District Council Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
	Mr M. Allfrey Mr J. Hervey - Bathurst Mr F. Hill / Mr D. Ward	Worcestershire Association of Local Councils (joint representative of the parishes within the AONB) National Farmers Union Country Land and Business Association Campaign for Protection of Rural England (representing voluntary organisations) Natural England (previously Countryside Agency) Forestry Commission English Heritage Rural Development Service Heart of England Tourist Board
	Ms K. White Mr G. Jones Ms J. Leigh Mr W. Jones Mr N. Russell	

## Steering Group 2006-07

Chairman	James Bisset <sup>2</sup> Kelda White Andy Maginnis David Piggott Angela Newey Bill Cronin Ian Rowat	Herefordshire Council Natural England (previously Countryside Agency) Worcestershire County Council Malvern Hills District Council Gloucestershire County Council Forest of Dean District Council Malvern Hills Conservators
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<sup>2</sup> Kelda White took over as Chairman of the Steering Group in January 2007



# A Family of Protected Areas

The Malvern Hills AONB Unit is a member of the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Association is an independent organisation, which seeks to promote the interests of the 40 AONBs in England and Wales through communication, parliamentary liaison, technical support and training and by contributing to policy development.

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 Cotswold Heritage Centre  
 Northleach  
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[www.aonb.org.uk](http://www.aonb.org.uk)

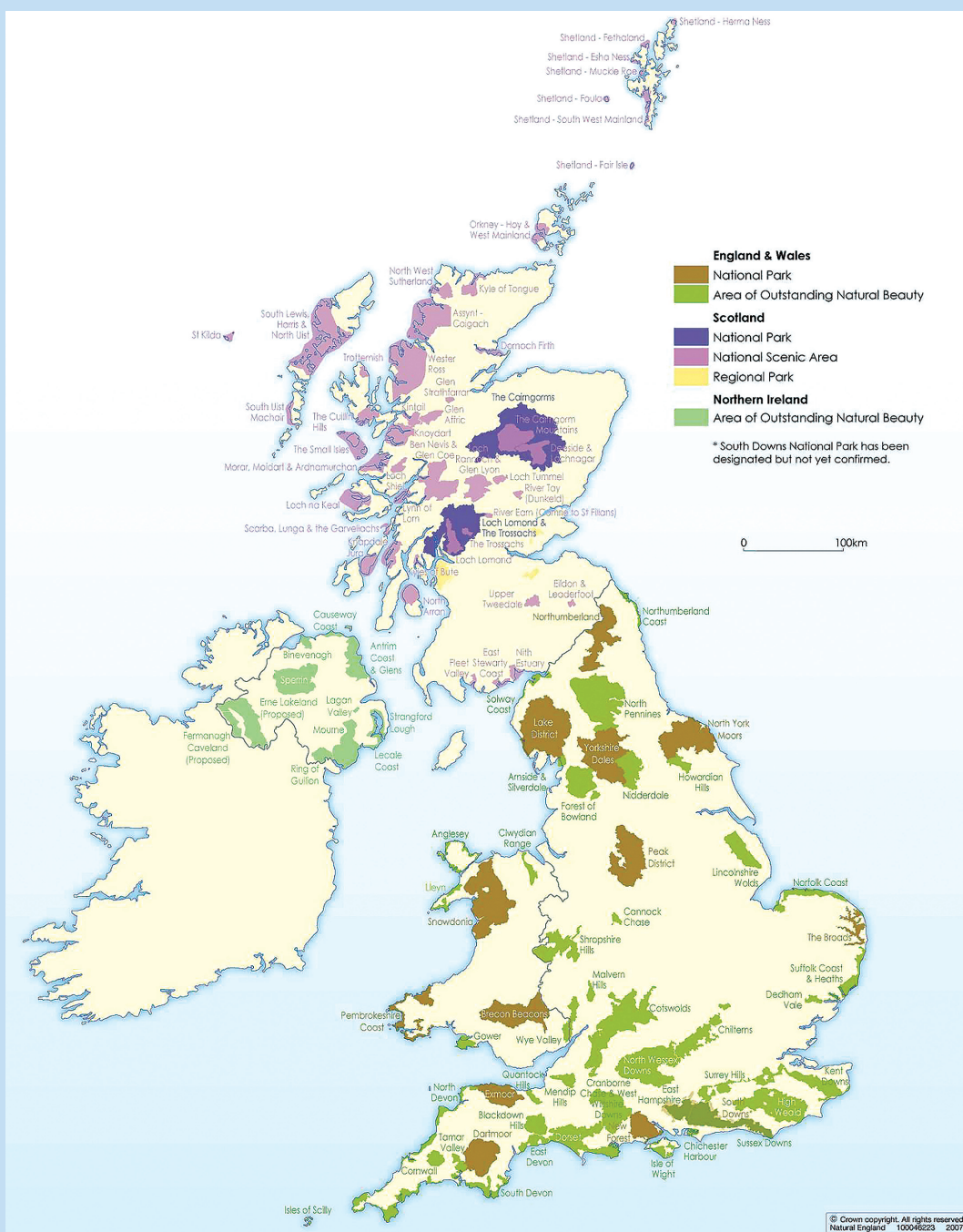



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