

THE MALVERN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Discovery Walk No 4



Great Malvern Railway Station

Science & Trains in Malvern Wells & (Great) Malvern

Essential Information

Starting Point	Great Malvern Station, Court Road bus stop or the car parking areas off Peachfield Road
Distance	Approximately 12.5 kilometres, 7.75 miles
Map	Ordnance Survey Explorer 190 (1:25000)
Terrain	Roads, fields, tracks, bridleways, woodland, common land. Paths are good but muddy in wet weather.
Refreshments	Lady Foley's Tea Room on Great Malvern Station platform; Court Road Bakery shop and cafe, Court Road; Railway Inn, Wells Road by the junction with Peachfield Road; Three Horseshoes, Poolbrook Road near Malvern Common; Cavalry Arms, Clarence Road.
Public Transport	Rail - alight at Great Malvern Station from Worcester, Birmingham, London or Hereford. Bus - alight in Court Road from numbers 42, 42a, 377, 378, 379, 381 or 386.
Car Parking	Great Malvern Station, or on Malvern common off Peachfield Road.
Toilets	At Great Malvern Station <i>when manned</i> , Court Road cafe and public houses for customers.

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.

Close all gates that you have opened.

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 in the AONB; for further details please contact the AONB. Tel: 01684 560616.

This leaflet has been compiled by Malvern Wells Parish Council.



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Points of Interest

A Great Malvern Railway Station is a gem on the Great Western Railway. Unlike other stations, which were built to standard GWR specifications, this was specially designed by the architect Edward Wallace Elmslie for Lady Emily Foley. Lady Foley was the major land owner in Victorian Malvern and wanted an impressive structure to welcome rail travellers to the town. One of the station waiting rooms was built specially for her and is now the Lady Foley Tea Rooms. The stationmaster's house was very grand and still stands above the station. The line between Worcester and Hereford was opened in 1861. Take time to look at the structure and decoration before leaving the platform. At the Worcester end of the platform is a gateway, now closed, leading to a tunnel to the Imperial Hotel on the road above. Known as the 'worm', this allowed 1st class travellers to leave the station without mixing with 2nd and 3rd class passengers. The hotel is now the Malvern Girls College.

B Malvern College was and still is a boarding school, but has been used for other purposes over the last century. During WWII it was taken over by the Ministry of Defence for the Admiralty as a 'bolt hole' should the London HQ be bombed. It was never used for that purpose, although house 2 was retained by the Navy for use as the ward room for HMS Duke (more about this later) and house 5 for the Free French until 1942. During this period (September 1940 to May 1942) the school was housed at Blenheim Palace. The school briefly returned to Malvern before being moved again, this time to Harrow. The College was then used by the Telecommunications Research Establishment (TRE), the main body responsible for the development of radar. The school returned after the war in September 1946 and remained a boys' college until 1992, when it became a mixed college. TRE subsequently moved to a new site off St Andrews Road, which the walk passes later.



Malvern College

C The early Victorian post box on the corner is one of four in Malvern - and only six in the entire country. It is Grade II listed. This rare design of post box was featured in a special set of stamps issued in 2003.



Early Victorian Post Box

D Malvern Wells Great Western Station was closed on 3rd April 1965, along with the rest of the minor stations on this line. GWR's 'King Class' locomotives were unable to be used between Worcester and Hereford because of the small bore of the Victorian railway tunnels through the Ledbury and Malvern Hills. These tunnels, major engineering feats in their day, were both the work of Stephen Ballard, a local man who was also instrumental in the founding of the Malvern Hills Conservators. A second, wider tunnel under the Malvern Hills was opened on 2 August 1926. During WWII the original tunnel was used to store armaments; shelving was installed and a narrow gauge railway line was constructed to carry the armaments into and out of the tunnel store. The tunnel is now an important bat roost.

E Railway Tunnel Spring was discovered in 1853, during the building of the first tunnel through the hills. A small pumping station was constructed to raise the water to a tank above, to supply local homes that had lost their water when the tunnel was cut. The pumping station became redundant when the second tunnel was opened. The water now runs out at this point and across the golf course as a brook. Part of the Worcestershire Golf Club was used in WWII as American general hospital no.55.

F The site of Malvern Wells Midland Station was on the branch line linking Malvern to Upton upon Severn, Tewkesbury and Ashchurch, where it joined the Midland main line. The line was opened in the 1860's. The section between Malvern and Upton upon Severn was closed in 1952; the remainder of the branch line was finally closed on 14 August 1961.

G Malvern Common was the original location of the Worcestershire Golf Club and the old club house is still standing up at the top of the Common near the junction of Peachfield Road and Longridge Road. The Golf Club, which was constructed in 1879, was home to one of the first 10 golf courses in the country. It moved to its current site (walked through earlier) in 1926/27 and in 2001 the club house was rebuilt, which received the Malvern Civic Society Award in 2003.

H During WWII what is now the QinetiQ site was constructed for the Admiralty and from April 1941 to 1946 was HMS Duke, a naval basic training ship. Thousands of young sailors passed through and their frequent parades, led by their resident band, were a feature of wartime Malvern. The Telecommunications Research Establishment (TRE) took over the site in 1946 and, in its various guises, has remained at the forefront of electronic research and development to the present. The establishment has been involved in all aspects of radar development, particularly air related, guided weapons, computers, semi-conductors and integrated circuits, liquid crystals, ultra low temperature research and infra red applications, to name but a few. The main hall retains the name NELSON from its HMS Duke days.

TRE became the Radar Research Establishment, then the Royal Radar Establishment (RRE) and, when combined with two other research establishments, the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment. As part of moves to put it onto a more commercial footing it became a part of the Defence Research Agency and then the enlarged Defence Evaluation & Research Agency, DERA; in 2002 it was renamed QinetiQ.

Flora and fauna

Birds: blackbird, blue tit, bullfinch, buzzard, chaffinch, chiffchaff, coal tit, crow, dunnoek, great tit, greenfinch, longtail tit, jackdaw, magpie, nightingale, pheasant, pied wagtail, pigeon, robin, sparrow, swallow, thrush

Flowers: bindweed, black mustard, burnet rose, bluebell, buttercup, cats ear, celandine, chickweed, cinquefoil, common mallow, common sorrel, creeping thistle, daisy, dandelion, dog rose, fat hen, foxglove, germander speedwell, goose grass, great plantain, great willowherb, herb robert, hoary plantain, hogweed, king cup, lady's bedstraw, lesser bindweed, nipplewort, pineapple weed, poppy, purple (red) dead nettle, red clover, ribwort plantain, rosebay willowherb, scarlet pimpernel, scentless mayweed, shepherds purse, small-flowered cranesbill, sow-thistle, tansy, tufted vetch, white clover, wind flower, woody nightshade, violet, yarrow, yellow meadow vetchling

Butterflies: ringlet, small skipper, small white.