

**8 Stocks Fountain, Whipping Post and Stocks**

(Grid Reference: SO7742 4690)



The remains of Stocks Fountain stands within a curved wall along North Malvern Road, above Trinity Church, on common land just below the old stocks and animal pound.

In 1895 a drinking fountain with an adjacent animal trough, supplied from the spring water

main, was installed by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. All that is left today is the short cast-iron pillar, that local residents remember as having a stainless steel drinking spout on top. This was possibly removed in the 1970's when nearby Clock Tower water supplies were also cut off.

The stocks and whipping post are visible remains of the parish justice system from Tudor times to the mid-nineteenth century, when they were under the authority of the elected constable who collected county rates and carried out orders from the magistrates. Originally one of many, the ancient livestock pound was used to contain animals that had strayed off the commons. A fine was charged by the constable when the owner claimed them, or if unclaimed, they were sold for the benefit of the parish.

**9 Clock Tower and Tank** (Grid Reference: SO7698 4703)



The Clock tower we see today was built in three stages. The well room and the tank behind were built by Charles Morris in 1835. The brick-built tank's capacity is 50,000 gallons. The tank regulates the supply of water collected from the variable North Valley Spring. The first Clock Tower, with one clock face, was added in 1843 and extended to its present height with four gas-lit clock faces in 1901 to celebrate the accession of

Edward VII. To the right of 'The Tank', Morris built North Malvern Tap, a second smaller tank also for use by local people.

In 1877 the Urban District Council constructed North Malvern Reservoir 150ft above the Clock Tower. The local paper reported the ceremonial "public inspection" of the huge arched structure, when crowds of visitors ascended the steep hill in a steam lift, then went down inside.

**10 The Gas Lamp** (Grid Reference: SO7649 4622)

This lamp post is thought to have inspired the gas lamp in the wood of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" by CS Lewis who went to school near here, for a while, and later regularly visited the Malvern Hills and met up with his friend JRR Tolkien. Beside the gas lamp is a taller cast iron pillar supporting a compass vane, which is in fact a Victorian sewer vent.

**10 Westminster Bank Springs** (Grid Reference: SO7647 4616)

In a natural hillside setting, this site actually contains three springs, two of which are within the enclosure, fenced to keep out cattle and sheep. It once supplied an animal trough and the Clergy House, extensive water gardens and swimming pool of the former St James' public school. Few of these supplies are now maintained, but the sources are still prolific. West Malvern was once part of the parish of Mathon which was gifted to the Dean of Westminster Abbey in 1542 and remained so until 1862. When West Malvern was formed, Westminster Abbey generously donated a great deal to help establish the new parish. In gratitude for the gift the hotel of the time was named the Westminster Arms and the spring Westminster Bank.

**11 Roget's Grave and St James' Spout**

(Grid Reference: SO7636 4608)

The southern end of the graveyard contains the flat tombstone of Dr Peter Roget whose famous thesaurus was published in 1852. St James' spout is also found in the bank above the church.

**12 West Malvern Tap** (Grid Reference: SO7640 4598)

The Tap was installed by Charles Morris in 1844, "Erected for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood". With the permission of the Malvern Hills Conservators in 1904, villagers paid by subscription for repairs and the cleaning out of the water tank. On 08/08/08 the Malvern Heritage Project reconnected the pipeline that had been dry for decades and water



flowed from the tap. The water comes from Westminster Bank Springs.

**15 Donkey Spout** (Grid Reference: SO7720 4592)

The spout, owned by the Malvern Hills Conservators, is easily missed when the undergrowth is dense. The table-like structure over the spout is thought to have originally been a platform for mounting donkeys.



This site represents the 19th century local history of donkeys, which were popularly used to carry children, ladies, the elderly and infirm, up the hills. Here donkeys were watered and donkey-women collected water for thirsty clients on their way to St Ann's Well to take the "Water Cure". As a child, Princess Victoria rode Betty Caley's donkey called 'Old Moses' up here. After this,

many Malvern donkeys were called Moses to take advantage of the public demand to ride the royal donkey, but it's said poor old 'Royal Moses' himself was soon ridden to death. Further downhill, on the left of the same path, a wooden shed still stands that was one of the many donkey sheds. It is owned by the Conservators.

**14 Bottling Works Spring** (Grid Reference: SO7748 4598)

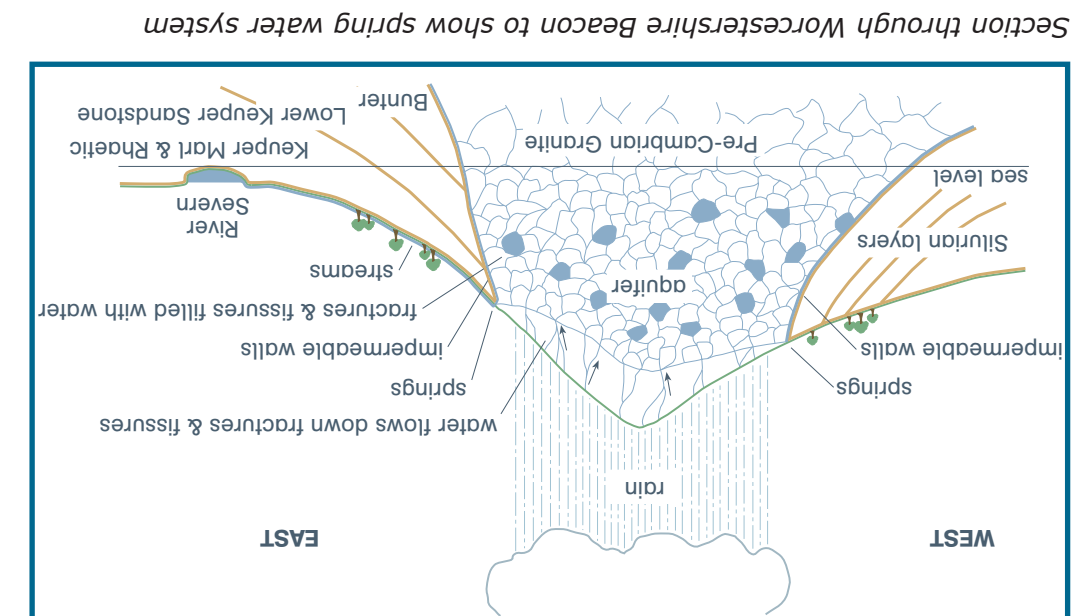
This spring is in a courtyard on Belle Vue Terrace, a few doors down from the Unicorn Pub. The ancient spring itself was not used for bottling. The rare visible geology of this beautiful, natural feature within a recess in the northern retaining wall is quite unique among Malvern's springs.

It is in front of a Victorian commercial Spa building of great historical interest, built in 1854 at the height of the 'Water Cure', for Lea & Perrins. A few years later it was taken over by their partners the Burrows brothers who bottled Malvern Water here, piped direct from St Ann's Well and taken by cart from the courtyard to be transported around Britain. From the 19th century, under great security and secrecy, Burrows supplied the Royal family with Table Water from this site, probably until as late as the 1950's.



The ultimate source of all spring water is the rain that falls on the aquifer surface. The total amount of rain that has fallen, and more critically its timing and intensity, controls the volume of water which eventually permeates down into the aquifer to appear later at any spring outflow. The speed of water flow through the fissures and fractures is dependent on the size of the fractures and on the difference in height between the point where the water enters the rock and the point of the spring outflow. Given the large variability in these factors there will be differing time lags between water input into the aquifer and outflow for each spring. Longer time lags smooth out short-term variations in rainfall and improve the reliability of any spring.

A spring is the overflow point of groundwater out of an aquifer. In the case of the Malvern Hills, the brittle and fractured Pre-Cambrian Malvernian rock itself makes up the aquifers with impervious (water-resistant) Silurian sedimentary mudstones to the west and Keuper marlstones on the eastern flanks of the Malverns. The ground water is held in the fissures and fractures of the Malvernian granite rock and the impervious rocks prevent its outflow to the sides. The majority of the springs then rise and overflow the tops of the Marls and Mudstones.



Where the water comes from

**Information about the walk**

**Starting Point:** Malvhina Fountain, Belle Vue Terrace, Great Malvern

**Alternative Starting Point:** Tank Quarry car park North Malvern

**Distance of Entire Walk:** Approximately 8 miles

**Map reference:** OS Explorer 190, Land ranger 150

**Terrain:** mixed, some loose stone surface and steep paths

**Short Cuts:** do not take the tail spur to the stocks

**Variations:** this walk can be connected to the Water Walk on the Central Hills or broken into two shorter walks that finish at St Anne's Well

**Refreshments:** At St Ann's Well café or in Great Malvern itself

**Facilities/ toilets:** St Ann's Well, Waitrose in Great Malvern, behind bus stop at Upper Wyche, Edith Walk opposite the "Theatre of Small Convenience".

**Car Parking:** Malvern Hills Conservators Car parks are all around the hills including Tank Quarry Car Park

**Acknowledgments:** The Malvern Spa Association is immensely grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund which has financed the Malvern Heritage Project- Springs Restoration, including this Water Walk guide and particularly to Victoria Oaten, the HLF Project Officer at the AONB, for all her hard work in walking the routes and compiling the information. We would also like to thank the Malvern Hills Conservators whose unstinting support for the project has made the restoration of these spouts possible and who keep in trust nearly all the spouts on this trail, in addition to the hills and commons. We are also grateful to Brian Isles at the Malvern Museum for providing many of the illustrations. Lastly a huge thank you to the owners of other spouts in the Malvern area for their co-operation in ensuring they are protected for the future.

**Some Further Reading:** MALVERN "HILL OF FOUNTAINS" Ancient Origins, Beliefs and Superstitions surrounding Wells and Well Dressing by Rose Garrard. "THE SPA BOOK" A history of the Malvern Water Cure by John Winsor Harcup. "SPRINGS, SPOUTS, FOUNTAINS & HOLY WELLS of the MALVERN HILLS" by Bruce Osborne & Cora Weaver.

Contact: 01684 892002 or conservators@malvernhills.org.uk  
The Malvern Hills Conservators are the public body charged under the Malvern Hills Acts 1884-1995 with protecting the Malvern Hills and commons for the conservation of land and wildlife, whilst balancing this with the need to keep the common as open space for the enjoyment of the public.

**Malvern Hills Conservators (MHC)**

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs  
Leave gates and property as you find them  
Protect plants and animals and take your litter home  
Keep dogs under close control  
Consider other people

**Countryside Code**

The Malvern Hills District Council (MHC) advises that all spring water should be boiled before drinking.

**Drinking Malvern Water**

The Malvern Spa Association (MSA) was founded in 1998 "to work with the community to conserve, protect and restore the Springs, Spouts, Fountains and Wells of the Malvern Hills", and "to promote the study, conservation, development and awareness of these water sources and of Great Malvern as a Spa Town".  
The Association organises the annual Well Dressing Event in early May each year. If you are interested in this or any aspect of Malvern's water heritage visit [www.malvern-hills.co.uk/malvernsa](http://www.malvern-hills.co.uk/malvernsa). The Association welcomes new members.

**Malvern Spa Association**





**Springs and Spouts of the Northern Hills**








## DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE




(Numbers ) refer to numbers on the map and points of interest




*This trail starts in Great Malvern, near the junction of Church Street and Belle Vue Terrace. However, there is an alternative start point at the Tank Quarry car park next to the Clock Tower . If you do park at Tank Quarry, it is worth noting the geology display here, laid out on four large boulders, examples of the main rock types from which the hills are formed.*





*Dedicated benches around the Water Walk route are indicated so you can check that you are going the right way .*

### Southern Loop – indicated by RED arrows on map




Malvhina  is on Belle Vue Island, Great Malvern, below the top steps leading from the traffic lights on the main road. From Malvhina, cross Belle Vue Terrace above and turn left until reaching the signs to St. Ann's Well and the Worcestershire Way through Rose Bank Gardens. Climb up the '99 Steps' (there are only 95!), cross over the road and follow the Worcestershire Way (signposted with an apple emblem) to St Ann's Well . From 1842 patients taking the famous Malvern Water Cure were sent up this steep Victoria Drive to the well before breakfast to take their morning drink. En route to this little cottage, café and well room you will pass some grass-roofed toilets built by the MHC, and the pond and outdoor seating area and Old Moses Spout beside the well room entrance, restored in 2006 as part of the Malvern Heritage Project.

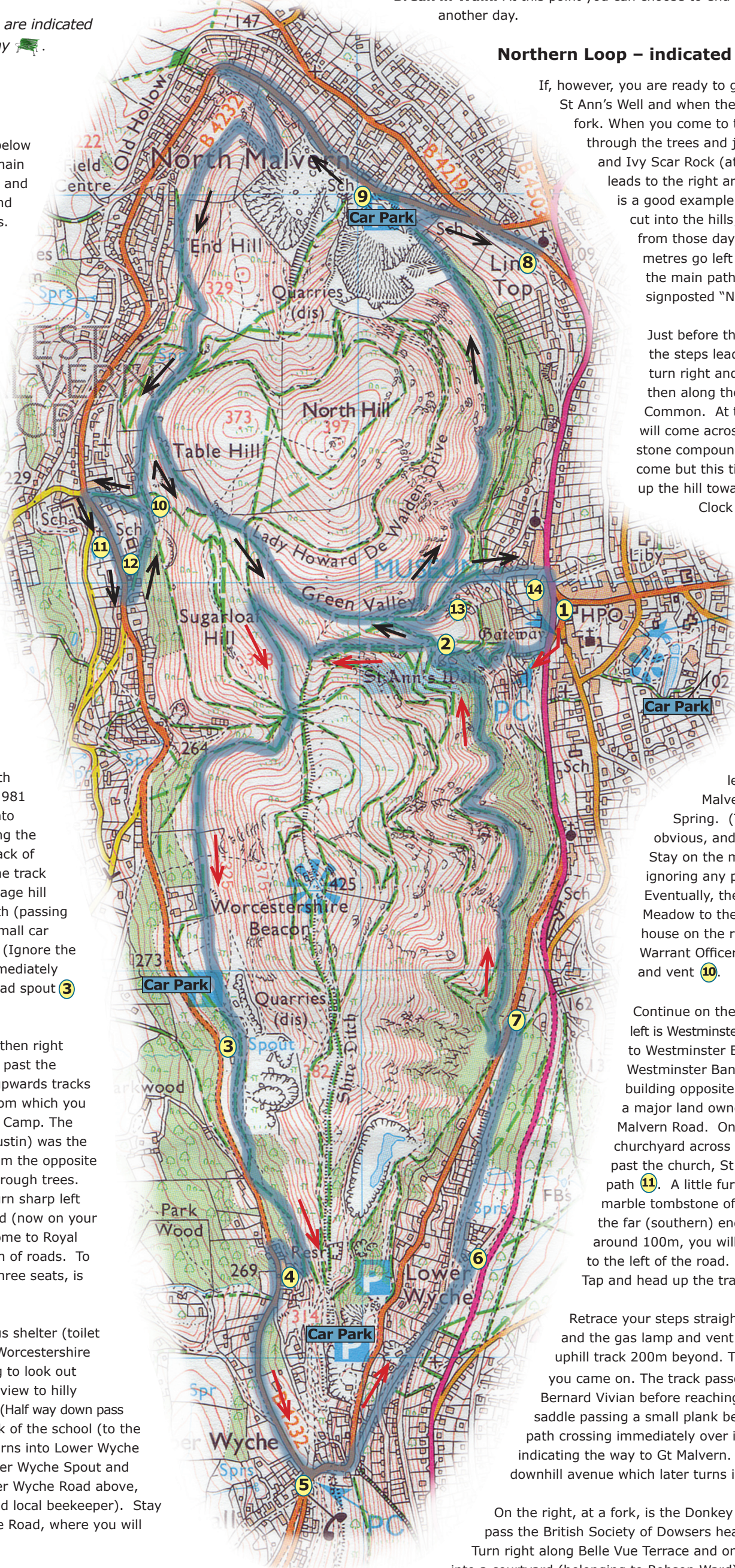
Walk up behind St Ann's Well and then turn left when the track divides after about 50 metres. Head up the hill, ignoring a track to the left shortly after the turn. When several tracks meet, take the left track (signposted 'The Beacon') up to the ridge. At the saddle, follow the arrow on the round marker stone towards 'The Dingle' downhill. Make sure you keep the valley to your right! After about 100 paces from the marker stone, you can make a detour to the Dingle Spring by taking a steep grassy track on the right that heads towards the cottages. After about 60 paces the spring can be seen close by the path. Retrace your steps back up to the main path. The path bears left as it enters woodland. As the trees thin on the left, look out for a well-defined path bearing left out of the trees. ( to Mrs. Percival 1981 is passed after about 200m). You will pass a door into the hill, which gave access to the pump room serving the former Beacon café. Shortly after, pass along the back of a property in a walled-off garden. The path joins the track from the house. (You are walking towards the iron age hill fort of British Camp in the distance). Continue south (passing  to Betty Fulcher 1918- 1980). On reaching a small car park, bear right and turn left onto a surfaced track. (Ignore the large car park below you to your right.) Almost immediately on your right is an unmarked stepped path to Hayslad spout  below on the main road.






Now retrace your steps back to the track, turn left, then right through the small car park. After about 200m, just past the entrance to an old quarry, take either of the small upwards tracks on the left. The path leads to a flat grass plateau from which you can see beautiful views of Herefordshire and British Camp. The plateau ( to Harry George and Hilda Elizabeth Austin) was the location of the quarry master's house. Continue from the opposite end of the plateau. The path gradually descends through trees. At the lowest point turn sharp right onto a path. Turn sharp left at a junction of paths and continue down to the road (now on your right). Walk left along the pavement and you will come to Royal Well . Continue along the pavement to a junction of roads. To your right, on the far side of the grassy knoll with three seats, is Wyche Spout .

Cross over the road towards the ornate Victorian bus shelter (toilet facilities behind) and follow the pavement left into Worcestershire through the Wyche Cutting where it's worth pausing to look out over the plain of the Severn valley, a very different view to hilly Herefordshire. Then take Old Wyche road downhill. (Half way down pass Malvern Wells Parish Council ). Walk past the back of the school (to the right). Continue on Old Wyche Road past two left turns into Lower Wyche Road, and a right turn down to the main road. Lower Wyche Spout and Trough  are to the left of the road. Nip up to Lower Wyche Road above, and head right (pass  to Divvy Davis, a renowned local beekeeper). Stay on this road until you reach the junction with Wyche Road, where you will come across Weavers Well  on the left.

**LEGEND**

-  advised route
-  southern route direction
-  northern route direction







At the junction with Wyche Road turn left. After 150m, before a road joining from the left, take the track on the opposite side of the road (near  to Con and Lena). Follow the track to the right marked "St Ann's Well, The Beacon" ( to Jess 1982,  to TB 1981,  to Reginald and Alice Bryer). Head on along the track, ignoring a path on the right after about 400m which descends to the road, and you will pass through the rocky outcrop of Rushy Valley and further on you will find yourself back at St Ann's Well .





**Break in Walk:** At this point you can choose to end your walk and save the other half for another day.




### Northern Loop – indicated by BLACK arrows on map.



If, however, you are ready to go on, take the track up behind St Ann's Well and when the track divides take the right-hand fork. When you come to the tarmac roadway, go diagonally through the trees and join the path signed to North Quarry and Ivy Scar Rock (at ground level on a stone sign). This leads to the right around the side of the hill. This walk is a good example of the old carriage ways that were cut into the hills; you can still see the stone edging from those days. At a fork after a few hundred metres go left (upwards). At a later fork take the main path to the right (not the uphill path signposted "North Hill").

Just before the car park, by the gas lamp, take the steps leading down to the road. At the road turn right and head along the pavement and then along the left-hand edge of tiny Kendalls Common. At the junction with Lodge Drive you will come across the Whipping Post, Stocks and the stone compound . Head back the way you have come but this time go past the steps and continue up the hill towards the now visible North Malvern Clock Tower .

From the clock tower, continue up the road (crossing over to the pavement on the right) to the sharp left bend. At the end of a metal railing separating the pavement from the road (just past the West Malvern village sign), carefully cross the road to double back along a broad path. Follow the path as it first climbs steadily, through a dog leg to the right, then levels out and leads along the hill side above West Malvern, passing the source of Danzell Spring. (The location of the spring is not obvious, and may not be seen from the path.) Stay on the main path for the next half a mile, ignoring any paths joining from the left or right. Eventually, the path goes down, past Joyner's Meadow to the right and then immediately past a house on the right (St Mary's) and reaches  to Warrant Officer Tim Mockford 1982 and a lamp post and vent .

Continue on the main path a short way, and on the left is Westminster Bank Spring . With your back to Westminster Bank Spring, head right and down Westminster Bank to West Malvern Road. The large building opposite once belonged to Lady De Walden, a major land owner of the area. Turn left along West Malvern Road. On reaching the church, enter the churchyard across the cattle grid at the north end. Just past the church, St James' Spout is to the left of the path . A little further, to the right, is the polished-marble tombstone of Roget . Leave the churchyard at the far (southern) end and continue along the road. After around 100m, you will find West Malvern Tap  in the wall to the left of the road. Turn left just beyond West Malvern Tap and head up the track back to Westminster Bank Spring.

Retrace your steps straight past Westminster Bank Spring  and the gas lamp and vent , then turn sharp right onto an uphill track 200m beyond. This turn is 30m beyond the path you came on. The track passes two small quarries, and a  to Bernard Vivian before reaching the saddle. Walk directly over the saddle passing a small plank bench. Drop down to the main gravel path crossing immediately over it onto a dirt track with a stone sign indicating the way to Gt Malvern. This dirt track soon joins a grassy downhill avenue which later turns into a tarmac road.

On the right, at a fork, is the Donkey spout . Carry on down the hill to pass the British Society of Dowlers headquarters below the Red Lion pub. Turn right along Belle Vue Terrace and on your right is an archway that leads into a courtyard (belonging to Robson Ward). In the far right hand corner is the last water feature, the Old Bottling Works Spring .

## POINTS OF INTEREST

 **Malvhina** (Grid Reference: SO7750 4591)



This drinking spout can be found on Belle Vue Island, Great Malvern, below the top steps. The supply of spring water to this new public spout is passed through filters and UV sterilisers to ensure it is safe to drink.

In 1998, to help regenerate Great Malvern town centre, Malvern Hills District Council commissioned the sculptor Rose Garrard to create a public spout to bring spring water back to the town centre for the first time since the Second World War. A local resident suggested that this female figure should be called 'Malvhina' after a Gaelic princess whom Charles Grindrod, a Victorian

historian and friend of Elgar, had connected with the naming of Malvern. It is supplied with spring water from Happy Valley, Rushy Valley and Ivy Scar Rock.

The sculpture, made of stone and bronze, has a triple theme incorporating elements representing the three springs, the three roads that meet here and the three most important periods in Malvern's history, the ancient Celtic origins, the coming of Christianity and the growth of the town in Victorian times, based on the pure waters of the Hills.

 **St Ann's Well** (Grid Reference: SO7721 4579)



The original St Ann's Well cottage dates from 1813 and it soon became a popular spring with people taking the Water Cure. Hot and cold baths were available in addition to food and drinking water. The hexagonal building on the left was added by the Victorians and dates from about 1860; it houses a tea room,

which is open throughout the summer months and during most weekends in winter.

In an attempt to supersede the pagan beliefs of Britain, Christian saints were often named as the guardians of many springs and wells, replacing the names of earlier pagan deities. A very popular dedication was to St Anne (or Ann), patron saint of springs, and the apocryphal grandmother of Jesus. But Anne's name also corresponds with the names of earlier fertility goddesses across Europe and the Middle East. The Celtic tribes were ruled by her as Ana or Anu, associated with rebirth and regeneration. They believed that this goddess was the source of all water issuing from the earth, giving birth to all living things.

 **Hayslad** (Grid Reference: SO7665 4480)

The pure untreated water at this most prolific and popular spout is piped directly from a group of three natural springs on the hillside, to the south of Hayslad Quarry. In the mid 19th century "Haysladd" was described as "a fault spring associated with a small bog containing several rare plants", slad meaning a marshy area. In 1893 a stone trough for the use of humans and animals was built at road level to ease access to the water.


 **Royal Well** (Grid Reference: SO7677 4427)

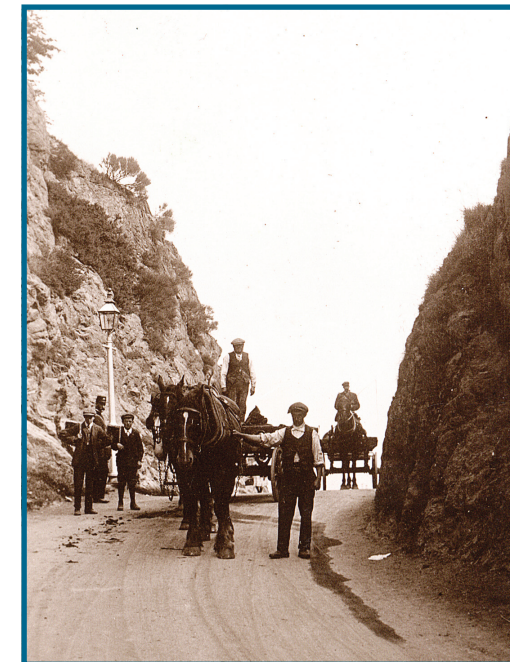


In 1868 a sickly William Ryland, the Mayor of Bewdley, came to Great Malvern to take the healing waters to try to cure his consumption, but without success. A local resident advised him to try the waters and air on the other side of the hills, and after regularly drinking

water here, his health improved. The source was kept secret but he soon discovered the water was from St Thomas' Well inside an old cottage, which he managed to buy. But local people resented Ryland's control of the well and burnt the cottage down.

In 1870, in order to placate them, he built a public spout beside the highway, supplied from the original source and from then on locals annually well dressed the spout with a profusion of flowers and garlands. It became 'Royal' by permission of Queen Victoria after her daughter Princess Helena drank from the spout.

 **Wyche Spout** (Grid Reference: SO7684 4367)



The Wyche Cutting is one of three passes through the hills and was probably an ancient track-way for pack animals carrying salt. Later the cutting was on one of the Roman salt trade routes from the Droit-'wich' brine springs to South Wales. In about 1400, there was a spring here thought to be called Primes Well, which is now possibly under the grassy bank below Highland Cottage.

After the widening of the cutting in 1836 and the construction of the new tarmac roadway (around 1880's) the public spout was installed on

"the Tump" on the opposite (western side) of the road. In 1930 this water was described as coming from a pure Archaean granite spring. Now named Wyche Spout, it was primarily for the use of quarrymen working for the Pix Granite Company, who lived in the houses built here from about 1840.

 **Lower Wyche Spout and Trough** (Grid Reference: SO7725 4423)

This spout was donated by the benefactor Charles Morris in 1840, and is one of four public spouts that he created for the use of local inhabitants (and their animals) in need of a reliable water supply. The Spout and Trough are supplied by the same spring source. The Spout projects from the front of the curved stone wall fronting an underground collection and settlement tank which regulates the flow of the spring water.

 **Weavers Well** (Grid Reference: SO7727 4440)

This small trough was probably used as a watering point for horses used for carriage rides, and the donkeys which used to transport visitors around the hills. Possibly fed from the nearby Wyche reservoir, it has no connection with weaving but was named in the 1990's by a local historian.