

Knightwick & Storrige Cycle Route



1 Many new cider orchards have been planted since the 1990's. This one is significant in providing a retail outlet which opens at weekends.

2 At the bottom of the hill in the centre of the old village is the village shop. Cradley recently boasted two pubs, but the nearest now are at Stiffords Bridge on the A4103.



3 This abandoned quarry near the hamlet of Greenhill would have provided sandstone blocks used in the building of nearby cottages. Now left to the tender care of nature.

4 Competition from Europe & USA has led to a sharp decline in hop yards. Adjacent is one of the increasing number of new cider orchards supplying Bulmers and others.



5 A disused quarry near the Nelson Inn and village shop in Longley Green exposes the Amestry Limestone which underlies most of the wooded Suckley hills.

6 This rural industrial estate above Batchelors Bridge replaces the old Bruff hop picking machinery plant. Bruff machinery was used on most UK hop farms and was much exported.



7 Rest your legs on this long climb and stop to admire the wooded landscape of the Suckley Hills, with this derelict greenhouse contrasting mans endeavours with that of nature.



8 One of six surviving milestones placed in 1898 by Martley RDC on the unclassified road route between Leigh and Bromyard. The reason for this remains unexplained.



9 The White House was the seat of the local squire - more recently Lady Waechter, who, during the war housed elephants and other animals from a refuge circus.



10 Surviving railway bridge under the Worcester to Leominster railway, which puffed unprofitably from 1897 to 1964. Note the exquisite diagonal brickwork.



11 Across the fields to the left can be seen the bracken of Bringsty Common. The idiosyncratic and difficult to find Live & Let Live pub still exists, but has not served ales for many a year.



12 Larger farm units have sought to maintain profitability by creating larger fields out of the former mosaic of hedgerows and pastures.



13 The B4917 used to cross the River Teme at this point prior to the opening of the new bridge carrying Telford's A44 Oxford to Aberystwyth road.



14 This outcrop of Old Red Sandstone was deposited by graded streams and estuaries following the tropical seas which developed the fossiliferous Amestry Limestone.



15 Lulsley boasts a number of dwellings of considerable antiquity, including a moated house. The manor was given to Cormeilles Abbey in Normandy by William, Earl of Hereford.



16 Ravenshill Wood Nature Reserve. The small Discovery Centre is open March to September, but visitors may enjoy the walks at any time.



17 The centre of Alfrick includes the village shop and church, although sadly the Swan Inn is no longer open to serve local ales.



18 Knapp and Papermill reserve provides a valley of birdsong through orchards, woodlands and wildflower meadows, lying alongside the undulating Leigh Brook.



19 The ravages of time have taken their toll of this elderly orchard.



INFORMATION

Tourist Information Offices:
 Malvern: 21 Church St, 01684 892289
 Ledbury: 3, Homend, 01531 636147

Getting to the Malvern Hills area
 The area is well served by bus, coach and rail services in addition to motoring via the M5 and M50 motorways.

Bikes on Trains Great Malvern, Malvern Link, Colwall & Ledbury
 Central Trains to Hereford, Worcester, Birmingham & Nottingham - will take 2+ bikes.
 First Great Western to Hereford, Worcester, Oxford, London Paddington - will take 2 - 6 bikes. Adalante services must be pre-booked.
 First Great Western - Great Malvern to Gloucester, Bristol & Taunton - will carry 2 bikes.

Travel Line: 0871 200 2233
Cycle Shops
 MyCycles, 271 Worcester Rd, Malvern Link. 01684 574836
 Back on Track Mtn Bikes, 6, North Malvern Rd, Malvern. 01684 565777
 Halfords, Retail Park, Roman Way, Malvern Link
 Cycles Clements, 6 Bank Crescent, Ledbury. 01531 632213
 Saddlebound Cycles, 3 Southend, Ledbury. 01531 632213
 Pip Powell, 67 The Homend, Ledbury. 01531 632139

Visit www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk for information on 'green' accommodation.

Four rides exploring the
 landscape, culture and heritage
 of the Malvern Hills
 by pedal power
 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



**By Bike
 in the Foothills
 of the Malverns**

THE MALVERN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Colwall & Cradley - 15 miles/400ft climb/Easy/2 - 3 hours
 A pleasant meander around the meadows in the vicinity of Cradley Brook.
 Undulating, but with no nasty climbs and all on country lanes, so suitable for families and occasional riders.
 Recommended Start Point: Colwall Railway Station
 Pubs: Colwall: Crown Inn and Colwall Park Hotel
 Stiffords Bridge: (1 mile) Red Lion & Prancing Pony
 Wellington Heath: (2 miles) Farmers Arms
 Ledbury: (2.5 miles) Choice of 10.
 Shops: Colwall, Cradley & Ledbury (2.5 miles)
 Visit: Coddington Vineyards, Cradley Heritage Centre

British Camp & Bromesberrow - 20 miles/1050ft climb/Moderate/2.5 - 4 hours
 This ride includes two sections of main road together with one prolonged climb to Jubilee Drive, so is less suitable for children and inexperienced riders.
 Start Point: British Camp or Colwall or Ledbury (0.5 miles)
 Pubs: British Camp: Malvern Hills Hotel
 Welland: Pheasant (0.5 miles)
 Castlemorton: Plume of Feathers, Robin Hood (0.5 miles)
 Rye Street: Duke of York (1 mile)
 Ledbury: (0.5 miles) Choice of 10
 Colwall: Crown Inn and Colwall Park Hotel
 Upper Colwall: Chase Inn, Wyche Inn
 Colwall, Eastnor Castle (summer), Ledbury, Kettle Sings (Jubilee Drive)
 Cafes: Colwall & Ledbury (2.5 miles)
 Visit: Little Malvern Priory, Eastnor Castle

Storrige & Knightwick - 26 miles/1400ft climb/Hard/3 - 5 hours
 A hilly excursion using the lesser used lanes around the delightful Suckley Hills. Includes three short lengths of main road and three prolonged climbs, which make it a good workout for the active rider.
 Start Point: Leigh Village Hall or the Talbot at Knightwick
 Pubs: Stiffords Bridge: Red Lion and Rocky Donkey
 Longley Green: Lord Nelson
 Knightwick: Talbot and Fox & Hounds (Lulsley)
 Leigh Sinton: Royal Oak
 Shops: Cradley, Longley Green, Alfrick, Leigh Sinton

Round the AONB Ride - 60 miles/2800ft climb/Demanding
 Allow a day including a pub lunch!
 The complete route can be ridden by "joining up" all the above rides.

Figures in brackets refer to distances from the marked route at the nearest point.

Colwall & Cradley Cycle Route

1 St James Church Colwall lies on the site of the pre-railway Saxon village. The C16 Church Ale House, a site of "much revelling" before it was later converted into an almshouse.



2 The rail bridge carrying the Worcester to Hereford line which opened in 1861. The depressions of a medieval moat can be observed opposite. 200m along the lane is bridge 273 close to the Cradley Brook source.

3 The east lodge of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Hope End Estate, landscaped by Capability Brown. Cary's 1837 map shows the lodge as a turnpike on the old road from Ledbury to Worcester via Malvern.



4 A surviving finger post near Old Colwall. Most of these posts were removed to confuse invading armies during the second world war, and were presumably melted down to assist the war effort.

5 The 2 acre Coddington Vineyard is one of the smallest in Britain. A public footpath takes you past the winery through some delightful grounds to the early English village church.



6 A well tended garden beyond Coddington village, a hamlet of 120 souls on a road to nowhere. Primitive living conditions of earlier dwellers is indicated by the definition - "a collection of mud huts".

7 Hop Kilns at Old Country House, the home of Colwall railway tunnel engineer Stephen Ballard. The numerous hop kilns in the area have now found new life as private dwellings.



8 A short detour (uphill) takes you to the splendid half timbered C16 Cradley village hall, nestling against the south wall of the churchyard.

9 Bridge 580 over Cradley Brook at Mathon considerably enlarged since the siting (2) at bridge 273. The nearby church of St John has a medieval timbered porch.



10 Below the fertile Herefordshire soil is a considerable depth of gravel which was extracted at several local pits into the 1980's. Behind the sign is a glimpse of a flooded pit.

11 Facilities such as the picturesque Mathon village hall are highly important to the structure and cohesion of rural communities.



12 Horticultural businesses provide a vital source of local jobs. The visual impact of the polytunnels has been minimised at this thriving plant nursery.

13 Malvern water, said to be favoured by the Queen, is bottled at the Colwall spring - a source shared with some fortunate local residences.

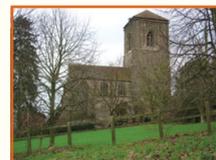


British Camp & Bromesberrow Cycle Route

1 Herefordshire Beacon. At 1109ft the Iron Age earthworks of British Camp provide excellent views of the Cotswolds and Black Mountains.



2 Little Malvern Priory is the remnant of a Benedictine c15th tower and chancel owned by the Berrington family since 1650. Limited public opening.



3 Castlemorton Common was part of the c12th royal hunting ground of Malvern Chase. Increasingly rare black poplars are found here plus the newt residents of this pond.



4 The Gullet Quarry provides an excellent opportunity to study the various ancient rocks which embody the Malvern Hills. Swimming not permitted.



5 A short detour towards the secluded hamlet of White Leaved Oak reveals this bridge which carried the carriages of the estate owners en route to Malvern or Ledbury.



6 One of the numerous walled gardens to be found in the AONB. The walls provided shelter from the wind, maximising production of vegetables, fruit, grapes and flowers.



7 The south lodge of the Bromesberrow Estate, with views of a parkland landscape enclosed by durable blacksmith made cast iron fences.



8 Only the post remains of this sign to Pepper Mill, as it overlooks the fertile arable sandy loams which continue to Ross-on-Wye, and re-appear in south Devon.



9 Clenchers Mill ford over the Glynch Brook - the mill is 100m to the north. An abandoned limekiln opposite would have produced lime for building and agricultural use.

10 Opposite the cricket pitch is Eastnor Castle, a grand gothic style mock castle completed by Lord Somers in 1822. Open to the public mid July to end August + Bank Hols.



11 The Eastnor village green encapsulates all that one expects from a pastoral village centre, with the covered well flanked by the church and village school.



12 Mitchells Farm reflects the fast changing face of UK agriculture, with buildings no longer relevant to modern farming systems, & either abandoned or converted to dwellings.



13 The Evendine Lane spout is much visited, and is appreciated by young and old alike. Note: 3, 2, 1, 6 described in the Colwall route

The Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The 105 sq km Malvern Hills AONB was designated in 1959. It embraces parts of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. The 'core' of the AONB is the Malvern Hills themselves and the surrounding commons. These form approximately 11% of the AONB and are owned and managed by the Malvern Hills Conservators - a public body charged by Acts of Parliament to look after this land. Beyond the main hills lies a rich diversity of wooded, farmed and other managed landscapes.

The primary purpose of AONBs is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. This refers not just to the landscapes and wildlife but to other natural and human features that make an area distinctive including archaeology, soils, communities and buildings. The Malvern Hills AONB is rich in geology, history and cultural associations as well as in its varied wildlife and ancient landscapes. The cycle routes illustrated on these maps will help you to explore this fascinating heritage via a network of tracks and quiet lanes. We have sought to avoid main roads where possible.

The Malvern Hills AONB Partnership exists to provide strategic direction for the area and to help to co-ordinate the activities of those who influence it. Local authorities, government bodies, parish councils, landowners, communities and voluntary groups are all represented on the Partnership. The Partnership is financially supported by Natural England, Herefordshire Council, Worcestershire County Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Gloucestershire County Council and Forest of Dean District Council.

Cycling Off-road

For those who wish to spend more time riding 'off-road', a number of bridleways can be found throughout the area. Cyclists are welcome to use these routes but are urged to ride carefully to avoid surface damage and not to ride too fast where it is not safe to do so - there may be other users just around the bend! The Malvern Hills themselves are a very popular destination for many different types of recreation. Even here cycling is only permitted on designated bridleways and it is suggested that cyclists may find it more rewarding to explore these routes at 'off-peak' times. Off-road cycling maps for the Malverns area can be purchased from local Tourist Information Centres, bookshops and cycle shops or on-line from www.imba-uk.com.

This guide can be downloaded from www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk.