

DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

(Numbers (2)) 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 (9). 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 (1) 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 (2). 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 (3) 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 (4). 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 (5).

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 (to the right)). 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 (6) 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 (7) on the left.

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 (2).

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").

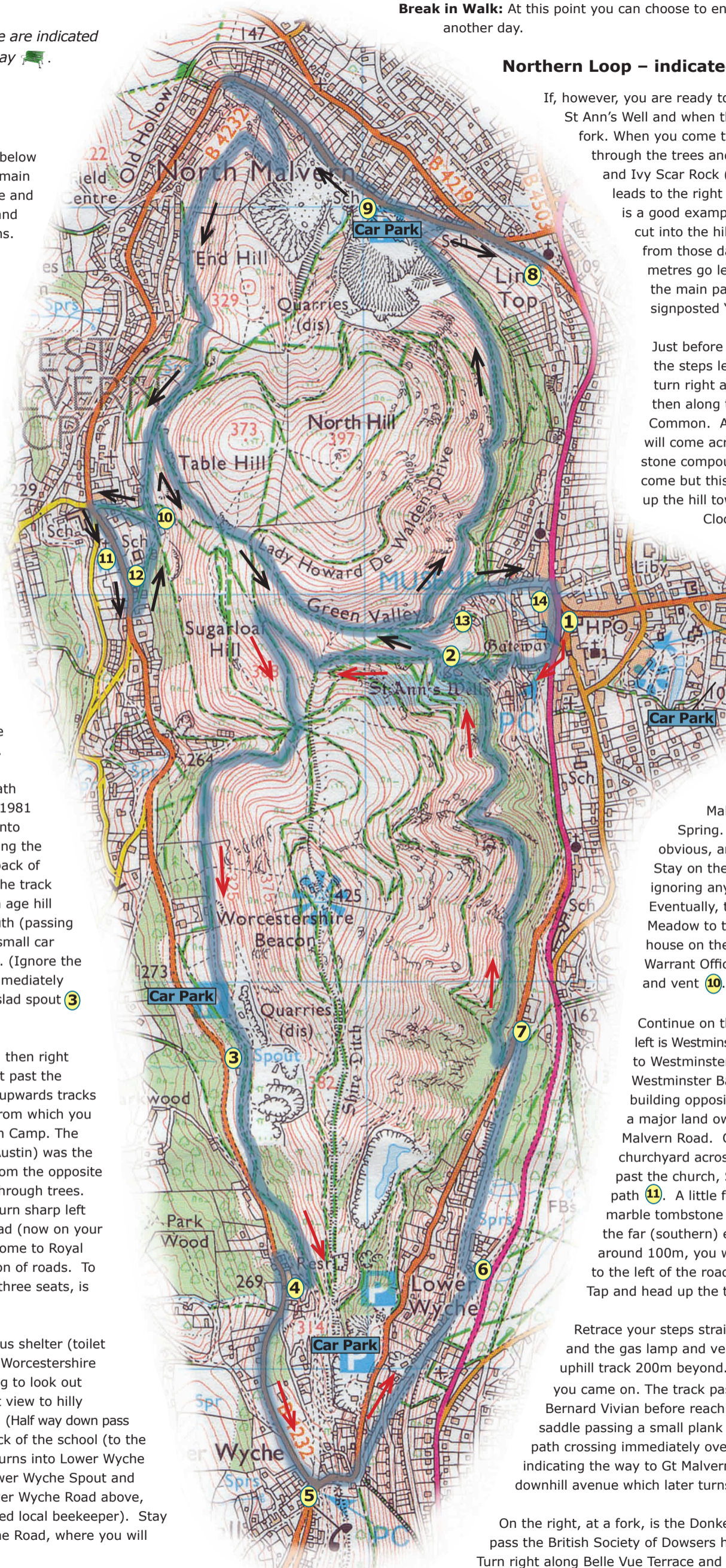
Just before the car park, by the gas lamp, take the steps leading down to the road. At the road turn right and head along the pavement and then along the left-hand edge of tiny Kendalls Common. At the junction with Lodge Drive you will come across the Whipping Post, Stocks and the stone compound (8). 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 (9).

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 (10).

Continue on the main path a short way, and on the left is Westminster Bank Spring (10). 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 (11). A little further, to the right, is the polished-marble tombstone of Roget (11). Leave the churchyard at the far (southern) end and continue along the road. After around 100m, you will find West Malvern Tap (12) 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 (10) and the gas lamp and vent (10), 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 (13). Carry on down the hill to pass the British Society of Dowsers 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 (14).



LEGEND

- advised route
- southern route direction
- northern route direction

