The remains of Stocks Fountain stand within a curve wall along North Malvern Road, above Trinity Church, on common land just below the old stocks and mounting donkeys.  

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 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 was used to contain animals that had escaped 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.

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 gal-  it 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, 150ft above Trinity Church, North Malvern Road, when crowds of visitors ascended the steep hill in a steam lift, to view the ceremonial “public inspection” of the huge arched structure, the ‘Water Cure’, for Lea & Perrins. A unique among Malvern’s springs. The water comes from Westminster Bank Springs.

Donkey Spout  
(Grid Reference: SO7720 4592)

This 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 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 Carey’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 donky, but it’s said 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.

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 missed when the undergrowth is dense. The rare visible geology of this beautiful, natural feature within a recess in the northern retaining wall is quite unique among Malvern’s springs.

Springs and Spouts of the Northern Hills

Information about the walk
Starting Point: Malvern 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 Cut: 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 Anna’s Well.

Refreshments: At St Anna’s Well café or in Great Malvern itself
Facilities/ toilets: St Anna’s Well, Waitrose in Great Malvern, behind bus stop at upper Wyche, Edith Walk opposite the ‘Theatre of Small Conveniences’.

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

Acknowledgment: Malvern Spa Association acknowledges the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, which has financed the Malvern Heritage Project - Springs and Spouts. Incorporating the restoration, including this Water Walk guide and particularly to Victoria Gatien, the HLF Project Officer at the AONB, for all her hard work in selecting the routes and compiling the information. We would also like to thank the Malvern Hills Conservators whose unstinting support for the project has been invaluable. To the Malvern Spa Association for their support in the promotion of these spouts and the Malvern Hills and commons. We are also grateful to Brian Iales at the Malvern Museum for providing the illustrations. Paulus of other spouts in the Malvern area for their cooperation in ensuring they are protected for the future.

Some Further Reading:

Drinking Malvern Water

The Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) advises that all spring water should be stored in a plastic bottle and then filtered if necessary. The MHDC recommends that you drink tap water if you are unsure. The MHDC states that all spring water is suitable for drinking, but some may be affected by the natural environment where they are located. For example, some springs may contain high levels of nitrates or arsenic, which could be harmful if consumed in large quantities. Other springs may have an alkaline or limey taste due to the presence of calcium carbonate. The MHDC states that these factors are not harmful to health, but they may affect the taste of the water. The MHDC advises that you should drink tap water if you are unsure. The MHDC states that all spring water is suitable for drinking, but some may be affected by the natural environment where they are located. For example, some springs may contain high levels of nitrates or arsenic, which could be harmful if consumed in large quantities. Other springs may have an alkaline or limey taste due to the presence of calcium carbonate. The MHDC states that these factors are not harmful to health, but they may affect the taste of the water. The MHDC advises that you should drink tap water if you are unsure.
Northern Loop – indicated by BLACK arrows on map.

If, however you are going to, take the track behind St Ann’s Well to follow the track down to the right fork. When you come to the terminus road, go diagonally across the trees and join the path signed to North Quarry and Ivy Scar Rock ( grit road level on a stone sign). The leafy path winds around the side of the Fall. This is a good example of the old carriage ways that were cut into the hill: you will see the etched path markings from those days. At a fork after a few hundred metres take the left path (upwards). At a later fork take the main path to the right (not the uphill path). Continue along the pavement through the trees.

Now retrace your steps back to the track, turn left, then right over the road and follow the Worcestershire Way marked on map.

At this 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 (not the footpath). Follow this slightly downhill track to a T junction marked ‘St Ann’s Well, The Beacon’ ( Grid Reference: SO6572 4452, SB 1573 4465, English Heritage). At this point you can choose to end your walk and save the other half for another day.

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 is open for drinking dates from 1813 and it soon became a place of healing for people taking the spring water for its reputed medicinal qualities. Hot and cold baths were available in addition to food and drinking water. Water back building on the left at this point is Malvern’s famous St Mary’s Good Water House on the right that heads towards the cottages. After this time go past the steps and continue up the hill towards the now visible North Malvern Clock Tower.

At a later fork take the main path to the right (not the uphill path). Continue along the pavement through the trees.

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. This spring drinking spot can be found near the southern part of the town. It is a popular spot for those wanting to try the healing waters. One of the ways to try to do this is to visit a small spout near the bottom of the hill which was regularly drinking water to St Anne. The spout was thought to be 'Royal' by permission of Queen Victoria after her daughter Princess Helena drank from the spout.

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 (not the footpath). Follow this slightly downhill track to a T junction marked ‘St Ann’s Well, The Beacon’ ( Grid Reference: SO6572 4452, SB 1573 4465, English Heritage). At this point you can choose to end your walk and save the other half for another day.

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