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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

The White House was the seat of the local squire - more recently Lady Waechter, who, during the war housed the local squire - more recently Lady. Now left to the tender care of nature.

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.

Larger farm units have sought to maintain profitability by creating larger units for sheep or cattle. The nearest now are at Stiffords Bridge on the A4103.

Competition from Europe & USA has led to a sharp decline in hop yards. A disused quarry near the Nelson Inn and village shop in Longley Green exposes the Aymestry Limestone which underlies most of the wooded Suckley Hills.

A hilly excursion using the lesser used lanes around the delightful Suckley Hills. Includes three short lengths of main road and three prolonged climbs to Jubilee Drive, so is less suitable for children and inexperienced riders.

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

Crossing the levels of the old village is the village shop. 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.

Designed and produced by www.jaro.co.uk

Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

By Bike

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

Tourist Information Offices:
Malvern: 21 Church St, 01684 692289
Ledbury: 3, Homend, 01531 636147

Bikes on Trains Great Malvern, Malvern Link, Colwall & Ledbury
First Great Western – Great Malvern to Gloucester, Bristol & Taunton – will carry 2 bikes.

Travel Line: 0871 200 2233
Cycle Shops:
MyCycles, 271Worcester Rd, Malvern Link. 01684 574833
Back on Track Min Bikes, 6, North Malvern Rd, Malvern. 01684 565777
Halfords, Retail Park, Roman Way, Malvern
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.

Designed and produced by www.jaro.co.uk
The south lodge of the Bromesberrow estate, with views of a parkland landscape enclosed by durable blacksmith made cast iron fences.

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 Hils.

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.

The Evendine Lane spout is much visited, and is appreciated by young and old alike. Note: this trail described in the Colwall route

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

The west lodge of the Bromesberrow estate is indicated by the definition - "a collection of mud huts".

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.

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.

The rail bridge over the Lynch Brook - the mill is 100m to the north. An abandoned limeworks opposite would have produced lime for building and agricultural use.

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.

Colwall & Cradley Cycle Route

Herefordshire Beacon. At 1609ft the Iron Age earthworks of British Camp provide excellent views of the Cotswolds and Black Mountains.

The Evendine Lane spout is much visited, and is appreciated by young and old alike.

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

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.

Bridge 580 over Cradley Brook at Mathon considerably enlarged since the siting (8) at bridge 273. The nearby church at St John has a medieval timbered porch.

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.

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".

A short detour near Old Colwall Most of these posts were removed to confine invading armies during the second world war, and were presumably melted down to assist the war effort.

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.

The 2 acre Coddington Vineyard is one of the smallest in Britain. A public footpath takes you past the winery home of Colwall railway tunnel engineer Stephen Ballard. The numerous hop kilns in the area have now found new life as private dwellings.

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

Colwall & Cradley Cycle Route

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