



Malverns by Mountain Bike – Permissive cycle access

Malverns by Mountain Bike is a campaign by the Malvern Hills Trust and local mountain bikers.

The aim of this project is to encourage responsible mountain biking on the Malvern Hills and Commons so cyclists can enjoy and experience this landscape in a way that protects this special place for the future. Find out more about the [Malverns by Mountain Bike](#) project [here](#).

Through research of the existing Public Rights of Way, cycling access and discussions with local mountain bikers, it was identified that the bridleway network on the Malvern Hills is not well connected in some locations.

Improving the bridleway network by providing permissive cycle paths will allow mountain bikers to access areas of the Malvern Hills that they haven't been able to before and reach attractions that could only be access by road. This lack of cycling access was resulting in some riders choosing to cycle on footpaths to avoid the road.

These permissive cycle paths will be allow cyclists to lawfully explore new areas of the Malvern Hills. A list of all the new permissive cycle paths can be found in this document.



Assessment of Routes

As landowner of the Malvern Hills Trust are charged with balancing visitor access with the protection of features that make the Hills special. The consideration of proposed new permissive cycling routes included an impact assessment on those features, the practical feasibility of cyclists using a route and the impact on access enjoyed by other users.

A list of suggested permissive cycle routes were provided by the Mountain Biking Working Group and Jonathan Bills (Conservation Manager) Rich Vale (Warden) and Beck Baker (Community and Conservation Officer) visited the locations of the potential routes during 2016.

For each section of suggested permissive cycle path, important features (wildlife, habitats, archaeology), access for other users, alternative routes, connections with the existing bridleway network were all considered in the decision of whether to adopt these routes or not.

A shortlist of potential permissive cycle paths was drawn up and a consultation followed with the Malvern Hills Trust Board members, Recreation Advisory Panel, Natural England, Worcestershire County Council and local walkers and cyclists was undertaken in 2017.

After a series of positive responses from those involved, under the Malvern Hills Trust byelaw 8(b), cycling access has been granted along the paths highlighted below.

All the permissive cycle paths can be found in our [Walking and Cycling Map and Guide for the Malvern Hills](#).

Please note – cycling access permitted on these routes will be for a trial period. If routes turn out to be unsuitable or there are serious conflicts with other users, damage to features including archaeology, habitats and geology, the permitted route may be reassessed and a decision may be taken to remove the permissions.

The Routes

Tank Quarry

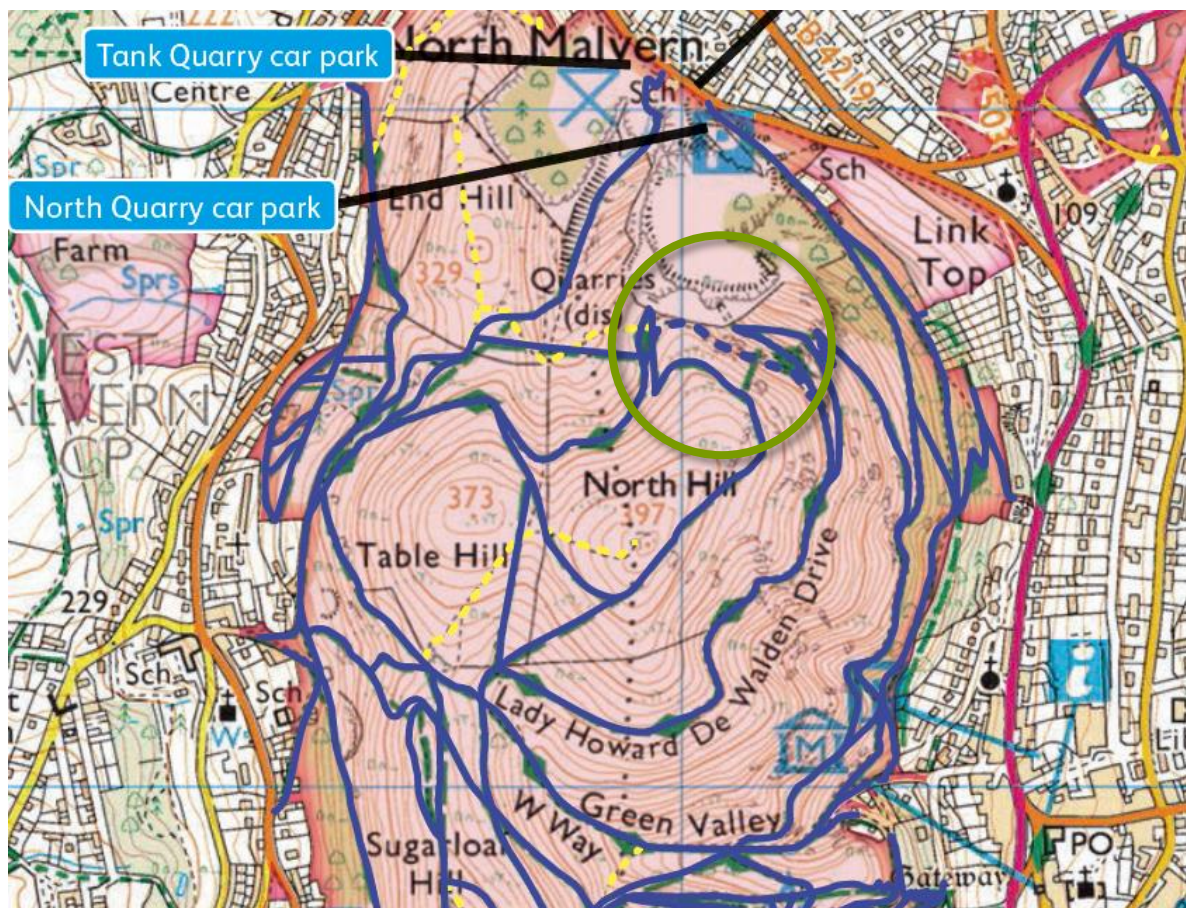
This section of permissive cycle path replaces the bridleway that has been removed by the quarrying of Tank Quarry. This provides a circular route around North and Table Hill on the existing bridleway network.

Impact on archaeology – none.

Impact on habitats and species – Part of the SSSI designation but no designated features will be affected.

Suitability for shared use – The permissive section is part of the surfaced path which wraps around North and Table Hills. The section is part of this continuous path which forms part of the De Walden Drive. There is no observable difference on the ground with Public Right of Way route and the permissive route. The route is wide and the sightlines are good so there is plenty of space and opportunities for visitors to pass. Mountain bikers are already regularly using this path.

Surface of route – compacted surfacing material, rock.



Key

- Walking path – Public Footpath, permissive path, track. Walkers only.
- Public Bridleway – access for walkers, horse riders and cyclists.
- Permissive cycle path – access for walkers and cyclists. Cycling access granted by Malvern Hills Trust.

Under the Malvern Hills Byelaws, horse riders have a right of access across land under the jurisdiction of the Malvern Hills Trust. Please adhere to signage in certain locations where access is not permitted



Land under jurisdiction of Malvern Hills Trust.

West of England Routes

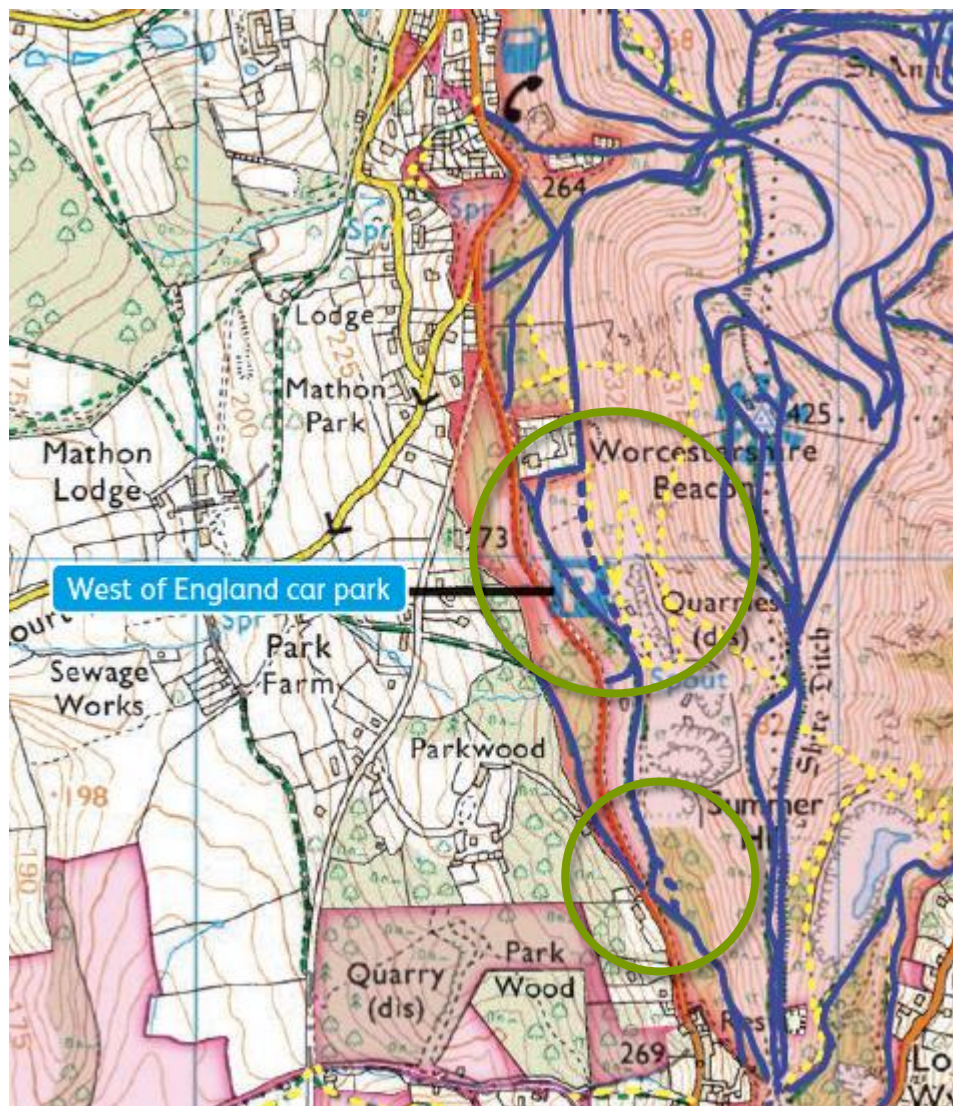
Two short sections where Mountain Biking access will be improved by creating alternative routes. The more northerly route will allow cyclists to easily follow the existing easement to join up with the current bridleway network. Access to the south of the properties is not suitable due to the crossing of the easement. The southern section will allow users to enter the car park along a route that avoids the main road and a main junction.

Impact on archaeology – none.

Impact on habitats and species – Part of the SSSI designation but no designated features will be affected.

Suitability for shared use – Both permissive sections are wide and have good sightlines. One runs along the easement of a property which is surfaced and is wide enough for visitors to pass. Along the edge of the easement is a grassy area which will allow visitors to avoid vehicles that may be using the easement. The likelihood of meeting a vehicle is very infrequent. The more southerly route avoids the need for cyclists to enter the road then travel into the West of England car park.

Surface of route – compacted surfacing material, grassy sections.



Berrington Quarry

This route has been selected as it provides access to British Camp car park and the Kiosk which serves refreshments and is very popular for visitors. Without this permissive cycle access there is no suitable mountain biking route to reach this location.

At present, some cyclists are using the ridgeline and the Easier Access path to reach their destination which is eroding the sensitive archaeology of the Shire Ditch. The Easier Access trail from Black Hill car park is reserved for walkers only. This route has been provided to reduce the amount of cyclists using the more sensitive routes mentioned here.

Impact on archaeology – small section near to the south of Black Hill car park.

Impact on habitats and species – Part of the SSSI designation but no designated features will be affected.

Suitability for shared use – wide path which makes passing and overtaking easy. Good sight lines along the majority of the path's length.

Surface of route – wooded and stony track

Black Hill car park

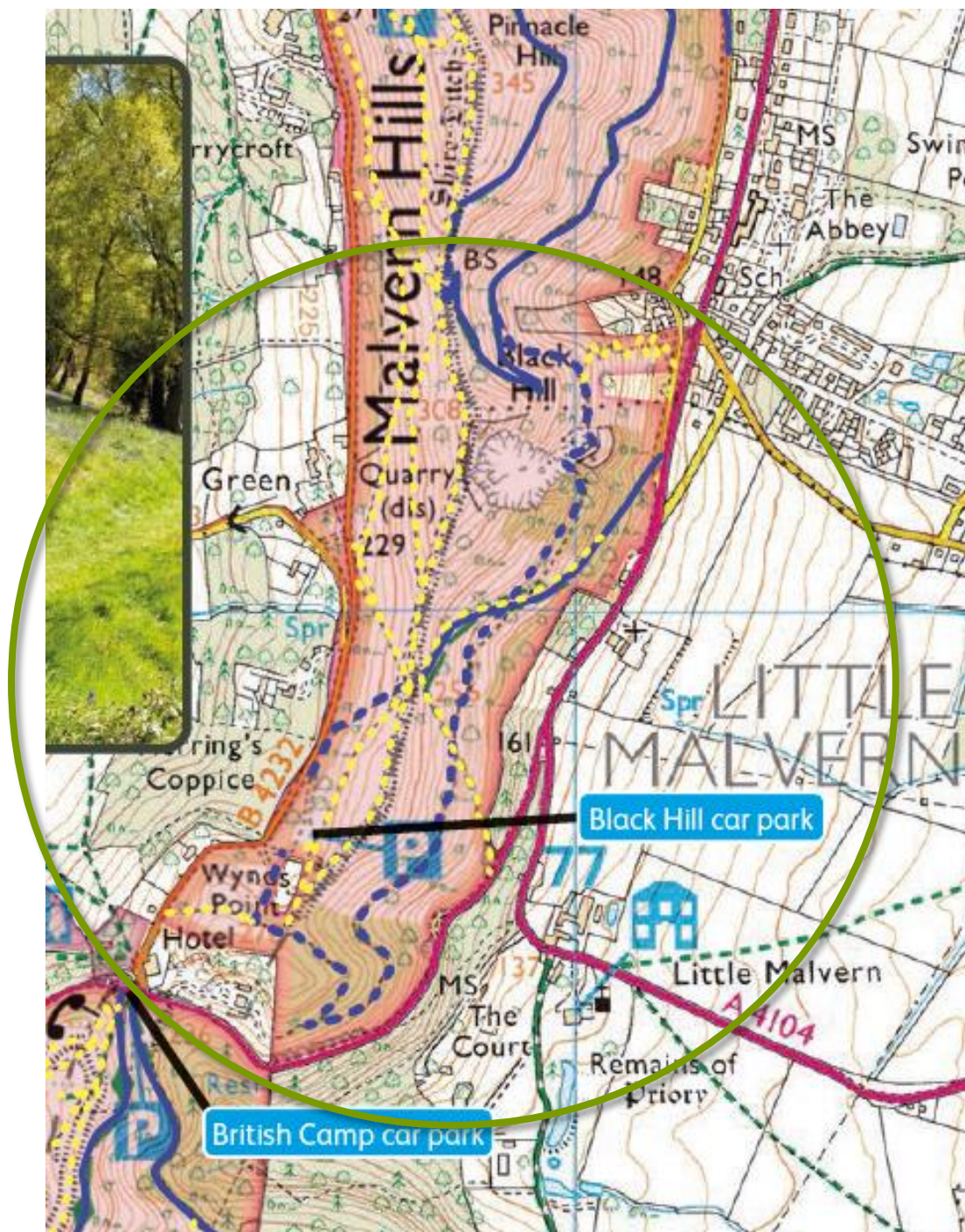
This route has been selected to link up the Berrington Quarry route to Black Hill car park. The northern section will also provide a link to the bridleway which comes to a stop on the ridgeline at the county boundary. Permitting these routes will provide a more circular route around the central Hills which will add some variety for riders.

Impact on archaeology – small section near to the south of Black Hill car park.

Impact on habitats and species – Part of the SSSI designation but no designated features will be affected.

Suitability for shared use – The grassy bank near Wynds Point provides plenty of space for other visitors to pass each other. The section to the north of the car park is on a section where walkers don't tend to travel. Walkers instead use the easier access path so there will be very few occasions of shared use. There are good, clear sightlines where the permissive cycle path crosses the ridgeline.

Surface of route – wooded trail, grassy banks.



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