

A Boot Up The Malvern Hills

Roger Redfern

The north-south hill range we call the Malvern Hills is unique in England, a sort of miniature mountain range of very ancient rocks that rises out of comparatively lowly territory on all sides. Seen from afar, especially from the north-west and the east, the hills look most impressive; distant views from the east reveal Great Malvern climbing the slopes of North Hill and Worcestershire Beacon like some hill town of northern India.

The Malverns are a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and are cared for by the Malvern Hills Conservators, a body established in 1884 for this very purpose. The range extends about 8 miles (12.5 kms) from North Malvern southwards to Chase End Hill.

Each of the ten routes in this book are graded from Easy to More Challenging with further details of distance, height ascended and the type of terrain covered, so assisting the reader to choose a suitable route. The walks vary from 2 to 6.25 miles and are designed to suit the needs of families, groups of friends or individuals looking for a gentle stroll or a longer walk. The ten walks are: On the banks of the Severn; A great medieval park; Heart of Elgar country; Storridge and the Suckley Hills; To Worcestershire Beacon; A circuit near Evendine; Over Herefordshire Beacon to Pink Cottage; Berrow Downs, the Obelisk and Shadybank Common; Colwall to Great Malvern; On foot to Chase End Hill.

Halsgrove's new-format guidebook, containing maps, photographs and useful information will ensure a great walking experience. Packed with colour, the book is an ideal reminder of a visit to the Malvern Hills.



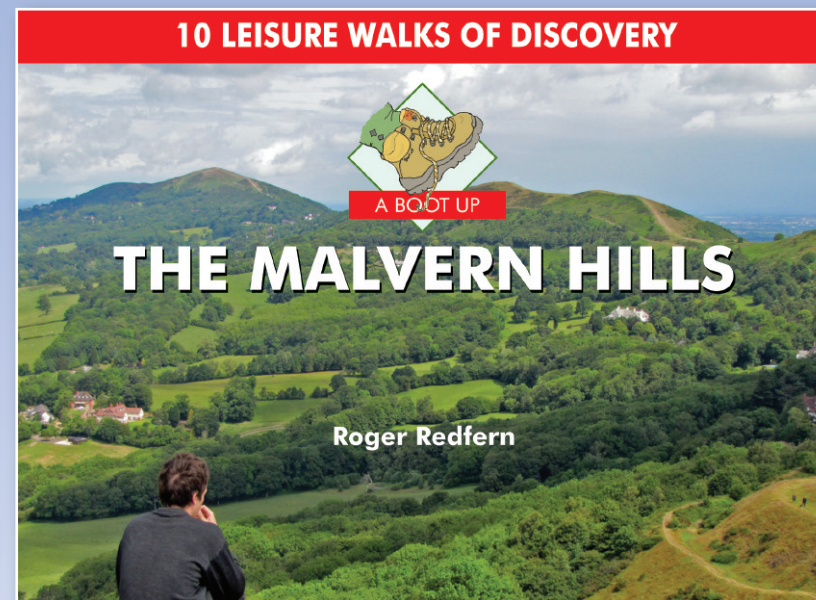
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The celebrated mountaineer and photojournalist Roger Redfern was the author of forty books and his articles have appeared in publications that range from *Country Life*, *The Lady* and *Woman's World* to *TGO*, *High* and the *Dalesman*. He wrote a regular piece for the *Guardian's* Country Diary for almost thirty years. He travelled widely, from Belarus and Ukraine to Cuba, Brazil and Argentina; and from central Africa to the European Alps which he knew intimately.

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Top right: Great Malvern from the northern slopes of Worcestershire Beacon.

Centre right: Elgar's Birthplace, Lower Broadheath; Hermit's Cave south of Millennium Hill.

Bottom right: The summit of Worcestershire Beacon.

Left: The Somers Obelisk.

Below: The old ferry landing on the Sever at Rhydd.



Example of a double-page spread.

2

A great medieval park

5

Follow the path round Grove House Farm to head north through fields to re-join the public road.

6

Head back up the public road to the starting point.

The Malvern Hills from Madresfield Park.

3 Heart of Elgar country

On foot where it all began.

The Malvern Hills are synonymous with Edward Elgar, considered by many this country's greatest composer. This route takes us across the fields to his birthplace at Lower Broadheath, three miles (4.75 km) west of Worcester, and close by Broadheath Common where as a boy he must have been taken and in maturity he wandered here with his dogs, fondly remembering early, care-free days. His "Wind of Youth" suites were an evocation of those Broadheath days.

We turn our backs on Broadheath to head towards Cothelridge village with its remarkable Norman church and eventually come down to the left bank of the Teme and return to our starting point at Brandford Bridge over the river. In the main we cover gently undulating lowland farmland, often with fine views south-west towards the Malvern Hills, about five miles (8 km) away.

Levels: 100m to 1000m
Length: 4.25 miles (10 km)
Ascent: 130 feet (40 metres)
Terrain: Field paths and public roads.
Park and Start: Brandford Bridge. GR 804533.
Information: At Elgar Centre, GR 804552. Refreshments at Fox Inn, Brandford Bridge and at Laylocks Garden Centre. GR 801541.