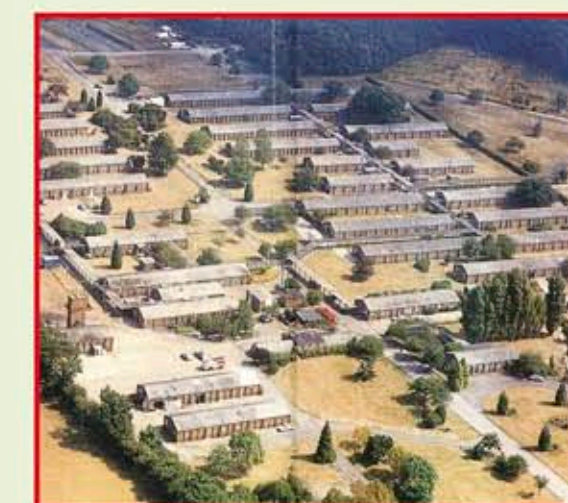


Welcome to St. Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve



The site that is now St. Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve (LNR) has an interesting history. The land just to the south of the Reserve forms Assarts Common; The word 'assart' means 'an area of forest cleared of trees to form fields'. This suggests that whether the Reserve was part of this 'assart' or not, it would at one time have been woodland, forming the wildwood that covered much of Britain after the last Ice Age. It is unknown when the trees were felled to form farmland but the site remained as part of Brickbarns Farm until the 1940s. In the 1940s the land was requisitioned by the War Department to build a hospital to receive American casualties from the D-day landings. After the war it was taken over by the British army and used as a training site. In the 1950s it was used as a TB hospital and was then converted into St. Wulstan's psychiatric hospital in 1961.



There was a range of buildings on the site, predominantly rows of prefabricated huts that housed all aspects of the hospital, from wards, x-ray theatres, laboratories and workshops to a concert hall, a billiard room, canteens, a shop and a chapel. The hospital closed in the 1980s and planning permission was granted for the development of the St. Wulstan's Drive residential estate, with a requirement that 22.25 hectares of land was dedicated to Malvern Hills District Council as open space. This land was identified as being suitable for designation as a Local Nature Reserve and consequently the hospital buildings were demolished in 1994 and the area was landscaped, seeded and planted with 4,000 tree saplings. The reserve officially opened in 1997 following formal designation by the Council with the support of English Nature. The reserve lies in the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is managed in accordance with this status. Many of the old features of the hospital grounds can still be seen today, such as Matron's path (so called as it was regularly walked by the hospital's matron), the formal plantings and many specimen trees, such as the quad of Leylandii and the Beech hedge.

St. Wulstan (1008-1095)

St. Wulstan was born in Itchington, Warwickshire in 1008 and went on to be educated at the Abbey schools of Evesham and Peterborough before becoming ordained as a Benedictine monk at the cathedral priory in Worcester. In 1062 he became the Bishop of Worcester. He died at the age of 87 in 1095 and was canonised in 1203. His name was derived from combining his mother's name of Wulfgeva and his father's name of Athelstan to create 'Wulstan'.

The Countryside Code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



The 'blue' extension has two interpretation panels:

- A** Young Woodland
- B** Hedges and Hedgerows

The 'black' extension has one interpretation panel:

- C** Freshwater

The lecterns that hold the panels are made from recycled plastic. This means they are less harmful to the environment as they reduce the volume of waste going into landfill sites and consume far less oil and energy in their production compared to conventional plastics.

The self guided Tree Trail follows the 'red' route round an easy access path and encompasses six different interpretation panels:

- 1** Introduced Trees and Shrubs
- 2** Meadows
- 3** Mature Woodland
- 4** Decaying Wood
- 5** Seasonal Wildlife
- 6** Scrub

In Partnership with:

