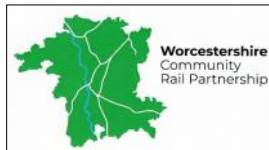
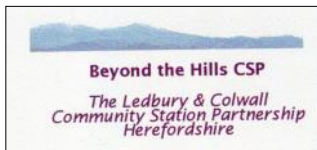


The Book

The Hills & Beyond is a community station and rail partnership project. It is a celebration of the railway line between Worcester & Hereford and the communities that it serves.

The eclectic collection of writings from people and communities along the line has been compiled jointly by the Beyond the Hills Community Station Partnership (CSP) in Herefordshire and the Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership (CRP).

The production is funded by the CSP and CRP and jointly managed by Rail & Bus for Herefordshire and the Worcestershire CRP. The project has the support of West Midlands Railway and Great Western Railway.



Where to obtain the Book

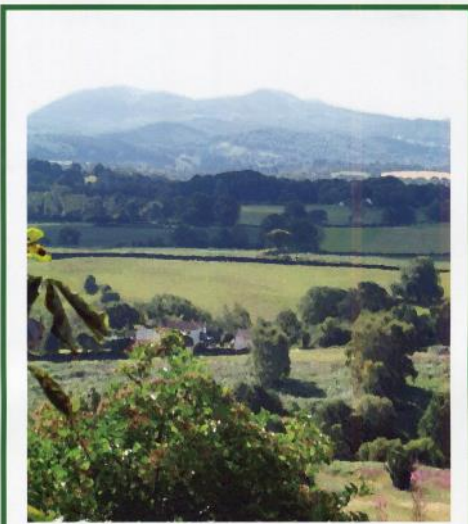
Beyond the Hills CSP
Rail & Bus for Herefordshire
contact: **Gareth Calan Davies**
ghal@btinternet.com

Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership
contact: **Fiona.Saxon@tfwm.org.uk**

Selected Tourist Information Centres

Selected Great Western Railway & West Midlands Railway Stations

Brochure: 02-07-2022



The Hills & Beyond
by Train
The Malverns & Herefordshire

The Worcester & Hereford Railway

An eclectic collection of writings for the discerning traveller by train through this beautiful and historic part of central England into the Welsh Marches

**See inside for details.
See back cover on how to get your copy.**

The Railway

The Worcester & Hereford Railway was authorised by Parliament in 1853. Although independent it was backed jointly by the Midland Railway and the London & North Western Railway but not financially.

Elsewhere the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway had joined with the Newport, Abergavenny & Hereford Railway to form a new company called the West Midlands Railway. This company who came to the financial rescue of the Worcester & Hereford Railway.

The line from Henwick (west of the Severn) to Malvern Link was opened in 1859. In 1860 the bridge over the Severn at Worcester was completed and work on the section from the Malverns west to Hereford continued. Driving tunnels through the hard volcanic rock of the Malvern Hills proved difficult and a thirty arch viaduct was needed to cross the Leadon Valley at Ledbury. The line was completed in 1861.



The Cathedral's Express emerges from the Malvern Hills and descends to Great Malvern on its way to London. (photo © Malvern Museum)

The Communities

Malvern Link: Separated from Great Malvern by Link Common, an area of open land that is statutorily protected by the Malvern Hills Conservators. The station is located close to the centre of Malvern Link

Great Malvern: The priory was founded in the 11th century but the town is better known for its spa. Victorian architecture abounds including the classic station. It is a moderate to steep climb from the station to the centre of the town at Belle Vue Terrace

Colwall: Nestling below the Malvern Hills, it is a good centre for exploring the Hills and the surrounding Herefordshire countryside. The station is at the centre of the village

Ledbury: A jewel of a heritage town with Elizabethan timber frame, Georgian and Victorian buildings. An attractive glazed display at the station, gives the town and railway history with a location map.



Great Western Railway ICET heads eastwards into the Hills at Ledbury. (photo © Michael Hart RBfH)

The Book

Foreword

The History of the Line

Great Malvern & Malvern Link

Great Malvern Station

Radar

Geology and Landscape

Flora and Fauna

Myths, Legends & Curiosities

A Flash of Colour

Ledbury a Jewel of a Heritage Town

Herefordshire Cyder & Literature

Sir Edward Elgar

Hereford: Gateway to the Marches

Exploring the area

Local Information



West Midlands Trains cross at Ledbury Station on the Hereford-Birmingham service. (photo © GHAL Productions)