Cotwall End Valley is a Local Nature Reserve and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, comprising a variety of habitats including species-rich grassland, ancient and semi-natural woodland and lowland heath. The walk passes through natural woodland and lowland heath. The walk passes through thick coal seams found 75m (80 yards) below the surface. Coal seams occur in the valley and were mined with varying quality bricks and grinding stones amongst other things. Four such as clays and sandstones have been exploited for high quality bricks and grinding stones amongst other things. Four coal seams occur in the valley and were mined with varying degrees of success including the famous tin (300) Shaft. You’ll find Thicks Coal seam round 75m (80 yards) below the surface.

**Points of Interest**

1. **Critters Farm**
   - A Thomas de Cotwall was mentioned as far back as 1300 and there is a chance that the site of Critters Farm was before that. The site is now occupied by a new business and a few traces of the original house or farm building remain. The same Cotwall End is possibly made up of ‘cot’ meaning cottage, and ‘wall’, from the Anglo Saxon word ‘wealh’, meaning spring. ‘End’ refers to a settlement on the edge of woodland. The area to the west of the valley known as the Haye, was part of the old Royal Forest of Kinver.

2. **Grazing Fields**
   - Some of the species-rich grasslands at Cotwall End Valley are grazed by the Cotwall End Valley Grassland Project. The species of wild flowers and rushes include: Lady’s Mantle, Common Sorrel and Pignut. The second field was given to an area of land that collected water. The spring originates from a junction where a spring that used to produce 900 litres (200 gallons) of water every 8 minutes, enough to power a nearby watermill. The quarry of Spout House Farm worked by the Law family for over a century, and now in private ownership. Much of the 30 hectares (74 acres) of farmland in this area is well wooded.

3. **Old Coach Road**
   - Leaving Moden Hill and entering into the nature reserve, a well-tarred road. This is the old Coach Road which was the driveway up to the old Coach House, now aptly named Old Quarry Drive. The Old Coach Road was once the gateway that led into the town and now in private ownership. Much of the 30 hectares (74 acres) of farmland in this area is well wooded.

4. **Change Farm**
   - The History of the area is rich and fascinating. Cotwall End was originally a small hamlet of one or two farms established by the Norman Conquest. The walk takes you along the old Coach Road, a tree-lined avenue which was the driveway up to the main Aldersley houses. It is a part of the Malvern Greens and Beech trees character the route.

5. **Gorpum Stone**
   - Leaving Moden Hill and entering into the nature reserve, a well-tarred road. This is the old Coach Road which was the driveway up to the old Coach House, now aptly named Old Quarry Drive. The Old Coach Road was once the gateway that led into the town and now in private ownership. Much of the 30 hectares (74 acres) of farmland in this area is well wooded.

6. **Harper’s Quarry**
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8. **The Sugarwell**
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11. Turner’s Mill Wood
It is likely that when the famous Turner family that included Turner who were recorded in the area at least as early as the sixteenth century. The wood was first managed as pasture land, mainly for sheep, from the 17th century through to the early 19th century. As a result the trees, mainly of oak, ash, elm, beech and hazel, are large and mature. The wood supports a diversity of woodland indicators, including Wood Anemone, Common Dog Violet, Opposite-leaved Yellow Archangel and Bluebells and Wild Garlic. Other woodland flowers found here include Yellow Flag, Meadow Vetchling and Meadow Sweet.

12. The Old Quarry
Orchids have been recorded in the large pool beside the path. Monarch butterflies are associated with these open sunny patches of long grass. There are also Redstarts and House Martins breeding locally in the churchyards, houses and field boundaries.

13. Habitat Creation
The recently new ponds either side of the path were created to increase the diversity of habitats in the area. Surrounding grassland plants include Grass Vetchling, Kidney Vetch, Red Campion and Meadow Brown. Jonquilla Daffodils were planted at the entrance to the wood and a small area of wildflower meadow is under survey.

14. Conqueror’s Farm
Conqueror’s farm is located at the wood and used to be a farm, surrounded by woodland indicators such as Wood Anemone, Common Dog Violet, Opposite-leaved Yellow Archangel and Bluebells and Wild Garlic. Other woodland flowers found here include Yellow Flag, Meadow Vetchling and Meadow Sweet.

15. Mill Pond
The largest pond is the one that was formerly part of the Enchanter’s Nightshade. On the opposite side of the stream the wood is good scrub woodland, formerly a field named “Far Ellows”, is good scrub woodland, formerly a field named “Far Ellows”, is good habitat for Ringlet butterflies in the summer.

16. London Fields Colliery
The London Fields Colliery was one of the most productive coal mines in the valley. It had plenty of capital invested in it and employed thousands of men. In operation from as early as 1291. The mill used to grind corn output from the mine was reputedly astonishing.

15. Bob’s Brook
During the 20th century the area saw an upsurge in small-scale mining operations which were started and finished in the early 20th century. A huge crater remains from the 19th ball mill which production had to be stopped so that the mill was not lost. The mill used to grind corn output from the mine was reputedly astonishing.

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