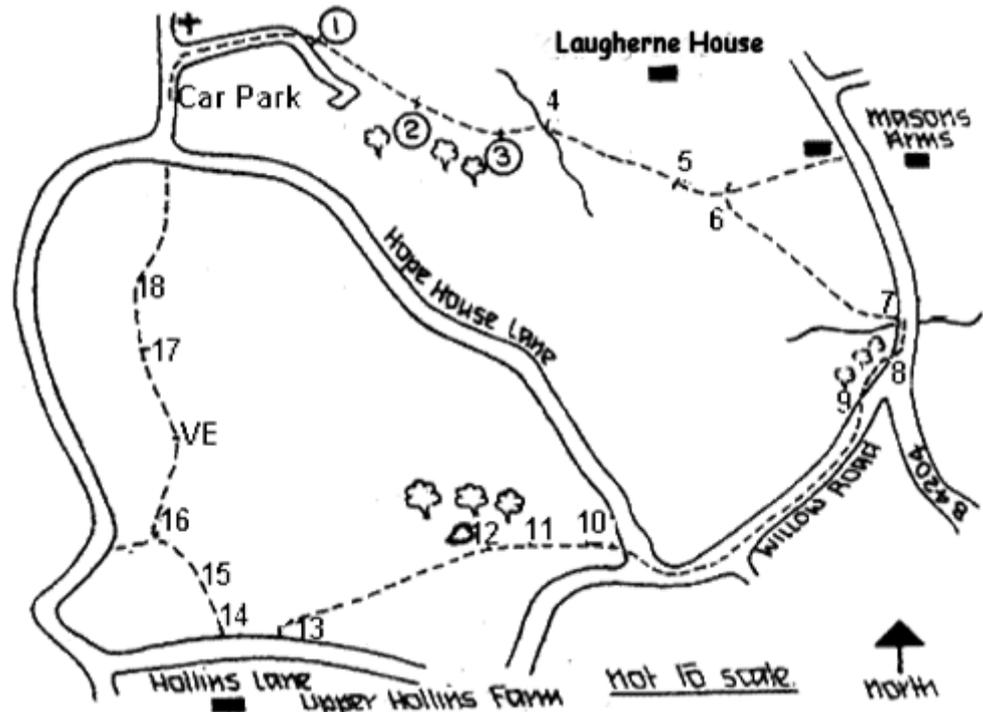


**START:** From the church car park, follow the track beside the churchyard wall, passing the Old Hall, the former Rectory, just below/east of St. Peter's. This substantial building conceals within its 18th century exterior the nucleus of a mediaeval hall house with original timbers up to the roof beams, the hall being divided horizontally in Elizabethan times. Nicholas Pevsner describes it in his "Buildings of England" series. Continue along the track to a gap into the field and go diagonally across the field, following the way marking (1,2). At the end of the rough woodland on the right the path splits, but this route bears diagonally left at the waymark (3)



to a gate and bridge (4) across the Laugherne Brook. Nearby Laugherne House was enlarged from the original timber farmhouse by a scion of the Nash family in the C18. The Nashs' of "The Noak" were wealthy glove makers who removed from Worcester, first to Pudford Grange and then to the "Noak", and were the local influential family for more than a century. The house was a private school for some years prior to its development for housing.

Go straight ahead from the bridge until you see a gate (5) and another gate (6), in more or less a straight line. Through the second gate, ignore the left branch towards the phone exchange and pub, and head instead towards a stile at the far right corner of the field, (to the right of a distant cream house and electricity poles) to exit on to the B4204 at a bridge over the Laugherne Brook (7). Turn right up the road for some yards (care with rushing traffic) then diagonally right through scrubby woodland (8) to Willow Road (9), avoiding the road junction (if the path is overgrown, follow the road round). The boundary of Wichenford parish runs along this short section. Turn right along Willow Road, noting as you walk, extensive views of Woodbury and Abberley Hills across to the right and the Malverns on the left. Continue along Willow Road and turn right down Hopehouse Lane with, shortly after, a stile and signpost on the left (10). Walk ahead through rather marshy ground, keeping the line of old willows and a fine wildlife pool, built in the late 90's, on your right. Continue straight ahead to the far corner of the field where a stile (11) leads into a pasture and, continuing straight on into the far corner of this field, cross a small ditch, over the stile (12) and into a field with a pond. Keep left of the pool, to a stile onto the lane (13) (NB NOT the left field gate with sign). Turn right up the lane and cross the next stile (14) in the right hedge into another pasture with a wire fence on the right. See ahead and cross stile (15) into a pasture that used to be an orchard. Keep alongside the hedge to the first stile on the right (16) that leads to a long downhill walk with excellent views of Martley and its church, and the distant Abberley and Woodbury Hills.

Pass a seat erected by the Path-or-Nones to commemorate VE day, 50 years on. Next cross a stile (17) with ditch crossing, looking out for a waymarking post at a hedge corner (18) towards the church and car park. Look to the left for a fine view of The Berrow, upon which stands our local authentic beacon, fired to commemorate special occasions, as at the quatercentenary of the Spanish Armada, the advent of the Single European Market, 50th Anniversary of VE day and of course the New Millennium. At the end of the field path out on to the road at a junction, straight on towards the church and the start point in the car park.

The **Path-or-Nones** meet each third Sunday of the month for 2-3 hours from 9am, and has done since around 1985. The group tackles everything and anything on Martley's 41 miles of Rights of Way—clearance, installing gates, stiles, bridges, signposts and signage. We act on behalf of Worcestershire County Council and liaise between RoW users and landowners.

Volunteers are always welcome; we find it fun and worthwhile. Please contact Jon Pearsall 01886 888793 or John Nicklin 01886 888318  
[www.thepathornones.co.uk](http://www.thepathornones.co.uk)

Martley Parish supports the **Walkers are Welcome** initiative  
[www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk](http://www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk)

All service outlets in Martley—pubs, shop, B&Bs, welcome path users.

Come to see our unique geology!  
[www.geo-village.eu](http://www.geo-village.eu)

These walks were first written by Keith and Audrey Trumper in the early 90s

*(updated Nov 13)*

# The Path-or-Nones

## WALK 4

**A Circular Walk around Laugherne Brook. Grade: Moderate, distance 3.2 miles**

*Remember the Countryside Code:*

### **Respect other people**

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

### **Protect the natural environment**

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

### **Enjoy the outdoors**

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs