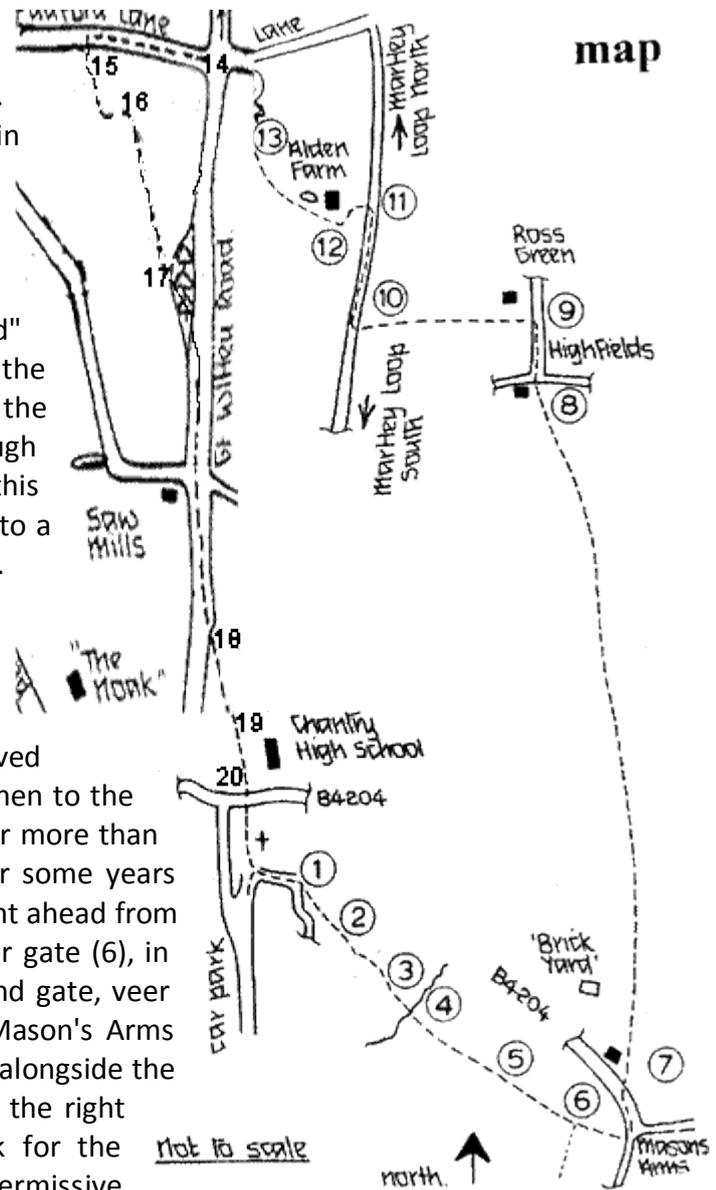


## START:

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 then diagonally across the field, following the waymarking signs (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, veer left towards a telephone exchange and the Mason's Arms pub. Cross the stile opposite the pub, turn left alongside the B4204 towards Martley. As the first house on the right appears, (well set back from the road) look for the signpost over a stile and into the field via a permissive route (7). Follow the field edge to a stile on the left in the hedge line, cross this and turn right, following along the opposite side of the hedge. In this field, adjacent to a pair of cottages, is the site of a former brickyard, levelled during the Second World War. The brickyard, which had a clay pit and two kilns, functioned till 1901 when tragedy befell one of the owners who was fatally burned. Work ceased, and the brickyard became derelict, before being demolished due to the pressure for farmland when every ounce of food was needed.

From the next stile, there is a glimpse of Woodbury Hill in the distance, a taste of things to come. The hedgerow shows ancient blackthorn bushes whose white blossom is first in spring and, barring late frosts, will bear the sour little sloes in autumn, to make a delicious sloe gin liqueur. Continue ahead along the field edge path, crossing a further stile to a gap, another stile, up the field with fine mature oaks on your right to another stile into a pathway to the right side of the adjacent property (permissive route). Exit on to the lane over a stile at Highfields (8). Proceed along a short stretch of lane opposite your exit, foaming with hedge parsley in early summer, and turn left over a stile at the first signpost (9), just before the next property. In this field, pause and take in the panoramic view sweeping from the Abberley Hills on the extreme right, across Woodbury Hill and Berrow Hill to the Malverns, surely one of the Worcestershire's finest views. Proceed on down the field following the waymarking signs, through wide gates, to cross a secluded brook, watching out for kingfishers (this crossing can be extremely muddy at times). Straight ahead towards, then past a prominent utility pole, to a stile in the fence (10). Turn right.



along the track to Alden's Farmhouse. Sharp left off the track (11) along a short length of fence to a stile on the left into the field (12). Turn right over the stile, down the side of the house, pass the large duck pond and over the next stile, again sometimes muddy, into another field. Follow the waymarking sign on this stile to two stiles and a ditch crossing in the line of trees ahead (13). Bear slightly right traversing approx. 400m to a stile in the far right corner onto the lane near the junction with the B4197 and Horn Lane (14). Go straight over to the opposite lane and up the hill to the first stile on the left (15). Follow across the field with the hedge on your right to a stile into the next field (16). Follow field edge, hedge left, to a stile (17) and slightly left to the road (B4197) through a small wood.

Turn right along B4197 towards Martley, taking care with traffic. Pass a small cross roads near the wood yard, climb the hill to the crest and part way down the other side to a signpost and stile on the left (18). Take this route diagonally across the field to a gate, then straight ahead across the next field to a gap (19) leading into the grounds of Chantry High School and an avenue of damson trees. At the end the path veers left/right to a track leading down to the main Worcester road B4204 (20). Take care crossing the road into the churchyard to the start at 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 6

**Grade: Easy, distance: 3.7 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