

START:

From the car park at St. Peter's Church, walk up the churchyard, cross the B4204 and go up the signed track opposite, through the avenue of damson trees, and through gap (1), thus leaving the school grounds. Straight ahead across the large field with lovely views north towards Penny, Woodbury and Abberley hills to gate (2) in the far hedge, visible when the crest of the hill is reached. Bear left to a stile in the roadside hedge (3) and exit right on the road (B4197).

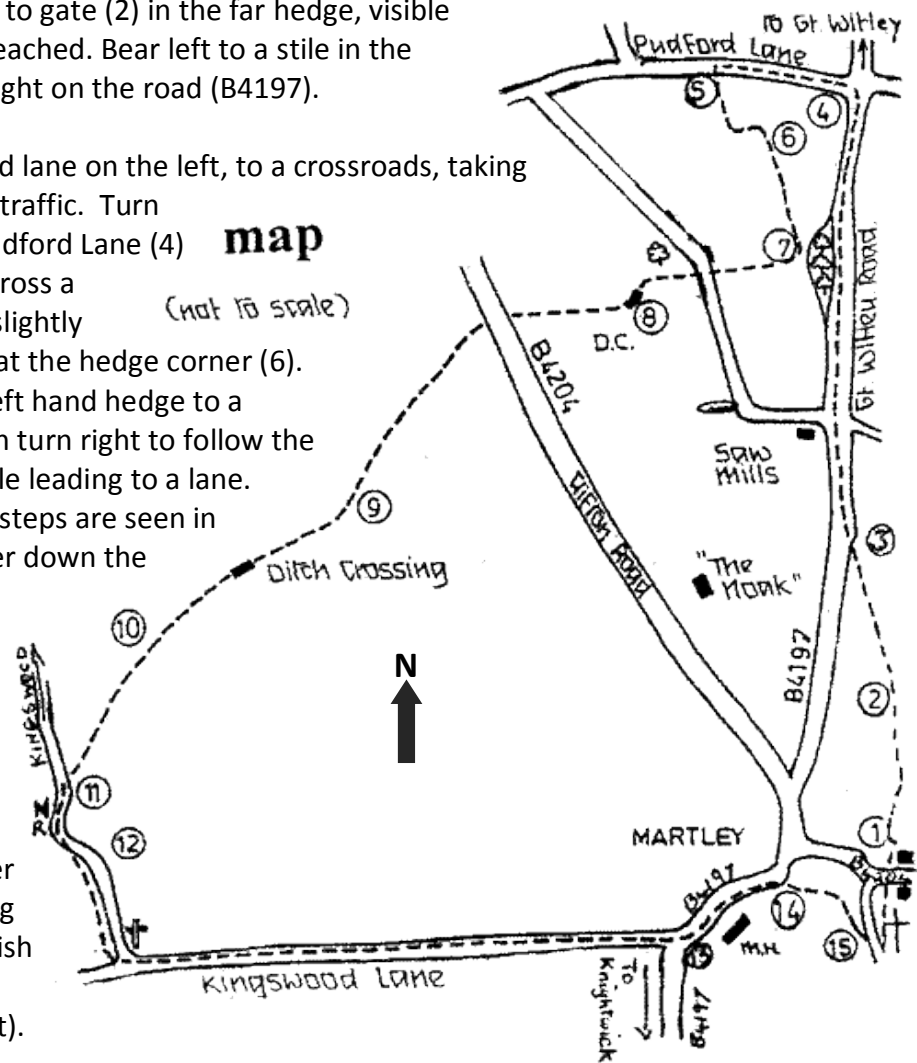
Proceed past a wood yard and lane on the left, to a crossroads, taking great care with the speeding traffic. Turn left at the cross roads into Pudford Lane (4) **map**

and after about 160 metres cross a stile on the left (5) and walk slightly left across the field to a stile at the hedge corner (6). (not to scale)

Across the stile keep to the left hand hedge to a waymarking post (7) and then turn right to follow the arrow across the field to a stile leading to a lane.

Turn left and, in a few yards, steps are seen in the right hand hedge. (Further down the lane is what remains of the

mediaeval fishpond of "The Noake", sadly now much overgrown and partially filled in. The remnants of the sluice gate lie beside it in the grass. Presumably the sluice was used to drain water from the pool to make netting the fish easier, when eating fish was compulsory on Fridays, a "fast" day in our Catholic past).



Over the stile, cross the field to its far left corner, keeping to the left of a venerable oak tree with its hollow trunk, a hiding place for rabbits. The small copse on the left has been fenced to allow primroses and a few violets to flourish, and later bluebells may appear. Over the stile and ditch crossing (8) in the corner, look for the stile and gate far away to the right across the field, leading onto the Clifton road B4204. Keep to the right side field edge (permissive route) then diagonally left from the waymark at the field corner to the roadside stile. Cross the road to the signpost and gate/stile opposite. Go down a very rough track, through a gate, keeping the hedge on your left to the corner of the hedge and waymarking post (9). There are fine views of the River Teme to the right. Keep at high level till you reach four oak trees, and from here bear slightly right, quite steeply downhill, following an ancient lane with a bank to the left, to reach a ditch crossing over a small stream.

After the bridge go left up to an old track then right to the top of the rise, then follow 'Chimney Lane'--there used to be many small houses and plots hereabouts and apparently a lone chimney stack remained for some time. Continue along this track to an old stile/gap in very rough ground. Make your way to a fine oak tree at a path junction on the left (10), straight on, passing an ancient bulldozer almost buried in bracken and greenery. Reach a stile onto the road (11), and turn left up the steep lane, on the route of the Worcestershire Way. At the top of the hill a few steps in the right hand bank lead to a gap into the field. Keep beside the field hedge downhill to a large signpost indicating the Worcestershire Way, the Martley Loop and Martley Rock geology site (worth a visit).

Turn left into the lane and follow it to the junction with B4197 (13). Cross carefully, go left along the footpath, past the Memorial Hall, Jury Lane and Mortlake Drive to a signpost and gate on the right leading into a field (14). Follow the path across the field then to the right in front of farm buildings through gates into Church Lane (15). Turn right down to the car park and your start point.

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

Martley Parish supports the **Walkers are Welcome** initiative
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

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

(updated Nov 13)

The Path-or-Nones

WALK 7

Grade: Moderate, distance 3 miles.
Car parking available at St. Peter's Church

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