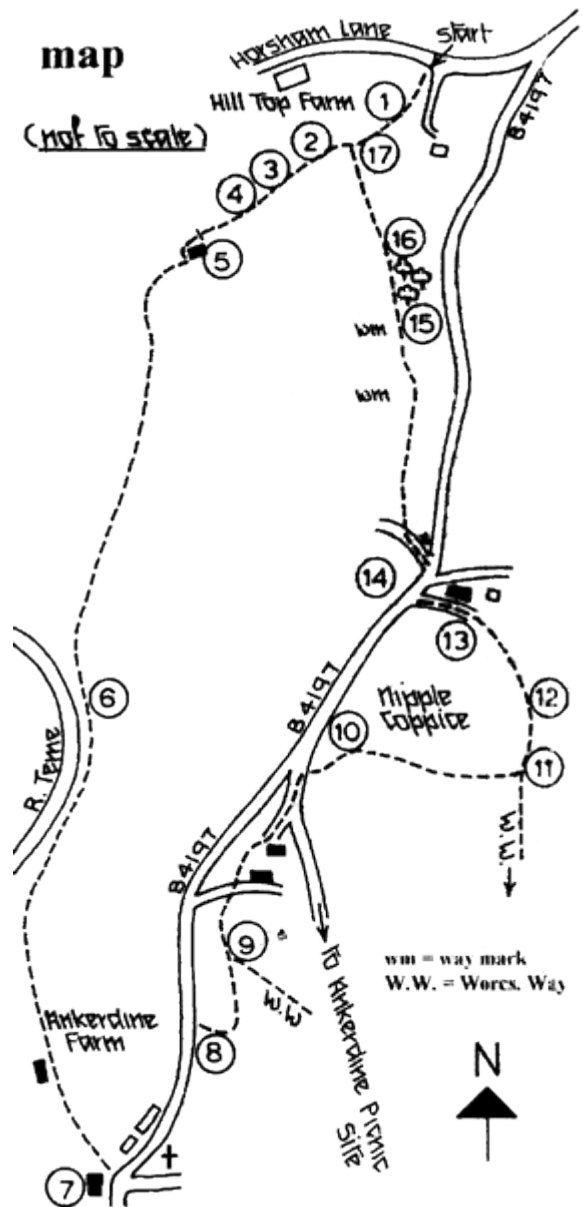


If parking at the "Admiral Rodney Inn" please notify the landlord first (01886 821375). Turn right out of the car park and walk along the road for about 5 minutes and turn right down the lane towards Horsham. Take great care on the road as it is narrow and busy. Some way down the lane (+300m) to the right of the drive to Old House Farm, there is a signpost and a stile in the hedge.

START From the stile in Horsham Lane go down the field, aim slightly left to a sleeper crossing over marshy ground, keep alongside the willows on the right and go over the ditch crossing and stile (1). Turn left and keeping the hedge on your left, go to the end of the field (ignoring the stile on the left) and go through the gate beyond the wet area (2). Go straight ahead to the waymark which will become visible at the far hedge corner you climb the rising ground (3). Follow the direction along the hedge to the next stile, right (4), cross it and proceed diagonally across the field to the gate and stile. Turn left towards the farmhouse and old farmyard climbing two ladder stiles to a track (5). Walk along the track, through gates/stiles. (Notice the old, historic, three storeyed timbered building half hidden in trees over to your left, now (2013) being fully restored). There is a photo survey of it as it was in the 70s, in the Worcestershire Records Office.

This track eventually goes very near the river (6). In summer large patches of Himalayan balsam clothe the banks with their showy mauve flowers, an unwanted introduction which threatens to swamp other water loving native species. Through two more gates, the track continues to Ankerdine Farm with its hop barns and further on, hop fields, examples of a once widely cultivated crop in Worcestershire.

Reach 'The Talbot' (7). Why not stop and try their famous home brews--'This', 'That', 'T'other' and have lunch if you wish? Turn left up the road, on the route of the Worcestershire Way, up Ankerdine Hill, past the former church on the right, school on the left and the row of 19th century alms-houses, taking great care when the pavement ends. Single file recommended. By the first cottage on the right (8) follow the signpost direction up into the woodland and follow the waymarks up the hill. At a junction (9) the Worcestershire Way turns sharp right and leads up to the Ankerdine Picnic Site and a fine viewpoint. Our way continues straight on to cross the drive of a cottage further up. Continue straight on to another track by a cottage and walk up to join the main track by a cottage and continue left. (Picnickers should turn right here, the picnic area is about 200 yards). Just before the track joins the road, turn right through the kissing gate (10) and go diagonally left down the field to the stile into the woodland of Nipple Coppice. Go down steeply, through the woodland, following the way marking posts to the junction at the bottom (it can be VERY muddy) and turn left (11). Keep on the path to the gate (12) into the field and turn left up the bank. Go through the gap in the fence and straight up the very steep bank to the top (13) then through the gate into the old farmyard, past the farmhouse and along the drive to the road. Turn right for around 100m, cross the road with great care to the signpost beside a cottage (14).



Go down the track and through the stile/gate on the right. Keeping the hedge / woodland on your left, go down the field and continue into a wooded "holloway". Bear right where the track forks and look for a waymark high up on an electricity pole. Bear left towards the next waymark that is on the pole in the centre of an open area (15). Go straight ahead towards then through trees and straight down the slope, keeping to the left of several mature oaks.

Further down, a fine 18th century farmhouse will be visible on the high ground in the distance, now (2013) fully restored. Head towards this farmhouse, keeping the 'boundary' hedge on the left. Over a stile (16) and down the field to a ditch crossing and stile amid the trees (17). Immediately up the bank turn right (you are now back on your outward route) and go up the field keeping the hedge on your right until on the right, see the stile and plank bridge that you crossed at the beginning of the walk (1). Cross these and retrace your steps up to the stile and signpost in Horsham Lane, thence back to the Rodney.

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 9 Horsham

GRADE: An exhilarating walk for the energetic, with one very steep slope.
Distance: 3.4 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