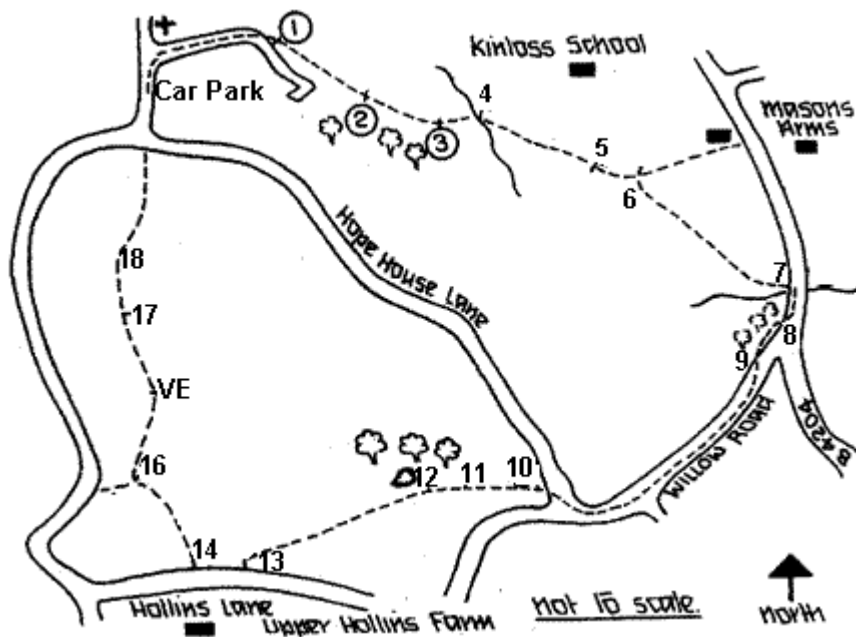


START:

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 upper story being built 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 with new houses on the left, following the waymarking signs (1,2). At the end of the rough woodland on the right the path splits, and this route bears left at (3) and then turns right through a gate and over the 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 a short distance (care with rushing traffic) then diagonally right through scrubby woodland (8) to Willow Road (9 (if the path is overgrown, follow the road round)). The boundary of Wichenford parish runs along Willow Road and note as you walk, extensive views of Woodbury and Abberley Hills across to the right and the Malverns on the left. Pass a road junction to the left then right down Hopehouse Lane to a stile and signpost on the left (10). Cross the stile and 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 right hand corner of the field where a stile (11) leads into a pasture and, veering half left, traverse to the far corner of the field to cross a small ditch with stile (12) and into a field with a pond. Keep left of the pond, to a stile onto the lane (13) (NB NOT the closer left field gate with sign). Turn right up the lane for about 50 metres and cross the next stile (14) in the right hand hedge into a large field with a wire fence on the right. See ahead and follow the Geopath waymarking to a stile ahead in the distance (16) that leads to a long downhill walk with excellent views of Martley and its church, and the distant Abberley and Woodbury Hills. Cross the stile and go straight ahead keeping the hedge to your right.



Pass a seat erected by the Path-or-Nones to commemorate VE day, 50 years on. Next cross a (17) a ditch crossing, looking out for a waymarking post at a hedge corner (18) towards the church and car park. To the left a fine view of the Berrow, upon which used to stand a beacon, fired to commemorate special occasions, such as the quatercentenary of the Spanish Armada, the advent of the Single European Market (ironic as I edit this—2019), 50th Anniversary of VE day and of course the New Millennium. At the end of the field path go out on to the road at a junction, straight on towards the church and the start point in the car park.

Martley Walks

No. 4: A Circular Walk around Laugherne Brook

Grade: Moderate, 3.2m (5.1km)

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

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 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 and all service outlets, supports the Walkers are Welcome initiative www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk

Come to see Martley's unique geology! www.geo-village.eu

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

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