

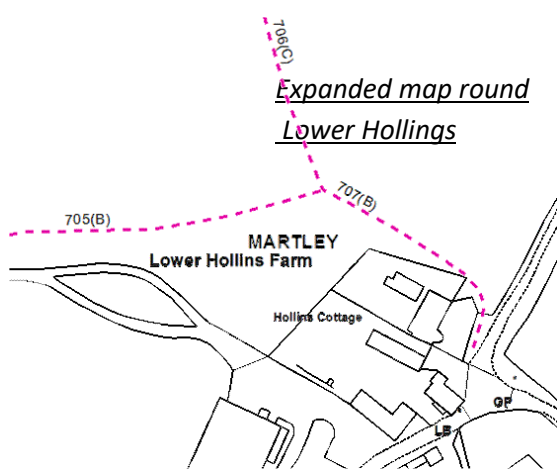
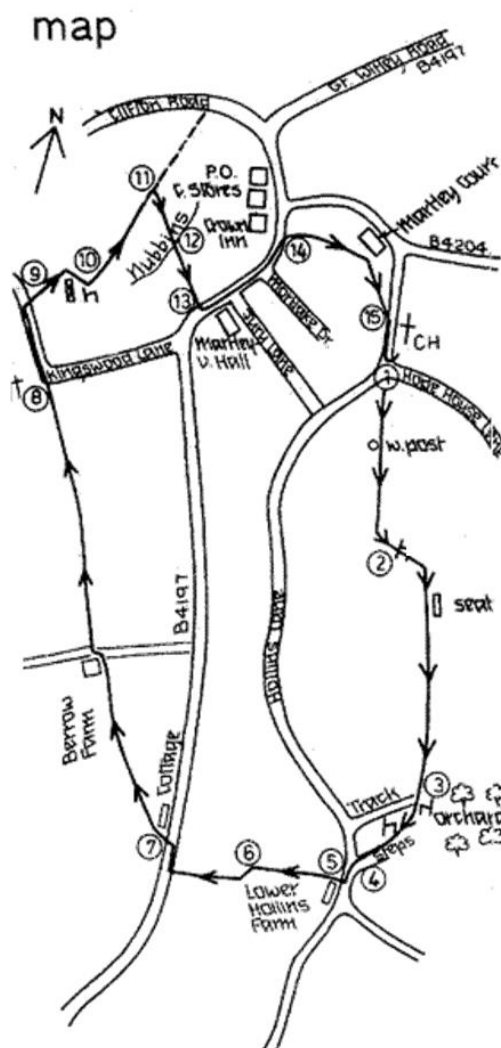
START: St Peter's Church car park or optionally, Martley Memorial Hall, with good parking nearby as the Church car park is busy at times for services.

Walk south along the road to the three-way junction, signpost and kissing gate, and enter the (1). To the right is The Berrow ringed by an Iron Age Fort. [This hill has a strange legend attached to it, from the mists of time, which supposes that when the Ancient Britons occupied the Iron Age fort, two chieftains encamped with their followers, Odo on The Berrow and Dodo on Woodbury Hill. In battle Odo was defeated and driven back to Knightwick].

Go straight, following what used to be the hedge line, on and at the path junction and waymarking post proceed diagonally left across the field to a ditch crossing and gap (2). Bear left up the field edge path to a commemorative seat, erected in 1995 to celebrate 50 years since victory in Europe. Looking back, a panoramic view of Martley is revealed, the church and the imposing mansion of the 'Noak' on rising ground to the left. The Noak once belonged to the wealthy and influential Nash family, one of whom wrote a comprehensive description of Worcestershire in the 18th century. Continuing up the field, cross a stile (3), turn right to another stile thus descending a slope, with steps and a ditch crossing onto the lane (4). Turn left up the lane towards Lower-Hollins Farm and at the top of the steep hill, turn right, back on yourself down a driveway following way markers to the left around the house and into the field (5). Veer left towards the centre of the field finding, then following, a rough track to a hedge. Turn left at a waymark post in front of the hedge, then follow the path round to the right, past another waymark post. Pick up the right side of the hedge line, directly towards the hill known as the Berrow, and join the Worcestershire Way, marked with a black pear on the signs, which here runs along the B4197.

Turn right down the road, busy, look out for traffic, and after approx. 100 metres cross to a sign pointing down a track (7) on the left. After a few steps turn right around a beech tree to a metal gate beside the garden of an attractive cottage. Through the gate, continue across the pasture to another gate. Continue straight to a third gate that leads onto a tarmac driveway. The right of way follows the tarmac until a way marking post shows that the path briefly descends to the edge of the field, but most will continue along the private track. [Berrow Farm, to the left, is late 17th century, but it is believed that the site has been occupied since the time of Domesday].

At the main drive to Berrow Farm, turn left, then just a few yards turn right, due North, along the hedge line downhill on the Worcestershire Way with superb views of Penny Hill and beyond. Pass a path junction that leads to a most attractive 'holloway' on the right, until you arrive at the waymark post on Kingswood Lane corner (8). Martley Rock geology site is up the track to the left and is well worth a visit. At the waymark post continue straight on up the left side of the hedge line to a gap on the right leading down to Kingswood Lane. Here your route leaves the Worcestershire Way. Opposite, a way marker points the way through a pedestrian gate (9) along a rough track above old apple trees with enchanting views of the Teme Valley. Down below to the left is the hamlet of Kingswood, once an important resting place for travellers crossing the Teme at the ford. Some of the stepping stones and remains of the mill weir, can still be seen at low water, and also Millstones, a reminder of the corn mill, that stood on the far bank by the ford, until around 1900.



At the top of a rise turn right through a gate, continue with hedge on the left to a gap by a marvellous old 'warden' (keeping) pear tree (10). Continue up rising ground with increasingly wide and wonderful views of the countryside as far as the Malverns, Cotswolds, Clent Hills, Clee Hills, Bromyard Plateau and Forest of Dean, 670 million years of the Earth's history at a glance!

After approx. 400 metres (and 100 metres before the Clifton Road) turn right (11) and head for a gate that will become visible at the top of a bank. You are then standing on top of 'The Nubbins', the local name for an outcrop of red sandstone which was quarried for centuries, providing stone for the 12th century church and many other buildings. Negotiate the steep downhill bank with care to a rough track, turn right approx. 10 metres to steps to a gate into a copse on the left. Through the copse emerge into an estate and a tarmac path and cross a road to a further tarmac path between houses, straight on to the B4197 road, emerging nearly opposite the Memorial Hall (13).

Cross the road, turn left along the pavement, past Jury Lane and Mortlake Drive to a signpost (14), where here you join for a short way Martley Circular Walk, marked by a buzzard on its signs. Traverse the gate followed by a stile to another stile. Continue straight towards the boundary line, veering right (South) through a passenger gate. Exit on to Church lane through a metal gate (15). Turn right down to the car park and your starting point.

Martley Walks

No. 8: Fine Views and Historic Places

Grade: Easy, 3m (5km)

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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