

Start: The Admiral Rodney

If you wish to park there, please notify the landlord 01905 886181/01886 821365. Turn right out of the car park and walk along the road for half a kilometer, taking care with rushing cars, then right down the lane to Horsham. 300m down the lane is a driveway to Old House Farm and to the right of this there is a signpost and a stile in the hedge (2).

Cross the stile, downhill, aiming to the left of the hedge and tree line in the shallow valley. Do not go through the obvious gap slightly right, but walk on, sometimes quite muddy underfoot, over a causeway built from sleepers, to a vehicle bridge on the right, across the small stream (3). Over the stream, turn left and keeping the hedge on your left, continue downhill to the end of the field (ignoring the bridge and stile on the left), past a waymark post indicating a steep walk uphill to the right, to a metal gate (4). Aim for a single tree peeping out over the hill in front of you. Once over the brow of the hill, you should see a metal gate and hedge to your right. Follow the hedge until you come to a waymark post (5)



at a path junction and, in the hedge to your right, cross a stile. Follow the left hedge line around to a gate and continue on a track towards Horsham Farmhouse. Adjacent to the house go through a gap in the brick wall and a gate (6) to exit on to a farm access road. Walk along the track, through various gates, which might be closed (leave them as you find them) [See the old, historic, three storied timbered building half hidden in trees over to your left, now magnificently restored. There is a photo survey of it as it was in the 70s, in the Worcestershire Records Office].

The track, part way along, goes very near the river (7), evidence of flood damage in 2007 when the road was washed away. [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, remaining examples of a once widely cultivated crop in Worcestershire.

Continue along a concrete roadway until you reach The Talbot at Knightwick (8). [Why not stop and try their famous home brews--'This', 'That', 'T'other' and have lunch if you wish, but don't drink too much given what is in front of you!] From the inn, turn left up the road and steep hill, on the route of the Worcestershire Way, passing a converted church on the right, an old school on the left and a row of 19th century alms-houses, taking great care when the pavement ends. This is a busy road, single file essential. Cross the road as you reach the first cottage on the right (9) following the Worcestershire Way signpost into woodland and uphill, (ignoring a short cut left, back to the road). At a junction (10) the Worcestershire Way turns sharp right and leads up to the Ankerdine Picnic Site and a fine viewpoint. Our way continues straight on up, to cross the drive to a cottage then another drive, finally reaching the main track, going left (picnickers can turn right here; the picnic area is about 200m). Just before the track joins the main road, turn right through a kissing gate (11) and descend diagonally left down the field between fences into the woodland of Nipple Coppice. This is a steep and long descent, very muddy and slippery in parts, to a path junction at the bottom where turning left you leave the Worcestershire Way (12). Follow the path to a gate/stile (13) into the field and turn left up a very steep bank. Go through the gap in the treeline/fence (14), swinging at first somewhat to the left then curve to the right and as you climb, aiming for the farmhouse just visible at the top.

Turn right and after 200m, back to the Admiral Rodney, your starting point.

Through a field gate into the farmyard, slight left up the drive, past a black and white house, to the main road. Turn right for 100m, cross the road with care, to a signpost on the left, and a track beside a cottage (15). Go down the track and through a stile/ gate on the right. With hedge / woodland on your left continue into a wooded area. Bear right where the track forks, see the waymarking here and aim for an electricity pole in the centre of an open area (16). From here continue straight down through woodland to a rights of way crossing—a stile in front, access into the field on the left and a route to the right (17).

Do not cross the stile but turn sharp right and proceed into woodland—the edge of Tinker's Coppice—crossing a hunting gate to a metal gate in front of a muddy patch/stream bed. Through here uphill alongside a fence between orchards aiming for a stile on the lower wooded corner of an old limestone quarry. On uphill to the road (18 --B4197). At the road turn left downhill for 100m, spotting a signpost and steps to a stile on the right. Take this route into an orchard (19). Hug the right-side hedge line enjoying great views across the Severn plain to exit over a stile to a lane. Turn left to a road junction then right and after 60m cross the left fence line indicated by a signpost, into a grassed area. The route goes diagonally to the right to a path junction. Left through the gate (20), now once again on the Worcestershire Way. Slightly uphill, close to the right-side hedge to a gate through the hedge, then left to another gate and out on to the main road (21).

Martley Walks

No. 9:

Grade: Strenuous. 4.5m (7.3km)

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

(May 2019 by PONS. Sponsored  ARCC
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