

Marchington surrounds 4.8 miles

1 Park at Marchington village hall. Facing the school turn right and follow the road round to the right. Continue straight ahead and down Jack's Lane until you come to a stile in the hedge on the right. 2 Take this and go diagonally across the field to a stile on the left and then on to a stile in the middle of the hedge ahead. 3 Cross the road and take the stile opposite. Proceed straight through the following fields and stiles, bearing right to Stock Lane. 4 Here turn left, past cottages and 2 farms on your right. Just past the second farm take the stile on the right. 5 At the top of the first field bear to the right hand corner of the next field, across 2 fields and to the right hand corner of the next. Go through the gate, follow the hedge and at the end go through a gate and in the corner of the field is a stile dropping steeply down to Hodge Lane. 6 Take the stile opposite, up through the corner of the field and at the top, walk diagonally down to the stile in the hedge at the bottom. Go straight ahead to the bridge and on to the road. 7 Bear left and just past the bend to the right take the stile. Walk up the field to the top left hand side of the hedge, and again in the next. In the top left hedge take the stile on left and just a few metres on a stile on the right. Aim diagonally left across this to the middle of the hedge and then bear right to a stile on Moisty Lane. 8 Turn right, past a cottage on the left and take the stile on the left. Follow the path to the bottom right of the field and then walk parallel to the drive until you reach the farm at Woodford. 9 Walk down through the farmyard and take the gate across the railway. On the other side turn right following the railway through the meadows and take the gate back over the track on the right. 10 Turn left and then take the bridge over the ditch heading up to a stile in the centre of the hedge ahead and bear right to the stile onto Moisty Lane. 11 Walk down the drive of Lock Irons Farm opposite and cross over the stile and the end, on your left and go into the field, bear right and carry on across the field to the stile in the left hand corner. Keep to the footpath through the fields until you reach a stile at the top of the Dingle (the wooded dell). 12 Go down the Dingle and return to the village hall either via Bag Lane or Allen's Lane.



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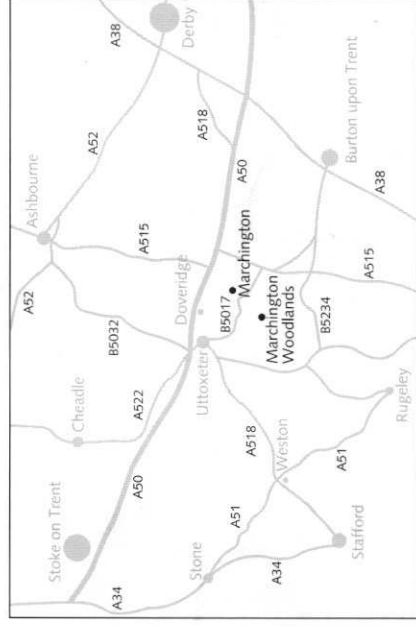
How to get there

Marchington

Car: A50 to Sudbury, A515 to Draycott in the Clay, then turn right onto B5017. After about 2 miles turn right at signpost to Marchington village. Continue straight ahead until road bears to the left. Follow round and you are at the village hall
Bus: 402 from Uttoxeter or Burton.

Marchington Woodlands

Car: A50 to Sudbury, A515 to Draycott in the Clay, then turn right onto B5017. Go past turning to Marchington, past the turning at the Blacksmith's Arms and take the next turning, Hodge Lane. Follow this past St John's Church and Marchington Woodlands village hall is just down the next turning on the left.



This map was initially conceived by the late John Ellwood, and Marchington Parish Council wish to dedicate it to his memory. Thanks must go to all involved in Staffordshire Community Paths Initiative, all the Duke of Edinburgh award students who originally 'walked the walks' with John, and Stan Evans and Maggie Hatchard who refined and expanded the original walks. A special thanks must of course go to all the landowners, without whose help and cooperation this would have not been possible.

Please enjoy the walks, and take care to follow the Country Code:

- Leave livestock and machinery alone
- Take your litter home
- Help to keep water clean
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Take special care on country roads
- Make no unnecessary noise
- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep your dogs on a lead
- Keep to public paths across farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.

All of Marchington and the Woodlands is a dairy farming area, with cattle in most fields. It is therefore not recommended to take dogs on these walks. Thankyou for your cooperation.

Designed by Handforth Rawle 01889 561515

Marchington & The Woodlands

4 easy walks for young & not so young

Introduction

Marchington village was settled by the Saxons and is recorded in the Domesday Book. An even older settlement lay at the top of Marchington Cliff. Though originally closely aligned with the Brook, the present road pattern can be traced back to the 13th century, their antiquity marked by their deeply sunken character. The oldest surviving houses possibly date back to the 15th century, although it is difficult to be precise because of the custom of continuously building on and around older buildings. Marchington Hall is probably evidence of this as, although bricked over and restored in the late 17th century, it is thought to be mentioned in a reference dated 1297 as the "chief message", and again in 1615 as "utterly decayed".

What is now Marchington Woodlands was, literally, woodland at the time of Domesday, but was steadily cleared over the next two or three centuries, including a number of substantial estates now marked by abandoned moats. It remained essentially open woodland pasture held in common by the parishioners. In late Elizabethan times it was enclosed, establishing the field pattern which has largely remained unaltered to the present day.

The prosperity of Marchington has been based from earliest recorded history on dairy farming, and today's landscape is rooted deep in the past.

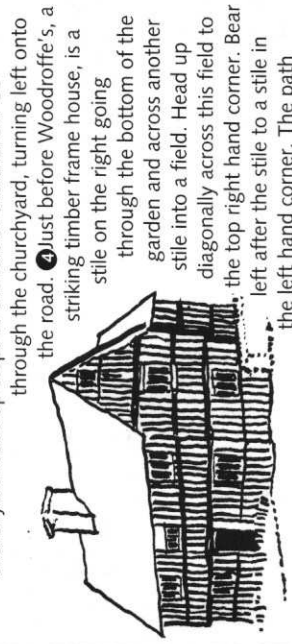
Historical notes

- St Peter's School stands on the site of an earlier school built in 1816. It was rebuilt after an underground munitions explosion at Fauld in 1944 made it unsafe.
- The Dog & Partridge was built about 1840 next to a smithy.
- St Peter's Church dates from 1744 and replaced an earlier 13th century church.
- Green Lane is an ancient route running across the river over 2 original open fields (Milfield and Brookfield) and meadows of the earliest Saxon village, linking Bag Lane and on to Stafford.
- Church Lane was added to Marchington in about 1300. The Square and High Street were also added, and in 1800 Jack's Lane, Allen's Lane and Moisty Lane were converted from old field tracks.
- Mill Farm is an early 19th century water mill, but has not been in use for over 100 years.
- Bag Lane is at least 1000 years old, as suggested by its deeply cut banks.
- The Bull's Head dates from the 18th century when it was a substantial hostelry.
- The Dingle was a field lane to a Medieval open field above. The field was the last to be fully enclosed in 1792, and is marked in many places by the Saxon 'ridge and furrow'.
- Moisty Lane got its name from the large numbers of springs along its length, particularly near the village. The lane was a field lane with fine views across the Dove valley to the Peaks.

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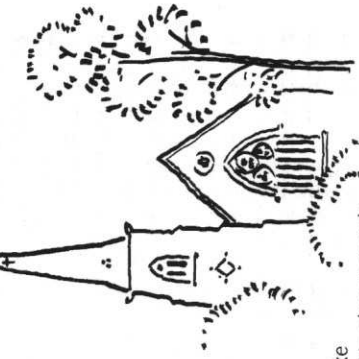
The Woodlands 5 miles

1 Park at Marchington Woodlands Village Hall car park. Leave car park and turn right, following road until bend. Take stile on right, across stream and next field, then skirt around moat on your right hand side. Across the next 2 fields and over the stile at the bottom of Buttermilk Hill. 2 Turn right and follow road over Gorsty Hill, then 300 metres take stile in hedge on right. Bear to the left of the field, across the stream following the hedge on the right. Ahead to the left is Smallwood Manor. Over the next 2 stiles, then bear right across to the far end of the playing field in front of the pavilion on your left. Go across the stream, between 2 white posts, and then over the stile into a field. Carry on up the field to a stile on the left of a galvanised gate towards St John's Church. 3 A stile into the churchyard leads up steps to the left of the church. Go



through the churchyard, turning left onto the road. 4 Just before Woodroffe's, a striking timber frame house, is a stile on the right going through the bottom of the garden and across another stile into a field. Head up diagonally across this field to the top right hand corner. Bear left after the stile to a stile in the left hand corner. The path

leads across the field to the right and then down the hill in front is a stile onto the road. 5 Turn left up the road past Highfield Farm on the right. Just before the next farm turn right into a field. 6 Go straight across keeping trees to your left, then cross the bridge in the hedge ahead. Walk up the hill with hedge on the right. At top, turn right onto bridleway through field and into next field where you will see a gate into the forest. 7 Turn right and follow the edge of the woods to the road.



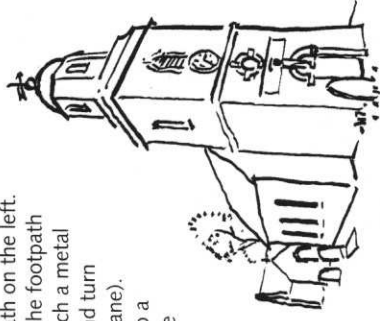
8 Here, turn right down hill, taking lane first on right for 10 metres where a finger post points your way to the paddock on the left. 9 Go through the paddock, and keeping the hedges on your right continue across stiles through 2 fields. The next stile goes down steps and over a stream at Dambridge Mill. 10 Bear left, through into the next field and then over the stile to the road. Turn right and take the next stile in the hedge on left. Head up towards the white house to a gate onto the road. 11 Turn left and follow lane back to the village hall.

Marchington A,B,C 1.5, 1 & 2 miles

Village walk A

1 Park at Marchington village hall. Facing the school turn right and take the first left down the hill. Continue over the bridge past the Dog and Partridge and the Post Office until you reach St Peter's Church. 2 Just before you reach the church gates, take the footpath on the left.

Go over the stile and follow the footpath across the fields until you reach a metal bridge. 3 Cross the bridge and turn right along the lane (Green Lane). Keep going until you come to a bend in the road and take the signposted footpath on the right. 4 Carry on through the fields keeping the church ahead of you. At the road (Church Lane) turn right and return to the village hall.



Village walk B

1 Park at Marchington village hall. Facing the school turn right and take the first left down the hill. 2 Just over the bridge take the footpath on the right. Follow the brook and over the stile into the field. Walk through the field along the brook, past a footbridge, over the stile into Marchington playing fields. Follow the brook to a small metal footbridge. 3 Cross over and through a small gate into a field, continuing to a stile in the fence on the left. 4 Over the drive of Mill Farm and over the stile on the other side. Walk diagonally through the field and go over the stile at the bottom. The footpath takes you down a path between houses until it reaches the road (Jack's Lane). 5 Cross the road and take the footpath opposite. Keeping to the right hand side of the fields continue to the road (Bag Lane). 6 Turn right and follow the road round to the right past the Bull's Head. 7 Turn left at the junction and follow the road round to the village hall.

Village walk C

For a longer walk, continue past the village hall following the road round to the left. 8 Turn left down Allen's Lane and at the end turn right. A few metres take the stile on the right into the Dingle. 9 Go up the path and over to a stile into a field. Here take the left path and go through a number of fields and stiles until you reach the road (Moisty Lane) where you turn right. 10 Keep going until you reach the drive of Lock Irons Farm on the right. 11 Walk along the drive and cross over the stile and the end, on your left and go into the field. Carry on across the field to the stile in the bottom left hand corner. Keep to the footpath through the fields until you reach a stile at the top of the Dingle. 12 Go down the Dingle and return to the village hall either via Bag Lane or Allen's Lane.

Historical notes Orange walk

Early on the walk (between 1 & 2), you pass a well preserved Medieval **moat**. There is no sign of the house it enclosed, which was lived in by the Mynors family. The house materials had probably been reused by Tudor times. It was clearly a substantial property as indicated by the earthworks, fishponds and watermill remaining to the south east.

At 2 you join **Thorney Lanes**, an ancient route and turnpike road joining Uttoxeter and Hoar Cross. There were few routes south, as the forest was a greater barrier than the river Dove in Medieval times. All of the lanes through the Woodlands are ancient routes. A nearby field known as Tinker's Field was probably an unofficial meeting place and market for travellers.

Smallwood Manor is a private school. Its 19th century building was built as a home for 'newly rich' industrialists. The original Medieval Smallwood Hall can be located by a partially preserved moat below St John's Church. Built for the richest family in the area, within 200 years it had disappeared.

St John's church was built in 1859 in the Gothic style, popular in the Victorian era. Sponsored by Mr Webb, owner of Smallwood Manor, in memory of his wife. His brother was its first and last incumbent, prior to its inclusion into Marchington Parish.

Woodroffe's is a magnificently preserved Yeoman's house dating from 1625. It was left by Thomas Coke in 1648 to the Woodruffe family, his sisters children.

The **woods** that stretch across the steep, narrow 'Cliffe' overlooking Marchington are the last remnants of the primeval Needwood Forest that covered vast areas to the south. It was preserved for the Duke of Lancaster and the King to hunt from Tutbury Castle. Much of it was cleared in 1801 in order to grow wheat, the price of which was at record levels during the Napoleonic wars. The remaining woods give an impression of what the whole area would have looked like.

Dambridge Mill had only a short working life at the beginning of the 19th century, due to the corn laws. The stream had been dammed, forming a large mill pond, which has now disappeared.

