

## ON FOOT

There are four Geology and Landscape trails that cross or lie wholly within the parish. Fully illustrated guides are available from local shops.

(\*) below denotes leaflet can be downloaded from [www.geo-village.eu](http://www.geo-village.eu)

**The Geopark Way:** A long distance 109 mile trail, with excellent guide book, running from Bridgnorth to Gloucester. A Geopark Way Visitor Guide, including accommodation and eateries, may be studied at [www.EarthHeritageTrust.org](http://www.EarthHeritageTrust.org)

**Martley GeoPark - Circular Trail:** One of three circular trails linking with the main Geopark Way trail (the others are at Alfrick and at Mathon). This is a six mile circular walk visiting Silurian and Triassic age rocks, a river valley, limestone uplands and cider apple orchards in the Worcester Basin. (\*)

**Martley Village ... traversing the divide - Trail 2:** An easy, two and a half mile walk around central Martley, taking in varied geological features including the celebrated Martley Rock site. The trail visits the historic Norman church of St Peter's, built from local Bromsgrove Sandstone, a building well worth exploring inside and out. (\*)



View looking north from Martley Rock



**Martley Parish ... the highs and lows - Trail 3:** Traversing Martley Rock and the high hills of the parish with marvellous views of the Cotwolds to the east and the Black Mountains and Wales to the west. Descend to the bank of the River Teme, to the old weir and site of a long gone village at Kingswood; find fossils more than four hundred million years old in the woods around Penny Hill Quarry. This is a strenuous trail not suitable for youngsters or for those a little less able. (\*)

View north-west across the Teme Valley from Rodge Hill



# Exposed

... the Geology and Landscape of Martley



Martley is a parish of great geological diversity with several designated Local Geological Sites and around 40 known features of geological interest. In 2011, The Teme Valley Geological Society, assisted and encouraged by the local community, secured European (LEADER) funds allowing for many initiatives aimed at making better known and accessible the geology of the area. This pamphlet provides an overview of what is on offer, and is designed to encourage the reader to explore the unique geological features that exist in this small and picturesque corner of Worcestershire.



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Front page images: **Top row:** Left - Permian breccia on Berrow Hill; Middle - view north across Martley to the Abberley Hills; Right -Triassic sandstone at Scar Cottage. **Middle row:** Left - Tufa deposits in stream; Middle - geological field work at Martley Rock; Right - Much Wenlock Limestone at Penny Hill. **Bottom row:** View from above the Nubbins looking south across the parish towards the Malvern Hills.

## Geological Overview

Martley presents in microcosm a large part of the geological variety of the British Isles, giving an insight into the history of the country through deep time, and contributing evidence to that story.

If you were to traverse the parish from east to west you would walk over rocks that represent some 470 million years of the Earth's history. By interpreting the different rocks seen, their relationships to each other along with the events that took place to shape Martley's landscape, an incredible story of how these rocks came into being, begins to emerge. The sheer diversity of rock types and the range of geological ages present make it so interesting. Add to this the fact that running through the parish, in a roughly north-south direction, lies a dividing line between ancient and modern Britain, geologically speaking that is! This divide, a deep-seated and ancient line of weakness in the Earth's crust, is known as the East Malvern Fault. To the west of this fault lie Palaeozoic (Cambrian, Silurian, Devonian and Permian) rocks, whilst to the east we find Mesozoic (Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous) rocks.

As part of the LEADER project, an audit of Martley's geological features was carried out. A book presenting a comprehensive introduction to the geological history of Martley over the last 700 million years was published. This contains survey details of key sites with pictures, and is available for purchase. If you are interested, please contact the Society.

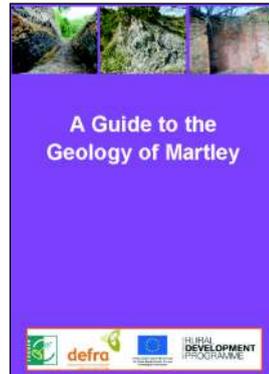
## Discover

The Teme Valley Geological Society was formed in 2011. The Society organises a programme of evening talks and field trips, along with courses in geology.

The Society's committee take responsibility for the maintenance and promotion of local geological features. All matters should be addressed to the Teme Valley Geological Society secretary, [secretary@geo-village.eu](mailto:secretary@geo-village.eu)

It will help the society a great deal if you are able to find the time to visit the 'Feedback Page' on the website to leave your comments.

[WWW.GEO-VILLAGE.EU](http://WWW.GEO-VILLAGE.EU)



## Explore

Martley Weighbridge, at the junction of B4204 and B4197 in central Martley, is a good place to start your exploration of Martley's geology and landscape. Local amenities, space to relax, have a picnic or perhaps a pub lunch, are all within a stone's throw of the Weighbridge building. Two geology trails start here (Nos 2 and 3) and large maps, one showing the underlying geology and routes of the trails, the other detailing other walking routes in the parish, are displayed on the noticeboard. Trail guides can be found in local shops or downloaded from [www.thepathornones.co.uk](http://www.thepathornones.co.uk) & [www.geo-village.eu](http://www.geo-village.eu)



### ON-SITE INTERPRETATION BOARDS

**Chantry School Geology Garden** (GR: SO755601 on Trail 2): This garden, built by the school pupils, is a comprehensive introduction to the geology of Worcestershire. The specimen rocks in the garden were all sourced from within the county.

**Martley Rock Visitor Site** (GR: SO745595 on Trails 2 and 3): This site allows the visitor to view rocks which formed around seven hundred million years ago, together with progressively younger strata. The interpretation explains the geological history of the site. Don't forget to sign the visitors' book!

**The Nubbins Visitor Point** (GR: SO748598 on Trails 2 and 3): The Nubbins escarpment is composed of sediments of Triassic age, this formation being known as Bromsgrove Sandstone. The rocks display fine sedimentary structures. The interpretation details the geology present whilst outlining the quarrying heritage of the site



**Lower House Quarry Visitor Point** (GR: SO752617 on Trail 3). The landscape of the western margin of Martley is dominated by Pudford, Rodge and Penny Hills, all of which are composed of deposits of Silurian age. The environments in which these limestones and the shales of the adjacent valleys formed, are described in the interpretation.

**The Canyon Visitor Point** (GR: SO752620 on Trail 3): Mountain building events and volcanoes have left their fingerprint on the rocks of the Canyon. The interpretation guides the visitor through the events that took place some 290 million years ago which resulted in the structure of the strata seen in The Canyon.

**Kingswood Chasm Visitor Point** (GR: SO746602 on Trail 3): Ice and water have sculpted the landscape of the British Isles. The key glacial and fluvial events over the last 500,000 years that resulted in the River Teme following its present course from Powys to Worcester, are illustrated in the interpretation.