

Notes on Points of Interest.

- * **Traditional Orchards** typically contain standard apple and pear trees, which are grazed with livestock. In comparison commercial **Bush Orchards** contain smaller dwarf or half-standard trees grafted on a rigorous rootstock, trees are planted at a higher density and the grassland is often mechanically mown.
- * **Priggles Wood:** This is an ancient wood, defined as land that has been continuously wooded since AD 1600. Examine the woodland flora and look for Bluebells, Wood Anemone, Dogs Mercury, Wood Sorrel and Herb Paris, all good indicators of ancient woodland.
- * **Putley & Putley Court:** Putley was once described in a newspaper report of the late 1920's as a 'most immoral parish'. This came about at a session of Ledbury Revision Court when the then owner of Putley Court described Putley to the Revising Barrister as 'the most immoral parish he had ever been in although he had been all over the world', and he claimed that there was no crime they did not commit there.

Further enquiries into this affair revealed that the then owner of Putley Court had been a heavy-handed squire, stopping up footpaths, locking gates and so forth, generally limiting the parishioners access to places previously always accessible. As a result the parishioners retaliated by breaking locks, taking gates off hinges and generally asserting their rights.

This was in marked contrast to the previous squire Mr John Riley, who had resided at Putley Court from 1872 until 1922. He was a well-respected squire and was responsible for planting the fruit plantations in Putley. When the estate was sold in the 1920's, it was broken up into a number of individual fruit farms, many of which today remain in the hands of the families who bought them. John Riley was an authority on fruit growing and a pioneer of modern marketing of fruit.

- * **Putley Church:** Putley Church stands on the outbuildings of a Roman villa, one or two Roman bricks can be seen on the extension of the blocked up North doorway. There was then a Norman Church, built in 1100 by William d'Evereux, Earl of Hereford, which was altered in the later centuries and later fell into disrepair. In 1875 the Anglo-Catholic Riley family (of Putley Court) rebuilt Putley Church as it stands today.
- * **Putley Mill:** Putley Mill is red brick and 18th/19th century but has an earlier timber-framed wing, the mill pond is long and narrow, the overflow forms the field boundary in adjacent field and goes under the road to 'Putley Castle'

Walking is a form of exercise that is free, fun and a great way for families to get together. Regular walking can have a positive effect on your health and quality of life.

The Countryside Code



Launched on 12 July 2004, this Code for England has been produced through a partnership between the Countryside Agency and Countryside Council for Wales.

The Countryside Code has been revised and re-launched to reflect the introduction of new open access rights (Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000) and changes in society over the last 20 years.

Countryside Code - advice for the public

- * Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- * Leave gates and property as you find them
- * Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- * Keep dogs under close control
- * Consider other people

This leaflet has been produced with the support of the Woolhope Dome Project

The 'dome' supports a rich mosaic of ancient woodlands, species-rich hedgerows, wildflower meadows, traditional orchards, streams, and a wealth of wildlife. The importance of protecting and supporting this unique landscape is at the heart of the Woolhope Dome Project.

The Woolhope Dome project is a partnership between local people, Natural England, the Wye Valley AONB, Forestry Commission, and Herefordshire Nature Trust. Funding has also been given from Herefordshire Rivers Leader + in association with the EU and DEFRA

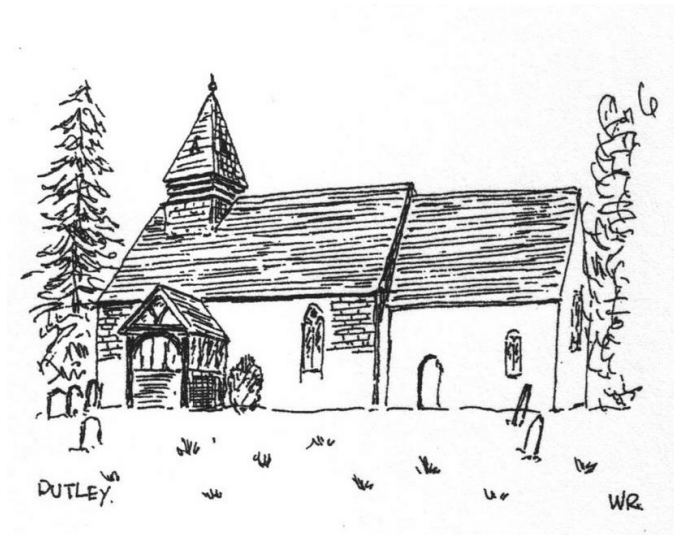


Woolhope Dome Walks

(Part of the Fownhope Walk Series)

Walk Three

Putley Orchards Loop Walk



PUTLEY PARISH CHURCH

This is one of a series of walks produced by Fownhope Residents Association with the help of many villagers. Financial support has been given by the Countryside Agency through their "Walking the Way to Health" initiative.

Other organisations/groups also participating and giving assistance are: Fownhope Medical Centre, Herefordshire Nature Trust, the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Woolhope Dome Project, Big Apple Association, local landowners and farmers.

Woolhope Dome Walks - Number Three

Putley Orchards Loop Walk

Summary: An attractive walk through small pastures, woodland and orchards old and new, with fine views of the Marcle Ridge and Malvern Hills. The route is best walked from mid April to late May to appreciate the orchard blossom.

Distance: Approx. 4 miles

Time: 2 hours plus time for refreshments.

Parking: Putley Post Office, Putley Green (SO652,376)

Refreshments: Local pubs can be found as follows:-

Woolhope - Butchers Arms, Crown Inn

Much Marcle - Royal Oak, Scrumpy House, Slip Tavern, & Walwyn Arms.

Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 189 Hereford & Ross on Wye is recommended and may be purchased from the West End Stores in Fownhope

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Directions:

* Look out for this symbol which indicates Points of Interest along the route. Take a look at the accompanying notes overleaf. We hope that this will add enjoyment to your walk.

- From the Post Office (**Point A**) turn right and walk up the lane. After c.75 yards take the stile on your right. Follow the footpath, keeping close to the hedge on you left, through the remnants of **traditional orchards**
- Go through a set of gates, and follow the footpath, keeping the hedge on your right. Over the next stile you will enter an area of extensive **bush orchard** *; continue along the footpath keeping to the right.
- At the drive turn right. After c.70 yards (**Point B**) turn left onto the road. After c.500 yards you will come to a give-way (just after the traditional timber framed and thatched Coldmoor Cottage). Turn left and after c.25 yards, turn left on the right of way to follow the

drive to The Twern for a short way. Go through the kissing gate and walk diagonally down the field to the far right hand corner. Go over the stile and, turn right to cross the Corin brook. Turn left and walk straight ahead uphill through the orchard, to join the road at **Point C**.

- At the road turn left and head down towards Putley Court. After c.250 yards (just past the turn to Putley Church), take the footpath to the right, going over the stile and straight up towards the wood (take time to look back at the views of the orchards in the valley and the Malvern Hills and Ledbury in the background).
- Go through the gate into Priggles Wood. Follow the woodland path for c.250 yards until you reach a more substantial forest track, at which point turn left and follow the footpath. After 100 yards find the way marker on you left and follow the footpath down the wooden steps. Follow the woodland path as it meanders to the road.
- At the road (**Point D**) go straight across and follow the footpath directly ahead. Walk straight down the aisles of the large bush orchard towards Upper House. At the road turn right and after 10 yards take the track on your left and go over the stile on your right.
- Walk diagonally through The Rectory orchard; pick up the fence line to find a stile. Go over the stile and turn right. Walk along the fence line and over the next stile in the hedge line. Walk through the middle of the orchard and cross over the bridge and stream. Follow the footpath with the hedge on your right. At the end of the hedge line, at the way marker, turn left across the field to the other hedgerow and follow the footpath to the road towards Hallend Farm
- At the road (**Point E**) turn left. Follow the road for c.350 yards and take the footpath on your left opposite the track leading to Hatsford House. Follow the footpath North towards Putley, go over the next two stiles and into a large bush orchard. (Keep to the track in the middle.)
- At the road go straight across and over the stile following the footpath to Lower Court (this section provides good view of **Putley Court***). At the gate turn right and continue along the footpath that goes through the gates and to the right of **Putley Church**.
- Go past Putley Church and follow the path through the orchard. Continue straight on the footpath passing both **Putley Mill*** and **Mill House**. At the road turn left and continue for 200 yards. The Post Office and **FINISH** is on your left.

After your walk, why not enjoy some refreshments at one of our local pubs.

ORCHARD EVENTS



BIG APPLE: Twice a year the parishes of the Marcle Ridge - Much Marcle with Aylton, Little Marcle, Munsley, Pixley, Putley and Woolhope - celebrate their heritage of Apples and Pears, Cider and Perry. In springtime there is a unique blend of orchards in blossom and traditional cider tasting. In autumn the harvest is celebrated whilst pressing the fruit for the next year's vintage. Website:- www.bigapple.org.uk

LOCAL CIDER, PERRY and JUICE

Aylton: JUS, Birchley (01531 670749) Apple Juice

Putley: Dragon Orchard (01531 670071) Apple juice, fruit in season, fruit preserves

Much Marcle: Weston's Ciders (01531 660233) Cider and Perry

