

Crossing this field which is part of the Countrywide Stewardship Scheme, you will notice a fine display of wild flowers in springtime including an abundance of cowslips.

Continue along the hedgerow over some stiles and you will come to a kissing gate. In the next field head towards the red brick wall which runs round the Old Priory Cottages with their views of Sun Rising Hill. Two gates and a stile will bring you to the Banbury Road.

Proceed right towards the village and walk along the lane until you come to Kineton Road. Turn right, and you are now back at Walton Lane where you started your walk.

*The late Charlie Ivin was an avid walker and a keen historian who also loved gardening. He was a well respected member of the community and was on the Parish Council.*

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***Charlie walked this route so often.  
Walk this one and he will not be  
forgotten.***

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The walk is set within a Special Landscape Area known as 'Feldon Parkland' which comprises most of the southeastern part of Warwickshire. The name Feldon incorporates the Old English term for field, 'open, cleared land' and expresses the contrast this region presented in medieval times to the more heavily wooded Arden to the northwest. This character is still apparent, and Feldon remains a largely unwooded region. This lack of woodland was to some extent mitigated by the occurrence of hedgerow elms, which were a ubiquitous feature of the Feldon landscape. However Dutch elm disease in the late 1960's, completely changed the appearance of the landscape by virtually eliminating mature elms from the countryside.

Archaeological finds and scatters of pottery reveal that the area was already closely settled and farmed by at least the late Iron Age and Roman times.

By medieval times a number of individual townships had emerged, each possessing its own field system. These fields were divided into narrow strips and ploughed by teams of oxen, a practice which produced the characteristic reversed S curves and wave like undulations known as ridge and furrow. The reversed S or aratral curve is attributed to the swing of the ox team to the left when approaching the headland at each end of the strip to facilitate the turning of the heavy mould board plough.

## ***THE CHARLES IVIN MEMORIAL FOOTPATH WALK***



### **A CIRCULAR WALK AROUND PILLERTON HERSEY AND PILLERTON PRIORS**

This updated 2024 leaflet is based on the original version that was produced in 1998.

You might find it useful to take the Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 151 with you on your walk.

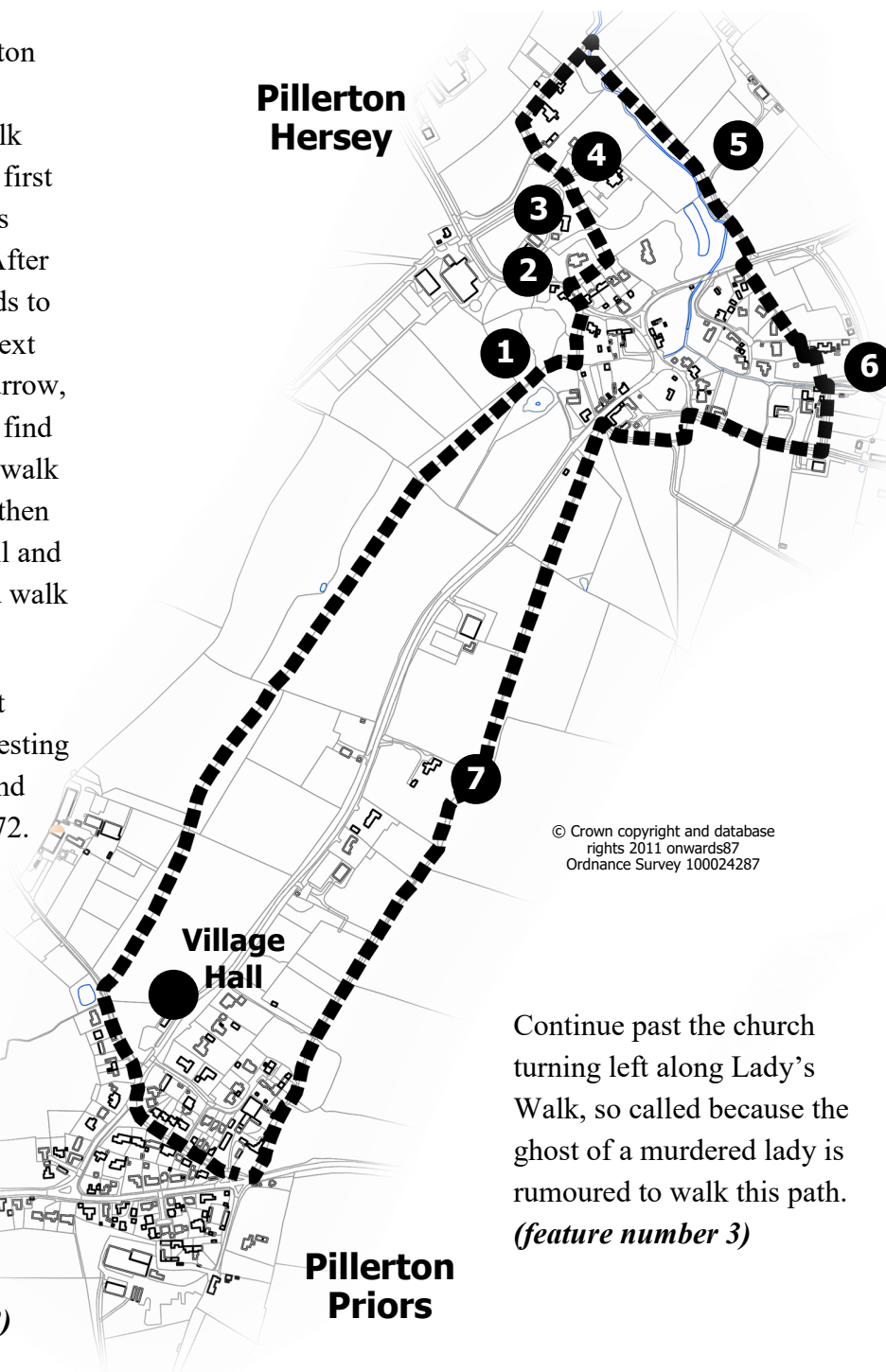
The walk starts at the Village Hall, Walton Lane, Pillerton Priors CV35 0PJ (What3words///glance.down.snow). Walk back towards Pillerton Priors taking the first turning on the right and walk 150 metres along the road to the stile on the right. After crossing the stile, proceed over two fields to the next stile. Head straight across the next field, which has some good ridge and furrow, to a farm gateway. In this field you will find the brick shed (*feature number 1*). The walk continues to the right of the brick shed, then follows the hedgerow to the Church Hall and over the stile. At this point, turn left and walk up to the road.

The walk continues across this road past St Mary's Church which has some interesting features including a one handed clock and three bells, which date from 1602 to 1672.

In 2017 the bells and tower were refurbished with the addition of two more bells making a total of five .

Inside the church the pews are made from Russian pitch pine dating from 1815.

The church has won a number of awards in recent years for 'Best Kept Churchyard', which is maintained by village residents . (*feature number 2*)



Bear to the right after passing a kissing gate (*feature number 4*). The field you are now entering is called Ladies' Lea.

Follow the hedge line until you come to a footbridge. After crossing it, again follow the hedge line past the back of the Manor, where you can see the bell on the roof (*feature number 5*). The original purpose of this bell was to summon the gardeners for their tea break.

Proceed past the farm gateway and on to the Kinton Road at the end of the village. Cross the road and then along the back of Broad Close Cottage.

Follow the track through the wood. This leads you across the footbridge over the ford (*feature number 6*). Proceed past the farmhouse along the lane. Turn right and continue to the signpost on your left. Walk forty metres to the gap in the hedge on the right into the field leading you to the Kinton Road. Standing at the signpost and looking back into the field you have just walked across, follow the arrow pointing south west across the field to the gap in the hedge, taking you to a stile into the next field. Walk up the hill to the corner of the field. On your right, you will notice the former site of Charlie Ivin's family home, 'The Rowans'. (*feature number 7*)

Continue past the church turning left along Lady's Walk, so called because the ghost of a murdered lady is rumoured to walk this path. (*feature number 3*)