

5-mile route description

Heartwood Forest, Nomansland Common, and part of the Hertfordshire Way

Route checked and route description revised September 2024

From 6 September, check out <http://www.oxfamstalbens.co.uk> for the latest version

Please note:

- The walk starts at the Scout Hut in Heartwood Forest, Sandridgebury Lane, Sandridge, St Albans, **AL3 6JB**, but use the adjacent Heartwood Forest overflow carpark (for Oxfam W4W), nearest postcode **AL4 9DQ**. The carpark opens at 8.00 and closes at 20.00. Follow the yellow 'Herts Hike' signs to the Scout Hut. Please share a car or use public transport if you can, as weekends can be busy. There is also nearby parking in Sandridge, off the main road.
- **The Scout Hut will close at 17.00.** Allow plenty of time for parking and signing in, for the walk itself, some stops, and for signing out and tea & cake on your return.
- The **± 5-mile** route takes about 2 hours at a steady pace and without a break, so we advise you to **start your walk between 9.30 and 13.30.**
- **Bring your own** copy(s) of this route description, water, packed lunch, snacks, sunscreen, tissues, hat, anorak, boots, a small first-aid kit, and a fully charged mobile phone. Also bring some cash for tea & cake and purchases at the St Albans Oxfam shop stall, and your bank details to make your Walk4Water donation on JustGiving. We have no card-reader.
- We advise you use this route description, and only to use the map for reference.
- There are two **Check Points**, **C1** and **C2**. Their location is underlined in this route description. Every attempt will be made to have these in place within the times indicated, but this cannot be guaranteed.
- There will be **no yellow Herts Hike route signs** after **C1**, but the arrows in this route description **← ↖ ↑ ↗ →** indicate your direction. The distances are approximate. For those of you finding it useful, OS Grid References are shown as: {2 Grid letters 3 figures (easting) 3 figures (northing)} e.g. {TL 189 149}.
- ***Benches are highlighted in italic, orientation points in bold.*** You will not pass any cafés, shops, or pubs until you get back to Sandridge (you will have to book a table).
- Do check out <http://www.gov.uk/countrysidecode>, stay on the public footpaths and bridle ways, keep dogs on a lead, and step aside for horse-riders, cyclists and other walkers.
- **In case of emergency, or if you will *not* return to the Scout Hut to sign out, it is important to call Sue Cockell on 07535 695744, or Wilma Mendonca on 07305 807288.**
- **And last but not least, please remember that all walkers and volunteers take part at their own risk, and under 18's cannot register unless accompanied by an adult.**

Enjoy your walk!

Section 1: Scout Hut to Check Point C1.

- 1 At the **Scout Hut entrance gate** turn left ← onto the **Scout Hut drive**, then left ← onto a bridleway, and almost immediately right ↗ through a kissing gate into **Heartwood Forest**.
- 2 Go ahead gently uphill on the diagonal gravel path ↑.
- 3 Where the gravel path divides left and right at a **signpost**, go straight ahead on the grassy path ↑ towards a second **signpost on the skyline**.
- 4 Here turn left ← onto a track, soon passing on your left a **bench dedicated to Matt Risby**.
- 5 Continue straight ahead ↑ passing the **Woodland Arch** on your left as you go.
- 6 Where paths cross, (with the corner of **Pudler's Wood** in front of you), go straight on ↑. Continue ahead with wood on either side.
- 7 Take the first turning right →, onto the broad grassy path, passing between a **memorial stone on the left for Brian & Brenda** and a **bench** on the right. At the T-junction turn left onto the bridleway for a few yards, to the edge of a wood.
- 8 Turn right →, continuing on the grassy path ↑, between a wood on the left and a young wood on the right.
- 9 Going downhill, and when the track forks, take the left grassy path. You can see **Check Point C1** {TL 162 122} in a shady spot, between **8.30 and 15.30**. **Please show your walker number to the Marshal.**

Section 2: Check Point C1 to Hammonds Farm

10 CAUTION – ROUTES DIVIDE HERE!

- 11 **Don't just follow the people in front! The 2.5 & 4-milers turn left, whilst the 5, 8, 15 & 20-mile walkers turn right →.**
Continue ↑ until you reach a **kissing gate** {TL163 123}.
- 12 Go through the gate ↑, & down the steps until you reach the red bin on the left, turn right → onto a broader path, where you will pass **Check Point C2** in a shady spot, between **8.45 and 12.00**. **Please show your walker number to the Marshall.**
- 13 Having reached the open space of **Nomansland Common**, continue for ± 0.5 mile ↑, remaining parallel with the road on your far left, eventually passing a **public car park** on your left. From here, continue to follow the path ↑ to the left corner of the Common {TL175 124}. (The **Highstreet B651** lies ahead of you).
- 14 At the black bin, turn left ← to cross **Ferrers Lane WITH GREAT CARE** at the (now quite faded) road sign '**Give Way–50 yds**'.
- 15 **CAUTION – ROUTES DIVIDE HERE!** At a small field the **8, 15 & 20-milers go straight on, whilst the 5-mile walkers turn right →**, and walk alongside Ferrers Lane to your right to arrive at the **High Street B651** by a pair of wooden posts.
- 16 Cross the High Street B651 **WITH EXTRA CARE, as traffic can be moving very fast!!**
- 17 Take the footpath leading straight on ↑, going slightly uphill through a wood, passing a **Heartwood Forest sign**.

- 18** Keep **↑** on this gradually narrowing, grassy path, and across a field with a young wood on the left, and eventually with a hedge on your right.
- 19** Continue on your path **↑** until you come to a gate **↑**, onto **Coleman Green Lane**.
- 20 TAKE GREAT CARE** both looking and listening for traffic, then cross straight over **↑** steeply uphill, and continue on your footpath for some time, keeping a field on your left and a hedge on your right. The buildings of **Hammonds Farm** will soon be seen in the distance on the left.
- 21** Eventually, the path curves left towards the **Hammonds Farm** buildings, then turn right through a **brick gateway** to pass between the buildings.
- 22** When you reach **Hammonds Lane** turn right **→**.

Section 3: Hammonds Farm to Scout Hut

- 23** Continue **WITH GREAT CARE** along the lane, past **Hammond House** on the right. Although the lane is quiet, cars and cyclists can come round the bend! Where the lane curves to the right, turn left **↖** between a **large log** and a green **Hertfordshire Way** sign. Pass through the gate, turning right **→** onto the Hertfordshire Way footpath.
- 24** Here, the 8, 15 & 20-milers re-join the 5-mile walkers.
- 25** Keeping the hedge on your right, follow the edge of the field, towards a wood.
- 26** As the path enters the wood, continue straight on **↑** - do mind the over-hanging branches. Soon the Hertfordshire Way emerges from the wood, bending sharply to the left, it then continues straight on **↑**, with the wood on the left, and a young wood on the right.
- 27** Passing a - **sometimes dry - pond** on the left, you reach a field, and you can see the **houses of Sandridge** come into view. Carry straight on **↑** to **Langley Grove**. Cross the road **WITH CARE** **↑** and proceed through a gate onto surfaced footpath.
- 28** After having passed the garden fence of the last of the new houses, and a **waymark post** marked 'path no. 35' on the right, take a very short and narrow path, which forks off to the left **↖**, and cross a tarmac lane at a small zebra crossing (take care).
- 29** You emerge into the grassy churchyard of **St Leonard's Church**. Where the path forks, keep to the right **↗** aiming for the **lychgate arch** at the front of the church.
- 30** From the lychgate go straight on **↑**, past the **Queen's Head pub** on your left, towards the **bus shelter** at **St Albans Road B651**. Keep to the right of the bus shelter.
- 31** Cross the main road **WITH GREAT CARE** and walk to the drive of **Pound Farm**.
- 32** Take the drive through Pound Farm **←**, leaving the **large barn** to the left.
- 33** Continue gently uphill on the bridleway, giving way to any horses, past the **Heartwood Forest welcome sign** **↑** until the **Scout Hut** comes into sight again.
- 34** Turn left **←** onto the Scout Hut drive, and immediately right **→** through the gate.

CONGRATULATIONS ON FINISHING YOUR WALK

Please go inside to register your arrival, give us feed-back, and hand in your sponsorship money/donation(s) or make a transfer to <https://www.justgiving.com/page/oxfam-st-albans-walk4water-2024>

And treat yourself to drinks and cakes whilst sending us your experiences & photos for our website on oxfamstalbans.w4w@gmail.com

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

We hope you enjoyed your walk, and we look forward to seeing you next year, the date will be announced shortly on <https://oxfamstalbans.co.uk/>.

Do save the date and check our website from time to time!