

Oxfam Walk for Water – Philip’s New Routes 2020

A circular walk from Nomansland, with several options for distance. The maximum is 6 miles for the full walk here, but there are options for 5, 4 or 2½ miles (see below).

The route uses wide paths so it’s easy to pass at a safe distance to others. Any narrow gates or gaps are noted.

These instructions start at the Nomansland public car park (at the junction of Down Green Lane with Ferrers Lane) but you could start from the Heartwood Car Park, beginning at Instruction No 12, go through Instructions 12 to 30, then back to Instructions 1 to 11.

There is also a small Public Car park opposite West End Farm on Ferrers Lane. A short track from here leads to the Heartwood entrance (Instruction 3).

Philip’s 6 mile route from Nomansland.

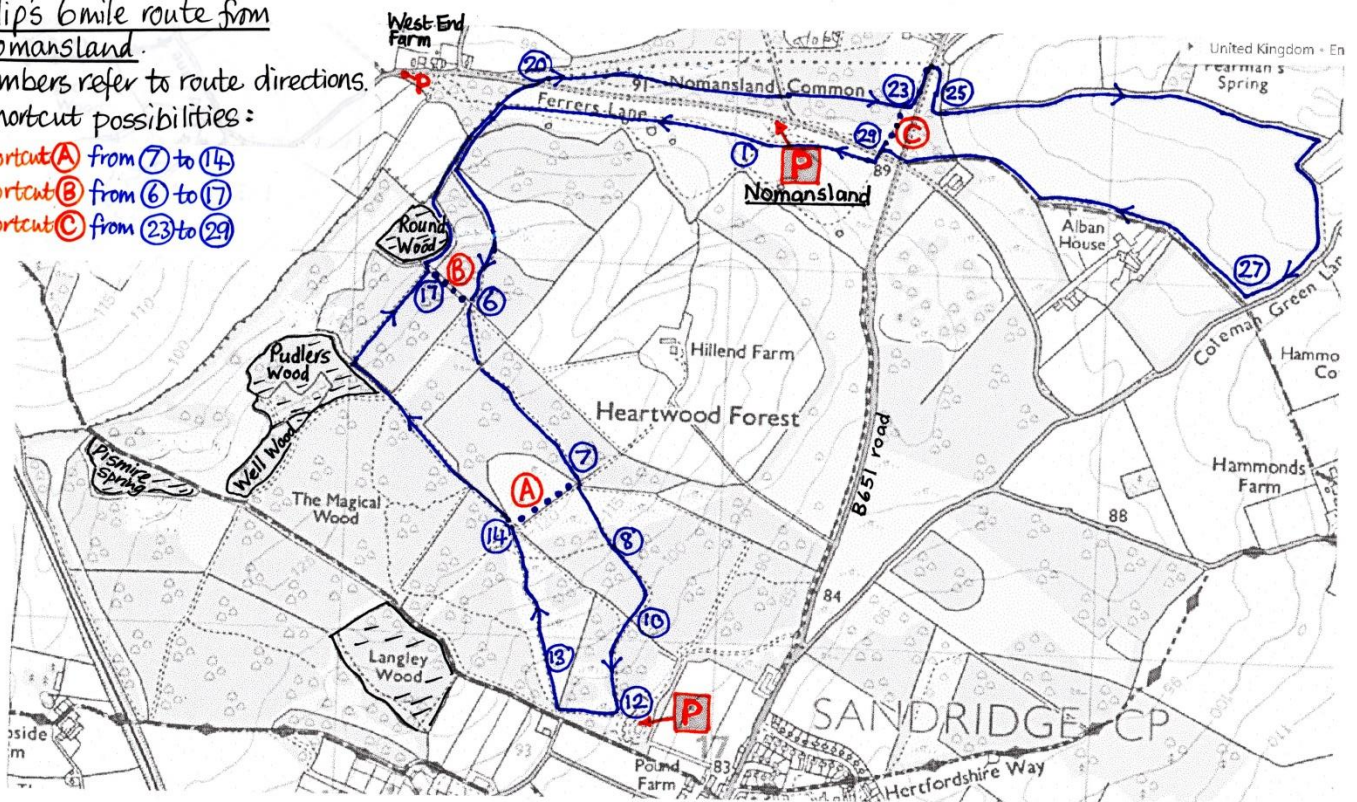
Numbers refer to route directions.

Shortcut possibilities:

Shortcut **A** from 7 to 14

Shortcut **B** from 6 to 17

Shortcut **C** from 23 to 29



The full circular walk is just under 6 miles (5¾ miles):

Taking **short cut A** from No 7 to No 14 on the map above would shorten it to 5 miles and keep away from the Heartwood Forest carpark, which is busy at times.

There are two ways of shortening your walk to 4 miles:

by **short cut B** going direct from No 6 to No 17 on the map above;

or by **short cut C** going direct from No 23 to No 29 on the map above.

If you took **both** of these (**short cuts B and C**), you would be down to 2½ miles. Effectively this shortest walk is a circuit of Nomansland, both the grassy south side and the wooded north side, with a short excursion into Heartwood Forest to hear the skylarks.

Key: **KG** = Kissing gate; ****** = Pay careful attention at these places (either because of narrow gap or section, or because you could miss the landmark if you are chatting!)

Walking Instructions

1. Park at the Nomansland public car park (at the junction of Down Green Lane with Ferrers Lane). From the car park, with your back to Ferrers Lane, turn right and walk westwards along Nomansland Common. The area is wide and grassy so you can easily avoid other groups.
2. As you approach the trees at the west end of the common, keep left to the smaller, higher track into the trees, and follow it along to the Heartwood entrance.
3. Go into Heartwood (** Watch for others at entry gap), follow main track slightly uphill until you come to open ground on your left, and bench to Rosemary Whalley.
4. Turn left and walk uphill, following the wire fence on your right, to a Kissing gate.
5. Go through kissing gate into a grassy avenue between young trees.
6. At next kissing gate your track meets 4 others, go through and bear left and slightly uphill on the 2nd track from the left, past a post with "no bridleway" sign. (For **shortcut B**, turn right here and follow the track to 'Brenda's gate' at No 17).
7. Continue through one more KG, onto a wider grassy path between trees which leads to a final KG and an open, hilltop area. Listen for skylarks and enjoy the views. (For **shortcut A**, proceed direct from this final KG straight ahead on the level path to reach the 'signpost on the skyline' mentioned in No 14. Here turn right onto track and pick up from No 15. This shortens the route by 1¾ miles, avoids the Heartwood carpark area, and cuts out one downhill slope followed by a matching uphill section)
8. Head away downhill on a diagonal path across the meadow, aiming at the village houses in the distance
9. After a short narrower section through small trees, emerge onto a gravelled track by the "Azerbaijan memorial stone" and continue downhill past log sculpture "Bear cubs".
10. As you pass through a field boundary, look for the Acorn post and "Take a Peep" at something in a tree.
11. The gravel track now leads down to the Heartwood car park, past the "Frog" sculpture. If there is any congestion on the path, move off to the right and pass on the far side of the young trees.
12. Arrive at Heartwood car park; from there set off on the left hand gravel path diagonally uphill, passing log posts with "Bluebell story" on, to reach Welcome board opposite Scout Hut.
13. The gravel path now swings right and continues to climb gently uphill.
14. ** Where the gravel path divides left and right at a signpost, ** go straight ahead on the grass towards a second signpost on the skyline, Here turn left onto a track, soon passing on your left a bench dedicated to Matt Risby.
15. Continue straight ahead along the track, passing the Mouse carving and the Woodland Arch on your left as you go.
16. At the corner of an old wood (Pudlers Wood) cross straight over another track. Continue ahead with Pudlers wood on your left, until a KG and vehicle gate on your right (with small plaque 'Brian's gate')

17. Turn right through this gate and follow the broad grassy path, passing memorial stone and a bench, to another KG and vehicle gate, 'Brenda's gate'
18. Go through; turn left on the track for a few yards to the edge of an old wood (Round Wood). Turn right, and walking on the grass, follow the outside edge of Round Wood; your track will curve leftwards and slightly downhill.
19. Stay at the edge of the wood until a hedge comes in from the right at a junction of paths. Turn right here, follow this hedge (the boundary of Heartwood), to arrive at Heartwood Welcome board, horse exit and KG. (**Observe if others are present and take turns to go through exit gap)
20. Go down the path for a few yards and then branch right, walking towards the open space of Nomansland Common. Arriving on the Common, bear left and follow edge of trees to the road (Ferrers Lane).
21. Cross road with care to enter Nomansland woods and follow the trackway to right. There are several parallel paths along this section; keep approx. midway between the road to your right, and fields and gardens on your left. There are plenty of "camps" built from branches. You will probably pick up the Nomansland Circular walk signs and boards.
22. On reaching a quiet lane (Down Green lane) cross straight over (the car park is 100 yards away to the right of you) Continue on through the woods, parallel to Ferrers Lane, until you emerge on the cricket pitch.
23. Cross the cricket pitch leaving the square to your left and aiming for a semicircular wooden bench; look behind it for the historic Puddingstone. (For **Shortcut C**, turn right here and head for the crossing of Ferrers lane - jump ahead to no 29)
24. Just to the left, at the nearby bus stop, cross the road with care onto a gravel track. The "Wicked Lady" pub is seen on the left; turn right and follow the track which quickly becomes an earthen path.
25. ** To your right are trees and on the left is a hedge and field; at the end of the first field, by a holly tree ** where the wire fence is flattened; turn left off track then right passing under a few trees into the next field, which is Heartwood property again. (If you miss this place, after another 200 yards on the track, turn left at T-junction of tracks, arrive in the Heartwood field, turn left and follow the field margin as per No 26)
26. Once in Heartwood, turn left and follow the line of trees that form the field boundary for half a mile. You will pass some enclosed areas where young trees are growing. After the corner of the last enclosure you will gradually curve round and end up walking south bound alongside Coleman Green Lane.
27. Watch for a field gate and a bridleway that crosses your path; turn right and away from Coleman Green Lane.
28. Follow the bridleway, passing the back of a large house and garden, before leading back into the woods near Nomansland. Go down the path to emerge at the side of the B651. Road traffic here can be fast; watch it carefully and cross with care onto Nomansland Common
29. Follow the north side of Ferrers Lane for 50 yards, then cross onto the south (grassy) side of Nomansland, and turn right.
30. Walk westwards along Nomansland common, to get back to the public car park.
Congratulations on completing your walk!