

Oxfam Walk for Water 2020

5 mile route instructions

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

Adapted route description for independent use during the coronavirus situation

Revised 27 July 2020

Please check on <http://www.oxfamstalbans.org> for the latest version

Please note:

- This route contains areas that may be challenging for social distancing, especially at busy times. Particularly **narrow sections are marked in red.**
- The route starts and finishes at the Heartwood Forest carpark, nearest postcode **AL4 9DQ**. If closed, there is nearby parking in Sandridge, off the main road. The carpark opens at 8.00 a.m. and closes at 8.00 p.m.
- The route description is amended to enable you to find your way without our usual signs, and takes about 2 hours to walk, at a steady pace.
- There will be **no Marshal Points or Check Points**. For your orientation their locations on the enclosed map have been **marked in red (e.g.M1, C2)** in the route description.
- The arrows **← ↖ ↑ ↗ →** indicate your forward direction.
- ***Benches are highlighted in italic, orientation points in bold.***
- 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}.

Section 1: Starting point Heartwood Forest carpark.

- 1 As you enter the carpark from the drive, start at the second path on the right →.**
- 2 Set back from the path, you will see the circular wooden poled display on your right.**
- 3 At the signpost go straight on ↑ and uphill, passing log posts with bluebell stories, and a bench on your left. At the end of this path you reach the Heartwood Forest welcome board, with the kissing gate and the Scout Hut on the left.**
- 4 Turn right → and go gently uphill on the diagonal gravel path.**
- 5 Where the gravel path divides left and right at a signpost, go straight ahead on the grass ↑ towards a second signpost on the skyline.**
- 6 Here turn left ← onto a track, soon passing on your left a bench dedicated to Matt Risby.**
- 7 Continue straight ahead ↑ through a young wood, passing the Mouse carving and the Woodland Arch on your left as you go.**
- 8 At the corner of a wood, cross straight over another track ↑, continue ahead with the wood on your left and a young wood on your right, until a (kissing)gate marked with a small plaque saying 'Brian's gate' on your right.**

- 9 Turn right through this gate → and follow the broad grassy path, passing between a **memorial stone for Brian & Brenda** and a **bench**, to another (kissing)gate, which is 'Brenda's gate'. Go through, turn left ← on the track to the edge of a wood.
- 10 Turn right →, continuing on the grass ↑, between a wood on the left and a young wood on the right.
- 11 Where the path forks take the right path, going downhill. **M1** {TL162 122}.

Section 2: Heartwood Forest to Hammonds Farm.

- 12 At the end of the path turn right →. Continue along the boundary of Heartwood, passing a **bench** set back on your right, until you reach another **Woodland Trust kissing gate** {TL163 123}.
- 13 Go through the gate ↑, down the path for a few metres and then branch right ↗ walking towards the open space of **Nomansland Common**.
- 14 Walk along the Common for ± ½ mile ↑, remaining parallel with the road on your left, passing a **bench** at the top of the hill, and the **public car park** on your left (do NOT cross the road here). Aim for the red bin **C1** {TL175 124} near the far-left corner of the Common, (The **Highstreet B651** lies ahead of you).
- 15 Once there, cross **Ferrers Lane** on your left **WITH GREAT CARE** at the road sign 'Give Way-50 yds'.
- 16 Turn right → at a small **enclosure** and walk alongside Ferrers Lane to arrive at the **High Street B651** by a pair of wooden posts. **M2** {TL 175 124}.
- 17 Cross the High Street B651 **WITH EXTRA CARE as traffic can be moving fast**.
- 18 Take the footpath leading straight on ↑, going slightly uphill through woodland, passing a **Heartwood Forest sign**.
- 19 Keep on this path ↑ across a field with a newly planted wood, soon getting to a hedge on your right and then passing **Nomansland Farm** garden and buildings. Continue straight on at the end of their fence ↑ and pass through a gate onto **Colemans Green Lane**.
- 20 **TAKE GREAT CARE** both looking and listening for traffic, then cross straight over ↑ uphill, and continue on your footpath for some time. The buildings of **Hammonds Farm** will soon be seen in the distance on the left.
- 21 When there, the path curves left towards the farm buildings, then right through a **brick gateway** to pass between the buildings.
- 22 When you reach **Hammonds Lane** turn right →.

Section 3: Homebound, Hammonds Farm to Heartwood Forest carpark.

- 23 Continue **WITH GREAT CARE** along the lane, past **Hammond House** on the right. Where the lane curves to the right you see a **large log** on the left. Look for the green **Hertfordshire Way** sign ↖. Pass through the gate, turning right → onto the Hertfordshire Way footpath. **You can bypass this stretch of the lane by squeezing past the second**

metal gate opposite **Hammond House** and following the edge of the field with the hedge on your right, soon re-joining the route at the next gate with the **large log** *).

- 24** *). Keeping the hedge on your right, follow the edge of the field, towards a small wood.
- 25** As the path enters the wood, continue straight on ↑. Soon the Hertfordshire Way emerges from the wood, bending to the left, and then continues straight on ↑, with the wood on the left, and a young wood with a fence on the right.
- 26** Passing a **small pond** on the left, and when you reach the corner of the wood, the **houses of Sandridge** come into view. Carry straight on ↑ through a field to **Langley Grove**. Cross the road **WITH CARE** and carry straight over ↑ onto a **narrowing footpath**.
- 27** After a few minutes, at the end of a garden fence and a **waymark post** on the right, take a short and **narrow path**, which forks off to the left ↙, to cross a tarmac drive at a small zebra crossing (take care).
- 28** 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.
- 29** From the lychgate go straight on ↑, past the **Queen's Head pub**, toward the **bus shelter** at **St Albans Road B651. M9** {TL 171 106}.
- 30** Cross the main road **WITH GREAT CARE** and walk a few metres to the right →, to the drive of **Pound Farm**.
- 31** Take the bridleway through Pound Farm ←, leaving the **large barn** to the left. Continue straight on ↑, following the bridleway gently uphill, taking the first entrance right, into the **carpark**.
- 32** Follow the path clockwise, to get back to your starting point.

CONGRATULATIONS ON FINISHING YOUR 5-MILE WALK

Now put your feet up and treat yourself to drinks and cakes whilst sending your experiences & photos for our website to us on oxfamstalbens1@gmail.com, and completing your fundraiser sheet.

Donation(s) to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/StAlbansOxfam>

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!