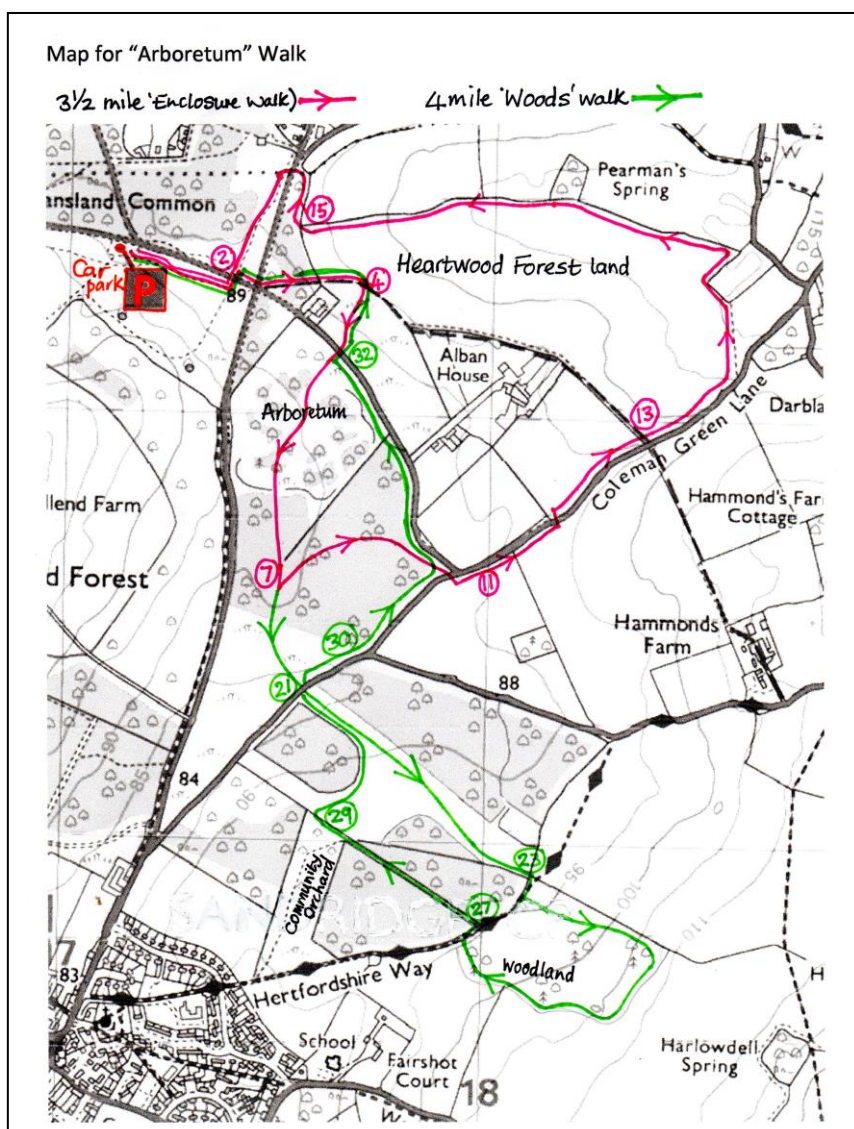


Oxfam Walk for Water – Philip’s Route in Heartwood Arboretum July 2020

A circular walk from Nomansland, with two options for distance,
either 3 ½ or 4 miles.



The route uses wide paths so it's easy to pass at a safe distance to others. Any narrow gates or gaps are noted. Take the precautions you normally would on country walks.

These instructions start at the Nomansland public car park (at the junction of Down Green Lane with Ferrers Lane) but if that was full, you could start from the small Public Car park opposite West End Farm on Ferrers Lane. That will add an extra 0.4 mile to walk to the main carpark.

Walk in Heartwood Arboretum and beyond

1. Park at the Nomansland Public Car park; from the car park, with your back to Ferrers lane, turn left and walk eastwards along grassy Nomansland Common aiming for the road signs and red bin in the distance ahead, near the main B651 road.
2. By the red bin, cross Ferrers Lane with care to arrive at a small enclosure, turn right and walk alongside Ferrers Lane to arrive at the B651 by a pair of wooden posts. Cross the B651 WITH EXTRA CARE as traffic can be moving fast.
3. Take the footpath leading straight on, going slightly uphill through woodland, arrive at a field and a Heartwood Forest sign.
4. Keep on the path across the field and towards a large tree for 100 yds until you can turn right and walk downhill on a grassy track towards a kissing gate (KG) and road (Drovers Lane). Ahead on the opposite hillside you can see the groups of trees in the Arboretum.

5. Cross the lane with care, go through another KG and continue straight ahead up the slope on a grassy track. Arrive at Welcome sign for Heartwood Arboretum, "Thank goodness for Trees", which describes the different groups of trees planted here.

6. Continue uphill (on the "Grand Ride"), past the other Welcome board and leave the Arboretum area; continue on the track, until you see ahead the houses at the north end of Sandridge village.

7. Go on a short distance, watching for a junction where another wide grassy track joins in on your left.

Choose here between turning left for the Enclosure walk (3½ miles) – see 8 to 19 below, red line on map.

Or going straight on for the Hertfordshire Way and Sandridge wood (4 miles)- go to instruction 20 below, green line on map.

Option 1: Enclosure walk

8. Turn left on the grassy track and follow it gently downhill past a bench and memorial stone (Walt Whitman quote

9. Curve right as you get to the bottom of the field; another track joins from the left. Follow the hedge moving slightly uphill to a KG at the corner of the field.

10. Go through the KG, emerging onto Colemans Green Lane at its junction with Drovers Lane.

11. Turning left, cross the end of Drovers Lane and continue up Coleman Green lane for about ¼ mile until at a KG on the left you can go back into the field, which is now once again Heartwood Forest property.

12. Turn right and follow the grassy track which keeps close to the boundary hedge.

13. Cross the Hertfordshire way bridleway and continue along the boundary hedge, going up a broad grassy slope past a fenced off enclosure on the left where young trees are growing.

14. Continue to follow the Heartwood boundary as it curves round, with the enclosed area to your left. After curving past two small open fields on your right, you turn the corner of the wire enclosure and have a well-established boundary line of trees to follow for over ½ mile.

15. At the very corner of the field, where it meets a wooded area, look for a small gap into the trees, go in and after a few yards go left where the wire fence is flattened and onto an earthen path.

16. Turn right onto this path and follow it until it emerges onto the side of the B651 near the Wicked Lady pub.

17. Cross the road with great care onto the cricket pitch.

18. Turn left and walk parallel to the road, past the semi-circular seat with the historic puddingstone behind it, until you come to Ferrers Lane. (same place as you crossed at No 2)

19. Cross Ferrers Lane with care, turn right and return along the grass of Nomansland to the car park.

Option 2: Hertfordshire way and Sandridge woodland.

(From Instruction 7 above, junction of tracks):

20. Carry straight on as the grassy track curves away downhill, eventually leading to a KG on Coleman Green lane.

21. Cross the lane with care and go through another KG. You are in a broad grassy meadow area with areas of young trees on both sides. Follow the grassy track straight ahead and slightly uphill, heading towards the left hand side of a mature wood in the distance.
22. About halfway to the wood, keep left at a division of ways. The curving path eventually heads towards a narrow section between tall bushes.
23. Follow path and arrive at a T-junction with the Hertfordshire Way track on the edge of the wood.
24. Turn right and follow Hertfordshire way for about 100yds, until paths on the left lead into a small clearing in the wood.
25. Follow this path from the end of the clearing round the perimeter of the wood (There is a large fallen tree at one point, but a little path leads around it)
26. Eventually your path re-emerges onto the Hertfordshire Way. Cross the path to the grassy verge; turn right and follow it, walking beside a low wire fence.
27. After 50 yds turn a corner and follow the grassy track with the wire fence and young trees to your left and a hedgerow on your right.
28. Coming to an open area planted with young fruit trees on the left (The Community Orchard), continue to follow the hedgerow on your right.
29. At a break in the hedge and a T-junction of tracks, turn right and follow the curving track. Soon you have an enclosure of young trees on the left.
30. At a division of ways keep left on the smaller path, keeping close to the tree enclosure (Aspen trees?) This leads you downhill and back to the kissing and Coleman Green lane (as at No 21). Cross the lane with care.
30. Go through the other KG and turn right, to follow the boundary of the field on a grassy track. (Essentially you are now heading round the field perimeter until the place where you entered the Arboretum back at instruction 5)
31. Approaching the first corner of the field, you can keep left on a small track and continue along the field boundary. A broad track leads away uphill at one stage, but keep to the hedge.
32. Arriving at a KG, cross the lane with care. You will now be retracing the first half mile of your walk. Walk uphill on the curving grassy track until a T-junction with a bridleway.
33. Here turn left and leave the field (going past a Heartwood sign). Follow downhill through woodland to the side of the busy B651 road by two wooden posts.
34. Cars move at some speed here so watch carefully and cross with care to wooden posts on the other side.
35. Walk straight ahead, by the side on Ferrers lane, until level with a small enclosure; here turn left and cross Ferrers Lane with due care.
36. Turn right and walk along grassy Nomansland Common until you reach the car park again.

Congratulations on finishing your walk. We hope you have enjoyed it.

Let us have photos and feedback on oxfamstalbans1@gmail.com