

2.5-mile and 4-mile Mini Hikes, through Heartwood Forest

With yellow route signs

Routes checked and route description revised 10 September 2021

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

- The walk starts at the Scout Hut in Heartwood Forest, Sandridgebury Lane, Sandridge, St Albans, **AL3 6JB**, but use the adjacent Heartwood Forest carpark, the nearest postcode is **AL4 9DQ**. The carpark opens at 8.00 and closes at 20.00. Follow the yellow signs to the Scout Hut. There is also nearby parking in Sandridge, off the main road. Please share a car or use public transport if you can, as weekends can be busy.
- **The Scout Hut will close at 17.00.** Allow plenty of time for parking, registration, the walk itself, some stops, and tea&cake on your return.
- The **± 4-mile** route takes about 1.5 hours at a steady pace and without a break, so we advise you to you **start your walk between 10.00 and 14.00.**
- At **point 12** you can take a shortcut straight to the Scout Hut. This is the **± 2.5-mile** route, which takes about 1 hour at a steady pace, without a break, and we suggest you **start your walk between 10.00 and 14.30.**
- We ask you to **follow current Government Covid Guidelines** on wearing masks, social distancing, and sanitising, in the Scout Hut as well as during your walk. **If you prefer not to come in, call one of the numbers below, and we will come outside to register you.**
- **In case of emergency, or if you will not return to the Scout Hut to check out,** it is important to call Sue Cockell on **07535 695744**, or Wilma Mendonca on **07305 807288.**
- **Bring your own** copy(s) of this route description, water, packed lunch, snacks, sunscreen, hat, anorak, a small first-aid kit, and a fully charged mobile phone. Also bring some cash for tea&cake and for purchases at the St Albans Oxfam shop stall, and your bank details to make your Walk for Water donation on JustGiving. We have no card-reader.
- In the route description, the arrows **← ↖ ↑ ↗ →** indicate your direction, and also the approximate positions of the **yellow route signs** that you will see on your way.
- There is one **Check Point, C1.** The location is underlined in this route description.
- ***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}.

Enjoy your walk!

Section 1: Scout Hut to Check Point C1, follow yellow Herts Hike signs.

- 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 ↑ entering the **Magical Wood**, passing the **Mouse carving** and then the **Woodland Arch** on your left as you go.
- 6 At the corner of **Puddler's Wood** in front of you, cross straight over another track ↑, continue ahead with the wood on your left and a young wood on your right, until a gate marked with a small plaque saying '**Brian's gate**' on your right.
- 7 Turn right through this gate →, and follow the broad grassy path, passing between a **memorial stone for Brian & Brenda** and a **bench**, to another gate, which is 'Brenda's gate'. Go through, turn left on the track for a few yards to the edge of a wood.
- 8 Turn right →, continuing on the grass ↑, between a wood on the left and a young wood on the right.
- 9 Going downhill, you can see **Check Point C1** {TL 162 122} in a shady space. **Please show your walker number to the Marshal.**

Section 2: Check Point C1 to Scouthut, follow yellow Herts Hike signs

10 CAUTION – ROUTES DIVIDE HERE!

- 11 **The 5, 8, 15 & 20-milers turn right, whilst the 2.5 & 4-mile walkers turn left ←** for a few yards. The yellow sign shows which direction you go - don't just follow the people in front!
- 12 Go straight on ↑ into **Round Wood**, between the wood and a fence on the left, and a thick hedge on the right. After about 10 yards, at the end of the wood, ignore the path on the left.
- 13 Continue downhill with a field on the left and the hedge on your right, to the boundary hedge at the bottom of the hill. Once there, turn left ← onto the track, with a young wood on the left and a thick hedge on your right. Continue for about 0.7 mile, passing a field with a **bench** in the distance on your left, until you come to a kissinggate. Go through ↑, onto a bridleway.
- 14 **!! Here, the 2.5-mile walkers turn left** uphill and follow the bridleway passing **Well Wood** on the left, through the **Magic Wood**, past **Langley Wood** on the right. **!! Now skip to number 24**, where the 4-milers join the 2.5-mile walkers from **steps** on the right.
!! The 4-mile walkers cross the main bridleway diagonally, going through another kissing gate ↑, where immediately the path forks.

- 15 Aim for the railway line by taking the left fork, which leads across a field diagonally ↖, first with a wire fence and then also with a young wood on your left.
- 16 Where the bridleway curves to the left continue for about 0.5 mile, first uphill ↑ with the fence on your left and the **railway** on your right. Soon there is a young wood on both sides.
- 17 At the end of the bridleway go through the right-hand gate ↑, down a slope, and turn left ← along a narrow track with hedges on both sides. Continue for about 0.5 mile.
- 18 Go through the kissing gate on your left ↑, into **Pismire Spring**, past a **Heartwood Forest board** on your right.
- 19 Go straight on, following the hedge on your right, and up-hill into a young wood.
- 20 Just after the path curves to the left, take the first path to the right, entering the gate ↑ to **Langley Wood**.
- 21 **Turn immediately left ←**, on a path with a **rope** on the left and an area for building wooden **dens and camps** on your right.
- 22 At the T junction turn left ← onto an **enforced, roped off** path. Through the trees you will see the light of the edge of the wood on your left.
- 23 Keep on this path, ignoring the following: a path on the right; an exit on the left; and a path on the left that leads to another exit. Then passing a **sunken area** on the left.
- 24 At the **bench** turn right, ignore another two exits on the left and one path on the right, go straight on where two paths cross, until you reach a **corner of the wood at an exit with steps**.
- 25 Go down the steps and turn right → onto the bridal way.
- 26 Continue downhill and soon turn right → onto the drive of the **Scout Hut**, and turn right → through the Scout Hut he gate.

CONGRATULATIONS ON FINISHING YOUR WALK

Please go inside to register your arrival, hand in your sponsorship money/donation(s) or make a transfer to

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Oxfam-St-Albans1>

Give us feed-back, and treat yourself to drinks and cakes whilst sending us your experiences & photos for our website on oxfamstalbans1@gmail.com

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

We hope you enjoyed your walk, and we look forward to seeing you on

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2022

Do save the date!