

## **5-mile route description**

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

**Adapted route description for use during the coronavirus pandemic**

***Route checked and route description revised 10 September 2021***

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

### **Please note:**

- This route contains areas that may be challenging for social distancing, especially at busy times. Therefore, **narrow sections are marked in red.**
- 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 **± 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.**
- 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, secateurs (if you wear shorts), 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.
- There are two **Check Points, C1 and C2.**
- There will be **no yellow Herts Hike route signs** after **C1**, but the arrows in this route description **← ↖ ↑ ↗ →** indicate your direction.
- **Benches, café's and pubs** are highlighted in **italic**, and **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.

- 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 spot. **Please show your walker number to the Marshal.**

## Section 2: Check Point C1 to Hammonds Farm

### 10 CAUTION – ROUTES DIVIDE HERE!

- 11 The 2.5 & 4-milers turn left, whilst the 5, 8, 15 & 20-mile walkers turn right →.  
**Don't just follow the people in front!** Continue along the boundary of Heartwood, passing a **bench** set back on your right, until you reach a **Woodland Trust kissing gate** {TL163 123}.
- 12 Go through the gate ↑, down the path for a few metres and then branch right ↗ walking towards the open space of **Nomansland Common**, from where you can see **Check Point C2** in a shady spot. **Please show your walker number to the Marshall.**
- 13 Walk along the Common for ± 0.5 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 {TL175 124} near the far-left corner of the Common, (The **Highstreet B651** lies ahead of you).
- 14 Once there, turn left ← to cross **Ferrers Lane WITH GREAT CARE** at the road sign '**Give Way–50 yds**'.
- 15 **CAUTION – ROUTES DIVIDE HERE!** At a small **enclosure** the 8, 15 & 20-milers go **straight on**, whilst the 5-mile walkers turn right → and walk alongside Ferrers Lane 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 fast.

- 17 Take the footpath leading straight on ↑, going slightly uphill through a wood, passing a **Heartwood Forest sign**.
- 18 Keep on this path ↑ across a field with a young wood on your left, and soon with a hedge on your right. Through this hedge you may see **Alban House** in the distance, and then, as it thickens, a small pond. Behind this lies **Nomansland Farm** garden and buildings.
- 19 Continue on your path ↑, which bends to the right and soon to the left, and then under **telegraph wires**, 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 When there, the path curves left towards the 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. 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 the drive to 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 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 ↑. Soon the Hertfordshire Way emerges from the wood, bending sharply to the left, and then continues straight on ↑, with the wood on the left, and a young wood with a fence on the right.
- 27 Passing a **small pond** on the left, you reach the corner of the wood, and the **houses of Sandridge** come into view. Carry straight on ↑ through a field to **Langley Grove**. Cross the road **WITH CARE** ↑ onto a **narrowing footpath**.
- 28 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).
- 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**, toward the **bus shelter at St Albans Road B651**.
- 31 Cross the main road **WITH GREAT CARE** and walk a few yards to the right →, 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, 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, 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](mailto: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!**