

## Three Forests Way

### Trailman guide #3

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#### Route update as at March 2026

- Page 4 last par: the café by the river at Roydon is now closed.
- Page 6 par 6 make sure you turn left on the *second* path after crossing the brook, not the one immediately beside it. The waymarker at 60 metres has now gone.
- Page 8 The second tea hut at High Beach is no more.
- last par first line change 'Forest Way' to 'Three Forests Way'. (The two routes are identical here – the perils of cut-and-paste, this time from Trailman guide #2.)
- Page 10 par 1: the marker post of the first sentence has fallen; the author moved it out of the undergrowth, but it may fall again. It is in a place where there is a three metre gap in the hedgerow. In any case, no path had been left for the right-of-way, and the only practical alternative was to follow the headland at the left of the field all the way to the Cobbin's Brook crossing.
- par 2: the marker post that marks the earth bridge was not visible in June 2023. The earth bridge is roughly half way between the two electricity pylons.
- par 3: the post beckoning you through nettles has now gone.
- par 4: the Traveller's Friend pub is now permanently closed.
- par 5: Epping Green is served by buses that run between Harlow town centre, Roydon village and the Epping town centre. They no longer serve Loughton.
- last par: as noted above, the pub is now closed. If the footbridge is badly overgrown, go through a gap just beyond instead.
- Page 11 last par: there is now no road sign for Hamlet Hill.
- Page 12 pars 1 and 2: the stile in par 1 is not broken; that in par 2 has gone.
- par 4: the gate is now a gap. It seems that many locals don't take the downhill path through trees, but stay on the left of the field. It's not a right of way, but does avoid the boggy patch.
- par 5: the marker on line 3 was not visible in December '25. Stay about 100 metres above a line of trees.
- par 6: the gate past stables has gone. Just turn right onto a path beside a gate.
- Page 13 par 1: the café at Roydon Lock is now closed.
- Page 14 par 6: the third sentence will read better as: After going over two footbridges and through a gate, the path eventually swings to the left ...
- last par: keep the fence on your right as you enter the park. Also, there are plenty of other trees in the avenue, notably horse chestnut and lime.
- Page 15 last par, three lines from the end: from the kissing gate that you don't go through, the path has now become a boardwalk which runs all the way to the Navigation.
- Page 17 Note that the Crown pub in Sheering has now closed. The Cock is still going strong, and is indeed the author's local.
- Page 18 par 5 line 3 delete the words 'turn right and soon'.
- last par delete and replace as follows.
- Cross the road, continue over a footbridge and keep a wooden fence on your right. At the fence corner cross a field veering very slightly to your right, and where the field ends continue on a path between bushes. You soon come out into

an open field, turning left onto its broad headland. Where this ends at a marker post by fallen logs, bear half right towards a footbridge, and cross it to enter a meadow, keeping between fences.

Page 19 par 1 last sentence change 'continue to another gate' to 'continue ahead'.

par 2 last line change 'left then right' to 'right then left'.

last par change second sentence to: 'Continue ahead on a grass path through the centre of the grassland.'

Page 21 par 3 line 3 the broken stile is now a fence gap, and the track is now a grass path beside rough ground.

par 4 line 1 delete the words 'across a field'. Last two sentences, change to: After a right turn, don't go through the farm gate. When you come to a road, turn right onto it.

par 5 line 1 there are now blue bollards on both sides of the road. You need to join the roadside path at the set of bollards on your right.

Page 21 par 5 line 4 change to: ... cross a field and turn left. Keep the hedgerow ...

Page 23 par 1 The field after Culliss Cottage will too often be one where the farmer / landowner has made no effort to leave a path for the right of way. You need to head across it, passing the central of the three electricity poles in the field.

par 2, note that the wooden marker post has now fallen into the ditch.

par 4: the 'next marker' in line 4 has fallen. The right turn is about 50 metres from the left turn at the end of the wood.

Page 26 par 2: the 'rather scruffy' path behind houses can be avoided by walking beside it in recreation ground. Note that the dog-leg from the Scout Hall across the field then sharp right leads you nearly back to the Hall!

par 5: the house is now out of sight because of leaf cover, aim instead for the clipped hedge that surrounds it.

par 6: take great care when dropping down to the A414, there are steps but they may be covered by vegetation.

Page 27 par 2 end the second sentence with the words '... at a marker on your left, keep the adjacent hedgerow on your left'.

par 5 third sentence change to: ... later continuing on a road and then turning left at the Rodney Road sign.

Page 28 par 2 the marker in the first line has fallen over.

Page 29 par 2 the gap behind the church now has a gate; cross the field to a second gate and now turn left onto the track. If the 'scruffy headland' is too scruffy or muddy, there is a better headland on the other side of the hedgerow, to a gap further up the hill, but it is not a right of way.

par 3 walk to the hut, not just towards it.

Page 30 last par: the first two fields after the kissing gate are now enclosed; keep to the fenced path.

Page 32 par 1: it's important to turn left onto the broad track when you reach it.

par 2: change sentences 2, 3 and 4 to: You will follow this path past three more signposts. At a fourth, turn left to reach an information board. Turn right onto a track here, then in about 250 metres turn left through vertical posts to join a green path running roughly parallel to the track. Stay on this until it reaches a gate. Cross to another gate and continue on the track running through it. [This is because the start of the green path is now badly overgrown, and where it ends the 'Chigwell Row' signpost has disappeared.]

Page 33 last par: the stile mentioned three lines from the end now serves no function.

Page 34 par 2. There is now an alternative to the mile beside the A113 and A1168, far preferable to the original route. When you reach the main road, turn left instead of right. Approaching a roundabout, cross the road, and take the first left (Grange Farm Lane). This becomes more rural, with Chigwell Meadows nature reserve to the left. Cross the M11 by a bridge and enter Roding Valley Meadows nature reserve; keep ahead, cross Charlie Moull bridge over the Roding, and rejoin the original route.

Page 34 par 3: it's easier now to cross the A1168 at the first set of lights, then immediately again to the Chigwell Lane sign.

Page 35 line 1: it's Charlie Moull, not Moules.