



The Forest of Mercia Timberland Trail



DIFFICULTY RATING MODERATE

5hrs

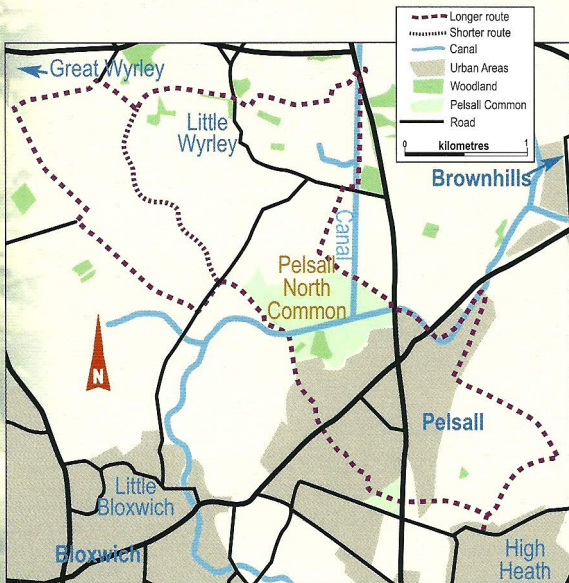
Ordnance Survey start point: **SK015042**
Birmingham A to Z start point: **page 20D2**



The Forest of Mercia Timberland Trail is one of twelve Trails in Community Forests which have been sponsored by The Timberland clothing company.

The Forest of Mercia Timberland Trail is a 10 mile circular route (8 miles taking the shorter but more difficult Cadmans Lane route) based on rights of way and canal tow paths which would have been used as routes to work by

local miners, iron workers and farmers. The trail has opened up routes between villages and being located in the area of Pelsall and Great Wyrley it is easily accessible to people from the Black Country and South Staffordshire.



Long Walks

Please ensure that you only use recognised paths and Public Rights of Way.

Thanks to Trevor Antill for his help in researching this route.



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Wood Lane to Pelsall Middle Common

Starting at **Pelsall North Common** car park in **Wood Lane** (opposite the Free Trade Pub).

The gully comes out into **Norbury Avenue.**

Head South along **Wood Lane** until you reach the **A4124 Wolverhampton Rd.**

Cross the road and continue along **Chapel Street** to where

the road bends to the left.

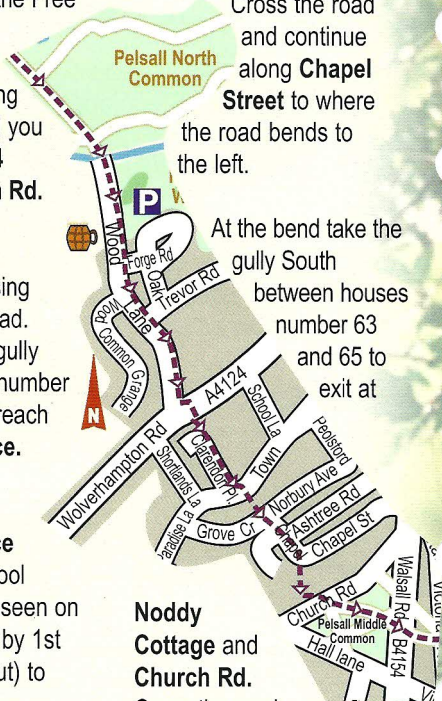
Turn left, to a pedestrian crossing and cross the road. Walk through a gully between house number 154 and 156 to reach **Clarendon Place.**

At the bend take the gully South between houses number 63 and 65 to exit at

Continue along **Clarendon Place** (Pelsall JMI school grounds can be seen on the left followed by 1st Pelsall scouts hut) to **Old Town Lane.**

Noddy Cottage and Church Rd. Cross the road onto **Pelsall Common**
Grid ref. 021031.

Turn left, again after a few paces cross the road and take the gully to the left of the Evangelical Church and running alongside house number 56.





Ordnance Survey start point: **SK021031**
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Pelsall Middle Common to Grange Farm

Starting on Pelsall Middle Common at **Church Road**. Take the track Eastward across the common, keeping the playground on your left. Continue until you reach the **Norton Road. B4154**

Cross the road and continue to the next road, **Victoria Road**.

Cross **Victoria Road** and follow the gully between the houses to meet **Station Rd**.

Turn right in **Station Road**, walk a short distance and take the footpath left across the disused railway line.

Take a small track down to the left to reach a stile. Over the stile walk across

two fields until you come to a track junction just beyond the boundary hedge of the second field (near the houses at **High Heath Grid ref. 029 029**) Take the track left (the track to the right leads to **High Heath** and **Shelfield**).



Enter the next field and turn immediately left, after passing through the next field boundary turn right.

Follow the edge of the field, keeping the hedge on your right until you come to a track junction. Turn left at this junction.

Long Walks

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Ordnance Survey start point: **SK034034**
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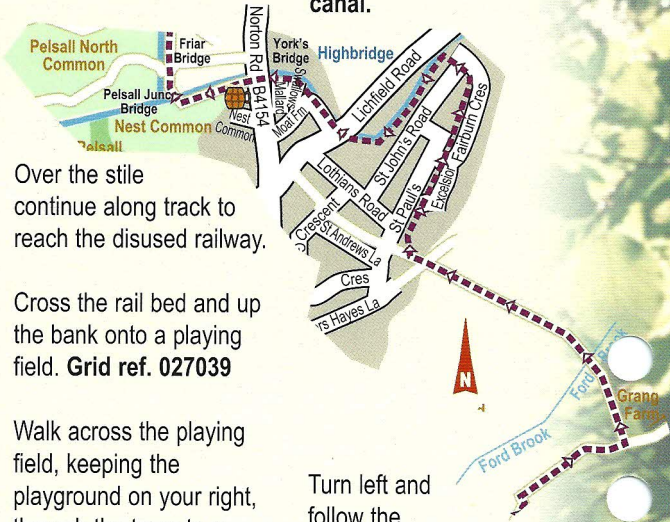
Grange Farm to Pelsall North Common

(If this section is walked separately, access to the starting point is from Coronation road, High Heath. Grid ref. 029028.)

Follow the path to the end of the estates, cross a road onto another playing field.

Start at **grid ref. 034034**
Head North along the track, crossing the Ford Brook, continue to a stile.

Turn left along the back of the houses and through a gap onto the tow path of the **Wyrley and Essington canal**.



Over the stile continue along track to reach the disused railway.

Cross the rail bed and up the bank onto a playing field. **Grid ref. 027039**

Walk across the playing field, keeping the playground on your right, through the trees to a surfaced path.

The path runs through the trees between two housing estates.

Turn left and follow the towpath under Yorks Bridge to Pelsall Junction Bridge. **Grid ref. 019044.** Turn right over the bridge.



Ordnance Survey start point: **SK019044**
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Pelsall North Common to Grove Colliery

Start at **Pelsall Junction Bridge**. Follow Cannock extension canal North to reach Pelsall Common bridge.

Leave the canal and cross over the bridge: continue past a small triangular piece of land on the right. Take the track to the right and follow the boundary of the common North West, keeping the boundary hedge on your right, until you reach a stile in the corner of the common.

After crossing the stile, follow the right hand boundary of the next field to a gap in the hedge. Turn right through the gap then cross another stile.

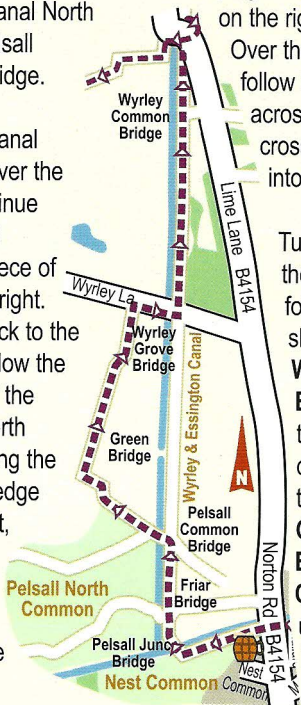
Take the track North keeping the line of trees on the right.

Over the next stile follow the line of trees across the field and cross another stile into **Wyrley Lane**.

Turn right along the lane and follow the road a short distance to **Wyrley Grove Bridge**. Take the track left down onto the towpath of the **Cannock Extension Canal**. Go North under **Pelsall Road Bridge**.

Leave the canal to meet the **B4154**.

Cross the bridge and turn left into the site of the former **Grove Colliery**.
Grid ref. 019062.



Long Walks

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Grove Colliery to Jacobs Hall

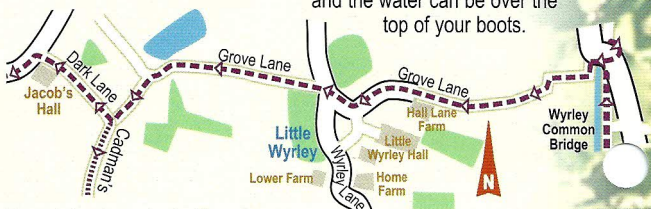
From the B4154 enter the site of the former **Grove Colliery**. Follow the old road right to cross a newer access road. Go left a short way then turn right over a ditch. There is a small building on the left. Keeping the building on your left, continue a short way past the building then turn left over a small ditch and on to an open plateau.

Cross the plateau and go down a bank, over a small bridge then turn right along an old green lane to **Little Wyrley Hall**. The gates to the hall are on the left.

Cross over the fence onto a track. To the left the track is known as **Cadmans Lane**, (the shorter more difficult route) to the right is **Dark Lane**.

Turn right along **Dark Lane**. Follow the track to reach **Jacobs Hall Lane**. Grid ref. **001062** Alternatively, follow the track left along **Cadmans Lane**, past **Fishley Charity Farm**, to rejoin the trail at **Fishley Lane**.

This route cuts out nearly two complete sections of the main trail. It is a much more difficult route as it follows the course of **Wash Brook** for about 100 metres and the water can be over the top of your boots.



Bear right along the hall's access road and continue to **Wyrley Lane**. Cross the lane then go over a stile into a field. Cross the field and another stile, continue to a bridge over **Wash Brook**.

Cross over **Wash Brook**, continue a short distance then turn left along a hedged green lane. Follow the green lane South West to a fence with a stone step stile.

***Fishley Charity Farm** earned its name from a 17th century charity, set up in the will of William Parker who left £200 for a fund to provide work for the of Walsall parish. Over the years the fund merged with other funds and in 1970 was renamed as the Fishley Educational and Apprenticing Fund. Rent from Fishley Farm went into the fund, hence the name Fishley Charity Farm.*





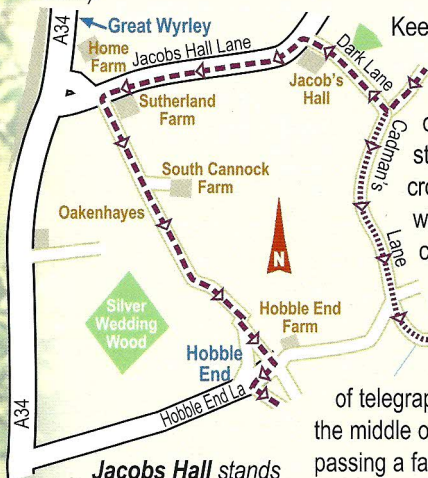
Ordnance Survey start point: **SK001062**
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Jacobs Hall to Hobble End

Starting at the junction of the track known as **Dark Lane**, walk South West along the lane past **Jacobs Hall** until you reach a track off to the left between Sutherland Farm and house number 32 (Care should be taken as there are no footpaths along the lane until you reach the houses).

given to the Misses Jacobs at the time of the 17th century great plague.

Follow the track to the left down to what was **South Cannock Farm**. Here two gates cross the track. To the right of each gate is a stile. Cross the two stiles into a field.



Jacobs Hall stands at the meeting of three parishes, Wyrley, Bloxwich and Norton. It was built in 1666 of baked brick with no timber framing and was

Keeping the fence to your right, follow the edge of the field to a stile. Over the stile cross the field to where a bridge crosses a ditch. Cross over the bridge then follow the line of telegraph poles across the middle of the field passing a farm storage area on the left. Cross two stiles to come out into **Hobble End Lane**. Grid ref. **999 052**. **Hobble End Farm** buildings are to the left.

Long Walks

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Ordnance Survey start point: **SK999052**
Birmingham A to Z start point: **page 7 H6**

Hobble End to Wood Lane

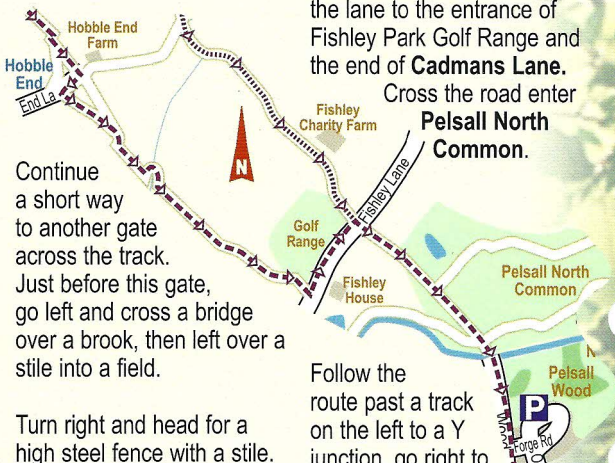
Starting in **Hobble End Lane**. Walk South West towards a house, which is on the right hand side of the lane. Before the house, take a track left, keeping the fence on your right to reach a gateway to an open storage area. To the right of the gateway cross a stile.

Again keeping the fence to the right, walk to the corner of the field to cross a fence into a wood.

Follow the path a short way through the wood to emerge into a field. Follow the hedge on the left to a stile. Over the stile there is a short track to **Fishley Lane**. Turn left along the lane to the entrance of Fishley Park Golf Range and the end of **Cadmans Lane**.

Cross the road enter **Pelsall North Common**.

Follow the route past a track on the left to a Y junction, go right to cross a bridge into Wood Lane. Walk along Wood Lane to the car park (opposite the **Free Trade Pub**). **Grid ref. 015042**.



Continue a short way to another gate across the track. Just before this gate, go left and cross a bridge over a brook, then left over a stile into a field.

Turn right and head for a high steel fence with a stile. There is another stile after this, which leads into a field. Continue over the highest point of the hill to a fence on the far side. Turn left keeping the fence on the right, follow the edge of the field, over a stile into another field.

