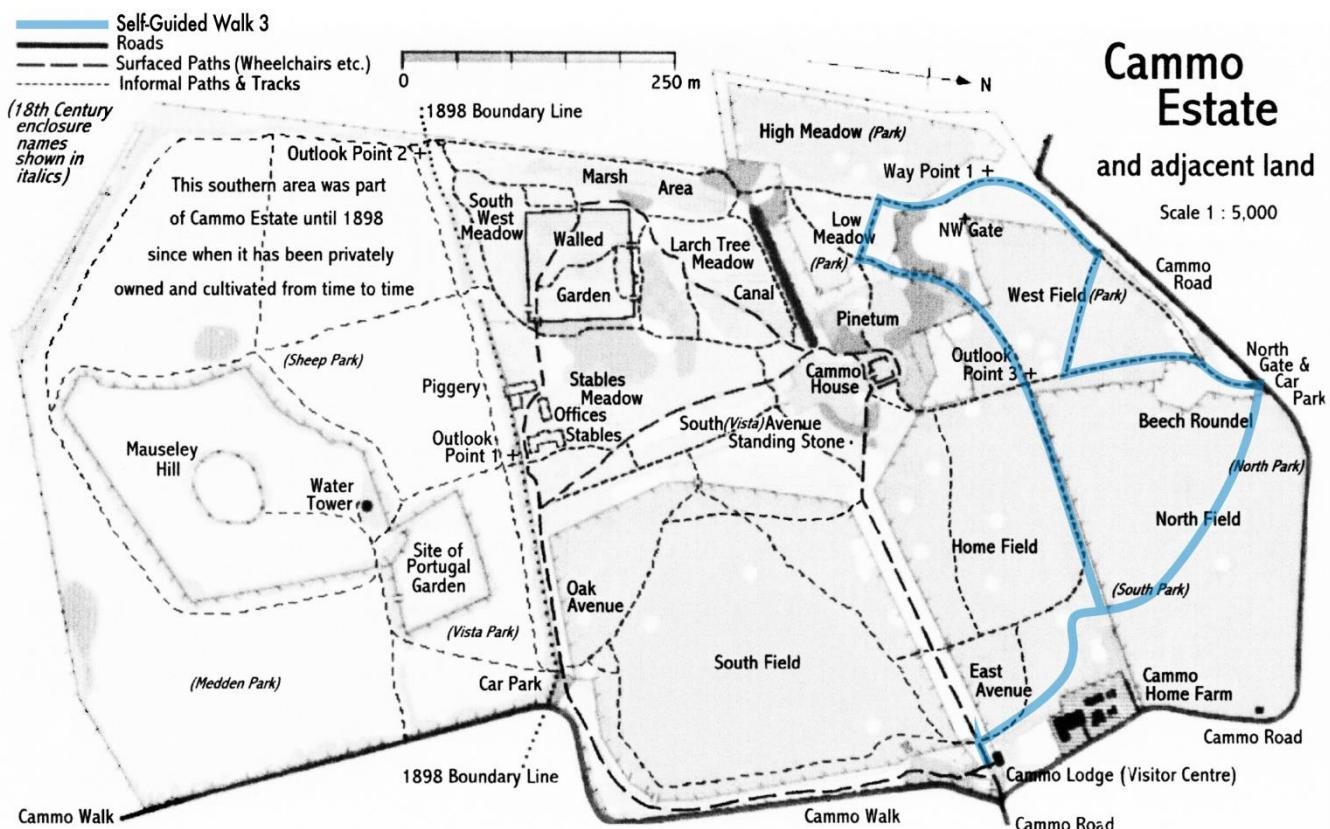


Self-Guided Walk 3 – Nature Walk £1

This walk of 1.5km is mostly on unsurfaced paths

Visitor Centre - Home/North Fields - North Gate - West Field - Low Meadow - Wildflower - Home Field - Visitor Centre



1. **Cammo Lodge (Visitor Centre):** Cammo Lodge was constructed in 1789 to serve as a gatehouse at the entrance to Cammo Estate and the ruined building converted to a visitor centre in 1992. For more information about the entrance and Lodge see Walk 1.
2. **Home Field:** Go a short distance up the main drive and turn right past the small fenced area into Home Field. There is a big new white house on your right, on the site of Cammo Home Farm. Cross the bottom of the field diagonally to a gap in the big hedgerow on the other side of which is North Field. As you go, notice the young field trees (oaks) planted by the Friends. These are heavily mulched every autumn to stop the field grass competing with the trees and to feed the trees and keep moisture in the ground. All the young field trees have been grown from acorns and other seeds collected in Cammo. Many of the acorns came from the big old oak that you will see in the centre of North Field.
3. **North Field:** Once you are through the big hedgerow, cross North Field diagonally up to the North Gate. As you cross the field, look out for a very important native plant growing in the grass. This is yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*). It is a short plant (up to 25cm) with serrated leaves and hooked yellow flowers. It is a very helpful plant because it parasitizes the grasses in the field and creates space for other flowering plants to grow. Wherever it is growing, there are also lots of buttercups and white clover which the bumblebees love. In the middle of North Field look out for the big old oak that is mostly dead now. The dead wood is really important for beetles and birds like woodpeckers. Next to this oak are three of its “children” planted by the Friends to replace it when it finally dies.



4. **North Gate:** After you pass the North Gate, turn left along the path towards Cammo House, initially with a fence on your left and then with hedgerows either side. As you go, see if you can identify some of the hedgerow bushes. There are hawthorn, bird cherry, blackthorn, crab apple, holly, Scots pine, sallow willows and dog rose too. Turn right just before the big old lime tree.

5. **West Field:** As soon as you turn right into West Field, if you look to your right, the long, flat area is wildflower. In the summer it is alive with bumblebees and honey bees (we have our own Cammo honey bees in the walled garden!) feeding on the yellow bird's foot trefoil and the knapweed. In the banks either side there is lots of tansy which has button-like yellow flowers and a strong smell. Carry on over the brow of the hill. On your left is an area of young trees planted to create a new patch of woodland (the Friends again). There are the two British oak species – sessile and pedunculate – as well as lime and goat willow. The willows are really important as an early source of pollen for the queen bumblebees in the spring. At the bottom, turn left and go up the slope through the trees to join the boundary path and there turn left to climb the slope. As you descend, you pass a grove of yew trees on your left that was originally an entrance feature just inside the old North West Gate, and contains an older tree dating from 1715.



6. **Low Meadow:** Continue to where there are two perch seats between High and Low Meadows. From there you can look up the hill into High Meadow and see an old sweet chestnut. Either side of the seats is a new hedgerow with hazel, yew, blackthorn, guelder rose, hawthorn and more goat willow. Further along, just downhill from the path, is one of the largest oaks in Cammo; it is recorded as the oldest tree in Cammo, dating from 1669. Turn left at the seats and go down the slope through Low Meadow and just before you reach the Pinetum, turn left and go through trees.

7. **Wildflower:** The path goes past/under big pines and lime trees and comes out between two hedgerows. Once past these, there is a very old broken ash on the left dating from 1720 and originally part of the tree line along the old Braehead to Leny road. As you go over the brow of the hill, there are two other patches of wildflower on your left and right. These have around 50 species of native wildflower in them including scabious, foxglove, lady's bedstraw and selfheal. There is a wildflower information panel on the left.



8. **Home Field:** Go straight on past two perch seats on your left and down Home Field with the big hedgerow on your left. This was also planted by the Friends and has bigger trees (white willow, gean, walnut and oak) at the back with shrubs like hawthorn and blackthorn nearer the path. There are also three bays of wildflower with banks of taller plants between them and the hedgerow. These taller herbs (mugwort and tansy) have lots of seed in the autumn that bullfinches and goldfinches love. As you cross the bottom of Home Field to end the walk, notice the young trees and shrubs planted in front of the new house. These are, again, planted for biodiversity and include Scots pine, aspen and dog rose, amongst many others.



Finish the walk back at the **Visitor Centre**. We hope you have enjoyed your walk. If you would like to help the Friends of Cammo with their environmental work, then you can pick up a membership form from the box near the gate.

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