

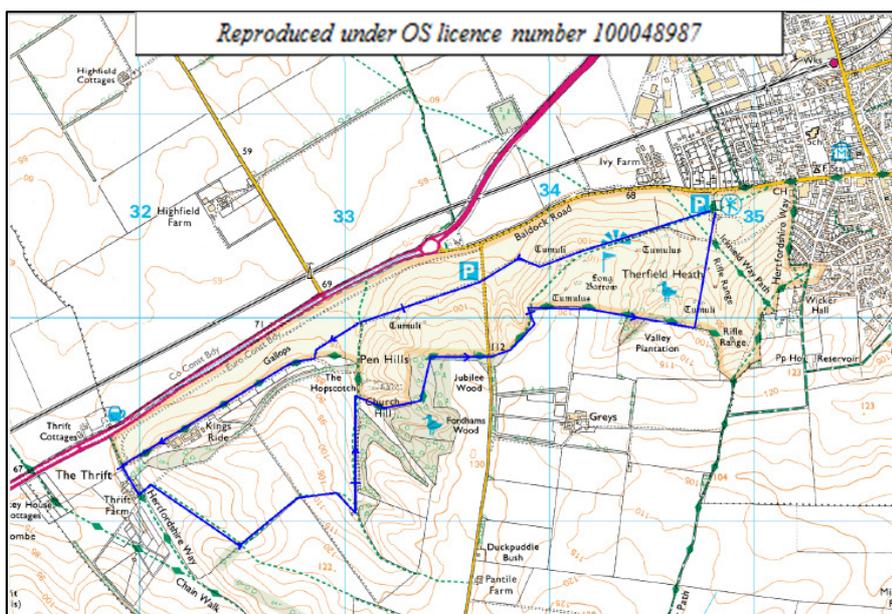
## Therfield Heath and beyond

This walk was contributed by Royston Group. Length: 3 or 5 miles.

Description by **David Allard**.

Therfield Heath extends for almost 2½ miles and this walk takes us to the end of the Heath and across farmland beyond. As the name indicates the Heath is in the parish of Therfield but reaches down to Royston and our walk starts from the Heath Sports Club off the Baldock Road opposite Heathfield.

Cross the car park to join a clear chalk path which runs parallel to the Baldock Road going away from Royston. Pass to the right of One Hill where there is a seat in memory of Herbert John Haywood. If you decide to climb this hill for the view, return afterwards to the chalk path which will be seen to run behind a line of bushes. Very soon you will reach a plinth erected by the Rotary Club of Royston with a donation from A.F. 'Alfie' Deards supported by Hertfordshire County Council and the Countryside Management Service. This shows the points of the compass indicating various locations in Cambridgeshire and on a clear day the avenue leading up to Wimpole Hall is clearly visible. On the other side of the path can be seen grass covered Bronze Age burial mounds dating back from 2200 BC to 700 BC. Continue on the path, crossing the Therfield road and passing through a small car park. Not far after this a footpath will be seen crossing our path. This starts at a gate on the Baldock Road and, if you wish to shorten your walk here from 5 miles to 3 miles, turn left and continue to the bottom of Church Hill. Then continue as indicated in the final paragraph.



Otherwise continue straight ahead past Hole 13 on one's left and then continue beside the hedge on the left to the end of the Heath just beyond John Jenkins' racing stables. At the end of the Heath, turn left through Thrift Farm and, at the far side, take a track left for a very short distance before taking a footpath half-right across a field to a point between a line of trees and a hedge. The path should be clearly visible but, if not, walk across the field to the point indicated. Here turn left on a wide grass path with a hedge on your right. You are now walking on a route parallel to the Heath going back towards Royston. There are good views. At the end of the

grass path, take a path across another field, half-right. Again the path should be clear but, if not, walk across the field and you will pass the ruin of Wing Hall, which was probably originally a small dwelling, to cross a stile onto a grass track. Here turn left and follow the track over a stile, across a narrow grass field, across a further stile to the bottom of Church Hill.

Go through a metal squeeze stile, then turn left and climb to the top of Church Hill. The Medieval Devil's Hopscotch can be seen to the left between Church Hill and Pen Hill. In times past sheep were herded into pens here. Continue forward past a sign into The Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve where turn left and continue forward to another sign at the other end to the right. The path continues to the Therfield road. Cross the road and follow a footpath which becomes a cinder path put in by the Golf Club. At the corner of the hedge, take a narrow path uphill beside the hedge and follow this along the edge of the golf course. In due course descend steps (take care!) and at the bottom, turn left and, in due course, you will see the Heath Sports Club ahead and the end of your walk.

