Parks and Beyond

Welcome to THE FIRS

Did you know you can walk to Southern Country Park from here? Take a stroll, leave the car at home and explore Southern Country Park and beyond.

This is one of five parks in the south west corner of Bishop's Stortford that are linked together by 'Parks and Beyond' circular walks. Follow the waymarked (green and orange) traffic free routes along grassy footpaths, bridleways and tarmaced paths; and look out for similar interpretation panels at Southern Country Park, Northern Parkland, Thorley Wedge and Bishop's Park.

WINDHILL

YOU ARE HERE

N

Metres
0   50

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SCOTT ROAD

CEMETERY

WAYTEMORE ROAD

WAYTEMORE ROAD

Key

- ○ ○ Orange Route
- ▬ Tarmaced Path
- 🗑 Litter Bin
- Dog Bin
- Interpretation Panel

Inset map

Bishop's Park

Northern Parkland

GREAT HADHAM RD

YOU ARE HERE

The Firs

VILLIERS-SUR-MARNE AVE

PIGGOTTS WAY

ST JAMES WAY

FRIEDBERG AVE

THORLEY HILL

N

0   200
Metres (approx)

Thorley Wedge

Car Park

ST JAMES WAY

Southern Country Park

Key

- ● ● Green Route - 2.6 miles
- ○ ○ Orange Route - 3.2 miles
- ▫▫ Footpath
- ▬ ▬ Bridleway
- Interpretation Panel

PARKS & BEYOND
East Herts Council
www.eastherts.gov.uk

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Speckled Wood *Courtesy of Bob Cliff*

The Firs is a broad woodland pathway lined with lime, pink chestnut and fir trees. It was planted in the early 1900s, and was intended to be a private, tree-lined avenue leading from Great Hadham Road to a large mansion which Sir Walter Gilbey planned to build at the Cox's Farm, at the top of Havers Lane. Three avenues were planned, with a lodge house and large gates at the start of each. These were all built (the lodges housed Sir Walter's servants) but only the lodge at 52 Thorley Lane survives.

The beginning of the 1st World War prevented work on the mansion starting: Sir Walter died in November 1914, after which his plans were abandoned. The Firs is the only avenue to survive – and is only part of the original pathway, the rest being removed to make way for housing.

The 1.32 hectare (3.11 acre) linear strip is a popular route to the local college, schools and into Bishop's Stortford. Most of the site is managed by East Herts Council with a small part behind the cemetery being managed by Bishop's Stortford Town Council.

Produced by Fitzpatrick**Woolmer** · 0800 130 3630