

Preservation Society Theydon Bois & Epping Forest Walks
TB&DRPS Walk 02: - 'Earthworks – Ancient and Modern'

Route (see Map below):

From Village Hall turn right then right again up Piercing Hill.
Opposite Morgan Crescent, cross into forest and follow the Genesis Slade stream.
Cross stream at first bridge and proceed uphill to find and follow path behind gardens.
There is a fallen tree across path, best negotiated by sitting on it. (If wet take a plastic bag!)
Behind ex Wansfell College notice large landmine crater and open air theatre.
The path veers away to the left but soon arcs back to rear of gardens.
After last garden, cross path to Piercing Hill and go ahead downhill past golf course on right.
Go down and then up to junction with the Green Ride, the 'four wantz'.
Cross over and proceed to the north end of Ambersbury Banks, close to the road.
Follow the top of the earthwork until it has turned left and away from the line of the road.
Descend and bear slightly right and ahead away from the road to meet the Green Ride.
Turn right and follow it to the first junction on your right.
Follow this but in a few yards turn left onto Long Running, a large open area of heath.
Keep to the left side of the clearing.
After several hundred yards note large, water filled V2 rocket crater surrounded by bushes.
Soon after this turn left and follow paths in an easterly direction to meet the Green Ride again in the vicinity of the car park on Jack's Hill.
Cross over, follow horse ride in an easterly direction towards Theydon Bois and at first junction bear left onto ride called Wormlayton Pits.
Follow this horse ride till you reach the top of Piercing Hill and so home.

Points to note along the way.

Genesis Slade runs in a culvert under Morgan Crescent and on through village to the railway, hence houses built on the old goods yard are called 'Slade End'.

The landmine crater was formed at the same time as the landmine that fell on Riggs Retreat in the village (opposite Sydney Road) and killed 26 of the Scottish soldiers billeted there. There is a memorial in St Mary's Church. Bob Day remembers as a boy going to look for parachute cord etc. at the time.

Ambersbury Banks is an Iron Age earthwork and there are two notice boards that give all the relevant details that walkers can read. Considering its age it is still impressive.

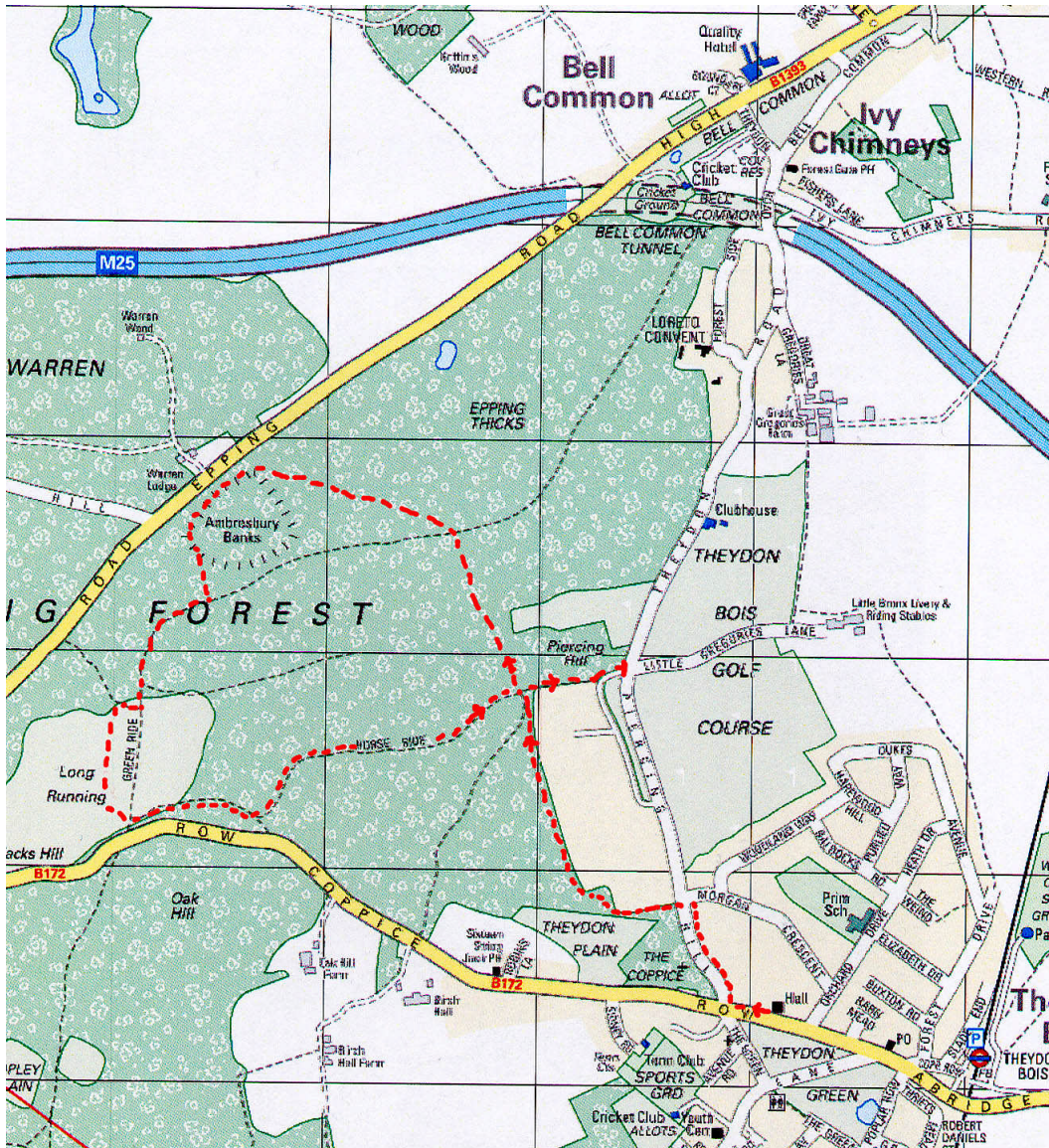
Alongside the Epping New Road a coal duty post can be seen. The City of London imposed a duty on all coal brought into London to help pay for its reconstruction after the fire of London.

Long Running is the site of heather and was the first area to be grazed by cattle. Lizards and adders have been seen and the V2 crater is always full of water; don't fall in.

As you reach the Green Ride after Long Running you will cross the line of the tank trap earthworks built in the 1940s as part of London's defences. They haven't lasted as well as Ambersbury Banks.

Along the Wormlayton Pits path explain the pits were formed by digging out gravel to repair the road from Theydon Bois to the Wake Arms. In Theydon Garnon Church there is a memorial to Jane Wormlayton, 1724, wife of John Wormlayton, Citizen and Skinner of London – who presumably had the contract to dig the pits.

TB&DRPS Walk 02 Route Map



TB&DRPS Walk 02: - 'Earthworks – Ancient and Modern'

Basic Map with Route marked in Red. For greater detail see the Ordnance Survey Maps.