

The attraction of living on Heathfield

Heathfield is a small community of 125 houses with some residents who have lived here since the houses were first sold to the public by MOD in 1983. It's quiet, with a speed limit of 15mph so it's safe for kids and pets.

Whilst we pay for the communal services around the estate, that gives us more of a say on how our money is spent. There is a community spirit with residents volunteering on the HRA Board. We all have a personal stake in making our living space a good place to live. We pay for some professional works but we also do things ourselves to keep costs down.

We have a playpark in the estate, that we maintain for under 8s, and there is another park for over 8s behind Kingsway on the Heathfield Open Space which is maintained by Thriplow & Heathfield Parish Council. This includes an adult gym.

There is a hidden beauty to this community and it lies behind the estate. From the rear of Kingsway there are public bridleways and footpaths that meander around the fields and woods from Heathfield to Thriplow north and west and Whittlesford to the east. A map of the bridleways may be found here [Rights of Way in Duxford Parish | UK PRow](#)

Here is an extract.



There are Muntjac deer, pheasant, woodpeckers and hares seen and heard from these pathways as they live primarily in the wooded areas marked on the map. In late summer bats may be seen on clear warm evenings. In the past couple of years, Red Kites have joined the smaller raptors in the skies above Heathfield. For two winters a Eurasian Hoopoe has rested here briefly on its migration.

If you love walking and especially if you have a dog, this space is heaven.

We are lucky that the main bridleways connecting Heathfield to Thriplow are 'metalled', that is; they have been constructed of concrete and are therefore perfect for cycles, buggies, and wheelchair users all year round. This was made possible by collaboration between the parish council and the landowner.

Here are glimpses of walks along those paths taken in August 2025 when the weather was hot and sunny. There is lots of blackberry picking at this time of year. Apple trees and Elderberry also overhang the paths.

In the far north corner up near The Drift is Royston & District Angling Club. Walkers may see the lakes along the path and a bench is placed for rest and reflection. [ROYSTON AND DISTRICT ANGLING CLUB – A coarse fishing club based in Thriplow, Cambridgeshire, UK](#)



To the west, the views along the concrete path to Thriplow are stunning. There are a couple of benches along this stretch too.



Equally, the view back towards Heathfield is pretty.



Below is the north entrance to the 8+ Open Space and the military 'Pillbox' in the field behind. Clear skies above are good for stargazing, especially with a 'blood moon' rising.



LOCAL SCHOOLS

We have two primary schools close by and Sawston College for the seniors. Parents and children cycle to Thriplow C of E primary school along the metalled bridleway. Sawston Village College has bus transport from the bus stop on the edge of the estate.

MUSIC

If you enjoy playing music or singing, then Duxford Saturday Workshop is an amazing facility open to all ages and abilities. It is sited at Duxford C of E Primary school from 9am to 12.30pm in term time. More information may be found here [Duxford Saturday Workshop](#)

HISTORY

For aviation history enthusiasts IWM Duxford currently offer free admission to the museum and site on any day other than the major airshow days. This is a thank you to local people in acknowledgement of the increased traffic on airshow days. You can receive an annual ticket by visiting admissions with a council tax bill showing your Heathfield address. You can also volunteer here which gives more added benefits, as well as the opportunity of making new friends and learning about so much locally and globally. More information may be found here [IWM Duxford | Imperial War Museums](#)

Next to Whittlesford station is Duxford Chapel maintained by English Heritage. Free admission; it was likely a Knights Hospitallers building in the 14th century, this area being strong in Crusader history, with known headquarters around Royston, Herts.

Eight miles away is another English Heritage property, Audley End House and Gardens, near Saffron Walden. Beautiful to visit it also hosts events such as 'BBC Gardener's World Live' each summer and open-air music concerts for well-known artists. More information may be found here [Audley End House and Gardens | English Heritage](#)

Historic Thriplow village is very pretty and has a historic village smithy. The community run pub, 'The Green Man' is a great venue for local food and drink. [South Cambs Village Pub | The Green Man Thriplow | Thriplow](#)

TRAVEL

We are two miles from Whittlesford station. Trains from here go into London Liverpool Street in an hour.

We are one mile from M11 which connects to Stansted Airport 16 miles away.

HEALTHCARE

We are five miles away from Addenbrookes Hospital. Papworth is now sited there. A children's hospital and bespoke cancer hospital have been approved for construction shortly. Cambridge South station is due to open on this site in December 2025

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