

# College Wood

## Get walking in the Heart of England Forest

We've created a waymarked trail through College Wood, near to the village of Studley, and it's perfect for a stroll at any time of the year.



**Distance:** 1.4 miles



**Difficulty:** Easy



**Start / finish:**  
Church of the Nativity  
of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary, B80 7AB



**OS Grid Ref:**  
SP 08222 63726



**WHAT3WORDS**  
until.tooth.sooner



**Terrain:**  
Clearly marked  
woodland paths  
following the arrows.



Things to look out for



### Skylark

Rising almost vertically  
from the grassland,  
hovering and parachuting  
back down.



### Great spotted woodpecker

In bouncing flight or listen  
for them 'drumming' away  
at a tree trunk.





## A gentle walk with views of Spernal Park and Studley Castle.

Follow the orange waymarkers along the route.



1. Follow the public footpath through the cemetery, pass through the hedge into the woodland and head right. At the end of the hedge there is a small seasonal pond to your left **1**.

2. Head straight on up the slight rise. At the top **2** there is a larger seasonal pond to your left which is the remains of an old marl pit. Look out for the veteran wild pear tree. From here you will be able to see a single oak tree at the far end of the woodland ride in the next field which is your destination at the farthest end of this walk. Head down the slope towards the gap in the hedge.

3. Crossing through the gap **3**, passing over a stream look out for freshwater mussel shells on the banks. Once through the gap, keep

heading straight towards the lone veteran oak, and a view of Spernal Park in the distance. Keep an eye out for an owl box to your left in an oak tree – it's not uncommon to see barn owls in the area.

4. Once you have reached the lone veteran oak **4**, look left at the view of Studley Castle. As you look at the Castle the mature wood closest to you on the right is The Alders, aptly named as you will notice in the new planting thousands of self-set alder. This, in time, might become alder carr and hopefully provide suitable habitat for the rare lesser spotted woodpecker.

5. Now turn right until you reach the hard track **5**, keeping the alder plantation to your left. Alder does well in this area as it is low lying and naturally wet.

6. Turn right on the track and keep following it until you reach the gap in the hedge over the stream **3**. Notice more alder regeneration on your right and Morton Brook to your left. If you are lucky you may see a kingfisher.

7. Once you have crossed the stream take the right fork and follow the ride past the seasonal pond/marl pit back towards the church. The mature wood on the right as you walk along the ride is Studley Thorns.

8. When you reach the Phoenix Way Wood sign **8** bear left back towards the cemetery.