

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: 2 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



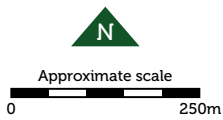
Alder

This damp loving tree which belongs to the birch family thrives here, and you will see mature alders as well as large areas of alder regeneration.



Cetti's warbler

The Forest's first Cetti's warbler was heard here in 2021. Listen for its explosively loud 'chip, chop, cettia cettia cettial' song.



Key

- Mature Woodland
- Woodland Creation
- Grassland
- Streams, Rivers and Ponds
- Church
- Heart of England Forest permissive waymarked footpath
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- Public Rights Of Way



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

1. Follow the public footpath through the cemetery **1** until you exit into the new plantation beyond.

2. Bear slightly left out of the cemetery **2** and turn immediately right, keeping the hedgerow to your right, and the young broadleaf plantation to your left, and continue along this path, heading south-east. As you walk along the broad, grassy ride, you will begin to see the canopies of mature oak trees rising ahead of you.

3. As the path climbs gently and you reach the top of a low rise, **3** you will see a pond to your left, under the shadow of a large oak tree. Continue along the same route until you reach an inter-section of path.

4. Having passed through the access gap in the hedgerow, **4** turn sharply right and follow this narrower track as it curves around to the left and begins to follow the course of Morton Brook. Continue along this path, with the stream on your right-hand side. On your left you will see an alder carr - a dense population of water-loving alder trees that are perfectly suited to growing in the waterlogged conditions in this part of the forest.

5. Take a sharp left turn at the next way-marker **5** and head north. Here you should first glimpse the grand facade of Studley Castle before you in the distance.

6. Turn left along the broad forest ride, **6** keeping the mature oak tree and the castle to your right, and continue straight, passing several similarly old oak trees to your right as you go.

7. You will now have arrived back at the same intersection of paths mentioned in step 3. This time, turn right, heading north-east **7**. Very soon you will see the tall trees of Studley Thorns before you to the left. Follow the path north as it skirts the eastern edge of this mature wood, keeping the tall trees to your left and continue for approximately 50m.

8. Turn right, **8** and with your back to the trees of Studley Thorns, head east along the path where you will soon see the pond on your left-hand side. Follow this path as it winds around the pond, turning north and finally west, until the trees of Studley Thorns are once again ahead of you.

9. When you arrive once more at the

Follow the orange waymarkers along the route.



outer edge of Studley Thorns, turn right **9** and head north, where you will soon emerge from the forest into a broad open field. Here you will have the best views yet of Studley Castle. Turn left and follow the path west as it skirts the edge of Studley Thorns, keeping the castle to your right.

10. Turn left again at the corner of Studley Thorns and follow the path as it passes through a gap in the hedge **10**. Then bear right and head west through the young plantation where you will see the square tower of the Norman church on the horizon.

11. Continue on this path through the plantation and cross over the bridge **11** that runs through the gap in the hedge. A few steps through the young trees of the plantation and you will once more be on a wide grassy forest ride. Turn left and follow the ride south-west for a short distance until you see a signpost for the 'Phoenix Way'.

12. Turn sharply right at this sign **12** and continue along the ride, heading west, where you will soon see the gates of the cemetery.