

SOUTHCREST WOOD AND OAKENSHAW WOOD

A challenging, undulating and curving walk 2.5 miles long and goes through some lovely woodland with wild flowers in the spring. No stiles. Can be very muddy in places. At one point there are a few "steps" down, formed from tree roots, which can be tricky and muddy in wet weather.

Walking poles recommended. Start from the Southcrest Hotel, B97 4JS, (What Three Words: note.rocky.tube.) off Pool Bank.

- Walk out of the hotel grounds up onto Pool Bank. Turn right and follow the paved path which veers slightly away from the road down into the wood.
- Continue downhill on the paved path until you reach a low tree stump on the right. **You have a choice.** If you want to explore the neglected Japanese garden turn right here along a narrower path which winds along to the garden with its stone bridge over a dried up stream. Here you get a view up to the grand house. Now retrace your steps back to the main path.
- Now the main route continues down the paved path to a way out to houses at the bottom. Don't go through here but turn right on an unpaved path to reach the clearing and the pool.
- Then go left behind the boathouse, along the dam and past two entrances on the left down into Ashperton Close. Continue on the main path deeper into the wood, looping around, then going slightly uphill, until you reach a division where you go left down to a bridge over a stream, then uphill.
- Near the top of the hill, about 30 metres after you pass a sawn off tree trunk with a V in the middle, turn left through a gap, over a ditch and into a grassy clearing. Follow the path to some "steps" down to the pavement of Coldfield Drive. Cross the road, turn right and cross the bridge.
- Past the bridge take the path left to reach Oakenshaw Wood. Keep following the main path, ignoring other paths off. The main path is part paved, with kerb stones which can occasionally be seen. After about a third of a mile the path comes nearly alongside the busy Coldfield Drive which can be seen and heard through the trees. Where the path turns left and goes definitely downhill with a few shallow steps on the bend don't follow it any longer but look for a narrower path going right down to Coldfield Drive.
- Cross the road with care and you will reach a wide paved path entering woodland. The path soon curves left and comes alongside metal railings and looking up you will see more metal railings as you are beginning a zigzag section up to Evesham Road.
- When you reach Evesham Road turn right and you will soon arrive at the Green. Continue along Evesham Road, eventually passing a pedestrian crossing and then turning right down Pool Bank. You will soon reach the hotel drive on your right.