

# Discover Studham Common

Studham Common, in south Bedfordshire, has been used as common land for centuries and is now a designated County Wildlife Site. Covering approximately 30 hectares (74 acres), it is a beautiful, rich and diverse natural habitat featuring grassland, woodland, scrub thickets and hedgerows, some of which date from medieval times.

As well as being important for wildlife, Studham Common plays a vital part in enhancing the quality of life for local people. Winding paths can be explored through the woodland, the open land offers plenty of space to relax and escape into nature, and there is a small playing field in the western section.



beautiful  
rich  
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habitat



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To find out more about the history, habitats and wildlife here visit [www.foscomm.org](http://www.foscomm.org)

# Friends of Studham Common



■ conserving ■ protecting ■ enhancing ■ encouraging

The land that makes up Studham Common is owned by Central Bedfordshire Council. However, the much-needed conservation work that keeps this wildlife haven really special is primarily undertaken by the Friends of Studham Common (FOSC), with support and guidance from the Council and the Greensand Trust.

Since 1997, we have been:

- protecting and enhancing wildlife diversity
- raising local awareness of the importance and value of the Common
- improving public access and encouraging wider use

Our efforts, all completely voluntary, have been rewarded with more wildlife, native plants being encouraged to return and seeing more and more people enjoying the Common. In the last few years, we have also been delighted to receive an annual Green Flag Award for outstanding contribution to the care of this green space, for visitors and wildlife alike.

Our work includes restoring hedgerows, clearing invasive plants to encourage more diverse habitats and ensuring that paths remain passable for visitors to explore the Common. Without our ongoing efforts, Studham Common would not be as beautiful, rich or accessible as it is today.

To find out more, visit our website at [www.foscomm.org](http://www.foscomm.org)

# We need your help



A little help from you will go a long way to keeping Studham Common beautiful for everyone. We are always keen to hear from people who would like to join our once-a-month conservation activity days.

You could get involved in:

- setting up nesting boxes for bats, birds or dormice
- clearing footpaths
- restoring hedgerows
- wildlife surveys

Learn new skills

We work together with a number of local organisations through which we offer a variety of training sessions from first aid to brush cutter safety.

Discover local wildlife

From time to time we offer talks and guided walks around the Common to discover more about the plants and wildlife living here.

Make new friends

We work hard on the Common, but we also have fun. We enjoy a number of social events throughout the year and we reward volunteers attending our conservation activity days with a fine picnic lunch.



## What lives here?



hazel dormouse

Amongst our mammal community we have the hazel dormouse, a rare and protected species



red kite

Look out for red kites, here since 2006, following their reintroduction to the Chilterns



small copper

Our diverse insect community includes 26 species of butterfly



bee orchid

Thanks to careful conservation, orchids and other native flowers are making a comeback

Resident and visiting animals include:

- foxes
- bats
- voles & shrews
- hares & rabbits

The Common is used by over 50 species of birds, including:

- skylarks
- kestrels
- buzzards
- woodpeckers

In the meadows, look out for these butterflies:

- small tortoiseshell
- common blue
- marbled white
- meadow brown

There are over 200 plant species here, including:

- wild orchids
- rosebay willow-herb
- oxeye daisy
- bluebells
- gorse
- blackthorn

## Come and see for yourself



outstanding  
natural beauty

Whether you want to join FOSC and help us in any way you can, or if you want to just come and enjoy this amazing natural environment, we'd love to see you on Studham Common soon.

How to get here

Studham lies 10km (6 miles) west of the M1 (Junction 9 or 10) and the A5. It is 6km (4 miles) due south of Dunstable on the B4541 and 12km (7 miles) north of Hemel Hempstead, just off the A4146. For satnavs use post code LU6 2QA or grid reference TL 02317 15781.

**Parking:** There are small car parks on East and Middle Commons (see map inside)

For more information

Visit us online at [www.foscomm.org](http://www.foscomm.org)

Email us at [mail@foscomm.org](mailto:mail@foscomm.org)

Telephone: See website for contact details



To report a problem, contact Central Bedfordshire Council's Ranger service on **01525 237760**

# Studham Parish Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee Walk

A 3.8 mile walk to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

Studham lies in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

To mark the 70th anniversary of the ascension of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952, the village of Studham decided to map out a commemorative walk around the village, taking in some of the village landmarks and traversing plenty of open countryside and native woodland, in sympathy with the Queen's focus on the importance of trees and woodland in the UK.

The walk finishes by going through Jubilee Copse, on Studham Common, which was itself planted in 1977 to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee and has now been enhanced with further planting in 2022.

Studham Common is a place to have fun! Why not:

- play hide and seek
- try geocaching
- pick blackberries
- enjoy a picnic
- have a wildlife spotting competition



Supported by



[www.foscomm.org](http://www.foscomm.org)

With thanks to the Chilterns Conservation Board for help in funding this leaflet and to écoutez creative for donating their design services

# Studham Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee Walk



The walk starts by the War Memorial, on Studham Common, opposite the Red Lion pub, on the corner of Church Road and Clements End Road, LU6 2QG. Grid ref TL 022 157. Visitors can park in the small car park or along Church Road. There are refreshments available in the village at either the Red Lion, or The Bell Public House, just 200yds from the start of the walk, on Dunstable Road.

## Route:

**1** From the War Memorial, follow the footpath along the bottom of West Common, keeping to the right of the goalposts, into woodland and continuing until you come to the village school and School Cottage. Continue on the footpath to the left of the school, with open fields to your left and continue on the same footpath, crossing Valley Road (800 yds from the start).

**2** After crossing Valley Road, you will go through a kissing gate after 250yds. Just after this gate, turn right over a stile onto a section of the Chiltern Way. A short walk across a field will lead you alongside and then into woods. At the next footpath junction, turn right to join the track up to the 13th century St Mary's Church.

**3** Enjoy the historic Parish Church and the churchyard, then exit via the kissing gate in the left hand (NW) corner of the churchyard and turn right to join a footpath along the side of a field. After 300 yds, turn left and follow the footpath downhill to Dunstable Road.

**4** Take care with fast moving traffic along the Dunstable Road. Cross the road to take advantage of the footpath and turn left, towards Holywell and Whipsnade. After 100 yds, take the footpath on the right, up hill and into more woods. Follow the footpath into open countryside and then back alongside further woodland alongside the Holywell housing estate.

**5** Turn right and follow the footpath through a small wood and then across an arable farm field, taking care to keep to the footpath.

**6** After crossing the field, the footpath goes alongside further woodland and then passes between a small collection of houses and the Longrove Scout Activity Centre, before ending on the Byslips Road. Take great care when exiting the footpath onto the road, which is winding and has no footpath. Turn left along Byslips Road, keeping

a careful eye open for traffic, and after 130 yds turn right on the footpath into Byslip Wood. In the spring, the wood will be covered with bluebells and is a great location to take photos!

**7** Follow the footpath through Byslip Wood for 300 yds, turning right at the end of the wood. For those wanting to extend the walk, a left turn after a further 20 yds takes you onto a very well used footpath to Roe End Land. Further right turns on tracks to Beechwood Home Farm and then back through beautiful conifer woodlands will bring you back to Studham Common, having completed an extra loop of 2.75km / 1.7 miles on well made up tracks.

**8** After the water treatment works, follow the concrete path for 60yds back towards Studham, and turn left on the footpath up onto East Common. Continue up the hill on the edge of the common and then follow the path east along the top of the common. This is a lovely spot for a break and some refreshment, overlooking the village and fields beyond the Common.

**9** Take care crossing Byslips Road by a small car park, to enter Middle Common. At this point, follow the path diagonally across the Common, through the Jubilee Copse, to return to the start of the walk.

## Things to note:

- Take nothing but photographs; leave nothing but footprints. Please take all litter with you
- Please do not pick wild flowers
- Do not leave valuables in your car

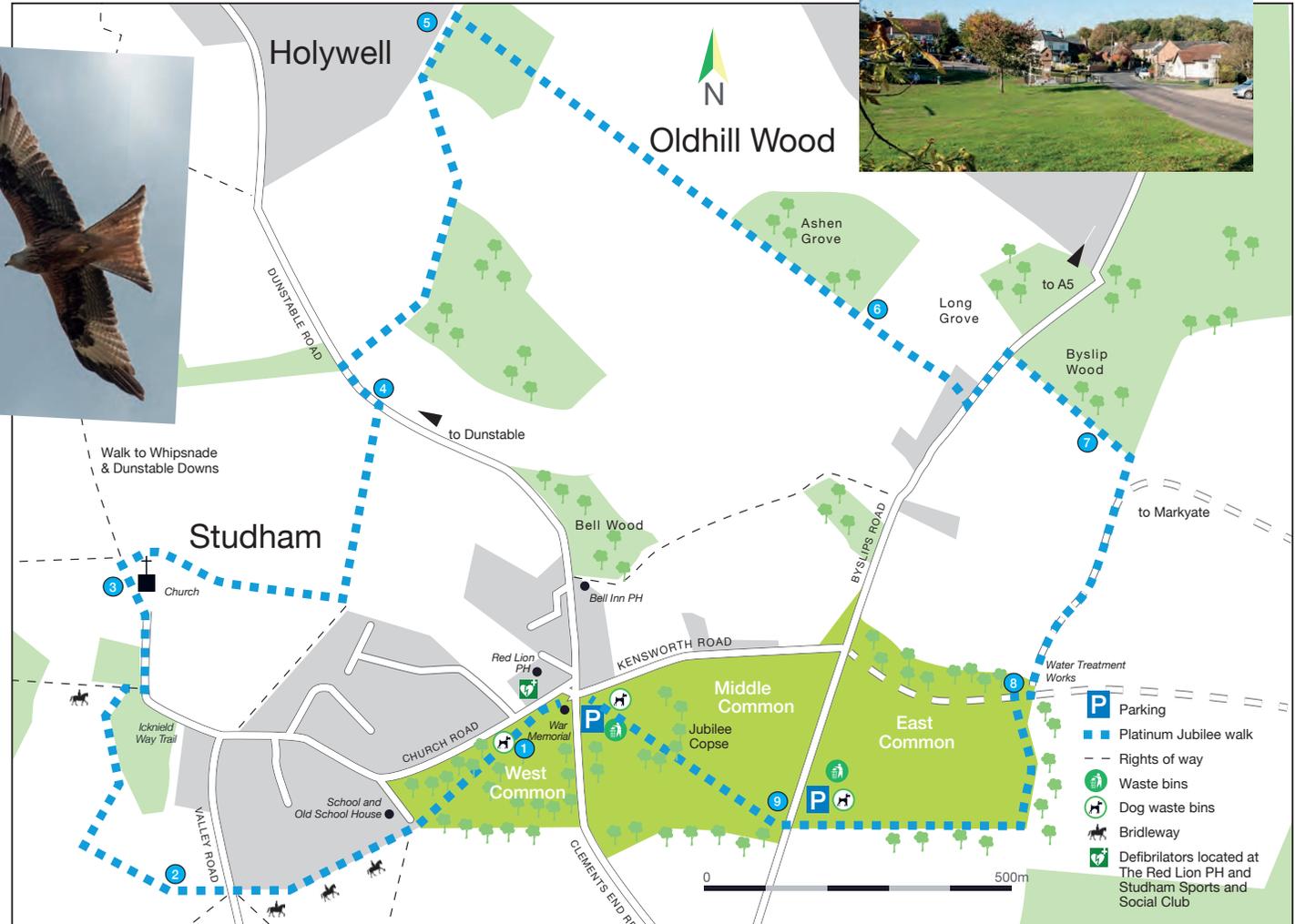
## How to get there:

Studham lies about 6 miles west of the M1 (junction 9 or 10) and the A5 / A5183. It is 4 miles due south of Dunstable on the B4541 and 7 miles north of Hemel Hempstead, just off the A4146.

## Things to see on the walk:

**St Mary's Church, Studham.** Historic 13th century church and graveyard.

**Studham Common.** Studham Common has been used as common land for centuries and today provides a haven for recreation and wildlife. It has a rich mosaic of habitats – grassland, woodland, thickets and ancient hedgerows dating back to medieval



times. During World War II, the grassland areas were ploughed to grow vegetables, but careful management of the Common, now under the watchful eye of the Friends of Studham Common, has returned it to a beautiful natural condition, to be enjoyed by all.

**Jubilee Copse.** The Jubilee Copse was originally planted in 1977 to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. It has been added to over the years since to commemorate other events, including a new plantation of seven apple trees in 2022 to mark the 70th, Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, as part of the Queen's

campaign for a 'green canopy' throughout the UK. The Jubilee Walk passes through the middle of the Jubilee Copse.

**Wildlife.** The variety of countryside on this walk provides a wide range of habitats and wildlife. In May, the woods abound with bluebells. The rest of the year, the woodlands, grasslands and hedgerows provide excellent habitats for lots of wildlife, both flora and fauna. Over 200 plant species have been recorded on Studham Common alone. Bird life is plentiful, with a good chance to see skylarks and red kites, amongst others.

