



Snipe Walk 5

The Wolverton and Monarch's Way Walk

7 miles (11.2km)

A walk across lovely countryside to Wolverton and its 13th-century church. Skirting Langley, you return on part of the Monarch's Way. This 625-mile long-distance footpath approximates the escape route taken by King Charles II in 1651 after being defeated in the Battle of Worcester and runs from Worcester to Brighton. The walk is mainly level: Heath End Plantation can be muddy.

Start at telephone box near the crossroads of The Green, Smith's Lane, Bearley Road and School Road. **1** Turn down School Road and continue until you reach a sharp bend to the left. Cross the road carefully and turn right into Brookside. At the end of the lane continue in the same direction down a pedestrian track (this can be muddy after wet weather) and go through a rickety gate. Continue across a ridge and furrow field, with Bell Brook to your right. At the end of the field take the metal gate in front of you and go over a small bridge to take a footpath around the edge of a large pond. There are lovely views here across the water, with a variety of wild fowl to be seen. At the end of the path cross a bridge to reach a farm track. Pause here to look left at the view up the hill over farmland. Turn right onto the track and then immediately left at a waymarked post. Follow the path down the edge of the field with the tree line on your left. At the end of the field keep on the same line to follow a track with the brook on your left and the Severn Trent works on your right.

2 Emerge from this track by the entrance to the Severn Trent site onto Snitterfield Lane, turning left towards Norton Lindsey. Walk up the road for about 10 minutes, passing several gateways on your right and a stone animal drinking trough on your left. Soon after this you will see a pull in on your right with a metal farm gate and wooden pedestrian gate (no waymark). Go through the gate and follow a grassy track uphill with the hedge on your right and lovely views to the left. At the brow of the hill follow the path between hedges and go through a wooden gate onto Heath End Lane.

3 Go diagonally left across the lane to enter a waymarked track with a wire fence and more lovely views to your left. Continue in the same direction to enter Heath End Plantation by a waymarked sign. Follow a broad track through this lovely wood, veering right at the end to go through a waymarked wooden gate into a large field. Cross the field, heading for a wooden bridge over a stream and continue in the same direction, with woodland views to the right, until you reach a metal pedestrian gate. Go through the gate, across a small bridge and onto a tarmacked farm track.

4 Turn left to go through a waymarked gate by a cattle grid. Continue up the track for 10 minutes. At the end, veer right to the side of the cattle grid, through a gate and emerge onto a road. Turn left with Luscombe Farm ahead. Before you reach it turn right over a stile by a farm gate. Follow the field edge with the hedge and brook on your left, eventually passing a reservoir/pond on the left. Soon after this, cross a wooden plank bridge into a field. Continue in the same direction. Immediately after passing a very wide gate, fork left over a waymarked bridge into a field. Go along its left edge, veering right at the bottom, keeping the hedgeline on your left until you reach a waymarked bridge. Cross it, turn right and proceed gently up a hill with the hedge on your right and Wolverton visible ahead. At the end of the path pass between houses to emerge in Wolverton at a green with a horsechestnut tree.

5 Turn right onto the road opposite Glebe Farm. Walk along the road and, before you reach the telephone box, turn left by a waymarked post. Pass the beautiful Old Rectory on your right and continue gently uphill until you reach the 13th century church, passing it to the left. Go through a metal kissing gate into a field. Head diagonally right for 30 yards to go through a waymarked wooden gate. Go straight across a farm track to head up a field with the treeline to your right. After a short while there is a convenient bench from where you can rest for a while and admire the beautiful views. Continue on the same line into another field (waymarked) and turn right, keeping the hedgeline on your right and with views towards Langley. Go through a pedestrian gate and then turn diagonally left across a field to go through a gate onto the road.

6 Turn left. Ignore a waymarked path on the opposite side of the road and walk down the road for 15 minutes, passing Langley Green Farm. Keep straight on, ignoring a right turn to Langley and Claverdon, until you see a railway bridge ahead.

7 Just before the bridge turn left and then immediately right, walking around a felled tree trunk. When you reach a field turn left and follow the field edge with the hedge on your left. You have now joined The Monarch's Way. At the end of the field veer right to cross a stile (ignore the waymarked bridge on the right nearby) to enter another field. Cross the field, heading for a waymarked post at the entrance to a wood opposite. Walk through the woodland on a clear path (with bluebells in May).

8 At the end of the wood climb a waymarked stile, turn left and follow a field edge with the hedgeline on your left. Snitterfield Bushes is on the far side of the field. Go straight on, with distant views of Warwick to the left, for three fields. When you reach a farm tank cross straight over and walk down the field with the hedge on your right. At the end cross a bridge and go through a gate then turn left, heading for a gate ahead of you. Go through this and turn right to pass along the top of Snitterfield sports fields to reach a stile in the corner. Climb this and continue down a path which emerges onto Bearley Road. Turn left, passing The Snitterfield Arms to reach the crossroads and the starting point of the walk.

