



Snipe Walk 6

The Monarch's Way and Monument Walk

5 miles (8km)

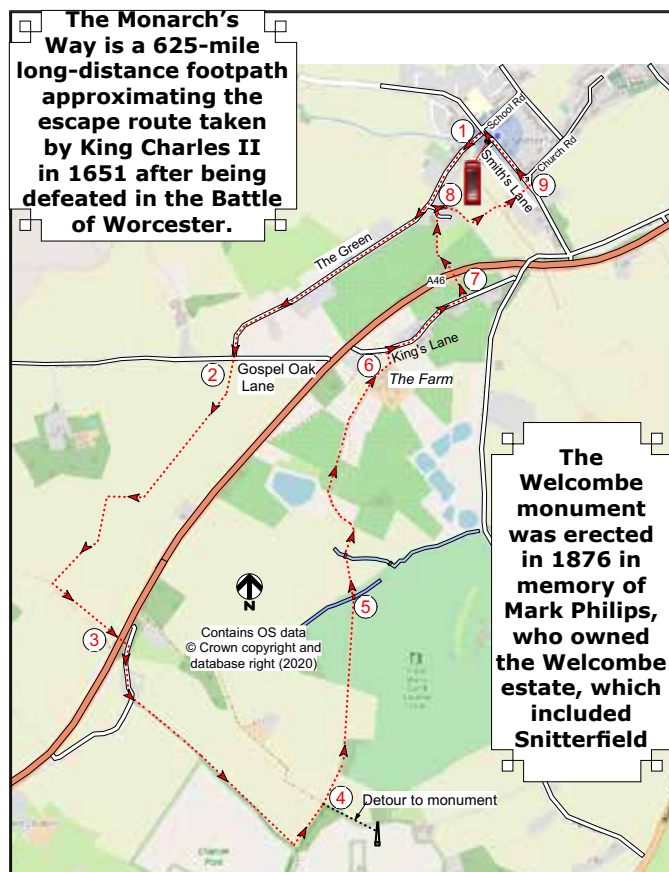
A walk across lovely countryside, skirting a golf course and the Welcombe Hills, where a short detour will take you to the Welcombe monument. A proportion of the walk is along The Monarch's Way, passing The Farm, which has a shop and cafe. The walk is mainly level: some of the footpaths can be muddy in wet weather. The A46 has to be crossed twice on this route and can be busy so great care should be taken. The Green and King's Lane do not have footpaths. The bridge on the Monarch's Way has now been repaired so the detour shown on the map below is no longer necessary - please follow the black dotted line.

Start at telephone box near the crossroads of The Green, Smith's Lane, Bearley Road and School Road.

1 Turn down The Green and walk for about 20 minutes, passing an old gable wall on your left with 1765 written in the brickwork.

2 At the end of the road, go straight across Gospel Oak Lane and through a metal kissing gate into a field, with Brickyard Farm visible on your right. Walk up the right side of the field with a hedge and then ditch on your right. Go through a double gate and bridge, turn right and go up the right edge of a field, following clear yellow-painted marker posts. Where the fence line bears right, cross the field to another marker post on the opposite hedge line. Continue with the hedge on your left and go through a gate. At a marker post a few paces on, look for more marker posts ahead left. Follow these to the end of the field, with glimpses of the Welcombe monument to the left. DO NOT go through the waymarked gate ahead but turn left to again follow marked posts along the edge of the field. At the last post look ahead left and go through a metal gate. Follow the path to the right, then left and then pick up more marker posts and walk with a plantation to your left. Go through a gate ahead left. Go down a bank and through a gap to the left of gates to reach the A46.

3 Cross with great care and go straight on to a wide track



ahead. Turn right at the end onto a narrow lane, passing houses to right and left. Where the lane bears right go straight on to a waymarked path by Roundhouse Farm. This can be muddy after wet weather. Continue down the path with views of Stratford to your right. Ignore a waymarked path to the right (unless you wish to extend your walk by exploring the Welcombe Hills) and go straight on with a wooden fence, then woodland to your right. When you reach the end go through a metal gate. Turn immediately left through another gate onto The Monarch's Way. Follow the track with a wire fence on your left. Go through a gate ahead and follow The Monarch's Way sign to the right.

4 Go through a metal farm gate into a field. At this point you can take a short detour to the Welcombe monument, visible ahead, by walking downhill along the field's edge. To continue on this walk, turn left, keeping on The Monarch's Way with the hedgeline on your left. Go through a waymarked wooden gate ahead and take a track through woodland, with a golf course visible on your right. At the end of the wood go over a stile (at the time of writing non-agile dogs needed lifting over this) and enter a field. Follow the waymark across the middle of the field, passing old timber posts with lovely views right and left. Go over another stile (not dog friendly) and walk down a track with the golfcourse on your right. Continue in the same direction onto the golf-course, walking between a copse of trees and a hedge. Head for a small brick bridge straight ahead between signs for the 5th and 7th holes, ignoring another bridge to the left. Cross the brick bridge.

5 After crossing the bridge head straight across towards a gap in the hedge line and enter a field. Go straight across it to a wooden bridge. Go straight on walking down a track with a hedge on your right and wire fence on your left.

You are still on The Monarch's Way. At the end of the track go through a gate, turn left and in a few paces go right through a metal kissing gate. Bear left and walk down a farm track. Follow it with the treeline on your left, passing old orchards on your right. Continue uphill, through large black metal gates (usually open) to reach some rustic benches on your right from where you can enjoy lovely views across the Avon valley. As the track bears left go straight on through a metal kissing gate and follow a farm track to reach The Farm. Here you can replenish supplies or get refreshments.

6 Continue down a gravel pedestrian path in front of the buildings, with The Farm to your right, to go through gate posts and then left onto a tarmac track. At the end go right down King's Lane. Pass Welcombe Hills Vineyard on your right and Green Gates Campsite entrance on your left. 100 yards after this keep your eyes peeled for a hidden wooden kissing gate in the hedge on your left. This is easy to miss!

7 Go through it and cross straight across the campsite to a gate in the opposite fence. Go down steps and cross the A46, again with great care. Head straight ahead, up steps and through a gap in the hedge. Go through a kissing gate and straight on. At a wooden fence bear left, with a telegraph pole on your right. Turn right to follow a path with a wooden fence to your right. At the end go through a gate to reach Duffin's Piece. Turn left then right towards a bungalow.

8 Follow a waymark to turn right behind a conifer hedge onto a narrow path. At the end of the path veer left into a field, with the hedge line on your right and a telegraph pole visible to the left. When you reach the corner go right down a bank and through a metal gate (usually open). Continue on a gravel track down the side of the village shop to meet Smith's Lane.

9 To complete the walk, turn left down Smith's Lane to reach the start point.