



Snipe Walk 1

The Bell Brook Walk

3 miles (4.8km) – with an option to shorten the route

An easy, level walk that takes you past a wildlife pond and alongside Bell Brook for much of the route. Skirting The Domestic Fowl Trust you will be mainly on rural tracks and field paths although part of the return route will be along village roads if you do not wish to retrace your steps.

Start at telephone box near the crossroads of The Green, Smith's Lane, Bearley Road and School Road. **1** Turn right down School Road and continue until you reach a sharp bend to the left. Cross the road and turn right into Brookside. At the end of the lane, passing a pretty half-timbered cottage, continue down a pedestrian track (this can be muddy after wet weather) and go through a rickety gate. Continue in the same direction across a ridge and furrow field, with Bell Brook to your right.

2 At the end of the field you will come to two gates. For a short cut take the right-hand wooden gate, which will lead you up, past a pond, to Church Road, where you can turn right and walk back to the junction with Smith's Lane, then right again to return to the start of the walk. To continue the longer route, take the metal gate in front of you and go over a small bridge to take a footpath along the side 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 a lovely view up the hill over farmland. Turn right onto the track and then almost immediately left at a clear waymarked post. Follow the path down the edge of the field with the treeline 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.

3 Emerge from this track onto the Norton Lindsey road by the entrance to the Severn Trent site. Turn right down the road, passing the Domestic Fowl Trust entrance. Immediately after this you will see a metal kissing gate on your left – go through this, along a track and over a stile. Cross the field aiming for the corner, passing between two telegraph poles. Go over the stile and turn left down a track between trees. Walk until you reach a small bridge (ignore the mown path on the right) which you cross and go through a gate. Continue in the same direction on a tree-lined path which opens up to a field with Red Hill Christian Centre to the right.

4 Follow the path to the left to meet a rough farm road. Turn left and walk a few paces along it to reach a field. Continue across the field, aiming for a gate in the left corner. Go

through the gate and turn immediately left to go through another gate into a large field. At this point the official public footpath takes you around two sides of a triangle. The instructions in italics below follow the official footpath but you will notice that most walkers take the direct route straight ahead, keeping the hedge on their left until they reach the kissing gate on the left near the end of the field!

Follow the waymark arrow to go diagonally across the field to a waymarked metal kissing gate in the bottom right corner. Sometimes the farmer has put electric fencing up for livestock so you may need to skirt around this. Don't go through the gate but turn sharp left to follow the edge of the field with Bell Brook to your right. Follow the field edge to a kissing gate near the right corner.

Go through the kissing gate and continue in the same direction down a narrow field with the brook on your right, passing a pretty watering hole, until you reach a kissing gate on your right. Go through, across a bridge and through another gate then turn left onto a path. Follow this to another kissing gate and continue in the same direction, with a wire fence on your right and glimpses of the Domestic Fowl Trust on the left. At the end of this path go through a gate to rejoin the Norton Lindsey road.

5 Turn left. If you wish to keep off-road as much as possible, walk down the road until you see the entrance to the Severn Trent works, passed on the route out, and turn right to retrace your steps. For a circular walk you can return to Snitterfield along Church Road, passing St James the Great church on your left and many attractive properties right and left.

6 When you reach Stocks Green, a triangular junction with a horsechestnut tree where the village stocks once stood, turn right onto Smith's Lane and follow the road to reach the start point by the telephone box.

