



Snipe Walk 10

The Black Hill Walk

5 miles (8 km)

A mainly flat and easy walk, taking in some lovely countryside and a few stretches on quiet lanes. You will pass a large garden centre at Black Hill, which offers a good selection of picnic food and a cafe. There are some busy roads to cross.

Start at telephone box near the crossroads of The Green, Smith's Lane, Bearley Road and School Road. Walk up Smith's Lane away from the crossroads and continue up White Horse Hill to the war memorial.

1 Turn left and continue along King's Lane to where the road bends sharp right to join the A46. Ignore this turn and keep straight on (Park Lane), parallel with the A46, until you reach a sharp left bend. Ignore this bend too and go straight on to go to the side of a wooden farm gate onto a track by the end of a brick wall. You are now on the original lane into Snitterfield before the A46 was built – the white road markings are still visible in places. Continue until the path bears right to meet the A46.

2 Cross the A46 with care and go through the waymarked kissing gate in front of you. Head diagonally left across the field, heading for the far right side of the taller woodland. The route through the crops here is usually visible but not always! There are lovely views to the right to the Welcombe Memorial and beyond. At the end of the field go right by a small brick building keeping the hedge line on your left. After 20 yards go through a (slightly hidden) gap in the overgrown hedge ahead, to the left of a mature tree. Head straight on down the left side of the field with gardens to your left. Keep on this line, rising to walk on a bank above the field. Cross a stile to reach Sandbarn Lane. Turn right and continue for 400 yards until you reach the A439.

3 You are now at Black Hill. Cross the A439 with care to go straight on down a lane towards Hampton Lucy. You will pass a garden centre on your left, where refreshments are available. Immediately past the entrance to the garden centre turn left down a tarmac drive marked Private Access to The Field House and Blackhill Cottages. This is marked private but is a public footpath. When you reach The Field House on your right, go slightly left to a waymark sign, then veer left before it to cross a ditch. Turn right and walk down the side of a field with the hedge on your right.

4 At the end of the field you will come to another waymarked post. Turn left before it to go slightly uphill with a hedge on your right. At the top of the hill look back at the lovely views. At the end of the field go through a gap ahead to reach the A439. Go right along the verge and cross the road just before the chevron signs to go through a (usually open) gate into a field.

5 Bear half right to go across

the field towards the far tree line. The path here is usually clearly visible between two types of crop. Exit the field through a (usually open) farm gate to reach the A46. Turn right to walk a few metres along the verge before crossing the road to go down Heath End. Walk down the lane, eventually passing Oldhouse Farm on the left until you reach the Severn Trent works on the right.

6 Opposite is a metal kissing gate: go through it and follow the brook, keeping it on your right. Go through a second waymarked metal kissing gate and keep straight on in the same direction, still with the brook on your right. Veer to the right of a large metal farm gate (sometimes open) to go through a third waymarked kissing gate and keep the brook on your right. Carry on to the end of the field and go through another metal kissing gate half way between a metal field gate and the right corner of the field. Keep on in the same direction through a narrow field between the brook and a hedge. When you are almost at the end turn right through a kissing gate, bridge and second gate. Turn left along a path with a fence on your right. Go through a metal kissing gate and continue in the same direction until you reach a metal gate to exit onto the Norton Lindsey Road.

7 Here you turn left for 100 yards to reach a Severn Trent works entrance on your right. Go down the path to the right of its gate and follow the footpath, with a brook on your right, until you reach a field. Continue in the same direction with the hedge line on your right.

8 When you reach a farm road turn right over a bridge and then immediately left to go over a small pedestrian bridge. Follow this path with a large pond on your left. Continue over a small bridge and through a metal pedestrian gate to reach a ridge and furrow field. Continue with the hedge and another pond on your left. Go through a rickety gate at the end and down a narrow track to reach a tarmac drive (Brookside).

9 Walk to the end past cottages to reach a road. Turn left here, bearing right (ignore the turning across the bridge on your left) and continue along the road until you reach a crossroads. You will see your starting place on the left.

