



Snipe Walk 2

The Gunpowder Plot Walk

6.5 miles (10.5km)

A longer but fairly undemanding walk, with few hills. Taking in a site closely associated with the Gunpowder Plot and walking through meadows and woodland rich in fauna and flora. After wet weather parts of the walk can be muddy.

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

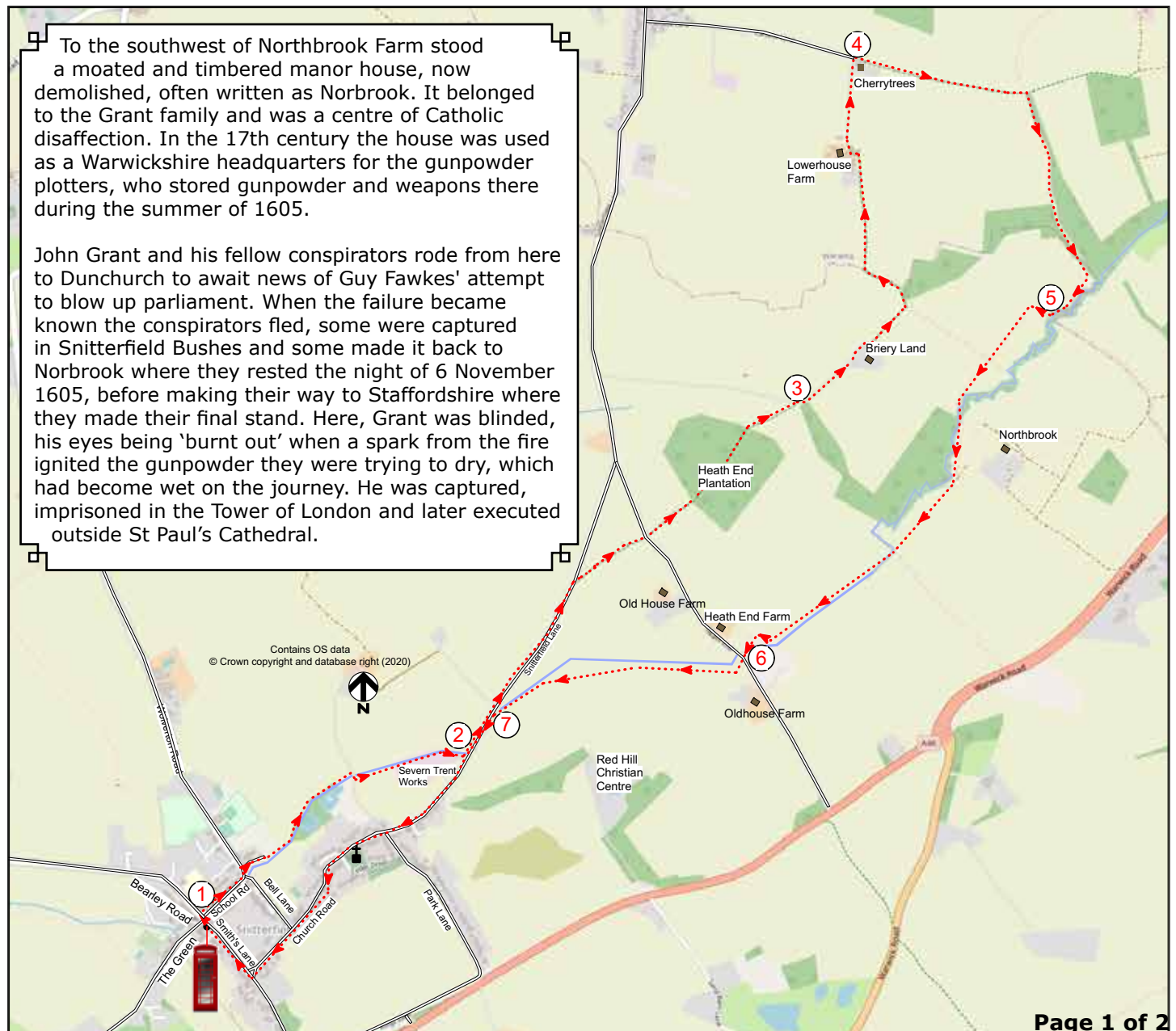
1 Turn down School Road and continue until you reach a sharp bend to the left. Cross the road carefully and turn right into Brookside. At the end of the lane continue in the same direction down a pedestrian track (this can be muddy after wet weather) and go through a rickety gate.

Continue across a ridge and furrow field, with Bell Brook to your right. At the end of the field you will come to two gates. For a shorter walk 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, where you would turn 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 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. 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.

3 Go through the gate, across a small bridge and turn right onto a tarmacked farm track (ignoring the waymarked road left over the cattle grid). Follow the track to just before the cottages at Briery Land. Go through a waymarked gate to the left of a cattle grid and follow the track, with cottages to your right. After passing Gunpowder Cottage veer right then immediately left (waymarked) to go up a field, heading towards woodland. Ignore the wooden gate ahead of you and turn left to follow the field edge with a wood on your right. Continue in this direction until you see a (partially hidden) wooden bridge on your right. Cross it and go through a metal gate into a field.

Go uphill along the left edge of the field, with a hedge on your left. Then follow the path downhill, passing Lowerhouse Farm on your left. Go through a metal pedestrian gate and turn left into the farmyard then immediately right by a low open shed. Exit the farmyard, ignoring a track on the left, and follow the farm lane uphill. Ahead you will see Cherrytrees, a large modern red brick house with solar panels. As soon as you pass it turn right down the side of the house onto a wide unmade track.

4 Follow the track for about five minutes and at the end enter a field through a large metal farm gate. Follow a waymark sign to cross the field in the same direction with a hedge on your left. Ignore a large metal gate ahead at the end of the field and instead go right at a waymark sign on an isolated post. Keeping the hedge line on your left, follow the field edge to a kissing gate in the bottom left corner. Go through the gate and across a wooden bridge, following waymark sign into woodland. After a few minutes you will see a small stream on your right and the main brook on your left. At the end of the path cross a narrow stream (no bridge but jumpable) to go through a kissing gate into a large field. Go straight across the centre of the field with tree lines to your left and right. At the end of the field, ignore the waymarked metal gate and stile on your left and turn right through two unmarked wooden gateposts.

5 After a few paces look out for a wooden post (again, no waymarks!) to turn left through a metal gate (may be open). Walk down the field edge with

the tree line on your left and a dead tree visible to the right. Ignore a gate into a field on your left and keep straight on, heading for a wooden gate (may be open). Go through and straight on in the same direction down the centre of a meadow, eventually veering left to cross a bridge in the corner of the field over Sherbourne Brook.

Ahead you will see Northbrook Farm (*see map box*). Turn right, keeping the woodland on your right (look out for roe deer and muntjac) and head for the far end where the field narrows. You are now skirting Sherbourne Meadows, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the largest example of unimproved natural grassland in Warwickshire (19 ha). These grasslands have not been subject to fertilizers, slurry or herbicides, and are characteristically botanically species-rich and support many birds and insects.

Go through a wooden farm gate with a waymark sign and, a few paces on, go through a metal gate (may be open) and cross the centre of the next field. Ignore a large metal farm gate ahead and look for a partially hidden concrete bridge to the left of it. Cross it and go down the left edge of a large field, passing an animal watering hole on your left – you will glimpse Heath End Farm on the far right of the field. At the end of the field turn right along the field edge to go over a double stile and bridge next to a large oak tree. Follow a waymark left along a field edge to a stile and small bridge to a second stile. Cross this and then with farm buildings ahead of you, turn left along the field edge, through sometimes overgrown vegetation to cross another stile onto Heath End Lane.

6 Turn left on the lane and over a road bridge and then immediately right through a kissing gate into a field. Continue with the brook on your right and views of Snitterfield church to your left. Go through a metal kissing gate and continue in the same direction, ignoring a large metal gate ahead to veer right to go through another kissing gate. Keeping the brook on your right head for the bottom right corner and go through another kissing gate.

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 the right. Go through this, across a bridge and through another gate then turn left onto a track. Follow this to another kissing gate and continue in the same direction, with a wire fence on your right. At the end of this track go through a kissing gate to rejoin the Norton Lindsey road.

7. Here you turn left, either to reach the Severn Trent works entrance where you can retrace your steps cross country, or, for a circular walk, continue along the road, passing Pigeon Green, Jago Green and later St James the Great church on your left. Walk down Church Road until you reach Stocks Green, a triangular junction with a horsechestnut tree where the village stocks once stood. Turn right here onto Smith's Lane to soon reach your starting point at the telephone box.