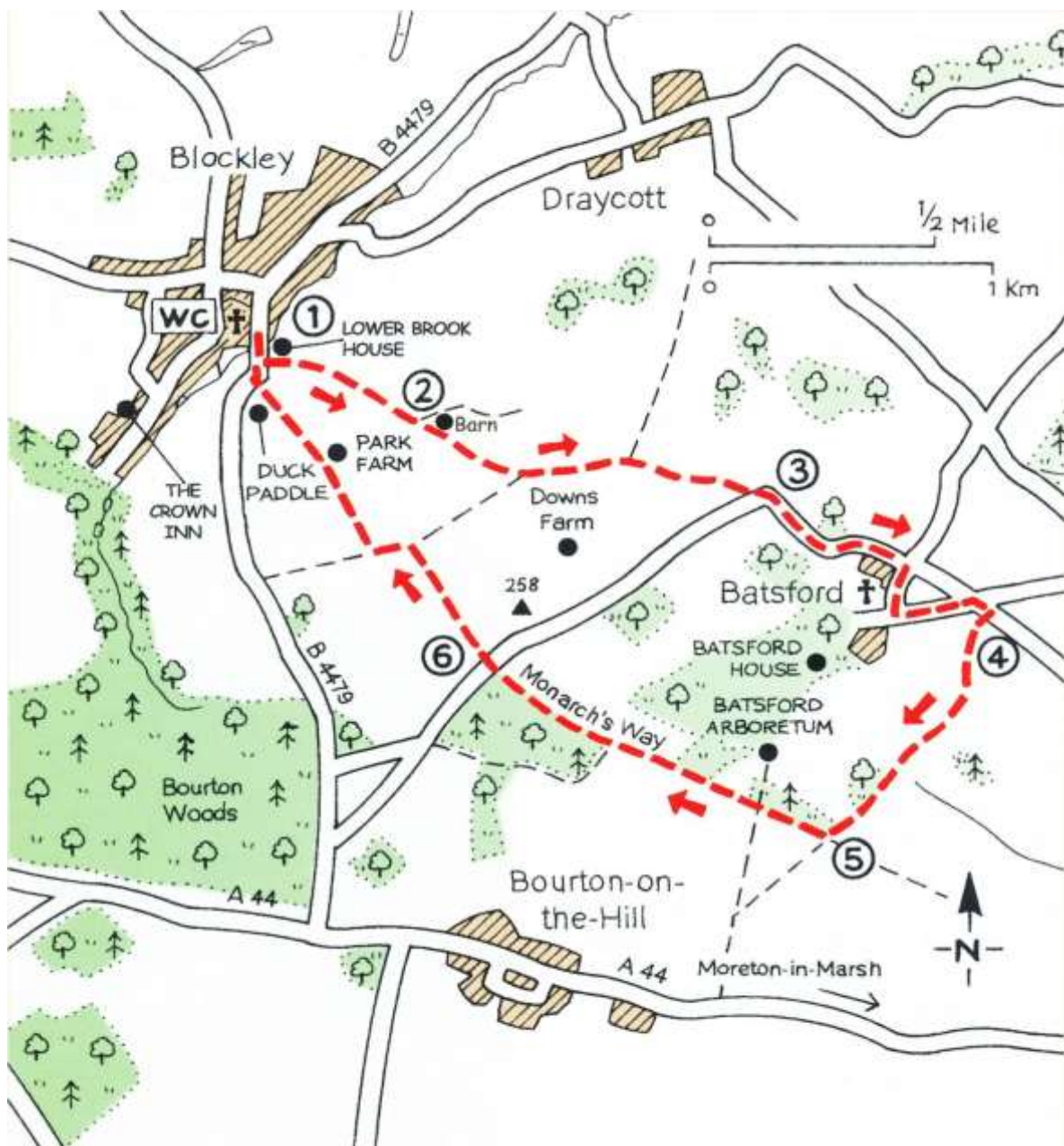


# BLOCKLEY, BATSFORD AND THE ARBORETUM WALK

This walk starts in the unspoilt village of Blockley then passes through Batsford village at the gates of Batsford Park with its 90 species of magnolia, maples, cherry trees and conifers, stunning in autumn but colourful throughout the spring and summer. The arboretum also has a falconry centre. Blockley is a pretty village that prospered in the 19th century and its fast-flowing stream, which once powered six silk mills, is now a delightful feature of the village.



1. With Blockley's church above you to the right, walk south along Lower Street, the B4479, past Lower Brook House. Just beyond, turn left onto a lane signed to Pasture Farm. Follow it up the hill for 0.25 mile (400m). As you approach a barn, bear off right to go behind it.
2. Follow the field edge up, leaving at the top corner onto a grassy drove that later widens into a neglected field. Keep going beside the top boundary and eventually pass into a crop field. Carry on by the left-hand hedge, and continue in the same direction across the next field as its hedge curves down the slope.
3. Emerging onto a road, walk left down to a crossroads, there turning right into Batsford estate village. At a T-junction, Batsford church lies to the right, while the onward route is left, back to the main road and then right.
4. Leave after some 50yds (46m) along a contained footpath on the right and maintain your direction for 0.5 mile (800m) at the edge of successive fields, which are overlooked by Batsford House, set against a curtain of woodland to the west.
5. On reaching a field still bearing the ridges of medieval ploughing, turn right by a four-fingered waymark towards a house. Keep ahead across a drive (which leads to Batsford Arboretum) and follow a rising path to a stile below a wood. Joining a track just above, follow it up for 400yds (366m) to a waymark, there doubling back sharp right. Turn left in front of gates into the private park and continue by the estate wall. Cresting the hill you will meet a lane.
6. Cross to a track opposite, which drops beside a couple of fields. Finding a path in the bottom trees, follow it left through a gate. After 250yds (230m), mount a stile beside another gate on the right and descend the hill along the field edge towards Blockley. At the bottom, go over a stile on the right and continue down, crossing Park Farm's drive to a stile in the lower right corner. Keep at the edge of the next field and leave along a track out to a lane. Turn right back past Lower Brook House.

DISTANCE/TIME	4.5 miles (7.2km) 2h15
MAP OS	OS Explorer 01.45 The Cotswolds
START	Grid ref: SP 165349. Blockley, on the edge of the churchyard, just off the main street.
TRACKS	Lanes, tracks and fields, 5 stiles
GETTING TO THE START	Park on the B4479 below Blockley church.
THE PUB	The Crown Inn and Hotel, Blockley. Tel: 01386 700245