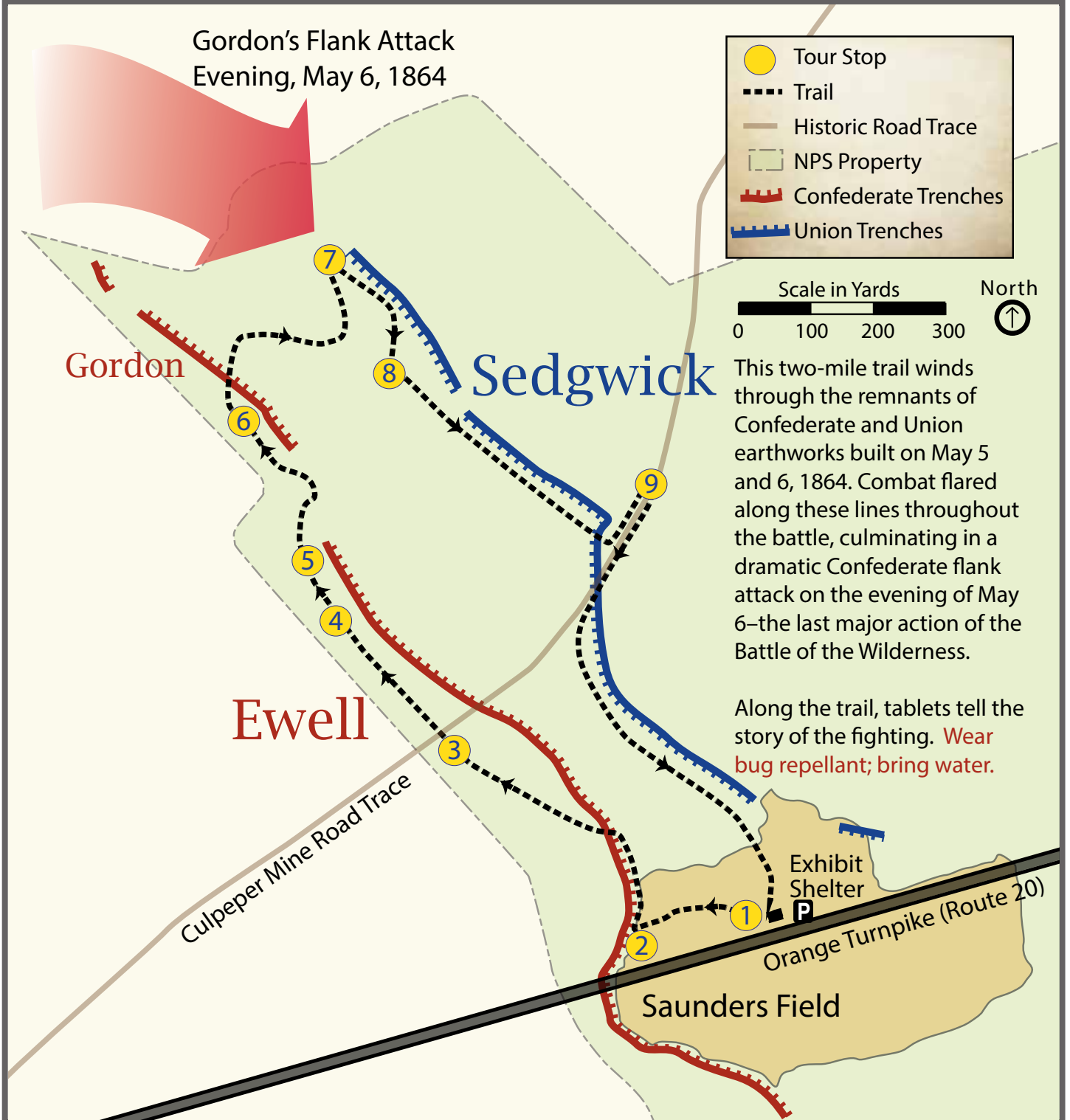


Gordon's Flank Attack Trail

Battle of the Wilderness

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP



The Battle of the Wilderness

The first clash between Lee and Grant took place in the sparsely settled area long known as "The Wilderness." For two days, May 5-6, 1864, battle raged along the region's two major roads.

This trail follows the fighting along and north of the historic Orange Turnpike (Route 20). Three miles south, along the Orange Plank Road (Route 621), a parallel battle erupted.

The Visible Remnants of Battle

Along the trail, you will see low mounds that are all that remain of the earth and log works (right) built by soldiers during the battle. After the fighting on May 6, the Confederates seized long stretches of Union earthworks, then re-faced them for their own use.



