

The Tennyson Twenty

A 20 mile walk circling Somersby in the Lincolnshire Wolds, the birthplace of Alfred Lord Tennyson, the Victorian Poet Laureate. All of the route is on OS Landranger Map 122, 'Skegness & Horncastle' and on OS Explorer 273, 'Lincolnshire Wolds South'. The walk starts from Hagworthingham on the A158 east of Horncastle, where there is parking by the phone box in the lay by (TF 3446966). You could also start from other good parking spots on the verge of the Bluestone Heath Road above Tetford (TF337765) or at the start of the Brinkhill – Bag Enderby bridleway (TF 369735).

There are pubs on the walk at Hagworthingham, Tetford, Burwell and South Thoresby. There is a cafe at Hagworthingham and the fishing lakes at Tetford sell tea in their shop. The Youth Hostel at Woody's Top is within 1/2 mile of the route, above Ruckland. There are no public toilets on the way round.

ABBREVIATIONS USED: L = Left R = Right FP = Footpath

BW = Bridleway Str on = Straight on

SP = Signposted

- 1 From **Hagworthingham** walk out of the village along A158. Pass 'Eggholme' into lay-by, turn R to climb up dead end road (FP sign). Str on at top by small cottage, onto farm track. Ignore track to L,. Str on at metal FP signpost to end of track. Turn L, follow arrows round field side to stream at bottom of hill.

Turn R, to cross stream on your L by bridge. Walk along field edge with hedge and dyke to your R. At farm track, turn R, follow this track round to **Stainsby** (just 2 houses) at TF 337716.

- 2 Str on at FP signpost, along metalled track to road. Turn R along road (*the stream you cross is a tributary of Tennyson's 'Brook'*) Turn at T-junction (SP Salmonby & Tetford).

Just after wood on R, turn R at BW signpost. Pass remains of old, overgrown farm buildings. Turn R at FP/BW signpost to road. Turn L on road, the R (SP Ruckland & Louth). Turn L before bridge at FP signpost, Go through gates by stream to cross bridge to R. Turn L off main track at waymark post under tree, to cross field to stile in hedge (often overgrown). Go over bridge, Str on across field to road at **Tetford**. (TF 333747).

- 3 Turn R to church. At bend take road to L of church. Ignore FP by gate to R. At junction of road and track, carry Str on by FP signpost, down right hand side of house . Go over stile and cross field to its left hand corner, through trees to waymark post (sometimes fallen).

Path is usually clearly defined. If not, go Str on up hill, aiming 20 yards to right of spinney in the middle of the field. Reach top & FP signpost near field corner. (*Good views to the coast on a very clear day!*) Half R across next two fields to track: turn L to Bluestone Heath Road at TF 337765.

- 4 Turn R for short distance along road to new farm road to Worlaby House, FP signpost and stiles in hedgerow. Follow the waymark across the fields to a gap/stile in hedge and then on a track downhill and to R of the farm buildings. Swing right at the bottom of track to turn left at row of farm houses to public road at **Ruckland**. (TF 333777)

- 5 Turn R down to road bridge; then uphill. Turn R onto track past St. Olave's (*the county's smallest church*). Go through R hand gate and on through next gate. Immediately turn L to walk uphill with fence on your L. Follow wooden fence round to go through gate onto track. Turn R up track, keeping Str on at 2 junctions, to road. Turn R to Burwell. (The path off to the R at top of hill is often very overgrown at the village end.) At A16, turn R into village and the Stag's Head. (TF 355796)
- 6 Cross main road, take farm track to L of church hall (*old butter cross*). Pass Priory Farm to minor road. Turn L along road, keep R after Brook Farm Cottages (SP South Thoresby & Authorpe), past site of Burwell Hall. After Park Farm, where road has a sharp L bend, carry Str on over stile at FP sign. Walk to R of stream (can be very overgrown in summer). Follow this round into small narrow valley, over stile and onto farm road by ponds.
- 7 (This track, which goes through Valley Farm, is not a right of way.) Turn R over stile before the first house. Turn L up to stile at top of ridge. Carry on, keeping hedge to your L, through next gate to High Bar. Turn L at FP sign at the house, Str across field to farm road. Now turn R into **Swaby**. (TF 387775)
- 8 Turn L at crossroads into Pado Lane, then R into Valley Lane. At end of road, keep to left of wooden garage to BW sign. Walk between house and pond to gate into Swaby Valley Nature Reserve. Follow good path through Reserve and wood.

Where path forks, keep to R through wood to emerge at end of field. Keep to R hand edge of field with stream on your R. At waymark post, turn R short distance to cross bridge and duckboards. Turn half left, aiming to L of house roof just visible in tree. Cross more duckboards to bridge and stile. Walk down R hand side of field, cross stile in wire fence to road at R of church at **South Thoresby**. (TF 403772)

- 9 Turn R along road and Str on at post box to A16. (Turn L at post box for Vine Inn.) Cross road and carry on to **Calceby** (*a deserted mediaeval village with a ruined church*). At T-junction, go over stile at gates which are slightly uphill on your L. Go over next stile and walk diagonally across the field to far left-hand corner, to bring you out at end of farm track. Turn R, keeping hedge and then old quarry on your L.

(If the field after the second stile is cropped, the alternative is to continue uphill on the road for a small distance, then turn R onto farm track. At its end, continue as above.)

Towards the bottom of the field, cross through gaps in the hedge, to walk with it now on your R, down to the field corner. Cross stream by small wooden bridge in front of you (you may have to search for it!) Turn left along stream to gateway, then on up to main track at **Driby**. (TF 389744)

- 10 Turn L by church, over 2 cattle grids. At grid by post box, turn R onto BW. Go through gates to turn R at junction of tracks. Follow this round, ignoring all side tracks, to the road at **Brinkhill**. Turn R downhill to the village. (TF 373737)

- 11 Turn L at junction, (SP Harrington & Horncastle) out of village. Where road swings L, keep Str on along BW. Follow this through, ignoring side tracks, to **Bag Enderby**. Cross minor road onto even smaller one into village. (TF 349721).

(Tennyson's birthplace at Somersby is just up the road. The actual house is not open, but the church contains memorabilia and is well worth a visit. His father, who was vicar at Somersby, was also rector of Bag Enderby.)

- 12 Turn L on BW next to church. Follow round to R and walk on the main track back to the start, ignoring FP after the second bridge. Pass pig farm and at the crossing FP, turn R over stile. Head diagonally across field to stile by telegraph pole. Continue over next field to road at the pub. Turn R back to the start.

CONGRATULATIONS! I hope you've enjoyed the 'Tennyson Twenty'. For your certificate and rucksack badge, please send a short report of your walk with £2,00, made payable to;

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