

## Tetford

**Start:** Tetford church (TF334748) (or Calceby **POINT F** (TF390757) to reach the White Hart at Tetford for lunch).

**Distance:** 10.5 miles.

**Refreshments:** White Hart public house, Tetford, Massingberd Arms (3 miles from start).

*A splendid walk around classic Wolds countryside. The route follows paths, tracks and parkland, to visit several pretty villages. Allow about 4.5 hours.*

The walk begins at Tetford church. At the road junction opposite the school, take the gravel driveway between a whitewashed property and a new house. Pass by the front of a cottage and walk through the garden, veering right to pass a shed. Beyond the shed, you cross a footbridge **POINT A** and a stile to reach parkland. Tetford Longhorn cattle may be seen grazing here, the ha-ha keeping them away from the garden beyond.

Go half-right to a broad footbridge, then veer left to climb a stile in the hedge. Turn left along the lane, then right at the tee-junction. You have a kilometre of tarmac walking now, a straight route that brings you to a farm gate. The bridleway turns right here on a lengthy diversion that you follow, eventually going left, then right, then left again onto a footpath (the bridleway continuing straight ahead). Pass a strip of woodland on the right **POINT B** and continue on until the track swings up to the left. Here, go ahead on a well-waymarked path, boundary right. Just after reaching the second field, the path drops down through the hedge **POINT C** and you continue in the same direction, with the hedge now on the left. When you reach a kissing gate, pass through to enter the parkland of the Massingberd estate. Continue in the same direction, following the occasional waymarks as you walk through the trees. Cross a driveway and continue, to a road with the Massingberd Arms opposite **POINT D**.

*Ormsby Hall, hidden in the parkland you have just crossed, was built by the architect James Paine in 1752 and is the home of Massingberd-Mundy family. The Massingberds have lived in Lincolnshire since the 13th century, with Gunby Hall, the home of one branch of the family until 1967, being built by Sir William Massingberd in 1700.*

After refreshment, walk down the road to reach estate cottages just before a road junction. Here, climb a stile on the left and cross the meadow to the top right corner near a cottage, where you take a path alongside greenhouses. Climb a stile into the next field and go left, aiming for a further stile where the fence boundaries meet. In the following field, go diagonally right, but aiming well to the left of the taller trees on the far boundary where you will find a stile and footbridge **POINT E**.

Three cross-field paths now, which may (or may not) be reinstated after ploughing. Waymarks direct you diagonally right, to a gap in the right-hand hedge boundary. In the next field, cross half-left to another gap in the far boundary and in the third field continue in the same direction to the far corner. If you aim to the right of the brick-built house, you will see the field corner as you reach the high point in the field. (Of course, we live in hope that the paths have been cleared and the route is obvious!)

You are now on the Bluestone Heath Road. Turn right and walk with care to a road junction, noticing the ruins of St. Andrew's church on the hill to the left.

*The ruined church is all that remains of the medieval village of Calceby, but in the surrounding fields can be seen traces of streets and the foundations of houses. The road along which you are now walking follows the course of a prehistoric track.*

At the junction, Calceby Manor is ahead. If you began the walk here you've finished! If you started at Tetford, it's worth diverting left for a few yards to read the information board in the layby

**POINT F** before continuing a short distance past the junction to climb a stile on the right. Once over, go left to climb another, and then walk diagonally across the field to the far corner where a finger post comes into view. Now follow the field edge, boundary left, looking for a waymark directing you to the other side of the hedge, and then continue, boundary right to a footbridge at the bottom corner of the field **POINT G**. Cross the bridge and follow the field edge left, to reach a stile on the left. Climb over, then walk up the meadow towards houses and a lane.

*The Grade II listed church here, was dedicated to Saint Michael and rebuilt in 1849. Declared redundant, it was converted to a private house in 1978.*

Follow the lane right, forking left before the cattle grid, and then walking with the hedge on the right to a stile that you cross. Now continue, boundary right with a pumping station beyond. At the boundary corner **POINT H** cross the field diagonally right to the bottom corner. Here, you enter woodland and follow the clear, meandering path to eventually leave via a metal field gate. Turn left and follow the field edge, then keep to the right of the boundary hedge as far as a metal gate and footpath sign pointing left. Here, cross the field to the far side and a stile, then continue straight ahead to a further stile and footbridge. Cross this next field to a gap in the far hedge, in line with distant houses.

Now walk ahead with a ditch to your left and follow the field edge with boundary then plantation to your left to reach a stile that you climb **POINT I**.

*Here, as you begin to cross the field to the village of Brinkhill, you are also crossing the course of a Roman road that ran from Lincoln to a port near Skegness. Notice also the earthworks to your left; these are the remains of a moat that would have encircled a medieval farmstead. You can read more about Brinkhill's history on an information board beyond the stile at the far side of the field.*

So, across the field and over the stile to reach Brinkhill. Pick up the road going left, then fork right at the road junction, signed Harrington and Horncastle. Now follow the road out of the village, leaving it to walk on a broad track ahead where the road turns sharp left. Keep on the track, passing a cottage on the right **POINT J** and proceeding to a right bend, shortly followed by one to the left. Now look for a bridleway on the right; take this and follow the field edge, boundary right. The path climbs, and then descends to reach a road **POINT K**.

*Well into the late 1950's three footpaths crossed the field on your right, with one following the course of the Roman road you encountered earlier. It met the road here, and then continued diagonally left across the field beyond.*

Follow the road left for a short distance before crossing a footbridge on the right and walking ahead along the field boundary as far as a footbridge on the left (the old Roman road joined here from the right and you will now follow its course into Tetford). Beyond the bridge, strike out across the field, your guide being a distant finger post, from where the white handrails of a footbridge come into view. Beyond that, continue in the same direction towards a thicket, where you cross another footbridge and go through a kissing gate. Go ahead to a further bridge/gate set, then continue with a ditch to the right. Cross another footbridge **POINT L** and walk ahead, ditch now on the left, to a further bridge. Cross the field ahead to the hedge boundary and climb the stile here, then walk ahead aiming to the right of a large tree that formed part of an old field boundary. Continue ahead, (old) boundary left, until the tower of Tetford church appears dead ahead. Aim for that and go through the gate into the churchyard, with the road and your starting point beyond.

*The White Hart is a short distance to the left. Built in 1520, it is reputedly the third oldest pub in the country. You can rest on the wooden settle where Tennyson wrote some of his poems.*

