

How to get there: Somerby (SatNav – High Street LE14 2PZ) lies in the triangle formed by Leicester, Melton Mowbray and Oakham and is easily reached from any direction by car. **From Leicester** take the A47 towards Uppingham. Turn left along B6047 through Tilton to Twyford. Turn right through Burrough on the Hill to Somerby. **From Melton** take the A606 towards Oakham. Turn right at signs to Pickwell and Somerby.

Car parking: There is no public car park but parking is usually possible on the main street if you use care and consideration. There is a Pay and Display car park at Burrough Hill, where it is possible to start the walk.

Public transport: Service 100 Syston to Melton Mowbray.

Map: Explorer 246 Loughborough Melton Mowbray and Syston

Route One very steep hill (installation of steps has made this climb easy) and one very muddy section of path (on the Dalby Hills permissive path). Lovely views and pretty villages.

NB. Please note that the Dalby Hills permissive path is occasionally closed by the Ernest Cook trustees on Thursdays in the shooting season. You might need to make a detour by going further downhill to walk along the road. This adds a mile and a half to the route. A notice board informs you when the path is closed.

Refreshment: There is one good pub in Somerby serving excellent beers, snacks and more substantial meals. There is also a pub/restaurant in Burrough on the Hill.



Items of interest: Burrough Hill the Iron Age hill fort. The notice board gives you the historical information. It is now a popular place for flying model aircraft and kites. There are marvelous views from the top of these hills.

The Walk:



From Somerby church walk along the High Street passing a pub on your left. At the far end of the village, where the road bends sharp right, go half left along an avenue lined with horse chestnut trees. Beyond the avenue continue along the minor road which bears slightly right. Where the road turns slightly left, turn right to follow the footpath sign.

The footpath follows the parish boundary hedge on your left. Go through the farm gate, where panoramic views of the county open up to the south and west, with Burrough on the Hill in the near distance ahead. A beautiful valley shaped by the sculptured contours appear below you on the right.

Continue in the same direction to a waymark post a short distance ahead and then bear slightly right, downhill, making for a waymark post near where the hedge in the valley on the right converges towards a line of trees.

Cross the footbridge and keep in the same direction to reach the next hedge and then bear slightly right towards a corner of wire mesh fencing. Continue with this fencing on your right. Join the access road and go uphill. Turn right at the minor road and pass Burrough House on your left.

Meet the Somerby Road and turn right for half a mile. (No pavements. Take care.) Turn left at the footpath sign by a clump of conifers and walk along the track past the underground reservoir. Keep the hedge on your right at first but cross the double stile half way along this hedge and continue in the same direction but with the hedge now on your left. Meet the access drive to Burrough Hill. Our route continues from this point, but you can turn right to make a short detour to the toilets and car park picnic site or turn left for a close look at Burrough Hill, the Iron Age earthwork.

To continue the walk, cross the track and keep in the same direction. Burrough Hill Lodge is over to your right. Cross the waymarked stile to the left of the house and turn left to walk close to the hedge on your right. Go through the bridle gate in the top corner and keep in the same direction to go over the crest of the hill in a big open field. The next crossing is by a little corner of the field, where the hedge projects a bit. Go steeply downhill to meet the track leading to the Da/by H/7/s permissive path.

The notice board on your right informs you whether the permissive path is open or not. **If the path is open**, follow it for half a mile to the next notice board at Buttermilk Spinney, where you turn right. Ignore the next two paragraphs.

If the permissive path is closed you will need to go downhill from the notice board. Go through the bridle gate and follow the bridleway across the field. (It should be clearly visible even if the field is ploughed.) Meet the Dalby Road just to the right of Home Farm. Turn right and walk along the road towards Little Dalby. (You will be able to see, on your right, the track which leads up to Buttermilk Spinney, but you need to take a semicircular detour along the road to reach the public footpath to it.) Continue along the road towards Little Dalby. (Ignore the lane on your left.) The road bends sharp right and you soon need to turn right onto the signposted footpath.

Cross down to the bottom left corner of the field, between two spinneys. Cross the footbridge and make your way up the fenced-off path. Meet the farm track and turn left to Buttermilk Spinney. Pass the Ernest Cook Trust notice board on your right.

Both routes continue from Buttermilk Spinney into the Punch Bowl. Ignore the permissive path that goes off to the left and go straight ahead.



There is a steep climb ahead to the ridge which is finally reached via a flight of steps. If you fancy a rest the bench at the bottom of the steps is an excellent place to sit and admire the beautiful views with Little Dalby Hall visible in the distance.

From the top of the ridge there are fine views. The spire of Somerby can be seen ahead. Aim for a point slightly right of the spire and keep in this direction, (due south). The fields are usually ploughed and not reinstated but there should be a discernible line of footprints to show you the way across the dip of the second open field and up to a waymarked corner. Walk with the hedge on your right in the next field. When the hedge ends, continue in the same direction across the open field.

On the ridge over to your left Pickwell church tower should be visible. Ahead lies a wooded hollow with a stream crossed by a wooden plank bridge. This is a very pretty area, home to many wet meadowland wild flowers. You need to go straight ahead to reach the footbridge, but to avoid the wettest ground, move slightly right to pass the spring.

The next waymarked stile leads you up into the corner of the field, close to the hedge on your left. Move slightly right at the field corner to cross into a small corner of rough ground. Continue close to the hedge on your left in the next field. Cross the track (which leads to the sewage treatment plant on your left) and continue in the same direction, through the group of trees to follow a line of big trees which leads you into a jitty between houses on the main street of Somerby opposite Manor Lane.

Somerby church lies to your left and the Stilton Cheese Inn to your right.

