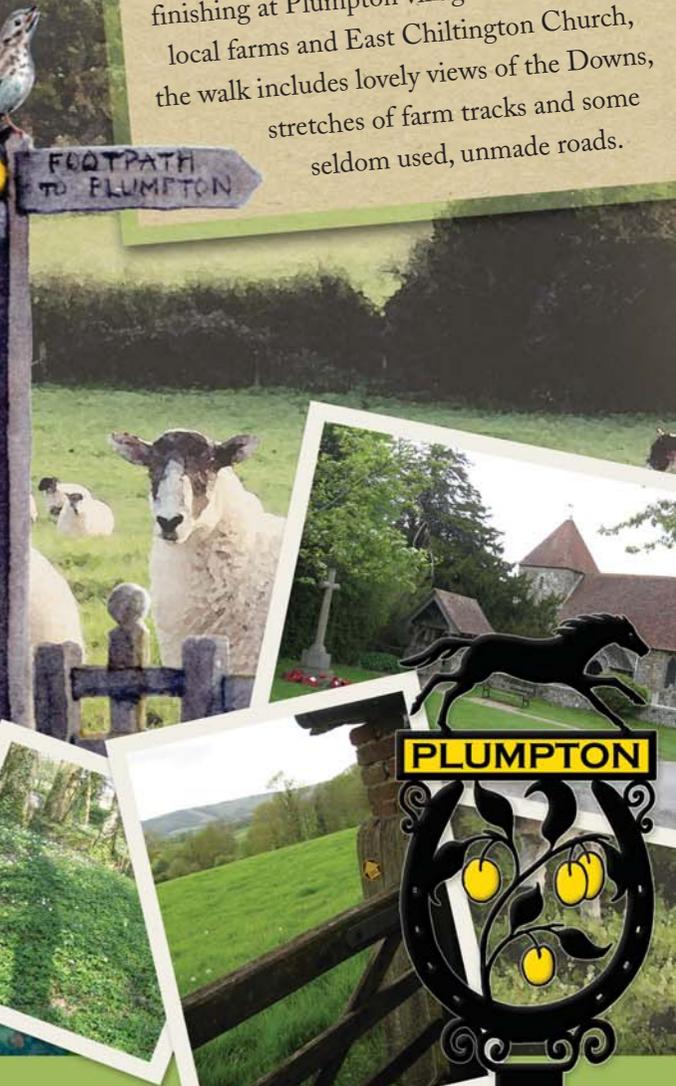


## North Barnes Farm, Hurst Barnes and Wootton Farm

A circular walk to the east of Plumpton Green, to East Chiltington, starting and finishing at Plumpton village hall. Taking in local farms and East Chiltington Church, the walk includes lovely views of the Downs, stretches of farm tracks and some seldom used, unmade roads.



14

Go straight across the field, cross a stile just past a solitary oak and continue on towards a stile at the top of a slight bank ahead. Over the stile, keep to the right side of this field until, by a small bungalow on your left, you come to another stile leading onto a narrow path between a post and wire fence and the hedge. Cross one more stile to arrive on Chapel Lane, with East Chiltington Church in front of you.



17

Cross this field, heading north west, via gates and stiles, to a stile on the far side.

15

Cross the lane and take the unmade road, known as the Ferrings, to the right of the church. Follow this downhill to a bridge over a stream then up through a wooded area until you reach a field opening on your right.

18

Cross this stile and turn immediately left, following the hedge for a few yards through some very rough undergrowth, round the overhanging willow trees, to a stile leading onto Plumpton Lane.

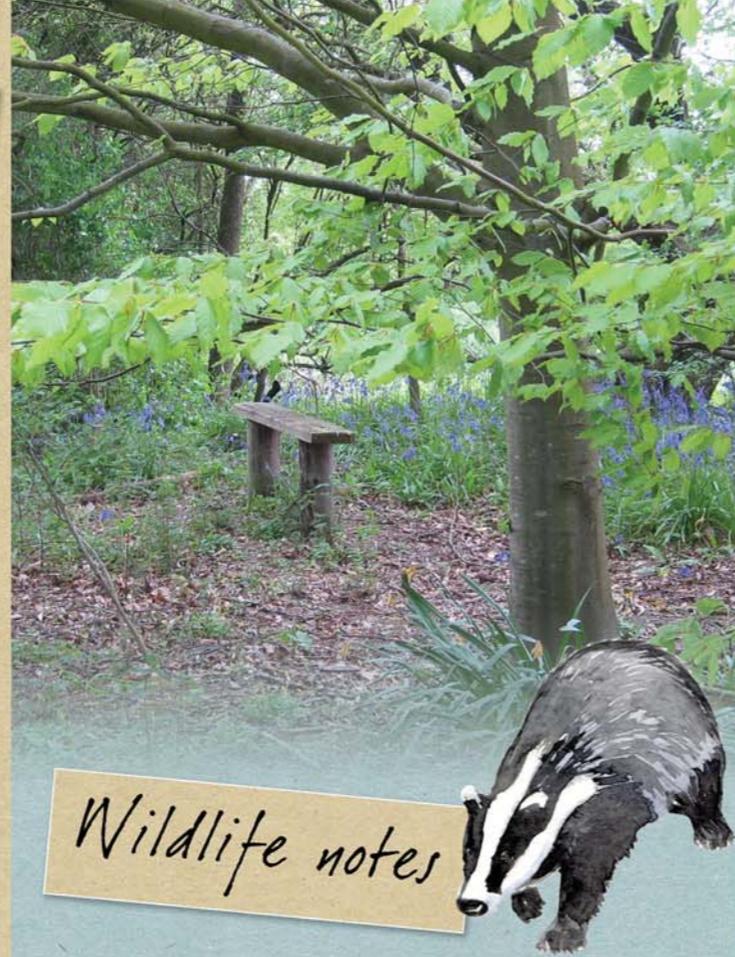
16

Turn into the field, through a metal field gate, and bear immediately left across a plank bridge. Cross the bottom of this field and continue north, with the hedge on your left, until you come to a stile on your left. Cross the stile into a field divided by post and rail fences into a series of small paddocks.



19

Turn right and follow the lane over the level crossing and onto Station Road. Continue in a northerly direction to return to the village hall.



### Wildlife notes

*In cold periods of winter, the fields between Strawlands and Novington Lane (point 3) can provide feeding grounds for flocks of lapwings and sometimes golden plover, or flocks of thrushes or skylarks.*

*Stop on the bridge over the Bevern Stream (point 7), where you may spot a kingfisher or grey wagtail. If you fancy a detour, a large area to the east of this point has been designated as a conservation area and has a network of permitted paths that pass through some interesting areas.*

*The track from East Chiltington Church down to the stream (point 15) is very sunken, giving steep sunny banks that are rich in wild flowers, particularly in the spring. The woodland around the stream has a rich mixed flora and a good diversity of woodland birds.*

This leaflet is one of 16 produced by the Plumpton Village Action Plan Footpaths Team. Copies can be downloaded free from [www.plumptonvap.co.uk](http://www.plumptonvap.co.uk)

Plumpton parish includes the villages of Plumpton and Plumpton Green. The parish lies at the foot of the South Downs, near Brighton and Lewes, in East Sussex. The southern part of the parish is within the South Downs National Park.

#### Public transport

Plumpton is served by two bus services (166 and 824, Monday to Saturday) and a frequent train service (London Victoria to Eastbourne, Hastings and Ore, daily including Sundays). There is also a daily train service from Brighton via Lewes.

For information about bus times telephone 0844 477 1623 or visit [www.countryliner-coaches.co.uk](http://www.countryliner-coaches.co.uk) For train times telephone 0845 127 2920 or visit [www.southernrailway.com](http://www.southernrailway.com)

#### Pubs and shop

Plumpton has four pubs: the Half Moon at the south end of the village, beneath the Downs; the Winning Post and Fountain Inn, both in the centre of the village, and the Plough, at the north end of the village. There is also a pub, the Jolly Sportsman, in East Chiltington. The Plumpton village shop is open daily and has a delicatessen.

#### Please follow the Countryside Code

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



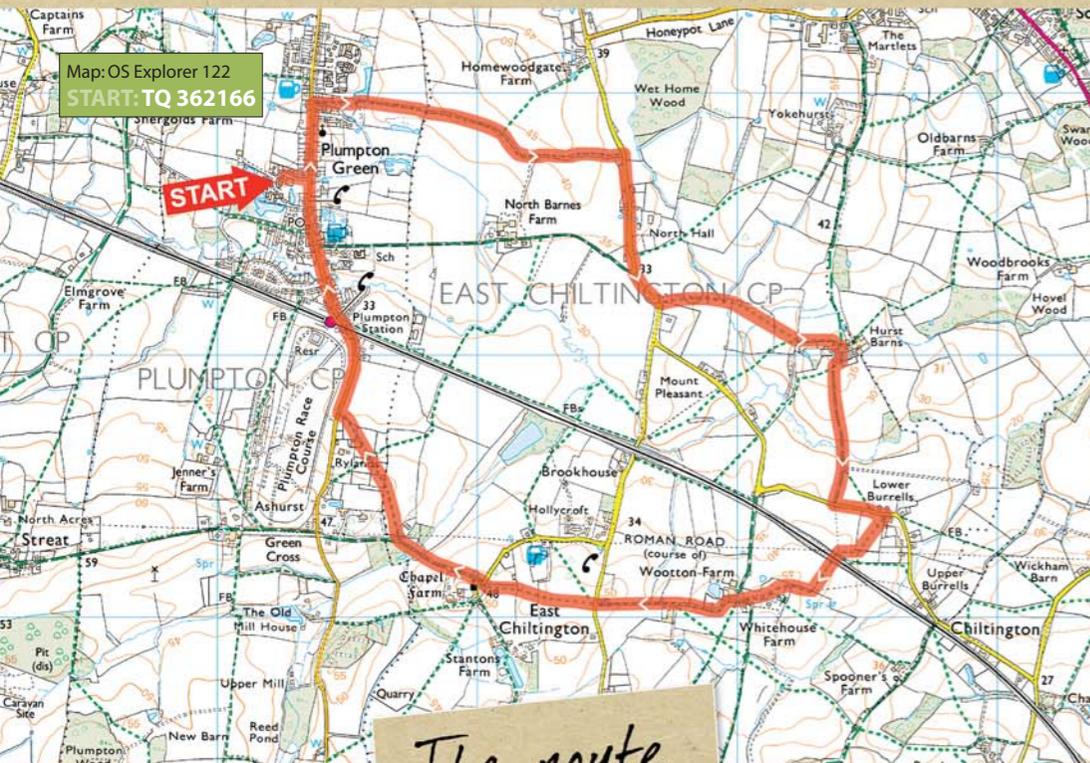
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With thanks to all those who contributed to these leaflets. In particular, thanks to the Plumpton Footpaths Society, who showed us the way; the Plumpton Wildlife & Habitat Group for their commentaries; Kate Gold, for walks and photos; Bob Doran, for photos, and Lyndsey Smith for her lovely wildlife illustrations. This walk was correct at June 2010. Any comments and subsequent corrections should be emailed to [footpaths@plumptonvap.co.uk](mailto:footpaths@plumptonvap.co.uk). Walkers should take due care when following this walk and do so at their own risk. No liability is accepted by the authors, the Village Action Plan Footpath Team or any other party.

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## The route

**1** Leave the village hall car park and return to Station Road. With the village hall behind you, turn left up Station Road. Pass All Saints Church on your right, and then the turning to Wells Close. Take the next turning right off Station Road into an unmade, unmarked road (known as Strawlands), marked by a small concrete footpath sign.

**2** Follow the track past houses on your left until it turns into a footpath leading past some garages on your left with a post and wire fence on your right. Pass over a plank bridge, through a small thicket and into a field.

**3** Continue on the path along the edge of this field with the hedge on your left, over another ditch via a stile and onto a farm track beside a large field. Continue in the same direction along this track for some way, with the hedge now on your right, ignoring a turning to your right down to North Barnes Farm. The footpath continues straight ahead in an easterly direction, still following the hedgerow on your right, until you reach Novington Lane, through a squeeze stile and over a plank bridge.

**4** Turn right down the lane, passing North Hall on the left and a farm road on the right. At the next bend in the lane, turn left into a wide field with a track going eastwards across it.

**5** At the far boundary of this field, do not continue through the wide gap in the hedge, but turn right off the track, with the hedge on your left, for a few yards, then left across a plank bridge, through a small thicket until you come to a stile.

**6** Cross the stile and continue in the same direction across the field. Ahead you will see a line of large oak trees, and the remains of a stile (at time of writing). Pass through the wide gap in the hedge between two oaks and continue on towards a stile next to a metal field gate. Cross this into a small paddock, with a large house on your right. Cross another stile to the left of the field gate at the end of this paddock.

**7** Continue with the house still on your right to a high stile on your right. Cross this onto a track/driveway. The house, and the collection of houses and farm buildings on the left, is Hurst Barns. Follow the drive heading due south, towards the Downs, for about quarter of a mile, going over a bridge over the Bevern Stream and up a slight gradient, until you come to Chilington Lane.

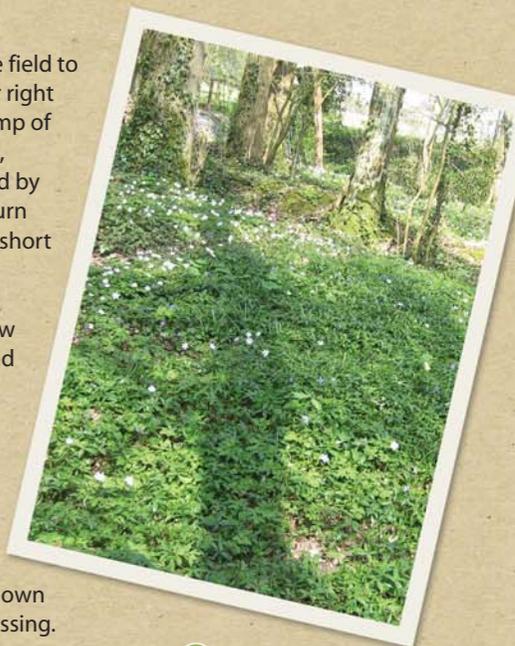
**8** Turn left along the lane and after about 150 yards turn right into the drive of a house and almost immediately take the stile on your right into a small field.

**9** Walk across the field to a stile in the far right corner, in a clump of sycamore trees, closely followed by another stile. Turn left and walk a short distance to the hedge corner, cross the narrow strip of field, and then turn right along the boundary hedge until you come to a large stile and flight of steps leading down to a railway crossing.

**10** Cross the railway line, taking care. Continue up a long flight of steps on the other side and over the stile.

**11** Continue straight across the middle of the next field, cross over a stile and turn immediately right. Follow the hedge to a squeeze stile and on through a plantation of small trees/bushes.

**12** Go straight on over a stile into a small paddock. Cross the paddock towards another stile in the far left corner beside a gate, to come out onto a farm road.



**13** Turn right along the farm road past the Grange on the left, Wootton Farm on the right and, a bit further on, Birchington Farm on the left. After approximately half a mile you come to Novington Lane. Cross the lane and climb over the stile into the field opposite.

