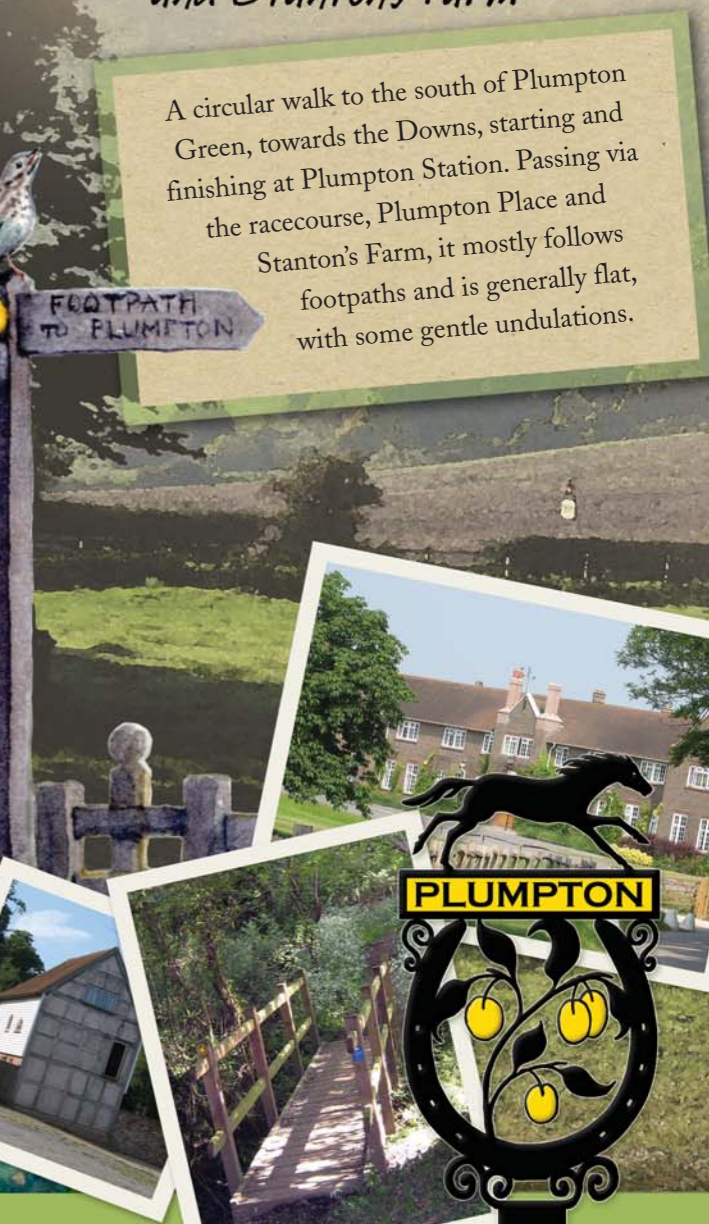


Plumpton Racecourse, Plumpton Place and Stanton's Farm

A circular walk to the south of Plumpton Green, towards the Downs, starting and finishing at Plumpton Station. Passing via the racecourse, Plumpton Place and Stanton's Farm, it mostly follows footpaths and is generally flat, with some gentle undulations.



22

Just before Keepers' Cottage on your left, turn off the lane and cross a stile to the left of a field gate. As the garden hedge on the right ends, bear diagonally right across the field towards a stile on the far side.

23

Cross two stiles into the next field and then turn diagonally left, crossing a plank bridge halfway across the field, heading towards a field gate with a stile to its right.

24

Go over the stile and through a woodland strip out onto a track. Turn right and follow the track, passing ponds on either side, until you reach Stanton's Farm on the right and Stanton's Barn, a former Cromwellian barn, on your left.

25

The track continues to East Chiltington Church. Here, follow the flint church wall on your left round onto an unmade road known as the Ferrings. Follow this road, crossing over the stream, a tributary of the Bevern.



26

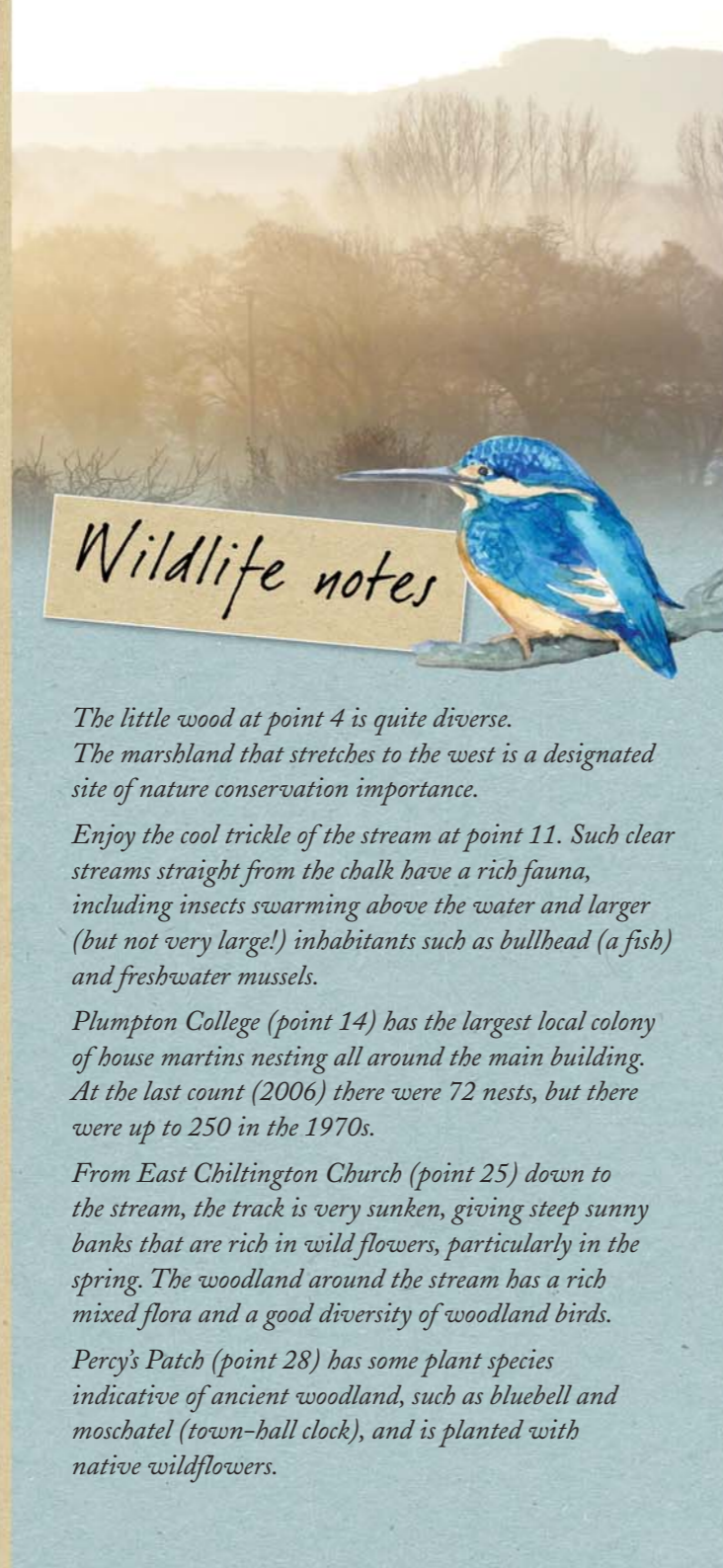
Shortly after the stream, turn right through a five bar gate and bear immediately left across a plank bridge. Cross the bottom of this field and turn right, with the hedge on your left, following the edge of the field until you come to a stile giving onto a field divided into small paddocks.

27

Cross the stile into this field and continue diagonally right to a midpoint where the footpath intersects with another footpath. Here, bear diagonally right again and return to the field you have just left via another stile, further down the hedgerow. Continue in the same line across the top of the field to a gap in the hedge on the far side. Go through the gap, turn left and follow the path around to your left and on to a stile, which leads onto the railway crossing.

28

Cross the railway, taking care. Turn left and follow the track towards a stand of trees, known locally as Percy's Patch. Continue along the concrete track with the George V Playing Fields on your right to return to Plumpton Station.



Wildlife notes



The little wood at point 4 is quite diverse.

The marshland that stretches to the west is a designated site of nature conservation importance.

Enjoy the cool trickle of the stream at point 11. Such clear streams straight from the chalk have a rich fauna, including insects swarming above the water and larger (but not very large!) inhabitants such as bullhead (a fish) and freshwater mussels.

Plumpton College (point 14) has the largest local colony of house martins nesting all around the main building. At the last count (2006) there were 72 nests, but there were up to 250 in the 1970s.

From East Chiltington Church (point 25) down to the stream, the track 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.

Percy's Patch (point 28) has some plant species indicative of ancient woodland, such as bluebell and moschatel (town-hall clock), and is planted with native wildflowers.

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

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 For train times telephone 0845 127 2920 or visit 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. 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.

Designed by Phipps Design
www.phippsdesign.co.uk

Printed by Quentin Press Ltd on FSC certified paper using alcohol-free printing presses and vegetable-based inks.
www.quentinpress.co.uk





The route



1 Starting at the station ticket office, cross over the first footbridge to the northbound (London) platform. Continue in a westerly direction to the end of the platform and turn left, passing under the second footbridge, heading towards the grandstand of Plumpton Racecourse.

2 Follow the metalled footpath with the racecourse on your left and gravelled car park on your right, around the back of the grandstand and racecourse buildings, heading due south towards the Downs until you come to a T junction at the main entrance to the racecourse.

3 Turn right, and shortly after left at a footpath sign. Continue on a grassy track down past a pond on your right as you cross a stream. Continue straight ahead on the path, heading towards the Downs, as the track enters a field.

4 Cross the field and climb over a stile into a small wood. Cross two bridges in quick succession. At the end of the second bridge, bear left and follow the path around the edge of the field, known locally as Sixty Acres. Continue with the hedge on your left at first, but when it turns away left, keep straight ahead, with the hedge now on your right.

5 Glorious views of the Downs emerge as you reach the top of the slight rise, with Blackcap to the left, and the V of trees, planted to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887, and Ditchling Beacon to the right.

6 Where the path joins a farm track from the right, continue straight on towards a field gate ahead with the hedge now on your left.

7 Just before the field gate, turn left down a grassy track, keeping the hedge on your right. At a break in the hedge, under a line of oak trees, climb over a squeeze stile into a field.

8 Continue south across the field, following the direction of the fingerpost, with the hedge on your right, towards the far right hand corner. Cross a squeeze stile onto a footbridge and over another stile in quick succession.

9 Continue straight across the next field to the middle of the hedgerow on the far side. Cross a small footbridge and stile into the corner of the next field.

10 Turn right, keeping close to the hedge on your right. At the end of the field pass through a gap in the hedge and continue south towards the Downs, following the waymark.

11 At the end of the next field, cross over a stile and a footbridge across a shallow stream. Continue south with the stream on your left, towards a post and rail fence.

12 At the fence turn right and, keeping the fence to your left, continue along a wooded path until you reach a wooden garden gate.

13 Go through the gate into the drive of Plumpton College. Take care as there may be agricultural and other vehicles using the road.

14 Turn left and follow the drive, with the main Plumpton College building on your right.

15 Continue along the main drive until you come to the gated entrance to Plumpton Place on your left. Take the footpath on the left. Plumpton Place, a moated Elizabethan manor house, can be seen on your left.

16 Follow the post and rail fence on your left to a kissing gate. Go through the gate and continue diagonally left across the field, with the Downs on your right, towards the far corner of the field.

17 Cross the stile to arrive at the front entrance to the Half Moon pub. Continue on around the front of the pub and turn left up Plumpton Lane.

18 Walk past the bus stop and layby on the left, before crossing the road with care and climbing over a stile into a small paddock. Cross the paddock, keeping the flint wall to your right, go through a pedestrian gate, across the next small paddock and over a stile to emerge onto a track.

19 Turn left up the track until you come to a stile on your right, about 40 yards along. Cross this and head across the field in a north easterly direction to another stile and a wood ahead. Cross this stile onto a track.

20 Follow the track with the wood on your left. The track bends sharp left and continues until you meet a drive running right to left (leading to a house in the woods on your left). Cross the drive and head diagonally right, following the direction of the fingerpost, across the field to another stile.

21 Cross this stile onto a small metalled road. Cross the road, go through a kissing gate opposite and continue, with the hedge on your left, until you emerge onto Novington Lane, opposite the entrance to Warningore Farm. Turn left along Novington Lane for about a quarter of a mile.

