

East Chiltington Church, Warningore Wood and Novington Manor

A circular walk to the south east of East Chiltington, starting and finishing at East Chiltington Church. Passing through woodland, fields and along farm tracks, this is a lovely, varied walk.

FOOTPATH
TO PLUMPTON

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



Wildlife notes



Warningore Wood (point 8) is mainly hornbeam coppice and the wide ride through the wood is good for woodland flowers and butterflies, including white admirals.

Hornbeam (meaning hard wood) was widely planted and coppiced or pollarded in the early 19th century to provide wood for fuel, cog wheels, charcoal and gunpowder. The clear streams and a pond seen at the edge of the field are fed by chalk springs from the foot of the Downs and are full of varied aquatic vegetation, including watercress and fool's watercress.

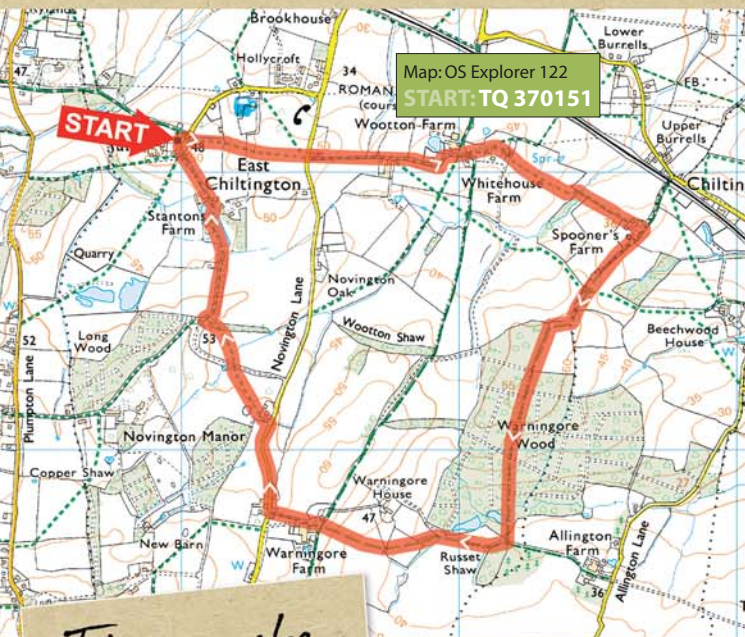
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The route

1 Climb the stile across the road from the red post box on the grassy verge by East Chiltington Church onto a narrow fenced path alongside a holly hedge to your left, with the small cottage to your right.

2 After a short distance go over a second stile into a field and follow the path beside the hedge. Cross another stile and go down the grassy bank beyond.



3 Walk across the field towards a stile in the fence in front of a solitary oak tree. Cross the stile and follow the path across the field, heading towards the house visible beyond the far hedge. Go over another stile just to the left of a red post box into Novington Lane.

4 Cross the lane and walk along the concrete track leading to Wootton Farm. At Wootton Farm the track curves left and then right in front of a large brick barn. Continue straight on past the Grange on your right, ignoring tracks to the right and left, until you reach a squeeze stile to the left of a field gate.



5 Go through the squeeze stile and continue on the track towards Whitehouse Farm ahead, passing a small, unfenced orchard on the right and a paddock on the left. Immediately in front of the farmhouse turn right and go through a squeeze stile beside a gate into a large field.

6 Continue straight ahead for about 30 yards to a fingerpost in the hedge. Turn left and follow the path across the middle of the field. The path slopes downhill to a stile leading into a small copse. Cross over a small stream and emerge into another field.



7 Cross this field towards Spooners Farm. At the farm, bear left, following the edge of the field, round the farm buildings onto the farm drive. Go left here, and soon after turn sharp right to join a north-south track. Follow the track through a clump of trees to a small wooden gate. Continue to follow the path through the gate and along the edge of the field, to a row of four large oak trees.

8 Turn right at the first oak, and then left along the edge of Warringore Wood before entering a broad ride through the trees. Ignore tracks to the right and left (marked private property), and continue downhill through the wood until you reach a lake (not visible when the trees are in leaf), and a junction of footpaths. Turn right and follow the blue arrow bridleway signs across the field, following the line of telegraph poles.



9 At the far side, turn left off the main track, following the blue waymark signs into a small copse, where the path becomes a stony track. Go through a small wooden gate and cross the field towards another wooden gate into a large field below Warringore Farm.

10 Follow the fence on your left to a small wooden gate just to the left of the farmhouse. Through the gate, turn left and follow the track through the farm buildings to Novington Lane.

11 Turn right along Novington Lane for about a quarter of a mile. 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.

12 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.

13 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.

14 Continue, following the track, to return to East Chiltington Church.

