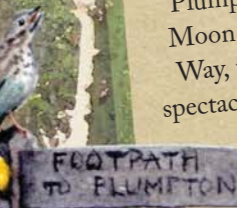


Westmeston, Middleton Manor and Street Ridge

A circular walk to the south west of Plumpton Green, starting and finishing at the junction of Plumpton Lane and the B2116 at the Half Moon pub. Passing along the South Downs Way, the early stages of this walk provide a spectacular view of the Low Weald. This walk covers a mixed terrain with a steep climb and descent and long, gently undulating sections.



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



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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.

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Wildlife notes



At point 1, note the large beech trees bordering the track. The strips of woodland contain some ancient woodland indicators such as wild cherry (gean), yellow archangel, early dog violet and bluebell.

To your right at point 2 is the Clayton to Offham Escarpment site of special scientific interest. It is notable for its nationally uncommon grassland, which is rich in flowering plants, including several orchid species. Along here you may find birds that are scarce in the rest of the parish, such as corn bunting, with its song like the jangling of keys, or yellowhammer with its 'little-bit-of-bread-and-no-cheese', or willow warbler with its melodious descent down a series of notes.

Some locally unusual plants can be found in the old sandpit at point 8, in common with such in-filled areas. The future of this site is uncertain, but it is developing some interesting features that attract a range of birds, such as skylark and nightingale.

Plumpton Wood (point 15) and the next two woods (Pig Wood and Granny's Wood) are registered ancient woodland and important for their flora. Between Plumpton Wood and Pig Wood a small diversion takes you to a bird watching hide overlooking a pond and the surrounding trees.

16

Continue a south easterly course across the middle of the field, cross a wide farm track, and continue a short distance to a stile and plank bridge at the edge of the wood.



17

Cross these and follow the path along the inside edge of the wood, heading south. Leaving the trees by another two plank bridges and stile, head across a field to a plank bridge and stile in the far corner. Cross the stile, ignoring a plank bridge on the right, and continue diagonally left, across the field to a squeeze stile and wooden bridge.

19

Pass through the college grounds, with the car park and college buildings on your right, until you come to the gates to Plumpton Place on your left. Take the footpath on the left immediately after the gates, through a small wooden gate, into a wide, grassy pathway skirting the southern perimeter of Plumpton Place.

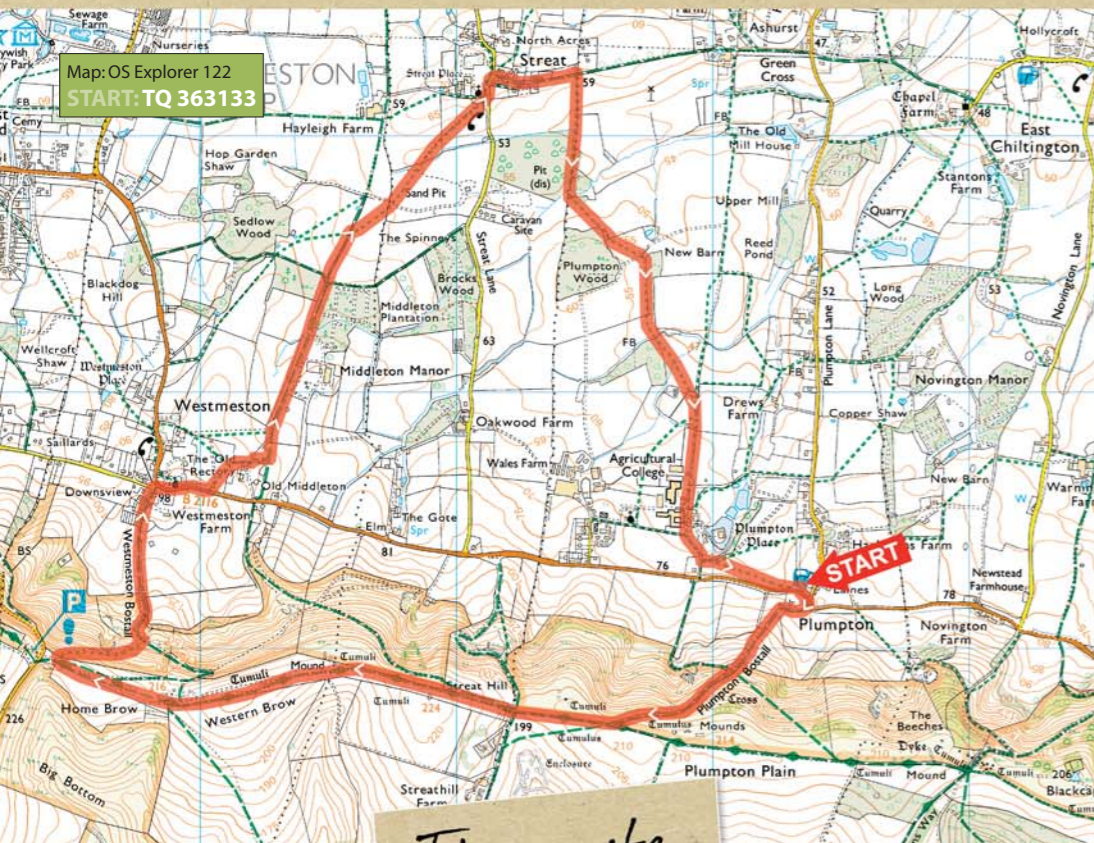
18

Cross the field diagonally to a gate in the far corner. Turn right onto the farm track, which takes you due south towards the Downs through the grounds of Plumpton College.

20

Go through the kissing gate on the right and walk towards the far right corner of the field to pass over a final stile and left along the road to return to the Half Moon pub.





The route

1 With the Half Moon pub behind you, turn left and walk along the road for a few yards to the junction where Plumpton Lane joins the B2116 Lewes road from your left. Immediately opposite, on your right, is a bridleway. Cross the road carefully as this is a blind bend and follow the well marked track, known as Plumpton Bostall, climbing steeply upwards.

2 At the top turn right along the South Downs Way, heading west on the chalk path and continue along the path until you are within close sight of the road and the car park at Ditchling Beacon.

3 Just before the road, turn right over a stile and follow the path downhill. Turn left where the path joins a chalk bridleway and continue down, along Westmeston Bostall, which brings you out through white gates into Westmeston.

4 Turn right along the B2116, using the footpath/bridleway on the right hand side of the road, for about 200 yards, until you come to a stile in the hedge on the other side. Cross the road carefully (it can be busy) and go over the stile into a field.

5 Cross the field diagonally in a slightly right direction to another stile in the hedge on the right, leading onto a narrow path. Continue to the end of the path, turn left and continue until you come to a finger post pointing to the right.

6 Turn right, and then left over a stile, following the path. Passing through a gate, continue to head north, ignoring a path to the left and passing Middleton Manor on your right. This is Wapple Way bridleway, which runs from Westmeston to Streat.

7 Ignore a marked crossing of paths and carry straight on. After a while another footpath crosses the path and is marked by a four-way fingerpost. Take the path to the right over a plank bridge and stile and follow the path, which is fenced on either side. Streat Church can be seen on the ridge ahead.

8 Where the path ends, cross two stiles and a plank bridge into a rough field. This is the site of an old sand pit. Continue diagonally across this field, in the direction of Streat Church, until you come to a grassy track.

9 Turn left onto the track and follow it as it winds its way towards a telegraph pole just to the right of a line of oak trees marking the left hand boundary. Go through the hedge and an iron kissing gate into a field and, turning right, follow the fence on your left, again heading towards Streat Church.

10 Take the stile and follow the path diagonally across a large field up to an iron gate into a small graveyard. Cross the graveyard and turn right on the track around the church wall until it joins Streat Lane.

11 Turn left and pass the entrance to Streat Place on your left. Then turn right almost immediately onto a private road and bridleway known as Streat Ridge.

12 Continue along this wide track until you come to a footpath to the right, descending some steps.

13 Take this path and continue heading south towards the Downs, with the hedgerow on your left, and cross a wooden bridge into the next field.

14 Near the end of this field the path veers to the left through a spinney, down some steps, across a bridge over a stream and up to continue through the spinney on a raised path. At the end of the raised path, descend on the left path to emerge into a field.

15 Follow the path, continuing in the same direction across the field to the left hand corner of a wood. Cross a stile and plank bridge into the wood and continue through it for about 100 yards until, by crossing another stile, you come into the corner of an open field.

