

Lewes, Mount Harry and Blackcap

A walk in one direction starting at Lewes Station and finishing at Plumpton Station. This walk winds its way through the historic town of Lewes and up onto the Downs to return to Plumpton Green. It includes some steep climbs and descents, with stretches of gently undulating land between.

FOOTPATH
TO PLUMPTON



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



As you approach Blackcap (point 4) you come into the Offham to Ditchling site of special scientific interest with its incredibly rich open chalk grassland. In summer the grassland is rich in flowers, including several species of orchid.

From Offham to Plumpton almost all you see south of the railway line is within the South Downs National Park and you can see the diversity of other habitats included in the park.

Coming down through the sheltering beech trees at point 5, you pass through a very different habitat, again with indicators of ancient woodland. It is frequented by badgers and the small quarry provides a good site for a wide range of plant species.

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The route

1 Leave Lewes Station through the station car park and walk up Station Street, turning left at the top into the High Street. Continue along the High Street as it becomes Western Road.

2 Where Western Road forks, take the right fork (Spital Road) and when it reaches a T junction with Nevill Road (the A275), cross over and continue onto an unmade track. Continue uphill, with Lewes Prison walls on your left, and on past the racing stables.

3 Where the road becomes a grassy track, take the right hand track and head up onto the Downs, with the training gallops on the left. On the right is the site of the Battle of Lewes, fought in 1264. As some racecourse buildings are reached, cross a surfaced road, past buildings on your left, and continue in a westerly direction up onto Mount Harry.

4 Continue, passing a National Trust sign for Blackcap and ignoring the path to your left, for about a mile to Blackcap itself, a clump of trees with a trig point.

5 Continue on same path until reaching a point where several paths merge, just before a wooden gate. Turn right down a chalky track. Take the first waymarked left fork and head down a wide path through woodland known as the Beeches. Pass through a metal farm gate.

6 Where the path divides, follow the waymarker post and continue down the main path on the left. Where the path bends to the right, go left to a stile into a field. Cross the field to another stile

7 Cross the stile and the next field in the same direction. Take the stile to your left and walk along the path parallel to the road (B2116). When the path emerges onto the road, continue on the verge to the road junction and cross to the Half Moon pub. Crossing the front of the pub, take the small path to its left, which leads to a stile into a field.

8 Continue diagonally across this field to a gate. Turn left along the grassy track, passing Plumpton Place on your right, and then turn right up the driveway to Plumpton College. Continue in a northerly direction, with the college buildings on your left as the drive emerges into a car park and then continues between two lines of hedgerow. Follow the track into a field and continue heading north, keeping the hedge on your left.

9 Continue in the same direction towards a ridge of trees ahead of you. Eventually, the path crosses a wooden bridge into a small patch of woodland, as the path bends to the left. Cross a second footbridge and a stile. Continue across a field with vegetables growing either side.

10 Follow the track across a stream, with a pond on your left, and continue on a track wide enough for a tractor, passing farm buildings on your left until you reach an unmade road. Turn right, then soon after turn left along the concrete road leading to Plumpton Racecourse.

11 Follow the road to the racecourse gated entrance, ignoring a left fork, following the signs to the public car park. At the gates to the racecourse, the route swings left, still following the public car park signs, and passes around the back of the grandstand and buildings until it comes out at the car park. Continue along the metalled footpath up between the car park and the racecourse to Plumpton Station ahead.

