

**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. (Please take extra care)

**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**.

## Discover Plumpton

The little wood at point 4 has a diverse range of species and habitats. 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, bullhead (a fish) and freshwater mussels.

Plumpton College 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 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 has some plant species indicative of ancient woodland, such as bluebell and moschatel (town-hall clock), and is planted with native wildflowers.

## More walks

If you loved these walks, why not pick up a copy of **Walk Plumpton**, a book of walks produced by the Plumpton Village Action Plan. This pocket-sized weatherproof book features 16 walks around the parish, including route maps, photographs, illustrations and wildlife notes. It's just £6 and is available at Plumpton village shop and station, or you can order from [footpaths@plumptonvap.co.uk](mailto:footpaths@plumptonvap.co.uk) (please note, additional postage and packaging will be requested for online orders).

## South Downs National Park

The South Downs National Park is Britain's newest National Park, rich in landscape, culture and wildlife. Discover ancient woodland and enjoy spectacular views as you explore the open downs and heathlands. Within these landscapes lie bustling market towns and peaceful rural villages, historic houses and the remains of ancient settlements.

## Walking near Plumpton

Discover another way to visit the South Downs National Park. Go to [www.traveline.co.uk](http://www.traveline.co.uk) or call **0871 200 22 33** to find public transport information. For train timetables, visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or call **08457 484950**.



© Plumpton VAP

### Contact us

South Downs National Park Authority

Tel: 0300 303 1053

Web: [www.southdowns.gov.uk](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk)

Twitter: @SDNPA Facebook: SDNPA

Please follow the Countryside Code:

Leave gates as you find them and keep dogs under close control or on a lead.

### Where in the South Downs National Park:



Details correct at time of going to print. Please be aware that routes are shared with other users (vehicles, pedestrians, dogs, horses etc) and users of the SDNPA Walk and Ride Leaflet Series do so at their own risk. We do not accept any responsibility for loss, damage or injury, however caused, arising directly or indirectly from use of this leaflet. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013.

## Walking near Plumpton



© Plumpton VAP

Leave your car at home, take the train



## Route Instructions

- Starting at the Plumpton station ticket office, cross over the first footbridge to the northbound platform. At the end of the platform turn left, passing under the second footbridge, heading towards the grandstand of Plumpton Racecourse.
- Follow the footpath with the racecourse on your left and car park on your right, around the back of the racecourse buildings, and head south towards the Downs until you come to a T junction.
- Turn right, and shortly after turn 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.
- 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.
- As you reach the top of the slight rise, see Blackcap to the left and the V of trees, planted to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887, and Ditchling Beacon to the right.
- 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.
- 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 the stile into a field.
- 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 stile onto a footbridge and over another stile in quick succession.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- At the fence turn right and, keeping the fence to your left, continue along a wooded path until you reach a wooden garden gate.
- Go through the gate into the drive of Plumpton College. Take care as there may be agricultural and other vehicles using the road.
- Turn left and follow the drive, with the main Plumpton College building on your right.
- Continue along the main drive until you come to a gated entrance to Plumpton Place (Elizabethan manor house) on your left. Take the small gate to the footpath on your left.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

(continued overleaf)