

Mid Sussex Golf Club, Sussex Border Path and Blackbrook Wood

A varied, circular walk to the west of Plumpton Green, starting and finishing at Plumpton Station. Passing via Mid Sussex Golf Club and along the Sussex Border Path, it reaches Ditchling Common before returning through lovely woodland. It is mostly on level ground and includes numerous stiles.

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



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Wildlife notes



At suitable times of the year chiffchaffs can be heard all along the walk, and turtle dove between points 2 and 3.

Blackbrook Wood and the Plantation (points 23 and 24) are locally famous for their wood anemones and even more so for bluebells. They are also good for green and great spotted woodpecker, nuthatch, great tit, blue tit, coal tit and long-tailed tit, blackcap and goldcrest.

At the point where you emerge from Blackbrook and just before entering the Plantation (point 24), there is an area of coppice and scrub where it is possible to hear nightingale singing, even during the day. As you enter the Plantation there is, on your right, an extraordinary area of coppiced horse chestnut, possibly planted in error for sweet chestnut, but showing quite clearly that horse chestnut does not take kindly to coppicing.

24

Enter the wood and follow the path as it winds through the trees to emerge briefly at a field gate giving fine views of the Downs. Continue as the path swings to the left of the gate and takes you into a second wooded area known as the Plantation. Continue through the Plantation until you come to Kent's Lane once more.

25

Turn left through the pedestrian gate and take the stile, plank bridge and second stile on your right into a field. Turn right and, keeping the hedge on your right, go round the edge of the field to another stile back into Streat Lane.

26

Take the stile on the opposite side of the road, to the right of a field gate. Head half right across the field to a stile on the far side leading into a short track, which in turns leads into the metalled driveway to Dean's Farm.

27

Turn left along the driveway and continue for a short distance to a wooden gate on your left. Pass through the gate and head half right towards the corner of the green barn ahead. Follow along the end of the barn, with outbuildings and hedgerow on your right, until you come to a small stile in the corner of the field, leading into a short grassy track.

28

Go over the stile and follow the track to another stile on your left. Cross the stile and follow the edge of Riddens Wood on your right, through the gap in the hedge ahead and into the next field.

29

Continue straight ahead, with the hedge on your right, to a set of two high stiles with a plank bridge between them. Cross these and continue straight on towards the houses ahead. Cross another stile into a narrow path that takes you to Station Road, with the Fountain Inn immediately on your right.

30

Turn right, heading south along Station Road, passing the village shop and the Winning Post pub, to return to the station.





Map: OS Explorer 122
START: TQ 364161

The route

1 Leave the station and turn left along Station Road. After 200 yards turn left into East View Fields and, keeping to the left hand side where the road forks, continue to the path in the far left corner, which leads you to the railway crossing.



2 Pass through the kissing gate and cross the railway line, taking care. Go through the kissing gate on the far side and take the stile immediately on your right into a field divided into three smaller fields.

3 Cross the field via two stiles to a third stile in the far left corner and go over this onto a grassy track. Go immediately right through a pedestrian gate, along a short stretch of track and into an open field ahead.

4 Continue straight ahead across this field, following the direction of the fingerpost – the chimneys of Elm Grove Farm will become visible ahead of you.

5 At the far side of the field, go over a stile in the hedgerow ahead and to your right (do not take the grassy track leading off half left). Continue diagonally half left across the next field, crossing another track heading north–south, to a plank bridge and stile into a field, with Elm Grove Farm on your right.

6 Very shortly after, go over another stile on your right, just after a large weeping willow tree, into Elm Grove Farm driveway. Turn left and follow the gravelled drive until you come to a fingerpost on your left pointing half left across a field.

7 Follow the track across the meadow, with a large white house ahead and slightly to your left. Cross the stile at the far side of the field, and a plank bridge over a ditch, into Streat Lane.

8 Cross the lane and take the plank bridge and stile ahead into a field. Cross this field diagonally right towards a further stile and plank bridge.

9 Cross the next field to a stile in the far right corner. Cross this stile, a plank bridge and another stile into an old drove road running north–south to the Downs, known as Kent's Lane.



10 Cross the drove road and take the squeeze stile immediately opposite, into the golf course. Follow the direction of the fingerpost to a metalled path, with a bunker on your right. Continue along the metalled path to a wooden bridge.

11 After the bridge, where the metalled path swings left, continue straight ahead, with the hedge on your left, to a short stretch of unmade track leading through a gap in the hedge on your left.

12 Go through the gap and continue with the rough grass and hedge on your left and the golf course on your right, following the direction of the fingerpost to join another metalled path coming from the right, by a small pond. Follow this metalled path round to the left to reach the clubhouse.

13 Walk across the front of the clubhouse. Beyond the clubhouse continue straight ahead with the car park on your right. Where the path swings left, continue ahead to a gap in the hedge under a large oak, leading into an area of scrubland.

14 Follow the direction of a fingerpost soon after on your right, pointing right through an area of thistles and scrub oak, up to a stile into a meadow. Go over the stile, cross the meadow in a south westerly direction to another stile beside a field gate on the far side, and emerge into Spatham Lane.

15 Cross the lane and start up the drive to Stocks Farm opposite, but take the stile almost immediately on your left into a field.

16 Head diagonally half right across this field to a plank bridge and stile halfway down the hedge ahead. Cross the stile into another field and continue in the same direction to another plank bridge and stile and into another field. Cross the third field to a stile mid-way down the hedge ahead.



17 Cross the stile, turn right and follow the track north to the top of the field. Cross another stile into a small copse and then over a plank bridge to a point where the path joins the Sussex Border Path coming from your left.

18 Follow the Border Path right, in a northerly direction. The path continues northwards for some distance, over stiles and through deer gates, until you come to a post and rail fence across the route.

19 Climb over the fence, using the stile. At this point the path can become very muddy in wet weather. It is possible to walk along a parallel path, just a few yards to the left of the Sussex Border Path (the two paths ultimately converge). Continue due north to emerge, via a plank bridge and stile, in the bottom right corner of Ditchling Common.

20 Head in a half left direction up towards the brow of the hill, passing to the left of a telegraph pole, and on to cross the railway line via the bridge. Turn right after the bridge and follow the hedge on your right around the edge of the field, swinging northwards again at the corner.

21 Continue up the side of the field until you come to a clearly marked stile at the top leading into a grassy track. Turn right along this grassy lane, which swings back and round to your left to another stile leading into a small field.

22 Go over the stile, and follow the hedge on your left to another stile that leads to a pathway running along the edge of the next field, with sheep fencing to your right. The path takes you across a ditch and back into Spatham Lane at the junction with Middleton Common Lane.

23 Cross Spatham Lane and go straight ahead along Middleton Common Lane to the entrance to Blackbrook Wood on your right, marked by a post and rail entrance.

