

Ditchling Beacon, High Park Wood and Moon's Bottom

A hilly, circular, downland walk to the south west of Plumpton, starting and finishing at the Half Moon pub. Offering spectacular views at Ditchling Beacon, this walk is wholly on the South Downs and includes steep climbs and descents.



FOOTPATH
TO PLUMPTON

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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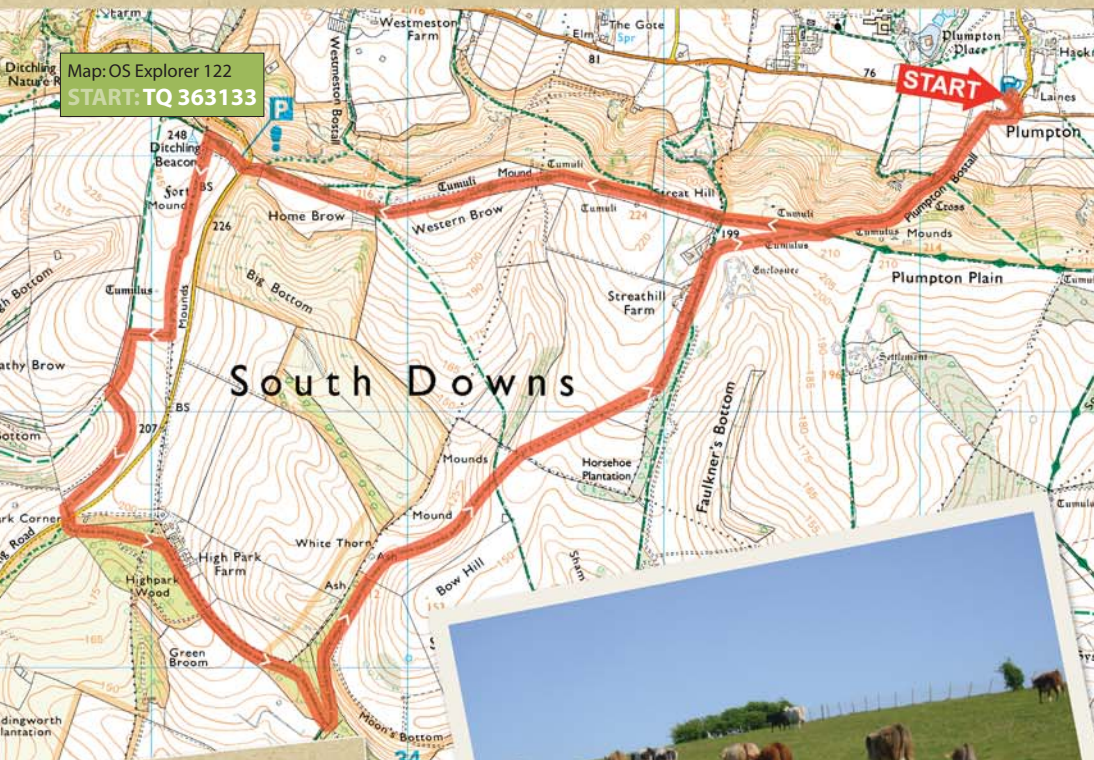
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Wildlife notes



Around June, in a good year, some of the arable fields south of the South Downs Way may show good swathes of poppies (point 4). High Park Wood (points 6 and 7) is a woodland of mixed species, including beech, sycamore, ash, field maple, cherry, whitebeam and hazel, with a wide range of ages, from young ash saplings to ancient pollarded beeches. Parts are old hazel coppice – a reminder of the days when hazel poles were needed to make sheep hurdles for the enormous flocks of sheep that once grazed the adjacent downland. The large fallen and decaying trees probably date from the great storm of 1987 and some of the plantations may also date from then.



South Downs

The route

1 Leave the Half Moon pub and cross the B2116 at the end of Plumpton Lane to an unmade road opposite. Follow the track as it climbs steeply up Plumpton Bostall to the South Downs Way.

2 At the South Downs Way, turn right and follow the track west to Ditchling Beacon.

3 Cross the Ditchling Road and follow the path round the right hand side of Ditchling Beacon car park. Go through the gate, still on the South Downs Way, and after about 20 yards take a path that goes off to the left to a gateway, just before you get to the trig point.

4 Follow this path due south to a waymarker post and turn sharp right, even though the path appears to go straight on. At the next junction of paths turn left and continue south down a wide track to a large open field and valley.

5 Through the gateway take the path diagonally left that winds round the contour of the hill in the direction marked High Park. Go through a gate and up the side of a field to the road.

6 Cross the road and take the path immediately on the left. After a few yards, at a junction of paths, take the left hand path through High Park Wood and follow it, ignoring paths to the right and left, to a crossroads of paths under electricity cables with a log bench carved with animals and birds on your right.

7 Take the path going sharp left down a wide track through woodland to a gate at the bottom and go through the gate. Follow the path to the left, keeping the hedge on your left and walk uphill out of Moon's Bottom to another gate.

8 Go through the gate and carry straight on to a stile ahead. Cross the stile and walk over the brow of the hill until you come to a waymarker post. Go left along the farm track, keeping the fence and Horseshoe Plantation to your right, until you come to Streathill Farm.

9 Continue along the farm track for about 25 yards and then take the path to your right over a stile and through a gate. Continue in the same direction with the fence on your left.

10 About half way along the field boundary take a path going diagonally to the right and follow it past a medieval enclosure up to the gate at the brow of the hill.

11 Go through the gate back onto the South Downs Way. Cross the South Downs Way to rejoin and descend Plumpton Bostall to return to the Half Moon pub.

