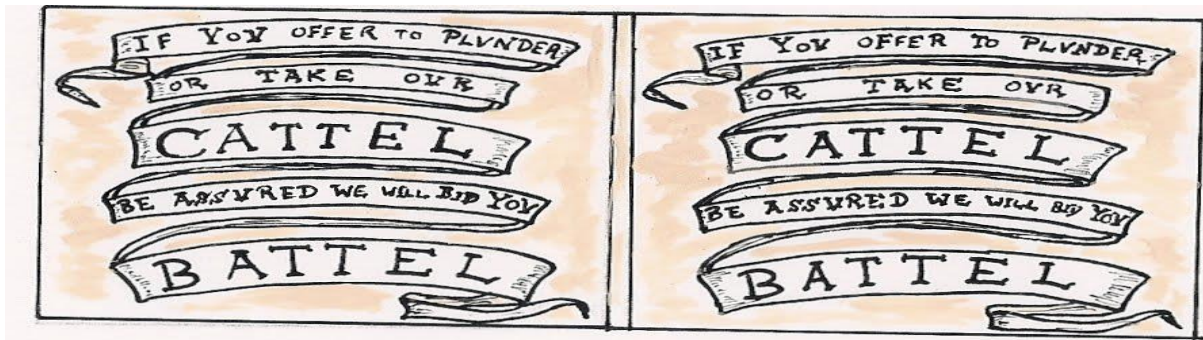


# A CIRCULAR WALK TO CLUBMENS DOWN (RESIST ALL PLUNDERERS)

Make sure you have a look inside the churchyard after your walk as you will see the final resting place of many of the characters from this walk.



## The Walk

1 With the phone box behind you go through the gate opposite to the left of the war memorial. The village lost five men in WW1 and the churchyard contains a Commonwealth War Grave to Private P J Brown.

2 Pass through the grounds of the Church Hall which ceased to be a school in 1933. Follow the path through the small woods and descend the steps.

3 Carry straight on between the Old Reading room where the home guard did shooting practice during WW2 and the Old Forge to the left. Excellent glamping here!

Soon, on your left, you will pass Fanners Field in Memory of Margaret Honour (nee Fanner) who gave it to the village in 1997.

4 As you descend the hill you will pass Horders. The Horder family lived in the village continuously for some 700 years. In all that time all male Horders used only six names.

5 As you rise up the next little hill you will pass Lots Cottage one of the oldest dwellings in the village. Pass through Twintown to your right with Gourds Farm to your left. As you descend you are entering East Compton.

6 To your left you can see the remnants of the old St Mary's Church which was constructed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Stay a while and imagine that in 1866 the village decided to reposition the whole church from where you are to where you started this walk. The whole thing took only 15 months including the bells.

7 At Lower Lane House turn right and then bear left you will soon pass Capstich Cottage the last dwelling on the pathway. This road becomes a track and is quite steep so take your time. It will be worth it.

If you are doing this walk in the summer, you will start to notice a large number of butterflies and an abundance of wild flowers.

After about 10 mins climb you will see a style and directions to Compton Down. You can do that another day for the moment just turn around and enjoy the view!

8 After you have got your breath back, keep climbing and you will pass the old chalk pit on the left and you are nearly there.

9 When you get to the top you will see you are not on quite at the highest point as that accolade belongs to Melbury – as such it was used a beacon for both the Spanish Armada and the Napoleonic Wars. Shaftesbury can be seen to the right.

10 Now you have a choice – having read the National Trust information sign you can either carry straight on with the walk or peel off and follow the path the runs alongside the road (C13) for about 100 meters and then cross the road for a well- deserved refreshment at Compton Abbas Airfield.

11 Back at the National Trust sign enter the gate and you are now on Clubmens Down. The Clubmen were a group of local craftsmen and farmers who got tired of accommodating armies during the Civil War. They met in the natural amphitheatre you see before you. They were led by the Rector of St Mary's Thomas Bravell.

12 Looking down the valley as you walk down towards the village you will see the traffic on the A350 a toll road built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the reason the church was moved to be

closer to the passing trade. To your right down the valley you can see Capstich Cottage and to the left the white cottages of Twintown.

13 Further down you will be able to pick out the spire of St Mary's. As you cross the Iron Age Fortifications you are now on Fontmell Down. Bear right. You should always be descending now and pass through the gate. Cross the field and through the next gate and onto Watery Lane.

14 When you reach the road turn left and follow the road until it bears left which is where you should turn right and return to the starting point of this walk.

Hope you enjoyed it!

Map below:

Clubmens Down - 2.72 miles



plotaroute.com

Map © OpenStreetMap contributors

