

## Hambledon, wild flowers



**HAMPSHIRE  
COUNTRYSIDE  
SERVICE**

<b>Distance:</b>	<b>3.25 miles</b>
<b>Start:</b>	<b>People's Market</b>

Speltham Down (owned by the National Trust), is natural unspoiled chalk downland strewn with wild flowers, particularly wild orchids. The Murder Stone at Cams has no inscription but commemorates a murder in 1782 (see John Goldsmith's book on Hambledon for more). Bury Lodge House is splendidly sited with a definite military eye for the lie of the land, looking straight down the valley towards the Wallington River and Fareham. It would not be surprising if the site was chosen by a Roman Centurion for his retirement (there is archaeological evidence of a villa within the park).

### **Directions**

From the People's Market go up Speltham Hill as far as the corner, taking the level path across the field on the right and then follow the path on the left which goes gently uphill and runs beside a belt of beech trees to the lane.

The path then follows the east boundary of the park above Bury Lodge; continue until it drops down to the main road, halfway up Well Hill. Go down the main road for some 50 yards and take the downhill path on the opposite side, cross the Fareham road straight up the other side of the valley into Madams Copse, where the path bends to the right and leads up into Menslands Lane.

Turn right and down the lane to Cams Lane. At Menslards Lane carry on, for a few yards and then right onto the path above, and parallel to, the drive of Cams House. Go along this, keeping at the foot of the scarp until meeting at right angles the path which comes down from the Murder Stone to the Green Man.

Go right along this path to come out at the junction leading to the village centre. You can choose to cross the road and back along West Street then going back to the People's Market.

You may alternatively turn left along Green Lane to Stewarts Green, turn right into the Green and up across it to the footpath between the houses, along the footpath through the fields towards the church; on reaching the churchyard turn right, downhill to exit, then down the High Street back to the People's Market.

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