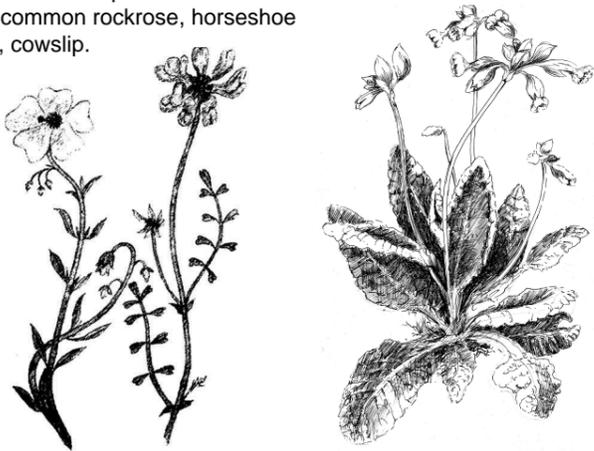


JUMPING DOWNS

Situated south-west of the village of Barham, adjacent to Covert Wood (Forestry Commission), Jumping Downs comprises 14 acres (5.66 hectares) of south-facing chalk downland. Lightly wooded along the top of the slopes, the hillside provides an ideal position for a wide variety of chalk downland plants, herbs and grasses to thrive on, with a swathe of good pasture running along the bottom of the slopes.



Chalk downland plants: from left to right, common rockrose, horseshoe vetch, cowslip.



History of Jumping Downs LNR

It is thought that the area has been farmed for some centuries, with evidence on the site of a shepherd's hut and a well, now removed. Flint was mined in the adjacent woods, initially for stone age implements and later for building. Ancient trackways for transporting flint can still be defined. The quirky name of this site is thought to originate from the Anglo-Saxon *Humbing lond*, which may mean hilly land. From the 1920s until 2000 the site was used for motorbike scrambling.

Ownership

In 2000, Jumping Downs was purchased from a local farmer by a consortium of local residents who then put it into trust. Since then it has been managed jointly by the trustees and the Kentish Stour Countryside Project with the help of funding through the Countryside Stewardship Scheme administered by DEFRA.



Guided walk at the launch of Jumping Downs as a Local Nature Reserve

How to find Jumping Downs

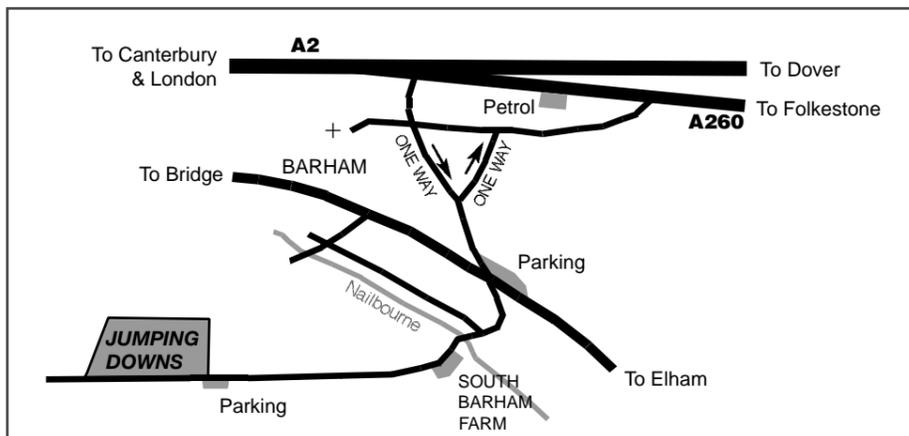
Jumping Downs can be reached from the village of Barham, which lies just over 2km to the north east, by walking up Railway Hill and following the Elham Valley Way along Redgate Shaw and down towards Covert Wood.

By Car

From Barham - follow Valley Road out of Barham heading towards Elham. As you leave the village the road goes uphill. At the top of the hill take the first road on the right. Follow road through South Barham Farm, Jumping Downs is 1km on the right. Parking is limited to a lay-by opposite the gate. Alternatively park at Breach Downs, just before the turning off the Valley Road, and walk along the lane. Access is via kissing gate. Jumping Downs is on the Elham Valley Way. GR TR194485.

By Bus

Buses to Barham Village from Canterbury are 16A, 116, 17



How to find out more

Kentish Stour Countryside Project, Sidelands Farm, Wye, Ashford TN25 5DQ 01233 813307 kentishstour@kent.gov.uk www.kentishstour.org.uk

Jumping Downs Trust 01303 862142

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JUMPING DOWNS

local nature reserve

Jumping Downs Trust