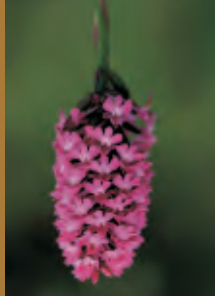




the finest scenery through some of the finest scenery in England and Wales.



From Ditchling Beacon car park this takes you through the Ditchling Beacon Nature Reserve along the ridge of the Downs to Jack and Jill Windmills. Superb views.

About 3 miles (4 1/2 km), 1 1/2 hours

A Stroll.

Underhill Lane allows you to cut out the climb up the hill, but the views make it well worth the effort.

The things are approximate and exclude any long stops for lunch in etc. You can get lunch in Ditchling (pub, cafe, shops). We suggest you take something to drink if the weather is hot, especially if you are doing the longest walk. After rain, or in winter, parts of all the walks can be muddy, so wear appropriate footwear. The long walk can be particularly muddy but it is well worth it!

This leaflet offers you three walks of varying length. You can enjoy today's beautiful wildlife and landscape, following routes ordinary people have used for thousands of years.

Three Walks

A Longer Walk
9 miles (14km), 5 hours
including a climb back up the hill.

From the Beacon north to Blackbrook Wood and back via the village. Great for wildlife and historical interest. Particularly good in spring but expect mud.



The South Downs Way
National Trail

The South Downs Way is a 100 mile (160km) route for walkers, cyclists, and horse riders, and runs from the historic English capital of Winchester to the white chalk cliffs of Eastbourne.

It is one of a family of

offering visitors the chance to travel through some of the finest scenery in England and Wales.

From the Beacon this takes you to Ditchling village and back along routes used since prehistoric times. Ideal for a Sunday outing with a pub lunch.



A Short Walk
About 3 Miles (4 1/2 km), 2 hours
including a climb back up the hill.

How to Get There

Weekends and Bank Holidays;
79 bus to Ditchling Beacon from Brighton (1/hr, Sun only in winter) - Brighton and Hove buses 01273 886200.

If you drive, please park considerably. There is a National Trust pay and display car park at Ditchling Beacon and free parking at the bottom of Ditchling Beacon and in the village.

Please note that all of the car parks get very full. To avoid disappointment and frustration, if possible please travel by bus, www.buses.co.uk.

Sussex Wildlife Trust

Sussex Wildlife Trust is the leading conservation organisation in East and West Sussex. We look after about 1400ha (3500 acres) of Sussex countryside and welcome you to come and discover our best nature reserves.

For more information on the Trust's work and wildlife sites to explore please ring (01273) 492630 or visit www.sussexwt.org.uk



The South Downs

The South Downs are designated as two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's): Sussex Downs and East Hampshire. **For more information please phone 01243 558700 or go to www.visitsouthdowns.com**



National Trails

in England and Wales



For more information go to www.nationaltrail.co.uk

or contact:

The South Downs Way National Trail Officer
South Downs Joint Committee
Victorian Barn, Victorian Business Centre
Ford Lane, Ford, W Sussex BN18 0EF
Telephone: 01243 558716
Email: sdw@southdowns-aonb.gov.uk

South Downs Way

Circular Walks around Ditchling Beacon

NATIONAL TRAIL



Wander the Wide Green Downs

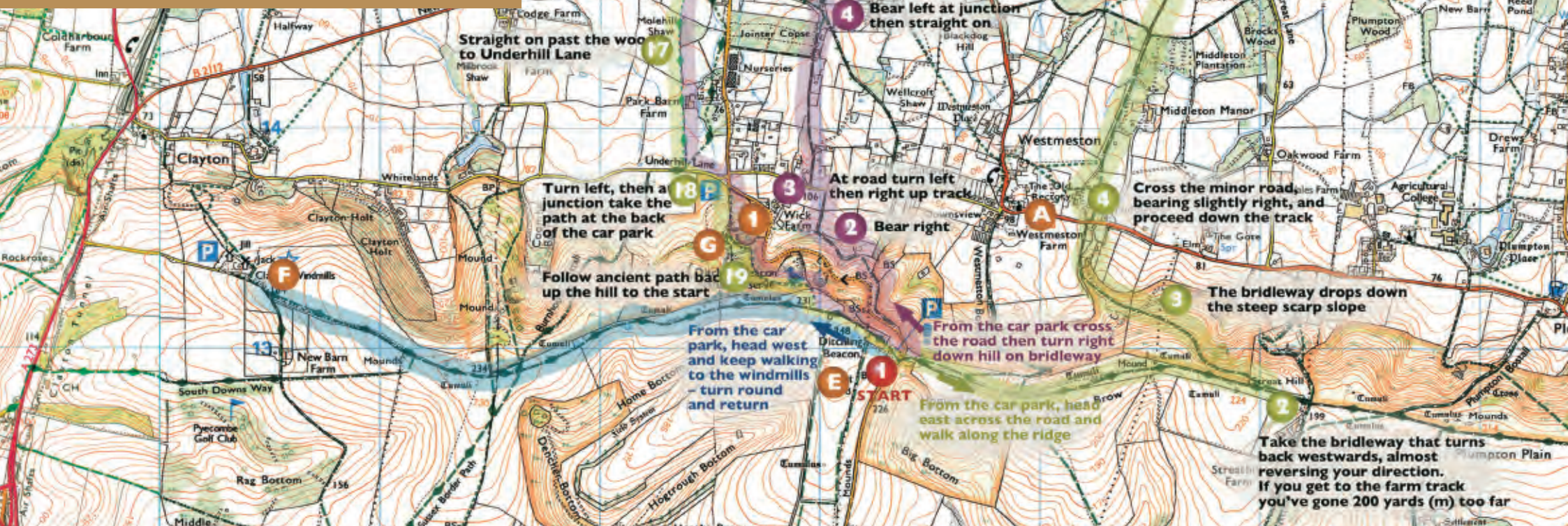
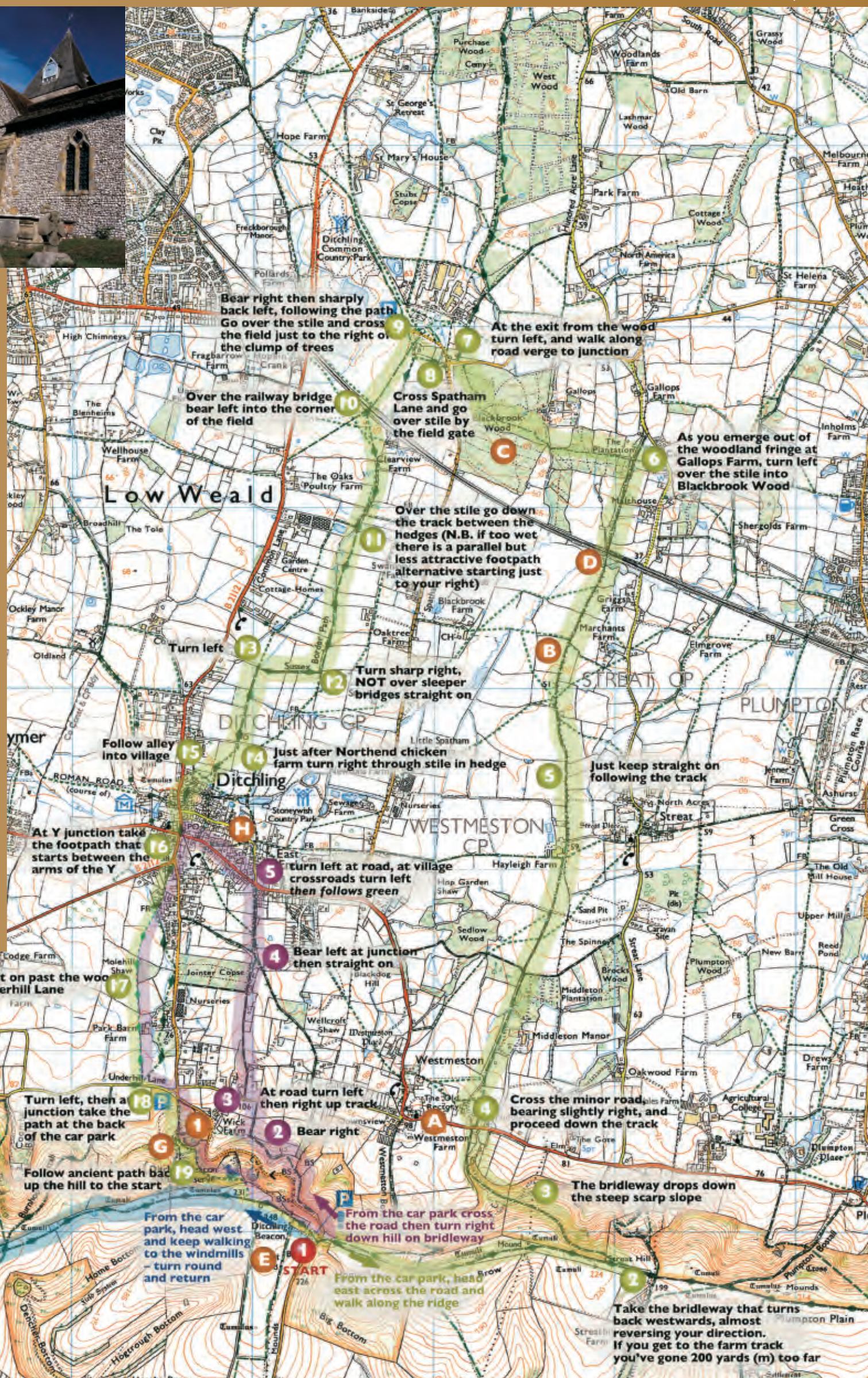


Working in Partnership to Protect the South Downs

Photo: Bill Jenman © SWT

Photo: Bill Jenman © Countryside Agency

- A** Westmeston Church dates from the 11th Century
- B** Look ahead to Blackbrook wood on the horizon as you follow the ancient drove road northwards
- C** Blackbrook wood is an ancient woodland, saved from destruction by developers in the early 1990s with the help of the Wildlife Trust. A carpet of spring wildflowers shows the benefits of coppicing (regular woodcutting, allowing the stumps to regrow to form the next crop)
- D** A ford and a footbridge cross the stream by a pretty cottage
- E** Ditchling Beacon Iron Age hillfort. The earthworks can still be seen today. Sadly much of the southern part of the fort has been destroyed by ploughing, however. Over 1600 years later Ditchling Beacon was part of a chain of bonfire sites used to send a signal along the coast when the Spanish Armada approached
- F** Jack and Jill Windmills date from the 1800s. Jill is open from May to September, afternoons only. See www.jillwindmill.org.uk for more info
- G** The sunken path or Bostal dates back over 6000 years to the Stone Age
- H** Ditchling is a very attractive old village with a good pub, shops, and places to stay
- I** Chalk was excavated here during the late 1800s for agriculture and to make burnt lime for building mortar etc. Remains of four limekilns are also in this area

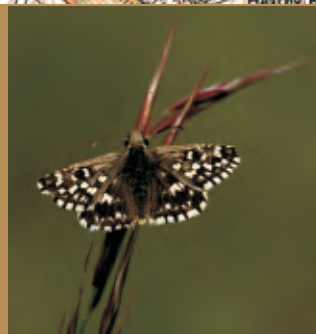


The ghosts of long gone shepherds

Until about WW1, sheep were grazed on the open Downs watched over by a shepherd. In those days there were no trees or fences on the Downs like there are now. Each evening he would take his sheep off the hill and fold them onto the ploughland at the bottom of the slope so that their dung would fertilize it. The walks in this leaflet follow the ancient routes to and from the hill that the shepherds have used for thousands of years.

Ditchling Beacon Nature Reserve

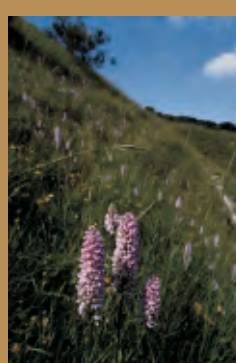
On the Nature Reserve traditional grazing has been re-introduced to restore chalk grassland. The short, warm turf maintained by livestock is perfect for



downland herbs, flowers and butterflies to thrive. Across the South Downs only 5% of the original chalk grassland remains.

Kestrels hover, glide and circle as they search for voles and beetles in the grassland. Spotting its prey, the bird rapidly drops headlong with folded wings towards the ground.

Skylarks' loud, continuous warbling song is the sound of summer along the Downs. They nest on the ground, favouring areas with short grass and few trees.



KEY:

- A Stroll —
- A Short Walk —
- A Longer Walk —
- Footpath - - -

- Bridleway - - -
- Other routes with public access • • •
- National Trail ◆ ◆ ◆



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