

## Map 4

# Open Access at Deep Dean

Making the most of open access



Open access land offers walkers an exciting opportunity to explore some of the spectacular South Downs landscape from a much closer perspective than ever before!

This map will help you get more from a visit to **Deep Dean** whilst enjoying it in harmony with the site's wildlife and its management. There is a detailed map on the overleaf that shows the site, a self-guided walk, and additional information that will help you better enjoy what it has to offer. Please read the information on the back of this leaflet and most importantly, enjoy your visit!

Deep Dean is one of the deepest and most dramatic of all downland combs, comparable in scale with the Devil's Dyke. Recent scrub clearance has opened up more of the steep slopes allowing both access and the restoration of chalk grassland. Lullington Heath National Nature Reserve is a rare area of chalk heath where sandy soils overly the chalk and allow acid-loving species such as heather and tormentil to thrive amongst chalk downland plants. Wilmington Hill and Folkington Hill offer spectacular views northwards into the Weald. All can be explored within the compass of a seven-mile walk, from Jevington or Wilmington.

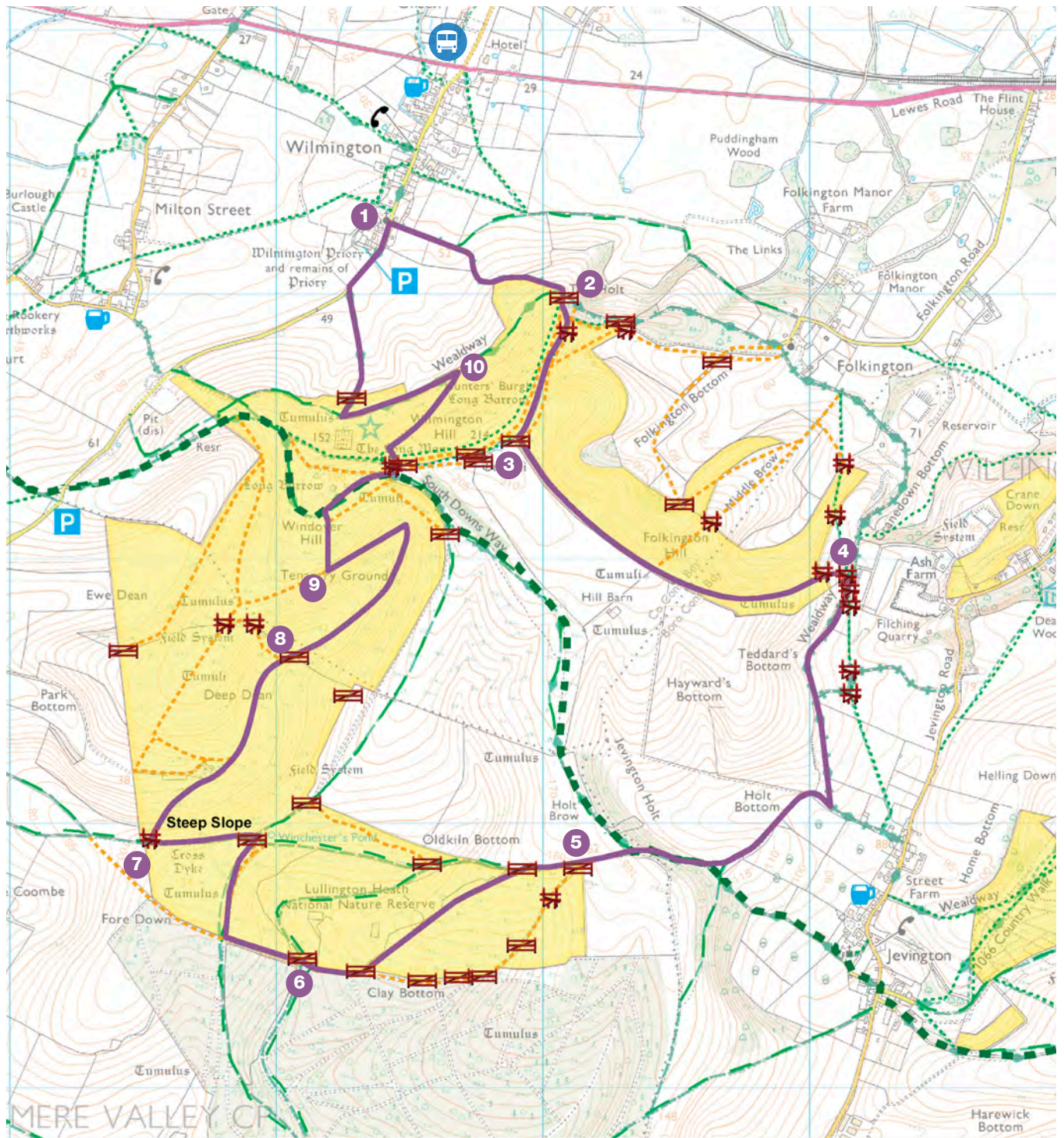


South Downs Society  
Protecting the Beauty of the Downs

SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK







#### Open Access

- Bridleway
- - - Public Footpath
- ■ ■ South Downs Way
- - - Well used path in Access Land
- Open Access
- Currently inaccessible Access Land
- Gate
- Stile

#### Public Interest

- P Parking
- Public house/s
- Bus Stop
- Church
- Walk Route
- Phone



0 250 500 Metres

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# Route instructions



**A circular walk designed to link and explore three important areas of CROW public open access land at Folkington Hill, Lullington Heath and Deep Dean. Undulating downland with footpaths, many across open access land with some steep slopes.**

Distance: 11.5 km/7 miles

Time: 3½ hrs

Total ascent: 450m/1,478 ft

Highest point: 209m/686 ft

Map: OS Explorer 123

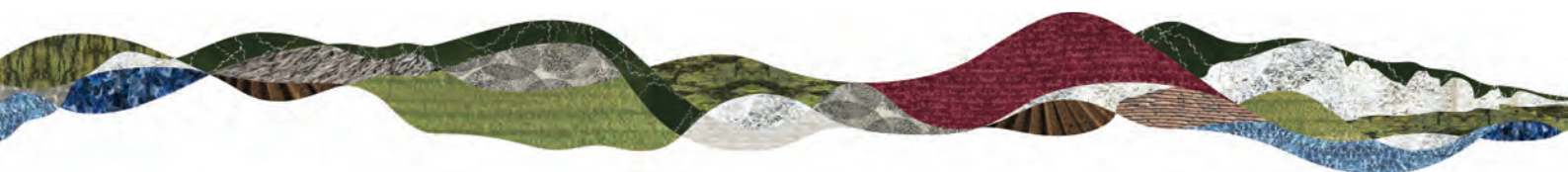
Start: Parish Church of St. Mary and St. Peter, Wilmington  
TQ 544042 or BN26 5SL

How to get there: Limited bus service to Wilmington. See back of leaflet. Car park at southern end of village  
TQ 543041

Public toilets: None

Refreshments: Giant's Rest (Pub) near start/finish.

- 1 Take the wide track, signed as a restricted byway opposite the church.
- 2 After about half a mile, double back to the right through a bridle gate and, after about 10 metres, on reaching a notice on your left 'footpath only', turn left along a steeply rising path through scrub. After about 100 metres, turn left over a stile and continue steeply uphill with the fence you have just crossed now on your right.
- 3 At the top of the hill, just short of a gate turn left along the ridge of Folkington Hill with a fence nearby on your right and superb views northwards into the Weald. Continue roughly parallel to the fence as it curves left and drops downhill. Go over a stile in a crossing fence and bear half right to another stile and gap providing access across a fenced strip where a new pipeline has been laid. Continue over another stile and along a narrow path through scrub to join a track.
- 4 Turn right along this sunken track. Ignore the first track off to the left and at a T-junction with another track, turn sharply right. After about 400 metres, ignore a left fork and shortly, at another junction, go ahead, now briefly following the South Downs Way. After about 300 metres, where the South Downs Way forks right, go ahead across high ground, still along a clear fenced track where a view opens out towards the coast.
- 5 Walk past a notice and map displaying information about Lullington Heath, a national nature reserve which spreads down the hill to your left beyond this point. After another 200 metres, fork left through a swing gate and follow a wide path obliquely down through the reserve. Towards the bottom of the hill, go through another gate and turn right along a wide track with the woodland of Friston Forest on your left.
- 6 In a dip, go straight ahead across a wide grassy strip, pass through a bridle gate and climb, still along a clear track. Towards the top of the hill, go right along a wide crossing track. At a junction and just short of a gate providing access to Winchester Pond, turn left and follow a track which soon begins to drop downhill towards the Cuckmere valley.
- 7 After about 300 metres, turn right over a stile and go ahead, dropping down into Deep Dean. There is no defined path at first but, as the slope steepens, a faint path can be picked out, heading half right down across rough pasture. Pass to the right of a pair of brick buildings, housing a water pumping station and follow a clear path along the floor of this deep and dramatic combe, comparable in size and scale to the Devil's Dyke, near Brighton.
- 8 Go through a gate in a crossing fence. Disappointingly, this gate was chained and padlocked when this walk was surveyed, the only alternative crossing point in this fence being via a stile up the hill to your left, necessitating a steep up and down detour. Whether you use the gate or the stile, continue gently up along the floor of the valley until, approaching the far end, the path doubles back to the left up the side of the combe, using a shallow grass terrace.
- 9 At the top, follow a narrow path through scrub to join a wider path where you should turn right and walk up to the summit area of Windover Hill. A few metres short of a prominent tumulus on the highest point, bear right along a wide unfenced track now back on the South Downs Way for a short distance. Go through a gate and, immediately, where the South Downs Way veers away to the right, cross a field corner and pass through a metal farm gate. Now go ahead downhill past a wooden notice, and follow a well trodden terraced path which veers right and slants down the northern Downs escarpment.
- 10 At the bottom of the steep slope, turn sharply left along the foot of the scarp slope. When opposite the carved hill figure of the Long Man of Wilmington, up the hill to your left, turn right through a bridle gate and follow a clear path back to the start.



## Open access

Open access land gives you the right to explore interesting features within that parcel of land – you can choose your own route and you don't have to stick to the path!



### What you can do:

- Walk
- Sightsee
- Picnic
- Bird watch
- Run
- Fly a kite

Please remember that with these rights come responsibilities. You have the legal right to explore access land but please remember that most of the areas are privately owned; they are also the home and place of work for many people. A number of sites are also nationally important because of some of the plants and animals found there. If rights of way (like footpaths or bridleways) cross the land, the legal rights still apply.

Access Land is good for dog walkers too but the South Downs landscape is also important for ground nesting birds and many important conservation grazing projects. Unless otherwise stated, dogs must be kept on a fixed lead (2 metres or less) when livestock are present and on all access land sites between March 1st and July 31st.

### What you can't do:

- Cycle or horse ride (unless on an appropriate right of way)
- Drive a vehicle (unless on an appropriate right of way)
- Camp
- Light a fire
- Hang-glide or paraglide
- Use a metal detector

### Please follow the Countryside Code at all times:

- 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.

Use the following link to find out more.

**[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/openaccess](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/openaccess)**

*Walk devised and surveyed by volunteers  
from the **South Downs Society***

### Getting there via public transport



**Deep Dean** Bus 126 is a limited service operated by Cuckmere Buses and Compass Travel between Eastbourne and Seaford, stopping at Wilmington Crossroads. Please visit [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) or call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

Find out more about visiting the South Downs  
[www.southdowns.gov.uk/gettingaround](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/gettingaround)

