

Map
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Open Access at

Lewes Downs & The Caburn Access Land

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 the **Lewes Downs and Malling Hill** 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 linear 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!

Mount Caburn, Cliffe Hill and Malling Hill form an outlier from the main ridge of the South Downs and are situated immediately east of Lewes. There are good views of the Weald, the town of Lewes and the downland to its west and southwards down the Ouse Valley. Mount Caburn, which was originally a Roman fort, is a National Nature Reserve with important populations of rare orchids and Malling Hill is managed by the Sussex Wildlife Trust as a nature reserve. In the three bottoms of Caburn, Oxtedde and Bible one is able to experience tranquillity despite being close to Lewes and the road and rail network.

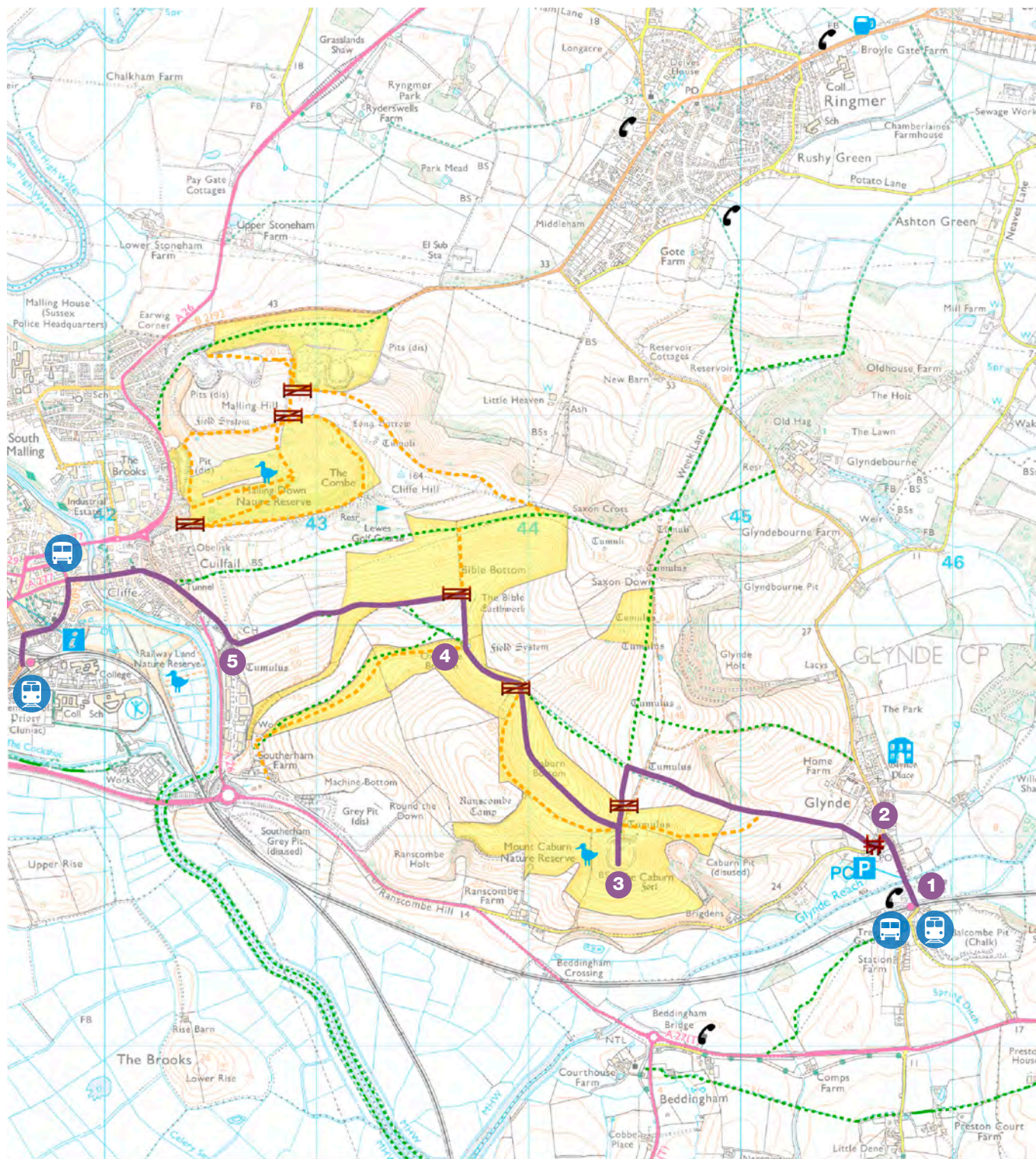


South Downs Society

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

- 🦋 Nature Reserve
- P Parking
- PC Public Convenience
- ☕ Public house/s
- 📞 Phone
- i Information Centre
- 🏠 Building of Historic Interest
- ✙ ✙ Church
- Bus Bus Stop
- Rail Railway Station
- ✙ ✙ Church

— Walk Route



0 250 500 Metres

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Route instructions



This is a good but steep linear walk from Glynde to Lewes taking in The Caburn and enjoying natural downland with excellent views as well as wild flowers and butterflies in season.

Distance: 6.5 km/4 miles

Time: 2 hrs

Total ascent: 201m/660 ft

Highest point: 146m/480 ft

Map: OS Explorer 122

Start: Glynde Railway Station TQ 457086 or BN8 6RU

Stiles: 1

How to get there: Hourly service by train from Brighton, Lewes and Eastbourne.

Compass Bus 125 and Cuckmere Community Bus 25 from Lewes or Alfriston roughly every 2 hours except winter Sundays.

Public car park alongside Glynde Reach.

Public toilets: At car park.

Refreshments: The Trevor Arms south of station or various in Lewes.

- 1 Leave the station on the north side and proceed into the village crossing Glynde Reach on the way. At the village centre turn westwards on to Ranscombe Lane and then within a few yards look for a stile on your right.

- 2 Go across this stile and then start the long ascent of the hill passing through two fence lines.

After the second fence you should go slightly to the left towards a fence line which you follow on the right hand side until you come to the ridge. Turn left here through a gate to enter the access land just before you come to former hill fort at The Caburn. Mount Caburn stands 150 metres above sea level and commands magnificent views southwards down the Ouse valley towards Newhaven, south-eastwards towards Firle Beacon and westwards up the dry valley towards Falmer and Brighton.

'Caburn' derives from either 'caer bryn', Celtic for fortified hill or 'calde burgh', Old English for cold fort. Originally there was a yew forest here but this seems to have been cleared during the Iron Age when 164 pits were dug, perhaps for storing grain but most contained some sort of votive offering. The hill was occupied from about 500 B.C., but abandoned in about 100 A.D when the area settled down under Roman rule. There is evidence of later Saxon activity but little to show of any permanent occupation.

- 3 Leave The Caburn the way you came but just before reaching the gate at the end of the access land look for a path on your left which takes you through the National Nature Reserve and gradually drops to the valley floor where there is another gate. Proceed along this tranquil valley which is managed by Sussex Wildlife Trust to Oxteddle Bottom.

The strange name suggests the buildings used to house the teams of oxen which medieval farmers used.

Next lies Bible Bottom, probably named after the faint ridges and rectangular banks looking like a book. Evidence of early farming activity. Bible Bottom is the subject of a watercolour by Henry George Hine (1811-95), a 'romantic mood' artist pre-dating Victorian realism.

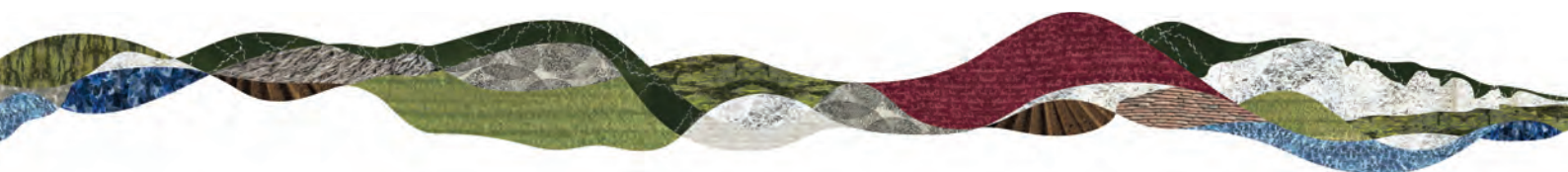
The painting is in the V&A collection.

- 4 Go to the right of the dewpond and start climbing the hill until you come to a gate on your left. Go through this gate and then traverse along the south facing slope to the golf course Club House where there are good views of Lewes. About half way along this stretch you will leave the access land.

- 5 From the Club House take their private access road down the steep Chapel Hill¹ to the road junction at the bottom. Cross straight over into Cliffe High Street and at the road junction beyond the river bridge turn right if you want the bus station or left for the railway station.

¹Members of the Lewes History Group have prepared a fascinating account called 'Chapel Hill Street Story' which can be downloaded from:

www.leweshistory.org.uk/2014/04/25/the-chapel-hill-street-story



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

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

Getting there via public transport



Malling Hill is easily reached from Lewes bus and railway stations.

The Lewes Downs including **The Caburn** can be reached by train to Glynde station and also buses from Lewes (125,25). Please visit www.traveline.info or call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33

Find out more about visiting the South Downs
www.southdowns.gov.uk/gettingaround

