



South Downs Society

formerly Society of Sussex Downsmen

Protecting the Beauty of the Downs



A Circular Walk for Youth Groups from Southease Railway Station

Approximately 4 miles, taking 3 hours.

Start from Southease Railway Station. Trains run every hour direct from Brighton, or from Haywards Heath with a change at Lewes.



Cross the line by the footbridge and leave the station by the steel gate. Turn left and follow the road round to the river, crossing the river on the wooden decked swing bridge. Continue on into Southease village. The Church, which is normally open, is worth a visit. The round tower, of which there are only 3 in Sussex, was built in the early 1100s, and several parts of the church can be dated to before the Norman Conquest. The village is even older than the church, being noted as a thriving community in the

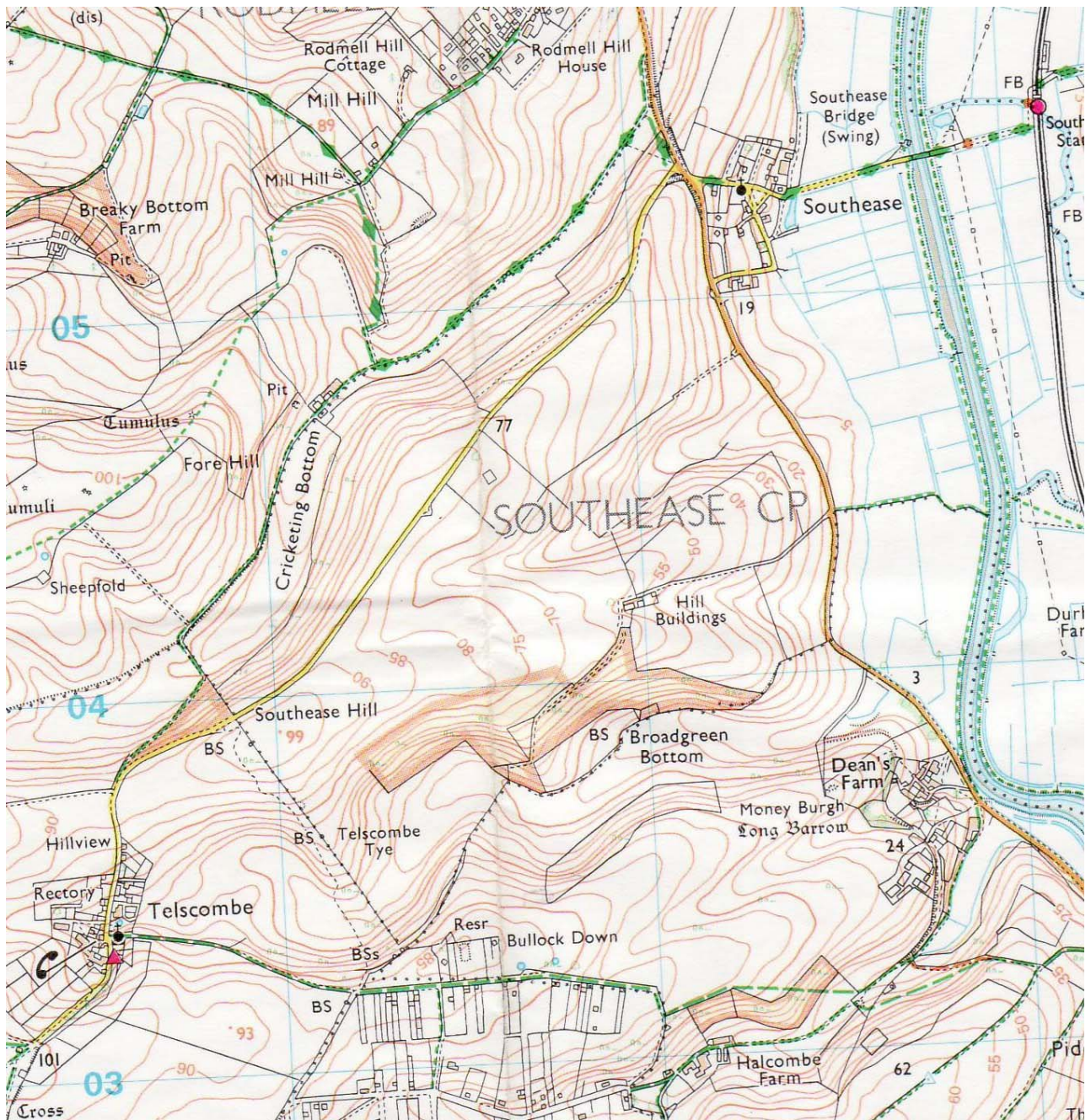
Domesday Book (1086). It seems to have been by far the largest fishery in the district.

Turn left on leaving the church and walk up the hill to a T junction, taking the path right for a few metres to another junction: cross the road (take care: busy road) and follow South Downs Way signs turning right into a large field. Follow the path to the bottom of the valley turning left onto the track along the valley bottom. Continue for 2km through the farm until the track becomes suddenly more grassy. Turn left here at a blue sign on a post, and cross the field to the opposite corner (the path goes around the edge). Underfoot the chalk and flint that is characteristic of the South Downs can easily be seen. Turn left at the road, and descend into Telscombe Village.

The path turns right immediately in front of the church but a diversion into the church is worthwhile. If walking with a group, one of the Churchwardens, Margaret Wooll (01273 586398) may be able to open it for your visit. There was certainly a church on the site in the year 966, although the present church dates from the early 1100s as at Southease. A few metres further on the Youth Hostel, if open, has chocolate and drinks. Return to the path, bearing slightly left onto a bridleway after 50m. Follow the path along the ridge for 1.5km, passing through a field gate and turning left as the path continues around the field. After 700m go through the gate right and follow the winding path down to a farm road, turning left towards the river. A short diversion at the main road enables a viewing of Money Burgh, a 2m high oval barrow dating from the early to middle Neolithic period, one of 13 in Sussex. Barrows are prehistoric rectangular or trapezoidal earth mounds traditionally interpreted as collective tombs. There is strong evidence that during the period 4300 to 2500 BC there existed in Sussex socially coherent and autonomous groups occupying discrete territories.

At the road cross (take care: busy road) to the path, turning left along the river and back to Southease station via the wooden decked swing bridge. Trains run only once per hour to Lewes and beyond, so a picnic/drink along the river bank is suggested whilst waiting (there are no seats on the station).

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