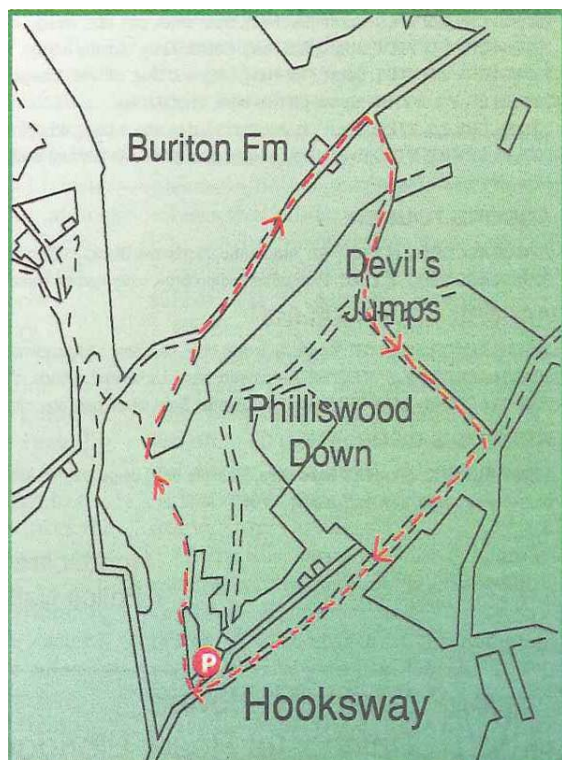


## The Hooksway to Philliswood Down Walk



This walk takes you through woods and over downs for 2 ½ miles (4 ½ kms) and is a pure delight at any time of the year. Strong footwear needed.

Park in the Royal Oak car park at Hooksway, three miles north of Chilgrove off the B2141. Strike due north along the edge of a grass field with woods on your left and follow this valley as it curves between the beech and ash plantations.

This wide ride has always been one of the pheasant shooting stands and is still today, though as pheasant shooting ended on February 1, you are quite safe.

After half a mile an open cereal field should be crossed north-eastwards.

This is a good place to see buzzards,

kites, kestrels, sparrowhawks and ravens. On the left is some chalk downland being grazed by cattle and sheep. This is Millpond Bottom. The right-hand (northern) side is open access land. To the left you can see the white chimney of Telegraph House above the yew and ash wood.

We are continuing north-east along the track taking the right fork to Buriton Farm. This is an old Sussex flint barn and grain store on rare iron steddles, all of it derelict and out of bounds to us.

Soon we cross the South Downs Way. Take right, along a causeway across a lovely smooth, open Ice Age valley with splendid view to the left of majestic Treyfor Hill, a priceless area of downland also under proper management. Here are only the sounds of sheep and skylarks and a resonance all around of a lost Stone Age culture.

Enter woods again, uphill, keeping to the South Downs Way, ignoring the right fork which would return you to Hooksway if wanted. Now cross through Philliswood which since the 1987 hurricane has now lost its great beeches and grows instead a new crop of ash and silver birches. Look for the poignant memorial on the left of the path to 1940s German pilot Joseph Oestermann: more about him in a week of two in County Types.

Continue forwards to cross tracks. Now leave South Downs Way and turn right downhill all the way back to the Royal Oak.

Don't forget there is free entry to the West Dean Gardens shop, WC's and restaurant, which serves hot meals and snacks from 12pm until 2pm and afternoon tea and cakes throughout the day.

Open daily: November – February 10.30am until 4.00pm & March – October  
10.30am until 5.00pm (Closed January 2011).