

## South Downs Way Challenge...Virtually

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### *Week 3 –Buriton to Cocking Hill ... 11 miles.*

*Last week our walk took us from Exton to the eastern edge of the QE2 Country Park and Buriton, approx 24 miles from the start.*

*Keep doing your steps in front of the TV, and this week let's go from march around the block and prepare to walk from Buriton to Cocking Hill.*



*We start uphill initially, along a small lane that then follows the undulating line of the escarpment overlooking Harting to the north.*

*We've walked five miles to Harting Hill and from here we descend the grassy slope into the valley and then the footpath climbs steeply up to the fort at Beacon Hill. The fort was first built in the Bronze Age (8th Century BC to 6th Century BC), and updated during the Iron Age.*

*Alternatively, following the bridlepath, we can traverse the hill, climbing more gently but eventually reaching the other side just beneath the summit of Beacon Hill.*

*A slight incline then, the only way is down, sweeping into another timeless valley, then steeply up a chalky track through the trees.*



*As you near the top of Philliswood Down look out for the memorial to a German pilot who was shot down and died here, on the very first day of the Battle of Britain on 13 August 1940.*

*Just beyond and a sharp left turn takes us past the The Devil's Jumps, the best example of a Bronze Age barrow formation in Sussex.*

*According to Wikipedia, "The **Devil's Jumps** are a group of five large bell barrows situated on the South Downs 1.2 kilometres (0.75 mi) south-east of Treyford in the county of West Sussex in southern England. The Devil's Jumps site is listed as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and as a Local Nature Reserve. Most barrows along the South*



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Downs have been damaged by agriculture and treasure hunters but the Devil's Jumps are considered to be the best preserved Bronze Age barrow group in Sussex. The barrows are laid out in a line running approximately south-east to north-west. The five barrows vary in diameter from 26 to 34 metres (85 to 112 ft) and stand up to 4.8 metres (16 ft) high. Two smaller barrows were situated close to the five main mounds. Traces remain of a sixth barrow. The Devil's Jumps have been dated to the Bronze Age and they are believed to be between three and four thousand years old. The Devil's Jumps were explored in the 19th century, when bones were found in two of the mounds, although some of the barrows contained no cremated remains at all. The main line of five barrows is aligned with sunset on Midsummer Day”

*After nearly a mile, emerge from the trees and look to the Southeast, and you can see the grandstand at Goodwood Racecourse nine miles away. At times, and on a clear day you can see the Isle of Wight.*



*Linch Down gives way to Bepton Down and then the long descent (nearly two kilometers) of Cocking Down to the small car park at Cocking Hill, and the end of our walk today.*

*And so we have covered another 11 miles and have reached 35.9 miles in total, over a third of our total distance. Well done!*

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