

## South Downs Way Challenge...Virtually

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### ***Week 7 of the Virtual South Downs Way – Truleigh Hill... Ditchling Beacon 8 miles.***

*Meeting at the YMCA building at the top of Truleigh Hill, we today continue our eastward trek and passing the antennae at the Radio Station, continue to the viewpoint at Edburton Hill.*

*Sat on the bench facing north and over the edge of the precipitous Fulking Escarpment are long views across the Weald. Immediately to your right are earthworks outlining the ruins of an old Norman Motte and Bailey Castle, and further beyond the escarpment is the pub at the top of Devils Dyke.*



*Its now an undulating walk to get to the pub and behind it is the Dyke itself.*

*The footpath follows the southern rim of the Dyke and sweeps down into Saddlescombe Valley and the welcome stop at Saddlescombe Farm with its small cafe. Once owned by the Knights Templar (who dug the well in the 13th century) the farm is now run by the National Trust .*



*Refreshed you now have a good slog up the long steep side of West Hill. Stop and turn for a moment when half way up and you will be rewarded with a great view of Devil's Dyke, and on a clear day, the escarpment beyond leading all the way to Chanctonbury Ring in the distance.*

*Follow the fence over the dome of the hill and the peace is shattered as you descend into Pycombe Valley.*

*Cross the bridge over the busy A23 and a short climb up an old lane takes you past the beautiful old church to the small village of Pycombe .*

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*Try and open the gate to the churchyard. The design is known as a Tapsel Gate and is unique to Sussex. This is one of only six that survive.*

*Pycombe was actually split in two following the ravages of the Plague between 1603 and 1621, when survivors moved away and up the road to what is now known as Pycombe Street.*

*Follow the South Downs Way through the village, and as you cross the A273 to the golf course you may not be aware that you are also crossing the London to Brighton railway line, deep underground, built by the Victorians, and known as the Clayton Tunnel.*

*Now through the beautiful golf course and up the next hill to the Jack and Jill Windmills.*



*Jack Mill is a private residence.*

*Jill Mill has been restored and is now fully operational and open to the public on Sundays.*

*Now follow the track east, and as you get to the top, and cross the County border into East Sussex, make a point to turn and look back at the view that in a single vista takes in the whole of West Sussex, The Weald, the Coastal plain and the Downs.*

*As the escarpment to the north again steepens, and with views across Keymer and Ditchling, the flat(ish) route passes Tumuli and Dew ponds and eventually reaches Ditchling Beacon the site of an old fort and journey's end.*

***Today's walk has been 8 miles and we have now covered just over 70 miles in total....***

***Until next time, stay fit and healthy and keep walking!!!***

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