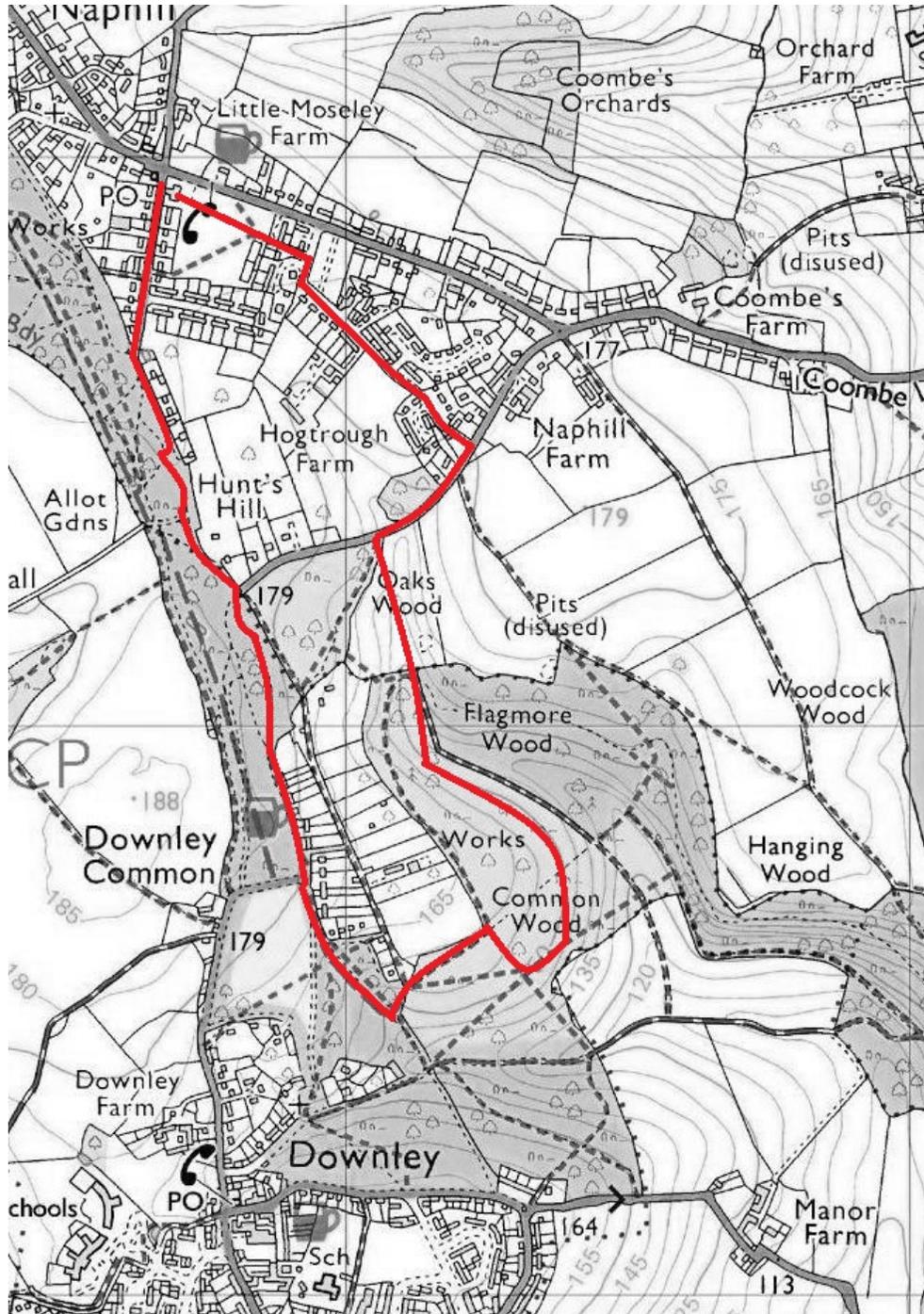


Friends of Naphill Common – Short Walk 3 – Downley Common



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Starting from the Village Hall, cross the Crick, aiming for the gap between the children's play area and the tennis courts. This footpath emerges onto Louches Lane – turn right and follow the road as it bears left and thence onto Hunts Hill Lane. Turning right, pass the first footpath on the left and after about 150m take the second across the fields to wards Flagmore Wood and Common Wood.

Entering the woods through the gate, you immediately reach a crossroads. We're not going to take any of the four paths*, instead bearing very slightly left to take the more level footpath and leaving the bridleway behind. This path takes us through Common Wood on a fairly level route until it merges with a more major path joining from our left running next to a bank and ditch. Follow this path for about 100m, when you should take a smaller path to the right (the main path turns to the left and starts to descend steeply at this point).

If all has gone well, this path should take you to the corner of the football pitch. Turn left and follow the path along the edge of the wood until it emerges onto a more major path. Turn right uphill along an unmade road following the edge of the common in front of a row of houses. Continue in the same direction past the Le De Spencer Arms (where a fine pint of Fullers beer may be taken if required!)

As the unmade road comes to an end, continue into Oaks Wood. Follow the path along the edge of various (clay?) pits until it emerges at the bottom of Hunts Hill Lane. Follow the metalled roadway for about 50m and then continue along the footpath where the road bears to the left. By keeping to the right hand edge of the common you should be able to make your way onto (unmade) Downley Road which passes in front of a row of houses. Turning right at Pickups Pond should take you back to the village Hall.

* If a longer walk is desired, keep to the bridleway and cross the field to reach the bridleway on the far side. From here, a right turn will take you back up to Downley, while turning left will eventually take you to Hughenden Manor (NT).