

## **7. Communities and Places**



## 7. Communities and Places

### 7.1 Current Provision

These woodlands in the South Downs National Park provide opportunities for the people who live and work in the surrounding area and from the larger towns of Chichester, Arundel and Midhurst to explore the landscape, appreciate its wildlife and lead an active lifestyle. The woods are mainly used by local people, dog walkers, horse riders and runners, and a few specialist groups for events, who value the mainly dry conditions available all year round. Most users access the woods by car, bicycle or horse. Only Marden is dedicated for open access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act of 2000 - Houghton was only recently returned to freehold. The remainder of the woods are managed by the Forestry Commission under long leases.

Recreation in Charlton and Selhurst Forests is restricted to public rights of way. Both areas are well served by bridleways and footpaths. Charlton Forest is little used by members of the public. Selhurst is busier, where the main users are dog walkers, horse riders and cyclists. Dog walkers arrive mainly by car and other users by horse or bicycle.

There are no car parks serving Charlton Forest. Selhurst Park has two small car parks provided by the Forestry Commission, one on the southern side and one on the north side. Selhurst main car park is at grid reference SU 923119 and has a capacity for about thirty five cars. It provides spectacular panoramic views across the coastal plain surrounding Chichester to the south and is popular with art groups as well as the general public. Droke car park is on the north side of Selhurst Park at grid reference SU 925127 and has space for about ten cars in dry weather. Its main purpose is to provide a deboxing point for horse riders to access the network of bridleways in both Selhurst Park and Charlton Forest.

There is no recreational use of Drovers Wood due to its small size and lack of access. There is a bridleway passing along the northern boundary.

Selhurst is currently used for Husky Training by a few local enthusiasts.

Charlton is used (with the permission of Good wood Estate and the FC) for a number of sponsored walks and the Chichester Challenge, which is an annual endurance event.

Eartham Wood is well served by bridleways and footpaths which have been clearly signposted. There is a single car park with picnic tables at the southern end of the wood, which has space for around 25 cars. Users are mainly local dog walkers and horse riders, some of whom box in. De-boxing is an issue due to a height barrier at the entrance to the car park, leading to regular obstruction of the access gate to the woods. The height barrier has been essential for reducing the incidence of raves and other unlawful access in these quiet woods. The wood is also used for

orienteering events by South Downs Orienteers, as part of the Chichester Challenge, sponsored long distance walks and for carriage driving under permit from the FC.

Houghton Forest is well served by bridleways and footpaths, which have been clearly signposted. The FC does not have a car park but adjacent to the wood is Whiteways car park and cafe. It has a toilet block and space for over 100 cars when the overflow parking is open. The main users of the wood are local dogwalkers who arrive by car. Walkers and cyclists accessing the South Downs Way also use Whiteways car park. The car park is very popular with bikers at weekends. The majority of those using Whiteways do not go into Houghton Forest.

### 7.2 Review and Analysis

There are two objectives stated in the brief that the plan should address.

- The woodlands are close to Chichester and Arundel as well as several local villages. The woodlands should provide an attractive backdrop to the lives of local people.

This objective focuses on maintaining the landscape value of the forest for those who live there - this plan is committed to this aspiration.

- Recreational use of the woodlands varies but is predominantly by local people, horse riders, cyclists and walkers passing along the South Downs Way. Design should maintain and where possible improve the attractiveness of the woodlands for visitors.

Implementation of this woodland plan will maintain the attractiveness and functionality of the woodlands for visitors. The widening and shaping of rides, gradual diversification of the broadleaves whilst retaining feature conifers and the continued attention to habitats and species should produce a visually pleasing and healthy place to visit and enjoy.

This plan will be reviewed against the forthcoming National Park Management Plan, when it receives a mid-point appraisal in five years time.

7. Communities and Places

7.3 Communities and Places Objectives

Forest Design Plan Objectives	Forest Design Plan Outputs At Year 10 (2018)	Monitoring
Communities and Places	The area of woodland with public access has been maintained.	Record of woodland closure under CROW Act (2000/1).
	The woodland provides high quality accessible natural greenspace and people have been encouraged to use and enjoy the woodland for leisure purposes and healthy living.	Recreation and access web pages on FC website. Facility inspection records. Permission system records. Ordnance Survey Landranger and Explorer maps show Forestry Commission public access land.





Forestry Commission  
England

South England FD  
South Downs 2 FDP (Marden)  
Recreation and Access

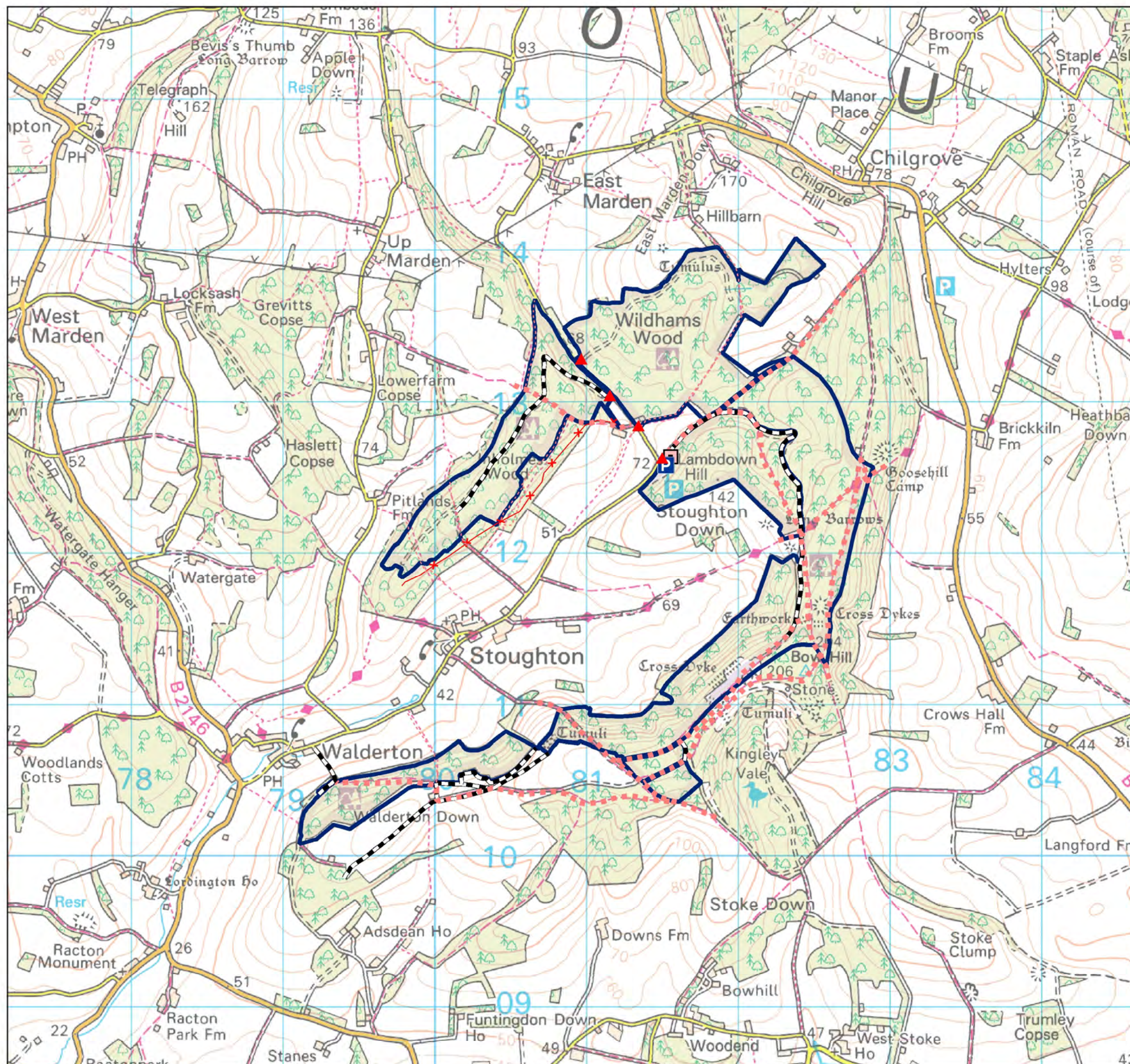
- Gate or cattle grid
- Horse de-boxing area
- Car park
- Forest road
- BOAT
- Bridleway
- Public path
- Overhead powerline
- FC management area

Produced by the Planning Team March 2013

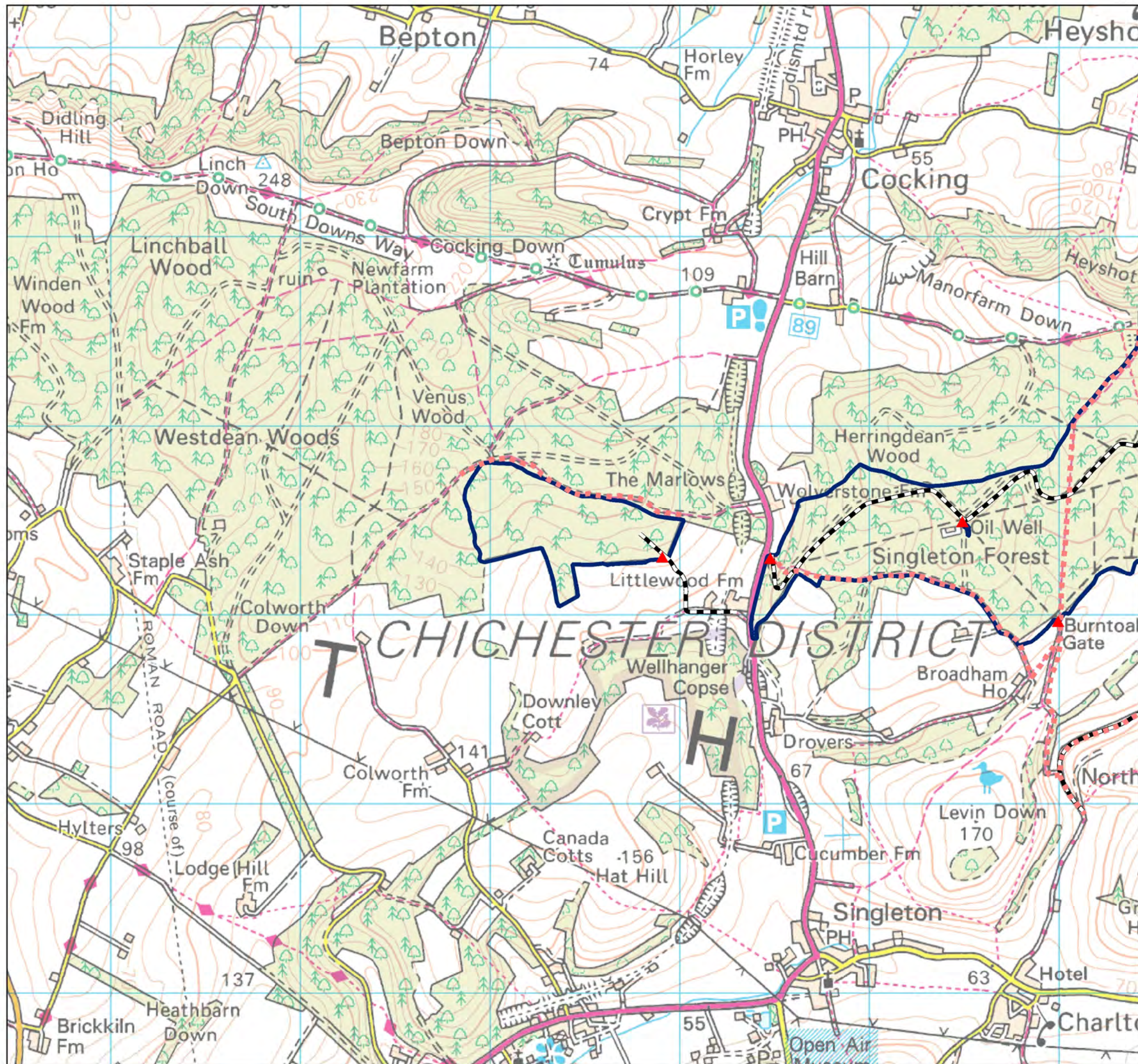
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Forestry Commission  
England

South England FD  
South Downs 2 FDP (Drovers)  
Recreation and Access

-  Gate or cattle grid
-  Horse de-boxing area
-  Car park
-  Forest road
-  BOAT
-  Bridleway
-  Public path
-  Overhead powerline
-  FC management area

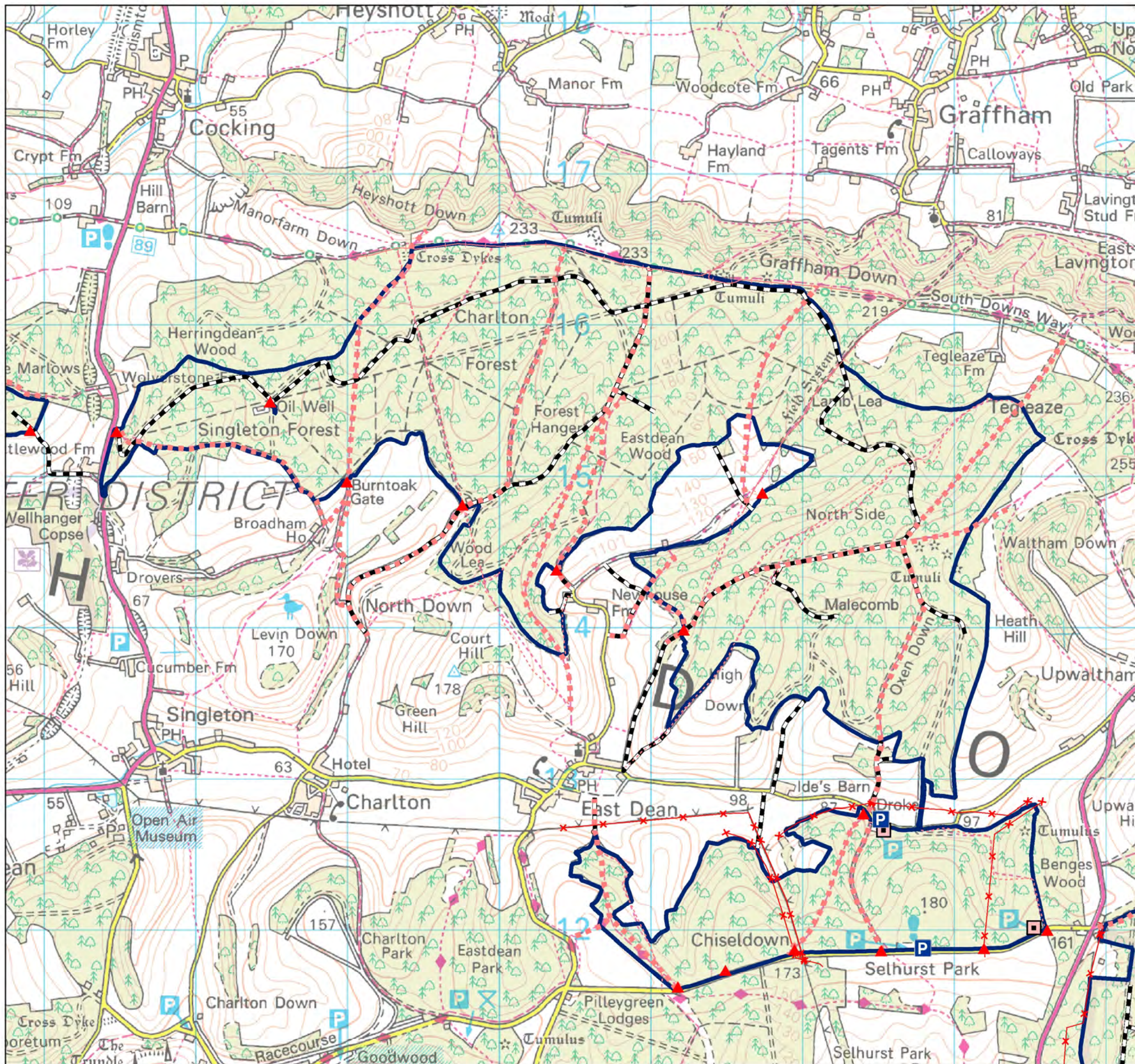
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-  Gate or cattle grid
-  Horse de-boxing area
-  Car park
-  Forest road
-  BOAT
-  Bridleway
-  Public path
-  Overhead powerline
-  FC management area





Forestry Commission  
England

South England FD  
South Downs 2 FDP (Selhurst Park)  
Recreation and Access

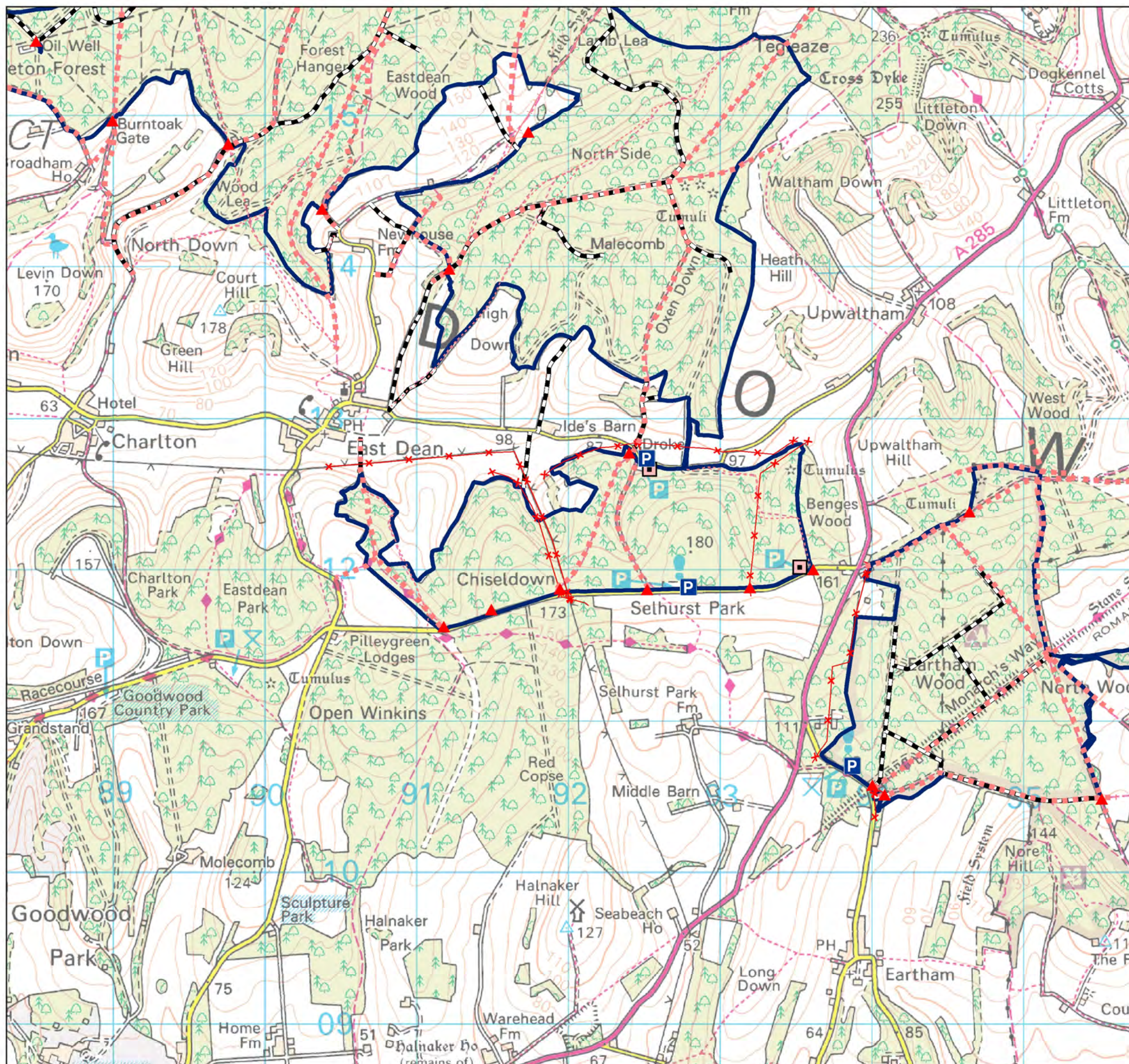
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Forestry Commission  
England

South England FD  
South Downs 2 FDP (Eartham)  
Recreation and Access

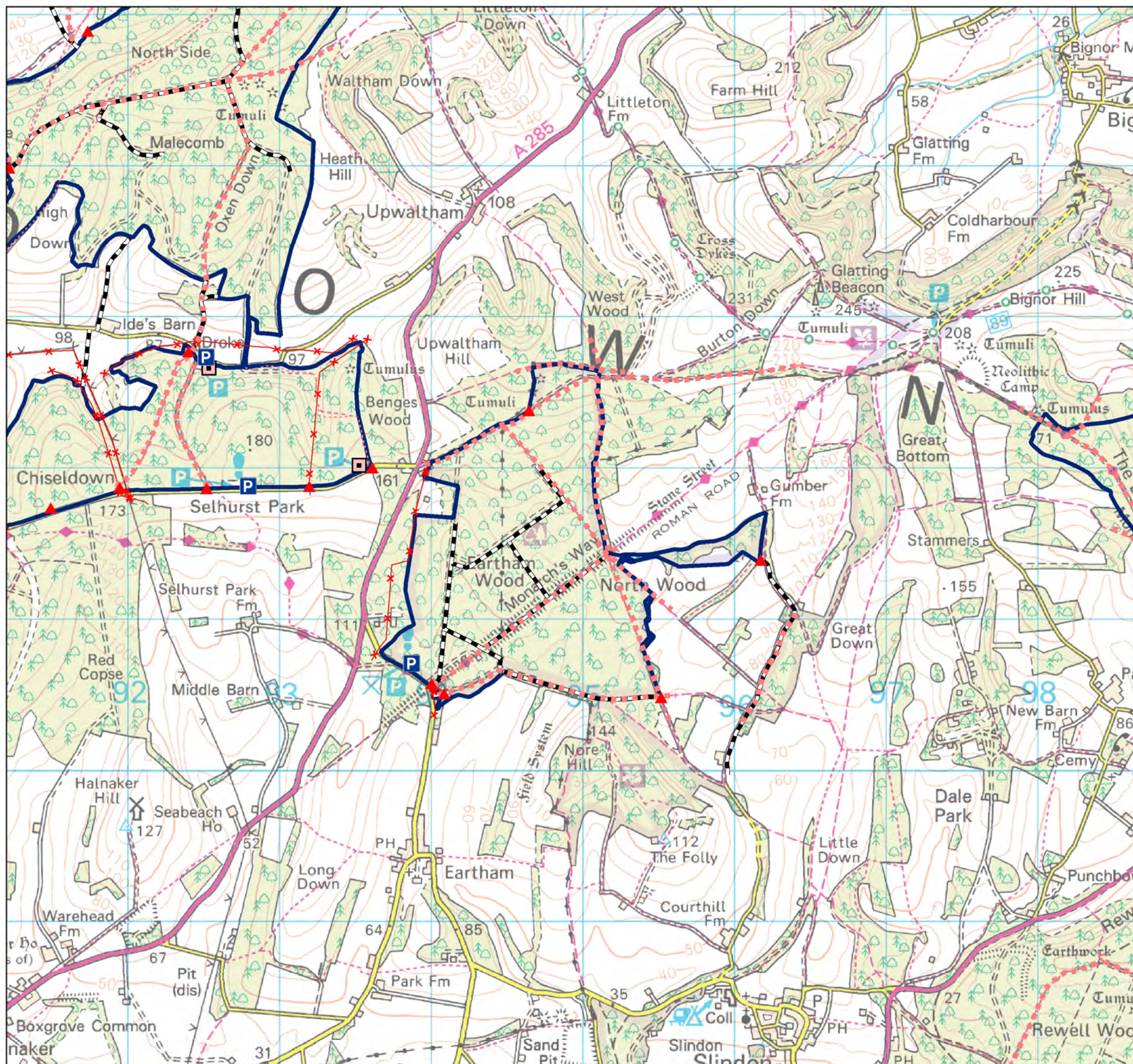
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Forestry Commission  
England

South England FD  
South Downs 2 FDP (Houghton Forest)  
Recreation and Access

- Gate or cattle grid
- Horse de-boxing area
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