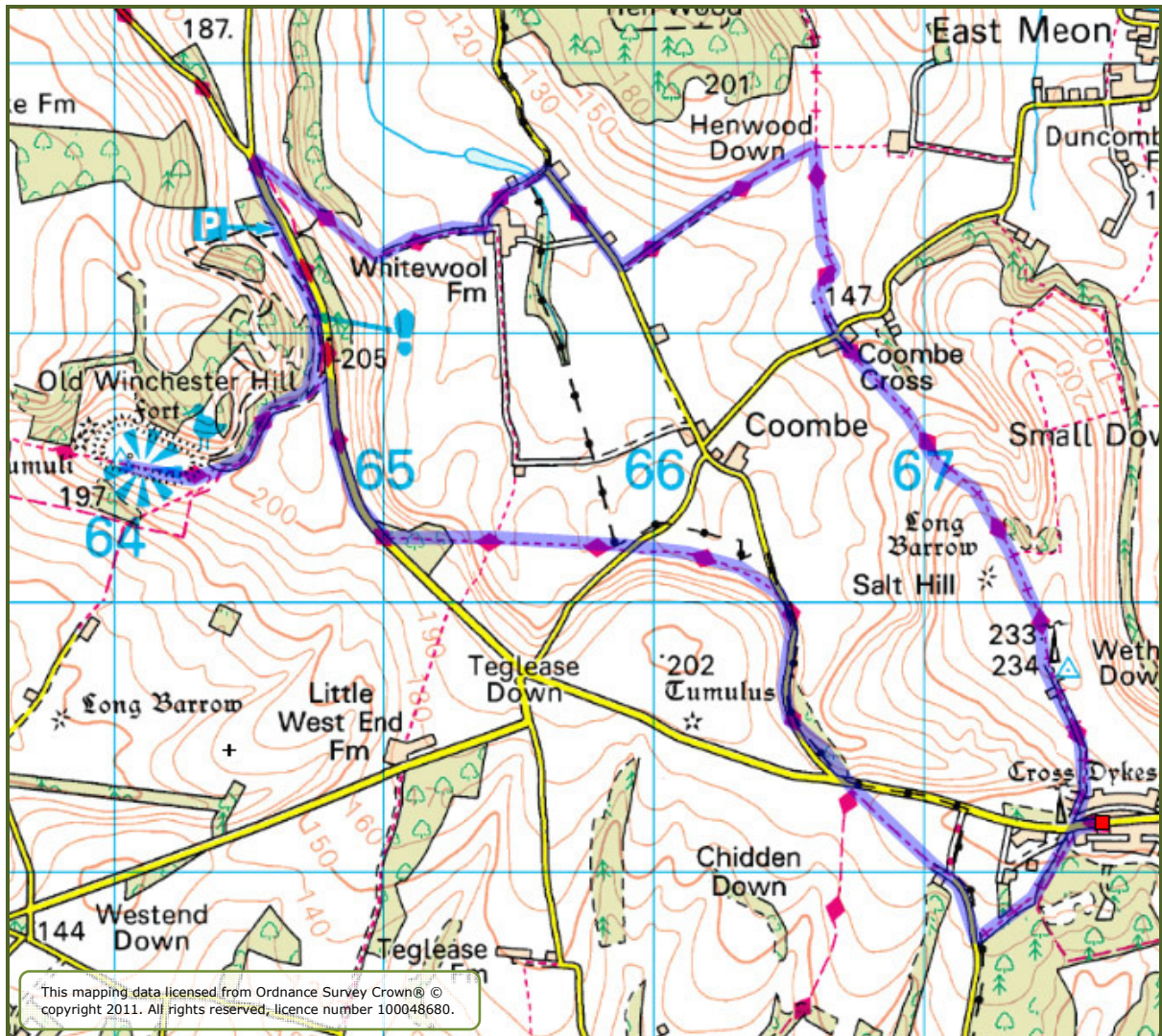


Wether Down and Old Winchester Hill

On a clear day the views on this walk are splendid, when the wind is blowing keep a hold of your hat. From Wether Down the South Downs Way drops through a leafy lane to Coombe Cross before climbing to Old Winchester Hill via Whitewool Farm.

The trail starts at the Sustainability Centre above East Meon, grid reference [SU676191](#), post code [GU32 1HR](#). The distance is 7.9 miles or 12.7 kms with an ascent of 869 feet or 265 metres.



- ✦ **Old Winchester Hill** hillfort enclosure consists of a simple bank and ditch built in the 1st millennium BC but there are a number of earlier, Bronze Age, burial mounds within the interior. Outside the western entrance to the hillfort there are further barrows of Bronze Age date but here these are grouped around an even earlier long barrow [source: www.english-heritage.org.uk].

On a fine day the views from the summit are breathtaking. As the hill has been grazed for centuries it is a very good butterfly site. It has benefited from the protection afforded in 1951 when it was designated an SSSI and a National Nature Reserve [source: www.discoverbutterflies.com].