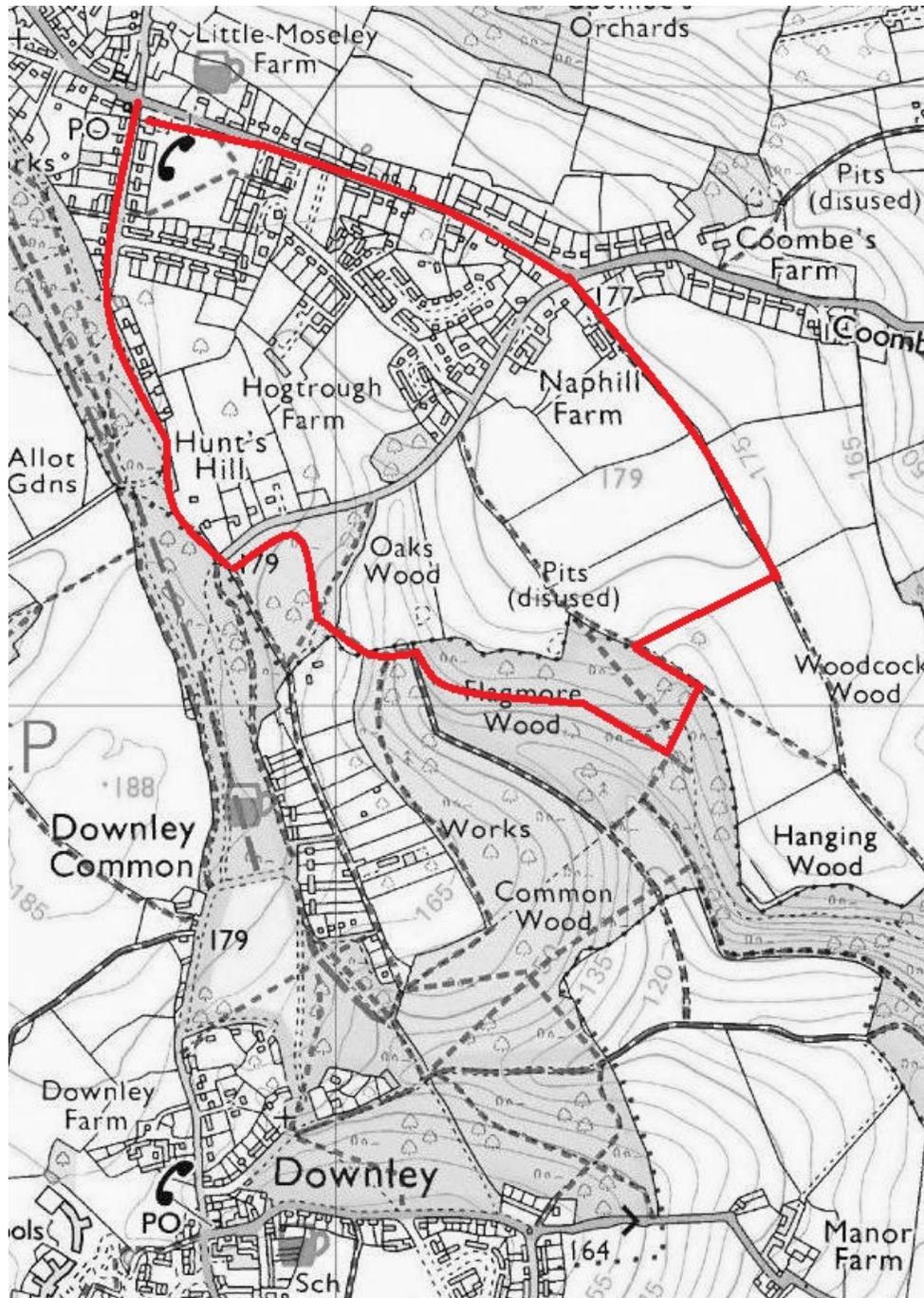


## Friends of Naphill Common – Short Walk 5 – The Coffin Road



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Starting from the Village Hall, set off along Downley Road, turning left at Pickup's Pond and continue to the end of the road. (It is possible to take one of the footpaths or the bridleway that run parallel, but these can be very muddy, even in summertime.)

Follow the muddy track, which comes out onto a paved road, which in turn leads to the bottom of Hunts Hill Lane. There is a larger footpath leading straight on towards Downley, but we will take the smaller (signposted) footpath to the left. After about 20 metres we reach a fork where we take the right-hand path. We now need to take the second path branching to the right (a somewhat unpromising looking overgrown track – don't worry if you miss it, as you will come out onto the main track along the edge of the wood and following this will allow you to regain the route). This brings us to a kissing gate out of the wood and into a field.

Follow the track to the right for a short distance to where another kissing gate gives entry to Flagmore Wood. On entering the wood turn sharp right to follow close to the edge. The path leads steeply downhill and another path joins from the right before it arrives at the bottom of the valley. Cross straight over and start to ascend along the broad track. This will eventually bring us to a T-junction, where we take the uphill path 90° to the left, which emerges at a stile on the edge of the wood. (There are several paths off to the left before the T-junction, some of which can be used as a shortcut to cut off a corner of the route. But they are narrow and twisty and are best left for the more adventurous souls.)

Here we turn left and follow the edge of the wood to a kissing gate into the next field, where we turn right again along the field edge. This brings us to a kissing gate, but there is an open entrance immediately on our right. We can now turn left on the Coffin Road, so named because it was the route over which parishioners made their final journey to the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels, either carried on the shoulders of their friends or (for the larger members of the village) on the back of a cart. Royal Mail insist that it should be called 'Church Lane', but we know better!

Following the road brings us out at the top of Hunts Hill Lane, from where we can make our way along Main Road and over the Crick back to the Village Hall.