



**James Rouse (fl.1817-1830)**

**The Miller's Tomb, c1820**

**Hand coloured lithograph. Worthing Museum and Art Gallery permanent collection**

**Dimensions 9.8 x 15.9cm**

This work has been chosen to support 'Our Place' – Annual Schools Exhibition 2015 - celebrating the built heritage of the South Downs.

Towner Gallery in partnership with South Downs National Park Authority, Worthing Museum and Art Gallery and the Flora Twort Gallery Petersfield

### **About the artist**

We don't know a lot about James Rouse except that his work was mostly produced between 1817 and 1830 and mostly of local Sussex scenes. This is a view through the wooden shelter of the tomb looking across the South Downs National Park, you can just see Beachy Head beyond Brighton in the distance.

This is a hand coloured lithograph which is a type of print where the artist draws directly onto a stone slab and then a print is taken from it and placed onto a piece of paper by a large roller. This is a resist process between oil based inks and water solution.

### **About the print**

In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century there was a mill on Highdown Hill which served people from the surrounding villages providing them with ground corn. John Olliver was the miller and he lived in the Miller's Cottage, also on Highdown Hill. He was a poet, an inventor and a very eccentric man and it is said that he was involved in smuggling by using the sails of his windmill to signal to the smugglers out at sea.

The tomb was built 27 years before he died and he even made his own coffin at the age of 56 and kept it under his bed until he died at the age of 83 in 1793.



## Understand & Evaluate

How does the artist create distance and perspective in this picture?

The horizon is about half way down the picture. If the horizon was placed lower down, or higher up how would this affect the view?

What technique has the artist used to position the Miller's Tomb as a focal point in the scene?

Mills played a significant role within local communities, many people relied on the flour they produced. Discuss the reasons why mills are no longer used today and how food production has changed.

## Explore and create

The process of traditional lithography involves the resistance between oil and water. Can you identify other techniques that use this concept?

Try drawing a bold image using oil pastels in bright colours, then paint over it with either a black ink or watercolours (it's best to use heavy paper for this). What do you think of the results? Experiment with this technique.

What other printing techniques can you try? Mono-printing is a technique that produces only one print (lithography can repeat many of the same image). Try mono-printing by using a piece of non-absorbent material for your plate,

1. paint or draw onto it with an oil/acrylic based ink
2. then place a piece of paper on to it carefully and rub over it with a dry sponge
3. peel the paper off to see how the print has turned out
4. experiment with this technique by placing cut out shapes or found objects like leaves onto the inked plate before taking the print
5. then take another print after this to see what happens

## Further links to the National Park

Use the South Downs National Park Learning Zone to explore <http://learning.southdowns.gov.uk/>.

[Learning outside the Classroom](#) including links for health and safety and practical support in planning your work away from the classroom.

[About the National Park](#) The South Downs National Park is the newest of the National Parks established in 2009. All National Parks are special places that are recognised for their stunning landscapes, amazing wildlife and rich heritage, as well as providing fantastic opportunities for enjoying and learning about what makes them special.

[Geology and landscape](#) Highdown Hill is a popular site for visitors, picnickers and dog-walkers located above the town of Worthing. It is located in the Open Eastern Downs and Chalk Valleys landscape character area. Gently curving hills studded with ancient earthworks and Iron Age hill-forts roll away into the distance under big skies giving panoramic views across generous fields to the sea. Find out more about the different landscape types across the South Downs by looking at the [Sense of Place](#) toolkit that includes fantastic maps and information about each distinctive area.

[Farming and Land management](#) Over 85% of the South Downs National Park is agricultural. Farming, and in particular, traditional mixed farming, has created the distinctive landscape that makes the South Downs such an iconic place. The land on Highdown Hill is managed by the National Trust to prevent the chalk grassland from scrubbing over. Without conservation grazing, scrub clearance and land management this habitat would look very different and the wildlife that can be supported would change significantly.

[Habitats and wildlife](#) This area includes chalk grassland which covers only 4% of the National Park in total. Chalk grassland is often referred to as the European equivalent to tropical rainforest due to the rich diversity of species it supports. Highdown Hill has been designated a Site of Nature and Conservation Interest (SNCI) due to the variety of special plants found here, including orchids. Find out more about [chalk grassland](#) on the Learning Zone.

[Culture and heritage](#) Highdown Hill has evidence of human occupation since the Bronze Age, although the key feature is the ramparts of the Iron Age hill fort. The remains of the mill that gave rise to the legend of the Millers Tomb can still be seen on the western side of the hill. The landscape of the South Downs has long provided building materials for local settlements, including Worthing. For more information about the building materials used across the National Park see the presentation on [Buildings in the South Downs Landscape](#).

[Access and recreation](#) The South Downs National Park is a very accessible landscape with over 3,000 km of rights of way including the South Downs Way, a 160 km National Trail stretching from Winchester to Eastbourne, see: <http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/south-downs-way> for more details.

[Economy and industry](#) Mills were once a common site across the South Downs where they harnessed the power of the wind to grind wheat for flour. However, by 1900 they were becoming less profitable due to the rise of mechanical methods of production. Nowadays the industry of the South Downs is dominated by farming and tourist related businesses. There are also a wide range of other businesses, for example new technology and science, which support local employment. You can find out more about these different types of industry in the [State of the National Park Report](#).

