

## Map 1

# Open Access at Harting Down

Making the most of open access



**Open access land offers walkers an exciting opportunity to explore some of the spectacular South Downs landscape from a much closer perspective than ever before!**

This map will help you get more from a visit to **Harting Down** whilst enjoying it in harmony with the site's wildlife and its management. There is a detailed map on the overleaf that shows the site, a self-guided walk and additional information that will help you better enjoy what it has to offer. Please read the information on the back of this leaflet and most importantly, enjoy your visit!

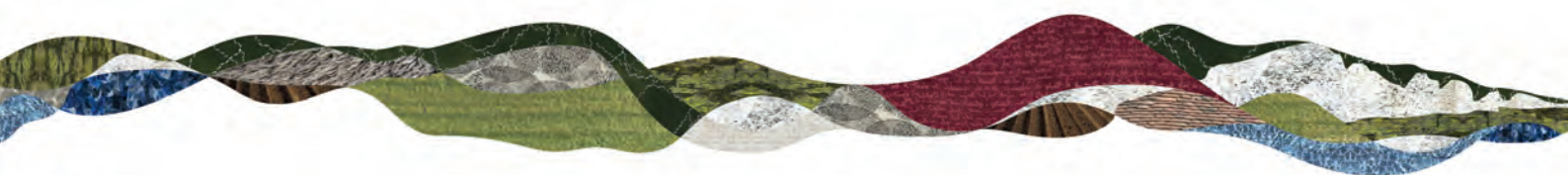
Harting Down is a glorious tract of countryside, wood and Downland with extensive views over the Western Weald to the North Downs and south to the Solent and Isle of Wight. In summer the Downland areas are ablaze with wild flowers and butterflies. The site is home to one of the largest juniper colonies in the South, as well as a number of orchid species.

Thin chalk soils and grassy paths allow mainly mud free walking even in winter. Despite the area's popularity, a picnic in a quiet valley like Whitcombe Bottom can be overlooked by a fine antlered stag emerging from the trees while resident buzzards and the odd red kite gently soar overhead!

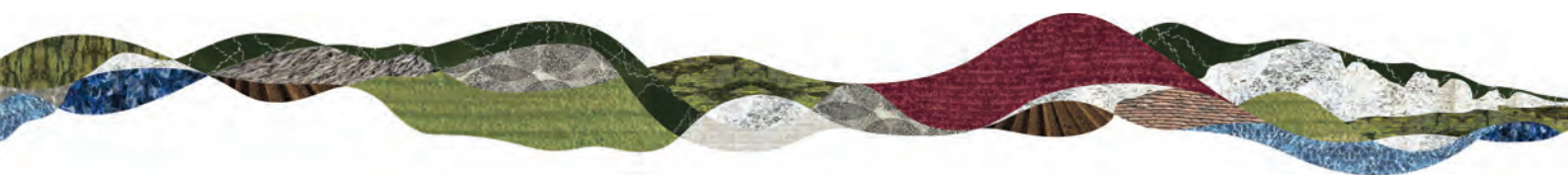
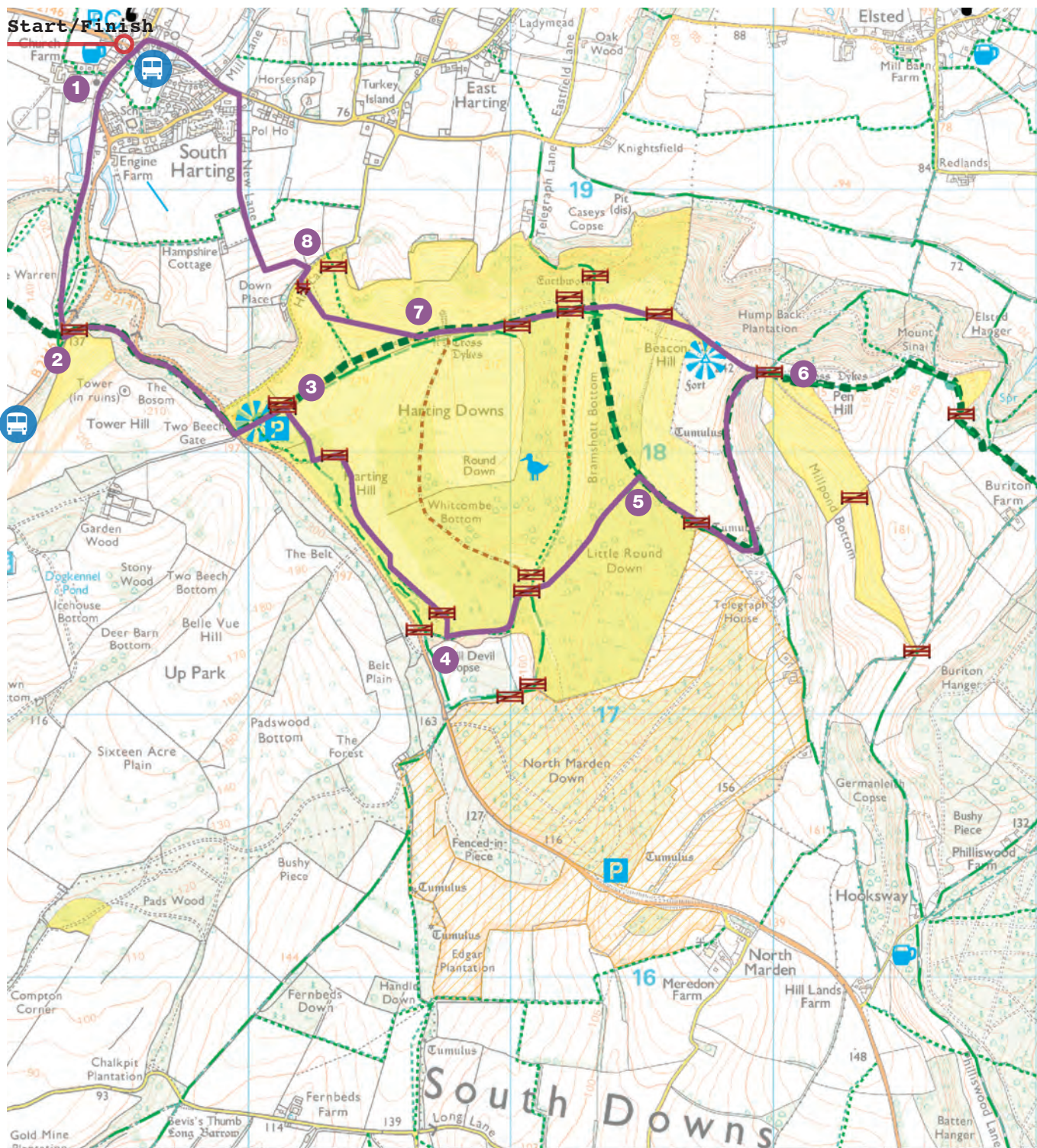


**South Downs Society**  
Protecting the Beauty of the Downs

**SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK**









# Route instructions



**A circular walk from the village of South Harting up onto the South Downs to explore the National Trust owned Open Access land of the Harting Downs. Beautiful unspoilt downland with fine views. Some steep slopes.**

Distance: 9 km/5¼ miles

Time: 3 hrs

Total ascent: 341m/1,119 ft

Highest point: 242m/793 ft

Map: OS Explorer 120

Start: The White Hart, South Harting SU 785194 or GU31 5QB

Stiles: 2

How to get there: Emsworth & District Bus 54 (Chichester to Petersfield) Car park at southern end of village

SU 784193 & a National Trust car park using the RingGo system at SU 790181.

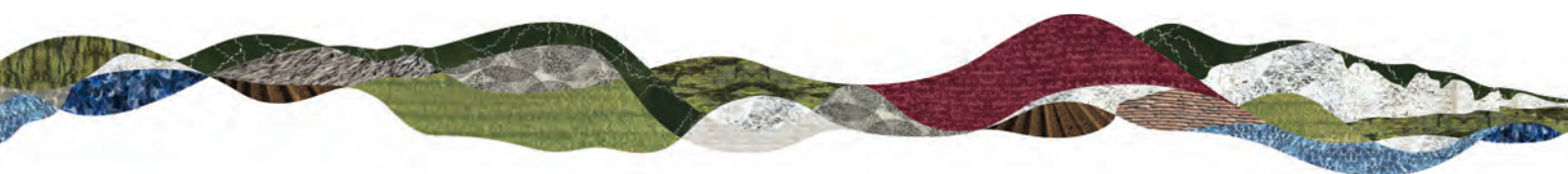
Public toilets: Next to the White Hart

Refreshments: The White Hart (Pub) at start/finish.

From the start point follow the main street slightly uphill to pass the church on your right. Take care here as there is no pavement and the road is narrow.

- 1** As the road bends left follow a public footpath straight ahead with a car park to your left, pass through a gate into a recreation area. The footpath continues to the left behind a row of trees. Keep to the main path as you climb the hill and at the signpost keep right.
- 2** At the top of the hill turn left at the metal barrier and cross the road to join the South Downs Way. After 800 metres take care when crossing the main road to follow a permissive bridleway onto Harting Down (National Trust). Enter an open space with a car park off to the right. At the signpost bear right to pass a belt of trees keeping them on your left with a large grassy open space to your right.
- 3** In front of the gate turn right to follow the fence line to enter a wood. After 30 metres turn left at a cross track marker post in the direction of the yellow arrow. Turn right after the gate to follow the field edge footpath. Look to the left to see Beacon Hill some 1.4km away and the highest point on our walk. On reaching a stile in the fence line cross over to follow the path through a strip of woodland and parallel to the field. Go straight ahead through the gate and keep the fenced enclosure to your right.
- 4** Turn left at a T-junction at the edge of the wood near a large beech tree. Follow this path which makes its way through a wood with yew trees and down to the bottom of a dry valley. At the junction of paths in the valley bottom go straight ahead uphill along a grassy bridleway (blue arrow). As you climb look back into this remarkably peaceful and secluded downland spot. At the top of the hill turn right to rejoin the South Downs Way.
- 5** From here walk for about 500 metres to reach the edge of the property known as Telegraph House. It was here in 1927 that Bertrand Russell and his wife Dora founded their experimental Beacon Hill School. In front of the gate the Way turns sharp left almost doubling back upon itself. Walking northwards ahead of you at about two o'clock is Pen Hill and further to the right, the outline of Treyford Down with its clear north facing scarp slope.
- 6** The track becomes chalky and drops down to a saddle (dip between summits) at the head of Millpond Bottom. Turn sharp left at the national Trust sign to climb Beacon Hill so called because it hosted a station in the shutter telegraph chain, from 1796 to 1816, which connected the Admiralty in London to its naval ships in Portsmouth. To reach the summit bear left as you approach the top for a wonderful 360 degree panorama. After descending the hill keep to the right hand track when ascending the next hill.
- 7** Once beyond the scrub and cross dyke (grass covered bank at right angles to the track) look for a way mark post on your right which may be partially obscured. Leave the main path to follow an indistinct route diagonally down the slope which descends round the head of a deepcombe. Continue diagonally down along the hillside passing a signpost and at the next marker post the footpath bends right to descend the hill directly. Bear left at an unmarked fork to reach a stile. A road is reached after a flight of steps. Cross over to join a Public Byway.
- 8** On entering the byway keep left along a stony track which becomes a surfaced lane (New Lane). Upon joining the road after passing some houses, turn left and follow the road back into the village taking care where there is no pavement.

**Careful scrutiny of the map reveals that there are several alternative and shorter routes on Harting Downs including a start from the bus stop at the entrance to Uppark House SU 781181. This gives access to the route at Point 2 and could be used to avoid the steep climb up from the start.**



## Open access

Open access land gives you the right to explore interesting features within that parcel of land – you can choose your own route and you don't have to stick to the path!



### What you can do:

- Walk
- Sightsee
- Picnic
- Bird watch
- Run
- Fly a kite

Please remember that with these rights come responsibilities. You have the legal right to explore access land but please remember that most of the areas are privately owned; they are also the home and place of work for many people. A number of sites are also nationally important because of some of the plants and animals found there. If rights of way (like footpaths or bridleways) cross the land, the legal rights still apply.

Access Land is good for dog walkers too but the South Downs landscape is also important for ground nesting birds and many important conservation grazing projects. Unless otherwise stated, dogs must be kept on a fixed lead (2 metres or less) when livestock are present and on all access land sites between March 1st and July 31st.

### What you can't do:

- Cycle or horse ride (unless on an appropriate right of way)
- Drive a vehicle (unless on an appropriate right of way)
- Camp
- Light a fire
- Hang-glide or paraglide
- Use a metal detector

### Please follow the Countryside Code at all times:

- Be safe plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people.

Please see [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk) for more information about Harting Down and Uppark House.

*Walk devised and surveyed by volunteers from the **South Downs Society***

### Getting there via public transport

The number 54 bus runs between Chichester and Petersfield 5 times a day, Mon – Sat., and stops at the White Hart in South Harting and at the driveway to Uppark House.

Please visit [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) or call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

Find out more about visiting the South Downs  
[www.southdowns.gov.uk/gettingaround](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/gettingaround)

