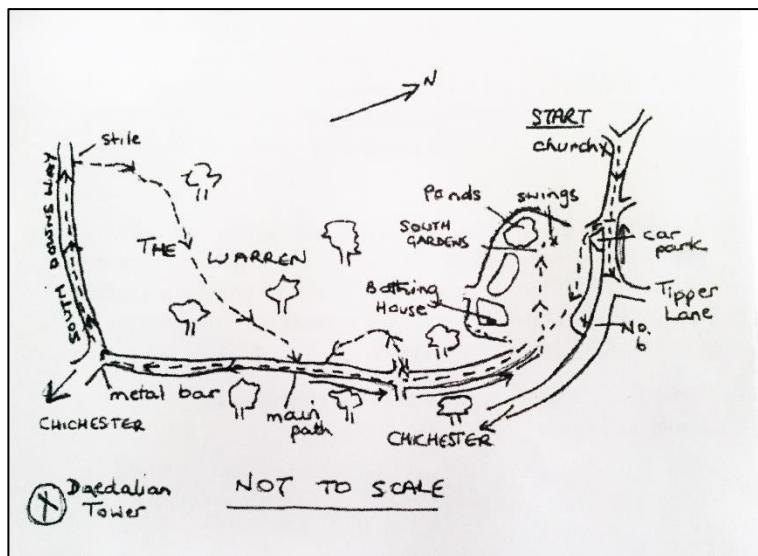


## Getting to and from South Harting by Public Transport

Chichester	Bus No. 54	2 hourly, no Sunday service
Petersfield*	Bus No. 54	2 hourly, no Sunday service
	Bus No. 91	infrequent Sat & weekdays
		2 hourly Sundays & Public Holidays
Midhurst	Bus No. 91	As above
Worthing	Bus No. 1	South Harting to Worthing 2 hourly Sundays & Public Holidays
	Bus No. 1	Worthing to South Harting as above

\*Leaves Petersfield Railway Station



Compiled by Harting Society  
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## Walk No. 1

### HARTING SOCIETY: WALKS ROUND HARTING

*Circular walk – South Harting, South Gardens, The Warren, part of South Downs Way and back to South Harting*

**Distance: 2.5 miles approx.**

**Time: 1.5 hours approx.**

*An easy walk, moderately steep in places. Wild flowers, a ruined tower, panoramic views, birds, animal tracks and ponds.*

*START – from the Parish Church in the High Street and turn right down the narrow road between houses and the churchyard wall (be careful of traffic). The last house on the right at the bottom (Coach House) was once South Harting's third pub "The Coach & Horses". Cross the road and turn right to walk the short distance to Tipper Lane. Look across the road to the right at the attractive thatched cottages. No.6 is a Tudor timber-framed house with S-shaped (ogee) braces dating it between 1570 and 1590.*

*Retrace your steps and cross the road to the blue signpost pointing to the public footpath running, between a wall on the right and the car park on the left, to the wooden gates of South Gardens. Enter the gardens and keep straight ahead, with the gardens of the thatched cottage on your left and*



across the grass, the three ponds. You will probably see many ducks parading or sunning themselves on the grassy banks. Note the many lovely trees, particularly the copper beeches.

Coming to the end of the open grass join the wide main path. It is rough and stony and often slippery, so take care. Look out for Spring flowers, orchids, woodruff, wood spurge, bugle, campion, bellflowers, sanicle, wood anemones, dogwood and small wayfaring trees. Continue up through the Warren until reaching a finger post where a footpath crosses the main one and there turn left up through the bushes and trees.

Walk straight on climbing up the path (parallel to the main road), in between recently protected saplings until you reach a new deer fence. Pass through the gate, pass the finger posts and follow on up the hill on a broad track through recently cleared woodland.

Continue on up the track (which gets quite steep and slippery) until you come out on the South Downs Way (marked with a fingerpost to the left). Turn right (away from the road) and walk along the single track, pausing a little way along to look back to see on Tower Hill, Uppark's ruined Tower. Originally called "my Tower at Noon Bush" by Sir Matthew Featherstonehaugh and later the Daedalian Tower after the mythical Greek associated with the labyrinth in Crete where the minotaur was confined. In recent years some have known it as the Vandalian Tower. It was once used for grand "picnic" parties until reduced to a ruin in 1842 by a deliberate incendiary attack by a gang of poachers from a neighbouring Parish.

Pause to look at the wonderful panoramic view across to Hemner and Torberry Hills, West Harting, South Harting (almost hidden by trees), East Harting, Elsted and in the distance Petersfield, Nyewood and Rogate. At the finger post and gate on your right note, in Spring, the great clumps of primroses on the verge and in the field. Pass through the gate into the field

and with the fence on your left walk down to the next footpath marker (on a post) at the bottom of the steep slope. It can often be dangerously slippery so watch your step. This field is often covered with numerous molehills and in some years a number of cowslips. Pass through the gap in the fence onto a narrow path and turning right walk along fenced fields on the right, the land to the left falling sharply away to the woods, clothed with wild garlic and bluebells in Spring. Keep an eye out for rabbit and badger holes and diggings, violets and Solomon's seal. Follow the path down through the Warren (dodging low branches), looking out for deer prints in the soft earth. Bearing to the left you will eventually reach a few steps leading down to the main path again. Turn left and follow it down to South Gardens. As the path opens out onto the grass of the gardens, look to the left to see the lovely reflections of trees in the water of the ponds.

The landing on one side was once the base for a pretty Bathing House. Walk over the grass (once a bowling green) which in spring is carpeted with speedwell, celandines and daisies. You may see a tree creeper darting up a tree trunk, or at the middle pond a kingfisher sitting on a bullrush or flashing past. Look out for nuthatches in the nearby trees. Reaching the bench by the swings on the edge of the last pond rest a while, watching the antics of the ducks or the moorhens and their chicks scuttling across the lily pads. Look out for large carp splashing and swimming round the reeds and water mint, or on sunny days, dragonflies hovering over the yellow and white waterlilies.

Leave the gardens by the wooden gate and walking past the small car park walk up the narrow road to arrive once more at the lovely Church of St Mary and St Gabriel. Walk a couple of yards past the Church gates to see the Old Stocks and then try to spare a little time to look inside the Church which is filled with beauty and interest.