

A South Downs Circuit from West Marden

Parking is limited in West Marden, with roadside parking available just down from The Victoria pub on the Rowlands Castle road. Public transport runs on the B2146 from Chichester to South Harting passing through West Marden.

The walk starts by going up the hill past The Victoria pub in the direction of Rowlands Castle. Leave the road taking a footpath, off right, just past the entrance to West Marden Hall. Continue on the path above the gardens of West Marden House, joining the track leading to Horsley Farm.

Photograph: View over West Marden Hall



Turn right and continue on the track, soon after at the T-junction, turn right heading east to a pasture field. Go into the field where the path crosses left, going downhill diagonally along the hill, leaving the wooded area to the left.

Pass through a gate onto a track; go up hill, then onto the footpath through a field diverging left from the track.

Photograph: Autumnal trees on the way to Compton



Leave the field passing through a large wire 'kissing gate', then down through an area of young trees to another field. The path crosses the field left, cutting the corner off, into a narrow strip of woodland.

Photograph: zooming in on Compton



Pass through then down the side right to the B2146 road outside Compton village. Turn left following the road for a short distance to the **village shop**. Go up the road right outside the shop for a very short distance, before turning left onto a farm track followed by crossing fields to reach the wooded area below Telegraph Hill.

Photograph: Looking back at Fernbeds Down



Join a path just inside the wood, going left, and follow it to where it crosses a country lane at Bevis's Thumb Long Barrow. Cross the lane and continue on the path, now on a wide track. Where the woods of Fernbeds Down start, take the footpath off right, following the path to the fence at the end of the first field.

Photograph: Looking north going up to Apple Down



Turn left onto a path following the fence to the end of this field, then right to the corner of the woods. Continue right on the outside of the woods, going south, to meet the same road crossed earlier at Bevis's Thumb. Turn right, then straight left onto a track going over Apple Down, followed by a path across the fields to a track close to Up Marden Church.

Photograph: Up Marden's 16th century church



Join this track, going right then straight left onto a path passing through the field behind Up Marden Church. The path follows the hedge on the right to the corner, and then bears right following the outside of Grevitts Copse around the field.

Photograph: Passing through Grevitts Copse



When the path is in the dip of the field, move left into Grevitts Copse, and follow the path up hill, paralleling the edge of the wood and power lines.

Photograph: On the road from Locklash Farm



The path bears left at the top and follows a track. Avoid any tracks off this one, then at an obscure fingerpost, go right to cross open ground to the woods opposite. Join the footpath going into the wood and up hill, then right at the track which arrives at the yard of Locksash Farm. Exit the farm yard to join the country lane, turning left, then follow the lane to the B2146 road at Watergate Hanger.

Photograph: Close up of West Marden



Cross the road and follow the footpath up the side of the house into Watergate Hanger, turning left to follow a path south passing the back of the house. Follow this path to above Walderton, and just before reaching the country lane, join the path right that follows the top of Watergate Hanger.

Photograph: Looking back near Watergate Hangar



The path follows a track at the edge of a field outside Watergate Hanger, until a track leading left to Broadreed Farm. Here, the path moves into Watergate Hanger but still continues north at the top of the wood where it ends at a narrow lane.

Photograph: Colourful trees from Watergate Hangar



Turn left following the lane for short distance, then off right onto a path leading into Nore Down. On entering Nore Down, the path goes left through the wooded area above West Marden, finally crossing a small paddock to join the road opposite the entrance to West Warden Hall. Turn right and follow the road to be soon back at the start.

Photograph: Dropping back down into West Marden



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