

# St Catherines Down, circular walk from Maytime Cottage

Approximately 4 miles (steep in places) allow 2 - 3 hours

- 1 From the cottage turn left, and at the end of Southford Lane, cross the Niton - Newport road and continue straight on down a track, bearing left at the bottom of the slope and continuing through the wood yard.
- 2 Proceed through the gate and across the field beyond continuing until you reach another gate..
- 3 At this gate turn left, then straight away right, heading up the hill. Continue all the way to the top, where you will emerge by the Hoy Monument.
- 4 Turn south facing the 'pepperpot' otherwise known as St Catherines Oratory, an early lighthouse. Follow the path south enjoying the panoramic view across the entire Island, the mainland and the channel, continue for half a mile.
- 5 Pass through a gate near the foot of the final climb up to the pepperpot.
- 6 Climb up to the top, enjoy the view, then retrace your steps to a gate on your right.
- 7 Reaching the foot of the steep section, turn right through a gate, following the path across a field, pass through the gate, and continue between the hedges until you come to a stile on your left.
- 8 Climb over this and then another one straight afterwards to your right. Continue straight on through a gorse copse.
- 9 Continue along the path until you reach another pair of stiles, the first on your left immediately followed by another, now to your right. Climb over these and continue in the same direction as before.
- 10 Continue along this narrow path, eventually passing through a small wood and descending back to the Niton road.
- 11 Turn right on the road and walk 50 yds to a footpath on the opposite side, follow, the path then turn left over a stile after the buildings and continue down hill, turning left over another stile near the bottom of the field.
- 12 Continue and then climb over another stile and through the new tree plantation, then turn left at the end of the path. This path now brings you back onto Southford Lane at point 1.

