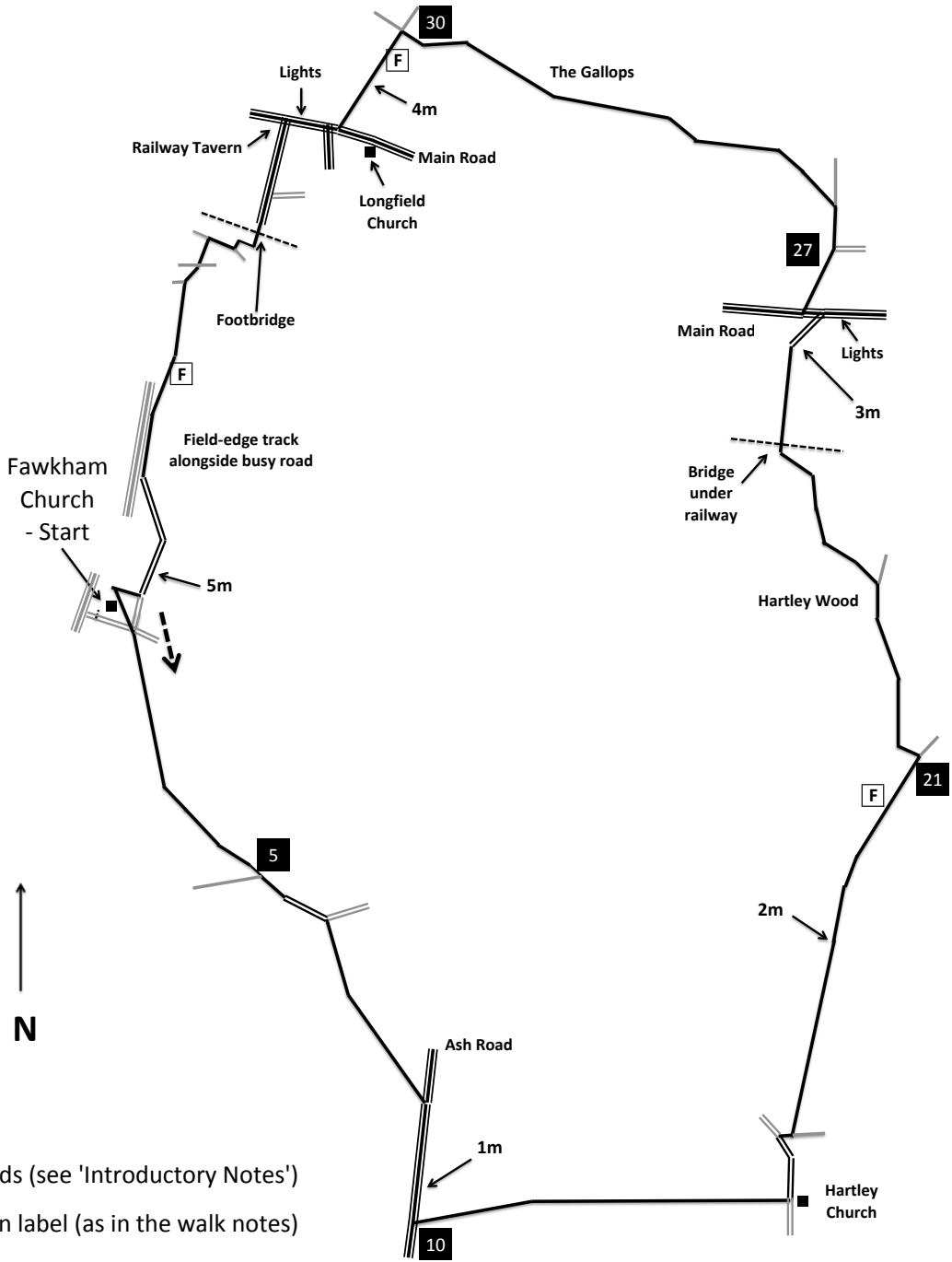





ASH CHURCH WALKS - NO. 7





F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

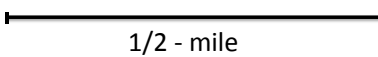
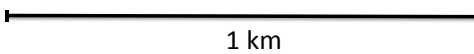
ROADS:

-  Significant roads
-  Others - on route
-  Others - adjoining

PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining

Scale (approx.):



 Starting direction

ASH CHURCH WALKS - No.7 (3 August 2014)

(Fawkham - Hartley Church - Hartley Manor - Hartley Wood - The Gallops - Longfield - Fawkham)

The highlight is the stretch along the heights of the Gallops, with contrasting views on either side. There are two fairly harmless climbs – a gentle one at the start, and later a moderate but short one to reach the Gallops. ‘Steep Hill’ at the end is a gross exaggeration and should not discourage!

Roads and hindrances:

You cross main roads on four occasions (at 9, 26 and twice in 32) always with good sightlines and nothing to fear unduly. The short stretches on minor roads are harmless. In practice it is not necessary to engage with the hazardous Fawkham Road at 37.

There are no significant hindrances, though it is worth keeping a lookout for rabbit holes (and occasional brambles).

Notes taken: December 2011; updated August 2014

The start and finish is at **Fawkham Church** (nearest postcode - DA3 8EQ).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		!!!F!!! Start from the car park of Fawkham Church, at the far end from the church itself. With your back to the Fawkham Valley Road look up across the large field. Ahead at the top is a hedge, along which there are three benches spaced out to the right. Walk diagonally up across the field to the little gate which is next to the furthest right of these benches (dedicated to Elaine Wallis).	597 680	
2	2	Go through the gate, cross the road, and go up the footpath more or less opposite, to the right of the entrance to Talbot Lodge.	597 679	
3	3	Go to the left of the private entrance to Hillside Cottage, passing between fences on the narrow path.		
4	7	Through a pair of metal gates, and still straight ahead.		
5	12	[Map point] Follow the two waymarks in quick succession (easily missed) for SD221, taking you first to the right, and then to the left, back to the original direction.		
6	13	The path becomes a metalled road. Keep straight on past the back of a school.		
7	14	Still straight on, abandoning the road as it goes to the left. A signpost and, soon, a waymark confirm this continuing direction. It is the path shown as leading to Farm View.		
8	18	Go between railings towards the main road, now in sight.		
9	20	Reaching and crossing the main road, turn right to walk on the pavement.		

* ***“Mins.” is very approximate!*** See ‘Introductory Notes’ for an explanation of how this column is used.

!!!F!!! : ***Field crossing might be unmarked.*** See ‘Open Fields’ in ‘Introductory Notes’ for some thoughts about dealing with this.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
10	24	[Map point] Soon after the Black Lion (not before it, as you might infer from the symbol on the OS map), turn left along a footpath (opposite 'Appledore').	604 666	
11	25	At the end go through the railings, and more or less straight ahead, with a large open field now to the right and allotments to the left. Ignore all paths to right and left.		
12	28	Pass a bench and an information board. Continue straight on.		
13	30	Through a metal gate, and still straight ahead.		
14	35	When you reach the road at Hartley Church, turn left along it. (It is a very short and quiet stretch of road, but you can avoid tarmac after the parking area on the right by taking the little parallel path.)	613 667	1.6
15	37	Turn right through the entrance gate to Manor Field - the small pedestrian gate is not locked, but avoid the private drive to the left of the track! Then immediately turn left to walk along the left-hand edge of the playing field.		
16	39	In the corner at the end go through a MKG and continue along the left-hand edge of a field.		
17	43	At the end of this field continue ahead, next to a panel fence.		
18	44	Cross a driveway, and continue along the path which begins very slightly to the left and goes on between fences.		
19	46	[!F!!] Go through a wooden gate, opening out on to a grassy field. The line across the field is now very slightly right, keeping to the right of the large tree ahead and aiming at a wooden gate visible in the middle of the line of trees opposite.		
20	49	Go straight ahead into these trees (SD 215).		
21	50	[Map point] After about 60 yds. (following, currently, a yellow arrow painted on a tree) turn left towards a long panel fence. Then swing right to follow the fence, keeping it to your left.	616 676	2.29
22	53	When the fence angles away to the left, continue straight on instead.		
23	54	At a junction of waymarked paths, follow the left-hand one (SD295). This winds between the trees, but always keep on the main track. <i>[This suggestion is the simplest to follow. As often in woods there are alternatives, using one or two of the tracks further to the left, some of which are marginally more direct. The important thing is to reach the bridge at 25.]</i>	615 681	
24	57	Swing leftwards to go parallel to the railway.		
25	60	Turn right through a bridge under the railway. Follow ahead along a path which then becomes a rough drive, and then a metalled access road next to a school.	613 684	

* *"Mins."* is very approximate! See 'Introductory Notes' for an explanation of how this column is used.

[!F!!] : Field crossing might be unmarked. See 'Open Fields' in 'Introductory Notes' for some thoughts about dealing with this.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
26	64	This leads to the main road. Cross it (with the help of the nearby lights if necessary) and turn left along the pavement on the other side. Then very soon turn right on to a footpath which leads steeply up the right-hand side of a large field.		
27	67	[Map point] Ignore the road on the right beyond railings. Here, up ahead to the left, at right angles, you can see a long hedge which the route will follow until it is directly above Longfield. To reach the hedge use the diagonal track which appears after about 40 yds.	614 689	3.18
28	69	Set out alongside the hedge, parallel to the valley and main road down to the left. It is not clear which side of the hedge is correct. Perhaps both are, leaving you to choose between views: Longfield and beyond to the left; Northfleet and the river to the right. There are gaps at a few points in the hedge: for what it is worth, the waymarks suggest walking first on the right, then either side, then on the left; but it really seems not to matter.		
29	81	Power lines above. (Carry on.)		
30	83	[Map point] !!!!!! Turn left at a pole, on what is at present a clear track parallel to power lines (currently between planted tractor tyres) down to the centre of Longfield. Straight down: towards the bottom there are waymark, kissing gate and steps, leading to the main road.	604 694	
31	87	Turn right along the main road.	603 691	4.10
32	88	Cross at the lights and go along past the petrol station. Then cross Station Road and turn left to walk up the length of its right-hand side (unless first pausing at the Railway Tavern).		
33	93	At the top of Station Road the footbridge over the railway is directly in front of you. Go over it.	600 689	
34	94	After descending carry straight on, parallel to the railway, through the car park, past the first dozen spaces. Then go through the gap in the fence on the left, and go left across the grass (away from the railway) between the houses to reach an estate road a few seconds later. Turn right for about 40 yds., then (by number 29) go left up the path between more houses.		
35	96	Cross the next road and carry on, to the right of number 15, along what is now an identifiable track over the grass between the last of the houses.		
36	97	Keep straight on (not right) at the junction of narrow paths, going ahead between fences.		

* *"Mins."* is very approximate! See 'Introductory Notes' for an explanation of how this column is used.

!!!! : Field crossing might be unmarked. See 'Open Fields' in 'Introductory Notes' for some thoughts about dealing with this.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
37	99	[!!F!!] Emerge into an open field, and go ahead to join the Fawkham Road as it merges from the right. (Aim very slightly to the left of the distant '40' speed-limit sign on the road.) The OS map suggests that you have to go along the road for a little way, but in fact there is what looks like an uncontroversial track along its near side, as far as its junction with Steep Hill, which is the next leg of the route.		
38	103	Turn left up Steep Hill.	598 683	
39	106	[!!F!!] Turn right through a gate, and go down towards the car park.		
40	107	Arrive back at the starting point at Fawkham Church.	597 680	5.09

* *"Mins." is very approximate! See 'Introductory Notes' for an explanation of how this column is used.*

[!!F!!] : *Field crossing might be unmarked. See 'Open Fields' in 'Introductory Notes' for some thoughts about dealing with this.*

FOR THOSE WHO WALK WITH THEIR DOGS

See footnote on next page.

FOR THOSE WHO WALK WITH THEIR DOGS

I do not venture to give advice about walking with your dog. As well as the joys, you will be well aware of the issues involved, and particularly that relationships between dogs and other countryside animals potentially involve mutual suspicion, or worse.

But what this footnote does try to do, in response to requests, is to give some indication of the nature of the walk from a dog's point of view, to enable you to decide whether it is suitable.

The percentage distances on the right should be self-explanatory.

The information in the middle column may look a bit cluttered, but I think it should enable you (if the detail is of interest) to mark up within a few minutes a print-out of the walk notes, so that you have some idea what might be round the next corner.

The risk in all this is that **things change so quickly** in the agricultural working world; and what I describe might become misleading after subsequent changes. I have done my best, but there is no guarantee that you will find the information up to date!

ASH CHURCH WALKS - No.7	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	9, 31-32	8
Quiet road \$\$	6, 14, 38	7
Open field with livestock	19	3
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	1, 11-12, 15-16, 27-30, 37, 39	35
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	2-3, 7-8, 10, 13, 17-18, 24-26, 33-36	32
Woods	4-5, 20-23	15

** This is not a promise, just a statement of fact - that, having walked these sections perhaps two or three times, I have found no animals or any sign of them.

\$\$ Again, not a promise that there will be no traffic to worry about. Just a personal judgement of conditions as I have found them.

STILES: There are currently no stiles on this walk.