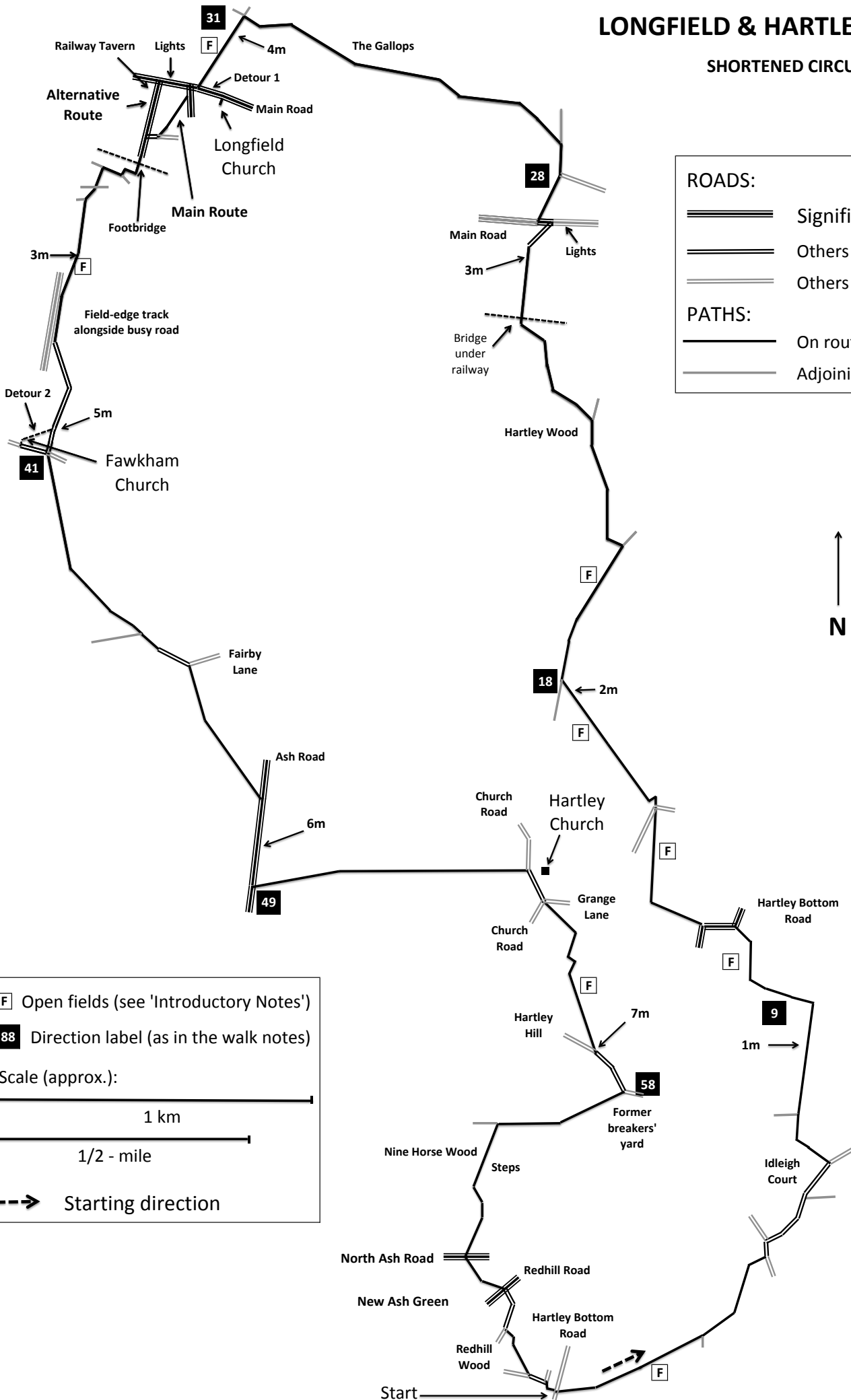


LONGFIELD & HARTLEY

SHORTENED CIRCUIT



F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

Scale (approx.):

1 km

1/2 - mile

--> Starting direction

LONGFIELD & HARTLEY CIRCUIT

Churches in the shortened circuit

Longfield (32A: Detour 1 - see Appendix)

Fawkham (40A: Detour 2 - see Appendix)

Hartley (53)

Associated local circuit

- LH1: Hartley - Longfield - Fawkham - Hartley

Shortened circuit: Between abbreviated sections of field and forest, the views to both sides from the Gallops - the high-level approach to Longfield (29) - are a bit special.

Roads and hindrances:

The shortened circuit crosses and re-crosses Longfield's Main Road (27 - nothing to fear unduly - and 32 or 32A, where the mini-roundabout complicates matters but also slows the traffic down). There are other main roads to cross at 34, where nothing on wheels moves fast, and at 48, where there are good sightlines. In practice it is not necessary to engage with the hazardous Fawkham Road at 38.

SHORTENED CIRCUIT

(Hartley Bottom -) Longfield - Fawkham - Hartley (- Hartley Bottom)

Notes taken: December 2011; revised 2014: August (Directions 7-28) and October

The start and finish is on Hartley Bottom Road, by the path from Redhill Wood (New Ash Green, near DA3 8QP).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		With your back to the Redhill Wood path, turn right along the road, then almost immediately (after about 20 yds.) left through the MKG. !!!F!!! The direction is slightly north of eastwards. Go diagonally left uphill across a large field aiming towards the top left of the tree-lined fence on the other side of this large field, the point which looks like the far left-hand corner. (The actual corner is in fact a further 100-plus yards to the left beyond a hidden dip, but ignore this fact!) That tree-lined fence will, once you reach it, accompany you to the top as you walk along both sides of it in turn.	614 650	

* **"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
2	7	In the fence there is a MKG, perhaps a little to the left of the point at which you will meet it. Go through the gate into the trees, then turn left so that you are still virtually alongside the fence, but with it now to your left. The path is barely visible in places, but exists.		
3	8	Go through another MKG out of the trees: the fence still on your left.		
4	9	Cross back to the left-hand side of the fence (through a MKG, next to a big gate).		
5	12	With the fence now to your right, follow it to the top. There go through the MKG, and turn left on to the road. At the road junction after Court View take the right turn.		
6	14	Go ahead along the road, ignoring the stile and footpath to the right.	622 656	0.66
7	17	Turn left along the signposted footpath. Continue as near straight on as possible. The route becomes a concrete path, and then a grassy track along the left-hand edge of a field. Ignore an enticing couple of left-turns, and carry straight on.	622 657	
8	24	Eventually follow the line of trees as it swings leftwards.	622 662	
9	25	[Map point] The track then swings rightwards, following the edge of a new cluster of trees on the right.		
10	27	[!!F!!] Go slightly leftwards away from the trees, aiming at a stile about two-thirds of the way up the line of trees opposite.	620 663	
11	28	Go over the stile and along a narrow path between fences.		
12	29	You reach a road after going down some steps. Turn left along it.		1.32
13	30	As the road swings left after Little Dormers, go down the footpath which instead goes more or less straight on. This goes down to the right of a garden, and then a field.	619 665	
14	32	Go through a line of trees at the bottom, [!!F!!] then turn half-right diagonally upwards across a large field.		
15	37	At the top, you would wish to cross the road and go directly up the track opposite into the trees, but this is not the right of way. Instead go right for a few yards along the road, then left into the wood and slightly right again.	617 668	1.68
16	38	Keep right, along the main path.	617 669	
17	42	Coming out of the trees, [!!F!!] merge left into an adjoining path which leads across the corner of a field. Then fork right towards the far right corner of the field.		
18	44	[Map point] At the corner, merge right next to a panel fence.		
19	45	Cross a driveway, and continue along the path which begins very slightly to the left and goes on between fences.		
20	47	[!!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.		
21	50	Go straight ahead into these trees (SD 215).		

* *"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
22	51	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	
23	54	When the fence angles away to the left, continue straight on instead.		
24	55	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 26.]</i>	615 681	
25	58	Swing leftwards to go parallel to the railway.		
26	61	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	
27	65	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.		
28	68	[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	3.21
29	70	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.		
30	82	Power lines above. (Carry on.)		
31	84	[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	
32	88	<i>To visit Longfield Church, now divert instead to Detour 1 in the Appendix.</i> Main route: Turn right along the main road. The route will then turn left and go, very briefly, up the right-hand side of Hartley Road. So it is worth waiting to cross the main road, to achieve this, until just after the mini-roundabout. There is a good deal of traffic, but it tends to move slowly here, and the sightlines are good. (Or, if there is an uncomfortable amount, delay crossing the main road even longer and use the Station Road alternative in the Appendix instead.)	603 691	4.13

* "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
33	89	Having started up Hartley Road, turn right after a few yards up a well concealed (but signposted) narrow alley. This leads between fences and walls past the unlovely backs of various premises, over an access road and on, before emerging surprisingly at the entrance road to the Waitrose car park.		
34	91	Turn right along this to reach the major road. Cross it and turn left. Ahead you will see the footbridge over the railway.	600 689	
35	93	Go over the footbridge. 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.		
36	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.		
37	97	Keep straight on (not right) at the junction of narrow paths, going ahead between fences.		
38	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.		
39	103	Turn left up Steep Hill.	598 683	
40	106	<i>To visit <u>Fawkham Church</u>, now divert instead to <u>Detour 2</u> in the Appendix.</i> Main route: Pass a gate on the right, which would lead to the burial ground of Fawkham Church.		
41	107	START OF THE SPINE SECTION (from here to the end) [Map point] At the junction of Steep Hill and Castle Hill, go up the path opposite Steep Hill, to the right of the entrance to Talbot Lodge.	598 680	5.06
42	108	Go to the left of the private entrance to Hillside Cottage, passing between fences on the narrow path.		
43	112	Through a pair of metal gates, and still straight ahead.		
44	117	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.		
45	118	The path becomes a metalled road. Keep straight on past the back of a school.		
46	119	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.		
47	123	Go between railings towards the main road, now in sight.		
48	125	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
49	129	[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	6.07
50	130	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.		
51	133	Pass a bench and an information board. Continue straight on.		
52	135	Through a metal gate, and still straight ahead.		
53	140	Turn right on to the road, right opposite Hartley Church .		6.60
54	141	At the road junction go slightly left into the woods (next to the 'Grange Lane' sign beyond the grass triangle) following the signposted footpath.	613 665	
55	143	Keep going downhill with the path as it winds through the trees. There are good waymarks. The tendency is towards the right, insofar as this goes downhill.		
56	145	Emerging from the trees, turn right along the top (right-hand) edge of a field to a stile - the first of a series of three angling across the fields. !!!F!!! The first two are easy to spot; the third less so: it is tucked away in the hedge, slightly to the left as you cross the second one. After the third stile continue along the same line towards the gate diagonally across the field.		
57	150	Emerging opposite the entrance to 'Hillside', turn left down the road.		
58	152	[Map point] As the road swings left near the bottom, instead turn right along the footpath immediately to right of the former car breakers' yard. (There is a signpost but its angle is imprecise. Make sure you are on the unlovely and initially unpromising but correct path right next to the corrugated metal boundary of the yard - not the field edge above it to the right.)	616 659	
59	155	At the end of the corrugated metal you emerge at the bottom corner of an open sloping field. Carry on in roughly the same direction, along the bottom, right-hand edge of the field towards the wood.		
60	157	Go straight on into the wood.		
61	158	After about 100 yds. turn left uphill. As you climb through the trees, tend a little to the left.	612 659	
62	159	Straight on at a waymark (currently with damaged discs). Then up some steps, and still straight on at the top.		
63	161	A short row of houses is in sight across the top of the path at right-angles. Turn left along the concrete walkway in front of them, which then swings slightly rightwards. Much of the rest of the route will be along such paths around the edge of New Ash Green.	611 657	
64	164	Cross the road, and turn left along the walkway beyond, crossing the Spring Cross entrance road, and continue along the walkway as it swings to the right.		7.65
65	165	Just after number 54, turn left.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
66	166	Cross the road and start along the left-hand side of the lesser road ahead (Redhill Wood). Follow it as it immediately swings rightwards (ignoring the left turn which is indicated for numbers 1-30).	612 653	
67	167	Follow the signposted path diagonally leftwards down between houses.		
68	168	Take the right fork.		
69	170	After going down some steps (outside number 45), turn left along the road. After a few yards, at the bottom, ignore the road as it swings leftwards, and go to the right of number 64 (number just visible on the inner door inside the patio). Continue on to the grass, then veer left down toward the road.	613 651	
70	172	Reach the Hartley Bottom Road, at the starting point of the route.	614 650	8.00

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

APPENDIX to Shortened Circuit

Detour to Longfield Church (Detour 1)

32A	<p>When you come down to the main road in Longfield (Direction 32), Longfield Church is on the other side of the road, and a little way to the left. When returning to rejoin the main walk stay on the left-hand side of Main Road and cross the bottom of Hartley Road, then turn briefly left up the pavement on the far side, turning off immediately to the right as in Direction 33.</p> <p>Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.11 miles to cumulative distances.</p>
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Detour to Fawkham Church (Detour 2)

40A	<p>To reach Fawkham Church go through the gate (Direction 40) and down. Use Castle Hill beyond to regain the main route in an anti-clockwise sweep, to resume at Direction 41. Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.11 miles to cumulative distances.</p>
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Alternative in Longfield (for a protected crossing of the road) – if not visiting the church:

At Direction 40 go along to the lights before crossing the main road. Cross there and go along past the petrol station. Then cross Station Road and turn left to walk up the length of its right-hand side. At the top, go over the footbridge as in Direction 43, and on from there.

(No significant addition to total times or cumulative distances.)

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!

LONGFIELD & HARTLEY - SHORTENED CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	12, 32, 34, 48	4
Quiet road \$\$	5-6, 15, 39-40, 45, 53, 57, 66	11
Open field with livestock	20	2
Edge of field with livestock	4, 56c	3
Field (or edge) without livestock **	1, 7b-10, 13-14, 17, 28-31, 38, 50-51, 56a-b, 56d, 59, 63-65, 67-69	41
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	7a, 11, 18-19, 25-27, 33, 35-37, 41-42, 46-47, 49, 52, 58	24
Woods	2-3, 16, 21-24, 43-44, 54-55, 60-62	16

** 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 (5) - Details noted in April 2015, but subject to frequent change:

Strictly speaking there is a stile in Direction 7, not mentioned in the text as it hardly exists any longer, and if the surrounding undergrowth is too difficult the adjacent gate has easy gaps.

The one in 11 has a large gap next to it to walk through, and the three in 56 all have easy gaps.