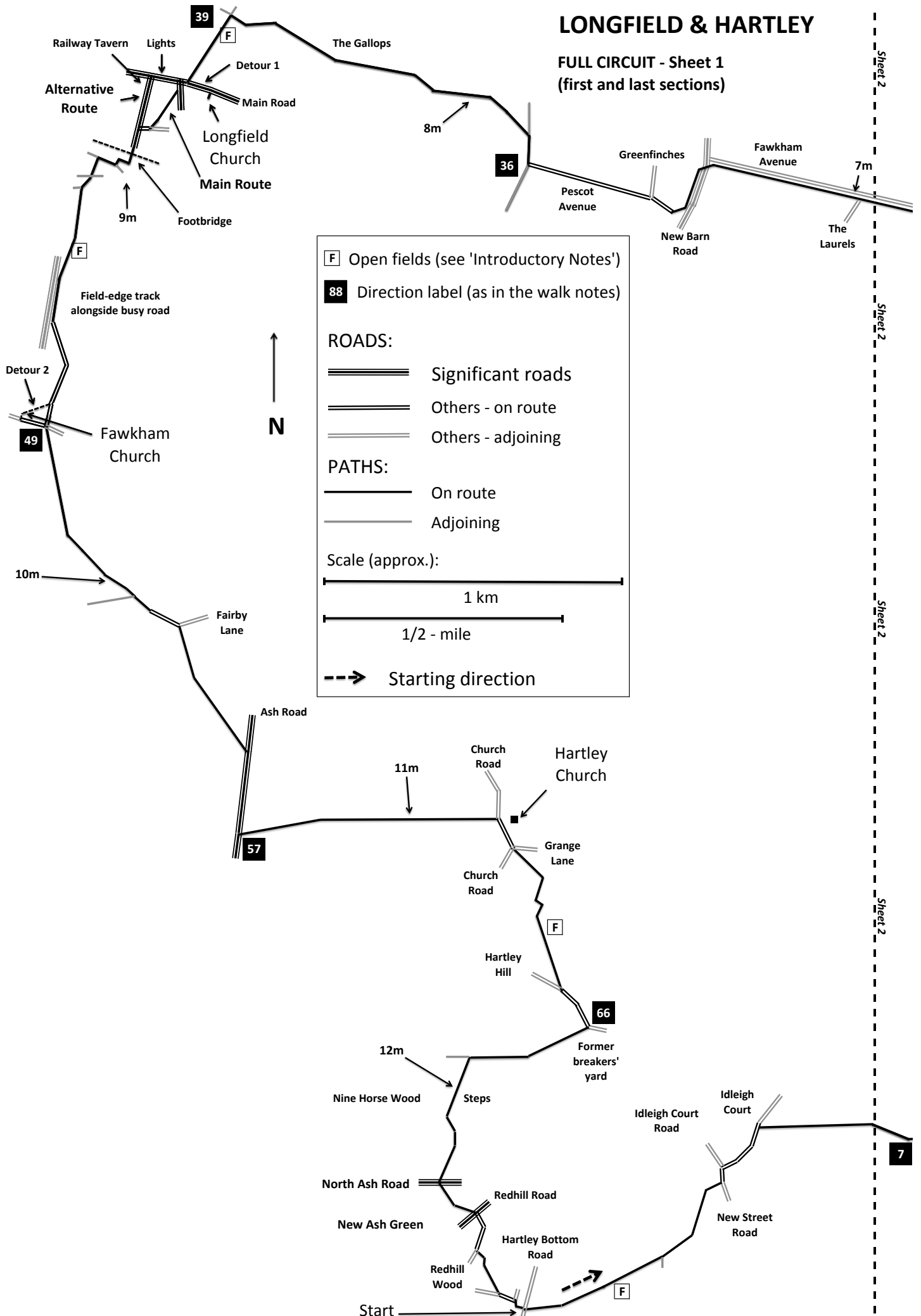


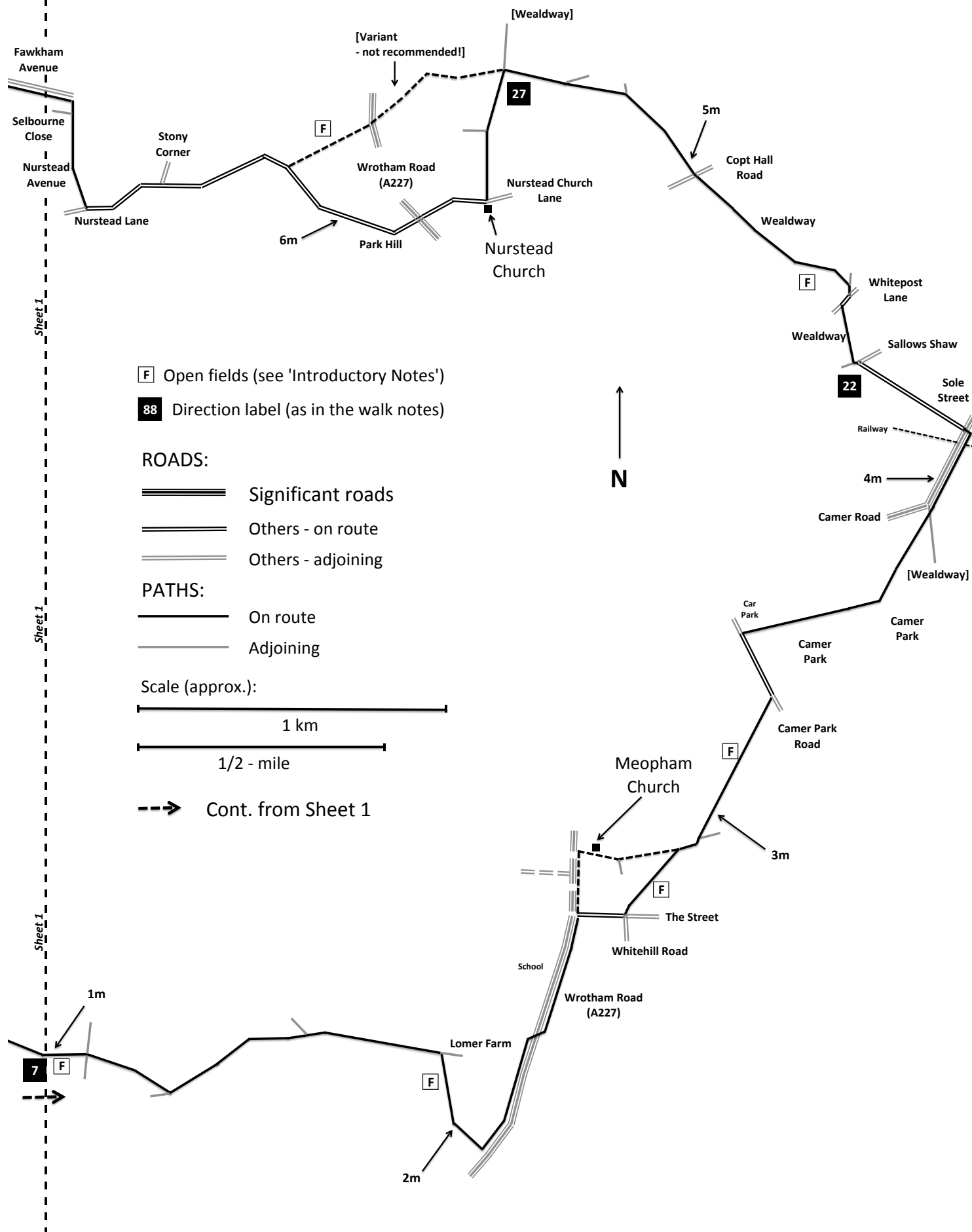
LONGFIELD & HARTLEY

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)



LONGFIELD & HARTLEY

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2 (middle section)



LONGFIELD & HARTLEY CIRCUIT

Churches in the full circuit:

Meopham (Directions 13A-D: Detour 1 - see Appendix)

Nurstead (29)

Longfield (40A: Detour 2 - see Appendix)

Hartley (61)

- Fawkham (though covered in the Horton Kirby & Fawkham circuit) is also nearby (48).

Associated local circuits

- LH1: Hartley - Longfield - Fawkham - Hartley
- LH2: Meopham - Cobham - Luddesdown - Meopham
- LH3: Cobham - Nurstead - Ifield - Cobham

Full circuit: For the most part this is a pleasant though unspectacular walk across and between fields. The views to both sides from the Gallops - the high-level approach to Longfield (37) - are a bit special though.

Roads and hindrances:

The full circuit contains road walking in two sections. The half-mile stretch along the A227 (12) has safe walkways alongside. The two miles from Nurstead to and across New Barn (29-35) are on quiet roads, except for the crossing of the A227 (30) and then New Barn Road (34) - in both cases reasonably straightforward. Later there are three occasions when, again in reasonable safety, you cross main roads: in Longfield (first at 40 or 40A, where the mini-roundabout complicates matters but also slows the traffic down, then at 42, where nothing on wheels moves fast); and at 56, where there are good sightlines. In practice it is not necessary to engage with the hazardous Fawkham Road at 46.

Navigation in Camer Park (19) demands some respect, but it should not be too difficult to find the general direction ahead, and later left, to reach East Lodge.

FULL CIRCUIT

(Hartley Bottom -) Meopham - Nurstead - Longfield - Fawkham - Hartley (- Hartley Bottom)

Notes taken: December 2011; revised October 2014

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	
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	Turn right on to a path, over a stile. Go along the left-hand edge of the field, ignoring a stile on the left after a couple of minutes. Carry on – in due course going slightly right to keep to the right of trees.	622 656	0.66
7	19	[Map point] Just before the corner of the field turn left down a little track through a few trees. This swings round to a stile. Cross the stile and go on down to the bottom where the trees end. !!!F!!! Then up across the width of a large field to a gate visible between trees, just beyond a cross-path.		
8	22	Go up across the broad cross-path by a collection of waymarks. The route is straight ahead (NS283), initially with trees to the right.	628 656	
9	25	The trees on the right end: go virtually straight ahead (actually slightly right) down to more trees, and keep following the obvious path ahead. (Occasional waymarks and hand-drawn signs, and a couple of easy gates.)		
10	39	The route embarks on a two-sides-of-triangle detour around Lomer Farm, starting with a MKG on the right. Go half-right through it. (There are signs telling you to keep to the designated path: this is exactly what you are doing!) !!!F!!! Go across a large field, heading towards the far right-hand corner, roughly where the line of houses ahead meets the row on the right. (You can see, at that point, a yellow warning sign on a pole - the further left of the two which are visible as you start across the field.)		

* *"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
11	43	Go slightly left along a narrow path between fences, then straight ahead to the main road, passing to the left of a small toilet block (open).		
12	44	Turn left on to the A227. Good pavement or equivalent throughout, first on this left-hand side of the road, then crossing to the right.		2.07
13	54	<i>[To visit Meopham Church, now divert instead to Detour 1 in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Turn right into The Street, virtually opposite the George.	644 660	2.59
14	56	[[!F!!]] Opposite Whitehill Road, go on to a footpath to the left. It is the path which is effectively only half-left, across the field towards its distant corner and away from the church (not the sharper left towards it).		
15	60	At the distant corner of the field, go a little to the right into trees, with the waymark. This is the point at which the detour from the church rejoins.	647 662	2.87
16	61	About 20 yds. after emerging from the trees, turn off left along the less obvious path, then very slightly right (as waymarked). [[!F!!]] This takes you diagonally across the field, converging on the road to your right. Aim at a direction post about 70 yds. to the right of a distinctive tree – the most prominent one by that roadside (pale colour – largely dead?).		
17	67	Turn left on to the road.		
18	70	Turn right into the Camer Park car park. Keep to the right of the compound ahead, with its barrier.	649 670	
19		There is no right and wrong way through the park so long as you reach the East Lodge exit. It is a half-mile long sweep, swinging gently leftwards through about 60 degrees around the half-way point. Probably the most pleasant line is to avoid, at first, the woodland and scrub to the left (where there is a marginally more direct path), and stay on the grass, keeping just to right of a row of assorted benches, bins and protected young trees. Then, looking ahead after a distinct dip, you can see more benches, the first of which is dedicated to John Harold Raven. Execute your leftward swing somewhere around here; finishing, in any case, alongside a woodchip path, parallel and to the left. Join this as it heads towards the park exit.		
20	80	At the exit go to the side of the road-traffic barrier, past East Lodge on the left, and then continue straight ahead on the pavement alongside the busy road to Sole Street. This point is the start of a short stretch of the Wealdway. (Linked-Ws on waymarks and signposts.)		
21	84	Just after the railway bridge, turn left into Manor Road.	657 676	4.12
22	90	[Map point] As the road turns sharply right (Sallows Shaw), instead follow the signpost to the left, and then immediately the waymarked (WW) path turning right.		

* ***"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
23	93	Through a kissing gate, then turn right on to the road. Then, after about 70 yds., turn left - the sharper of the two left turns signposted. Keep to the left of the entrance to Dark Sallows, and go through a wooden kissing gate into a field. [!!F!!] Then down towards a stile (complete with waymark) in the middle distance.		
24	96	Over the stile, through a little bit of woodland, and out again. Keep more or less straight on, keeping a pleasantly fenced sloping field on the left.		
25	101	Over a stile and cross the road to the path opposite.		
26	106	Turn left with the blue waymark, ignoring the yellow one and the stile. Go uphill, ignoring paths waymarked to the side.		
27	111	You reach a junction of paths at which the Wealdway goes away to the right. Instead, turn left here, towards Nurstead Church. It is not immediately obvious that it is a right of way, but there is a marker stone to the left. <i>[There is a slightly shorter variant here, but not recommended: see Appendix.]</i> Having made the left-turn, it is straight on with trees to the right and a fenced-off field to the left.	642 688	5.42
28	115	Ignore the big right sweep and follow the much less obvious path straight on.		
29	116	Turn right on to the road at Nurstead Church .		
30	120	Straight across the A227 (busy road but reasonable sightlines, especially if you have approached along the left-hand side of the road from Nurstead) and cross to follow Park Hill opposite as it goes down, then left and up.		
31	132	After a steep climb, ignore the road on the right.		6.42
32	136	Turn right on to Nurstead Avenue.	628 683	
33	140	After passing the radio transmitter and Selbourne Close, turn left into Fawkham Avenue, and follow it all the way to the T-junction at the end, in New Barn.		
34	150	Turn left along the main road. Cross it (sooner rather than later for the best sightlines) and carry on.		7.32
35	152	After passing Fairlight Cross on the left, the route turns on to the next road on the right (which turns out to be Pescot Avenue). In order to make this turn, follow the footway which cuts off the corner. Carry on along Pescot Avenue right to the end, ignoring roads on both sides (such as Greenfinches).	619 687	
36	158	[Map point] At the end pass between the railings and turn right uphill. 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	7.78

* *"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
37	160	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.		
38	172	Power lines above. (Carry on.)		
39	174	[Map point] [!!F!!] 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	
40	178	<i>To visit Longfield Church, now divert instead to Detour 2 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	8.70
41	179	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.		
42	181	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	
43	183	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.		
44	186	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.		
45	187	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.

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
46	189	[!!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.		
47	193	Turn left up Steep Hill.	598 683	
48	196	Pass a gate on the right, which would lead to the burial ground of Fawkham Church.		
49	197	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	9.63
50	198	Go to the left of the private entrance to Hillside Cottage, passing between fences on the narrow path.		
51	202	Through a pair of metal gates, and still straight ahead.		
52	207	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.		
53	208	The path becomes a metalled road. Keep straight on past the back of a school.		
54	209	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.		
55	213	Go between railings towards the main road, now in sight.		
56	215	Reaching and crossing the main road, turn right to walk on the pavement.		
57	219	[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').		
58	220	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.		
59	223	Pass a bench and an information board. Continue straight on.		
60	225	Through a metal gate, and still straight ahead.		
61	230	Turn right on to the road, right opposite Hartley Church .		11.17
62	231	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	
63	233	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.		

* *"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
64	235	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.		
65	240	Emerging opposite the entrance to 'Hillside', turn left down the road.		
66	242	[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	
67	245	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.		
68	247	Go straight on into the wood.		
69	248	After about 100 yds. turn left uphill. As you climb through the trees, tend a little to the left.	612 659	
70	249	Straight on at a waymark (currently with damaged discs). Then up some steps, and still straight on at the top.		
71	251	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	
72	254	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.		12.22
73	255	Just after number 54, turn left.		
74	256	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	
75	257	Follow the signposted path diagonally leftwards down between houses.		
76	258	Take the right fork.		
77	260	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	
78	262	Reach the Hartley Bottom Road, at the starting point of the route.	614 650	12.57

* **"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.

APPENDIX to Full Circuit

Detour to Meopham Church (Detour 1)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
13A	0	For the very short detour to Meopham Church : Instead of Direction 13, cross The Street and continue ahead along the A227.	644 660	0.00
13B	2	Turn right into the churchyard - not the private drive next to (before) it.		
13C	3	The exit from the churchyard is at the far-right (south-east) corner, under a curious, almost invisible, brick footbridge. Then go on to reach the corner of a field after a few paces. Continue ahead along the long left-hand edge of the field.		
13D	7	Rejoin the main route at the distant corner of the field (Direction 15), and go straight ahead, with the waymark. Add 1 minute to subsequent total times and 0.06 miles to cumulative distances.	647 662	0.35

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

Detour to Longfield Church (Detour 2)

0A	When you come down to the main road in Longfield (Direction 40), 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 41. Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.11 miles to cumulative distances.
----	--

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.)

A variant: Saves five minutes, and reduces a fairly long stretch of road-walking; but does not go directly past Nurstead Church, and involves a crossing of the A227 at which the sightlines are tight and the traffic fairly busy: so **not recommended** unless you are prepared to be brisk and decisive in crossing!

[Details on next page]

	<i>Mins.*</i>		OS	
27A	110	<i>At the junction of paths (Direction 27) go straight ahead, through a metal gate so modest that you hardly notice it! Then go ahead along a broad grassy strip to a spring gate by the trees opposite.</i>	642 688	
27B	113	<i>Go through the gate, and straight ahead over the stile on the other side of the track.</i>		
27C	115	<i>Turn left at the waymark-post.</i>		
27D	117	<i>The track leads down to the road and the crossing! It is a recognised and mapped route, crossing directly to the other side, and on down the track opposite. But it requires care and decisiveness. !!F!! The line then angles down diagonally leftwards across a field towards the bottom left-hand corner, passing just to the left of a pylon.</i>		
27E	120	<i>At the bottom rejoin the main route by turning right along and up the road, in the middle of Direction 30 (at its lowest point).</i> <i>Deduct five minutes from subsequent total times and 0.22 miles from cumulative distances.</i>	635 685	

* *"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

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 (on the next page) 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 - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	12, 20, 34, 40, 42, 56	9
Quiet road \$\$	5, 13, 17, 21, 23a, 29-33, 35, 47-48, 53, 61, 65, 74	26
Open field with livestock	7b	1
Edge of field with livestock	4, 9d, 64c	2
Field (or edge) without livestock **	1, 6, 8-9a, 9c, 9f-10, 14, 16, 19, 23c, 24b, 36-39, 46, 58-59, 64a-b, 64d, 67, 71-73, 75-77	38
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	9e, 11, 18, 25-28, 41, 43-45, 49-50, 54-55, 57, 60, 66	17
Woods	2-3, 7a, 9b, 15, 22, 23b, 24a, 51-52, 62-63, 68-70	7

** 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 (7) – Details noted in April and May 2015, but **subject to frequent change**:

There are stiles in Directions **6, 7, 24** and **25**, and three in **64**. All have easy gaps.