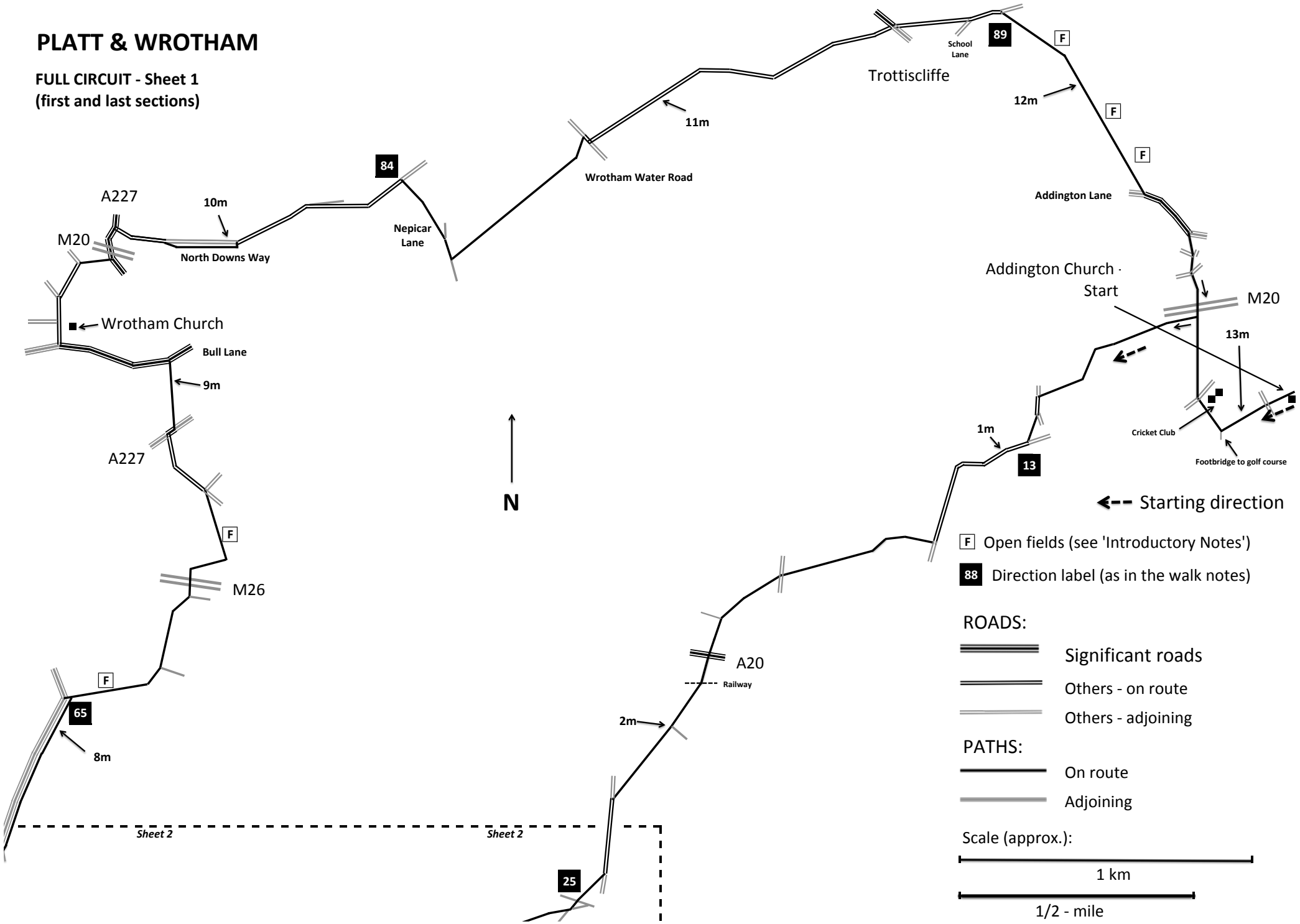


PLATT & WROTHAM

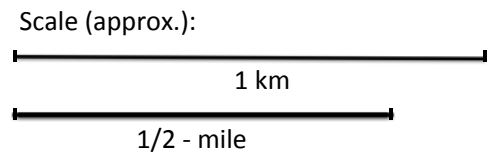
FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)



- F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')
- 88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

- ROADS:**
- Significant roads
 - Others - on route
 - Others - adjoining

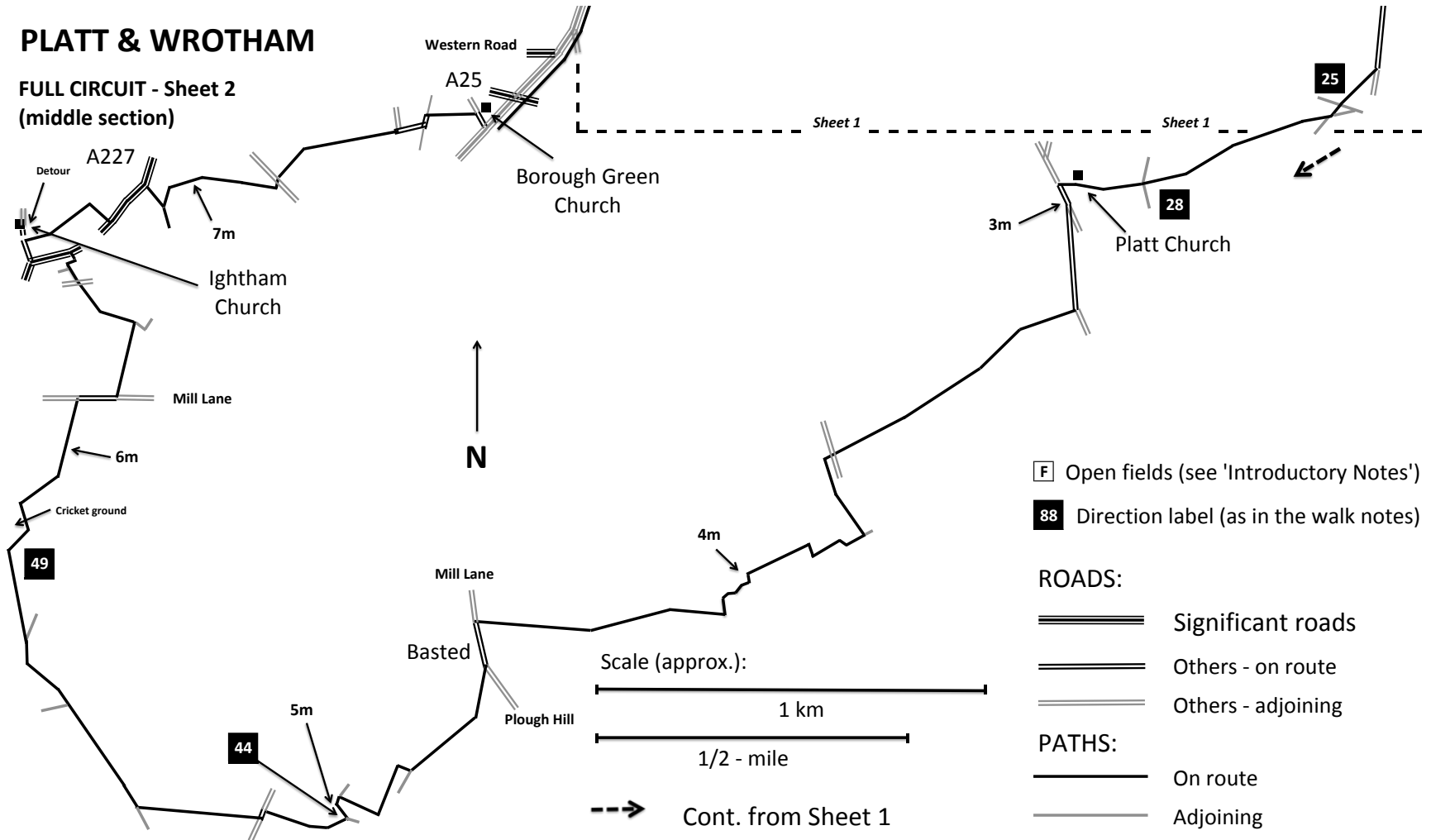
- PATHS:**
- On route
 - Adjoining



Starting direction

PLATT & WROTHAM

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2
(middle section)



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

PLATT & WROTHAM CIRCUIT

Churches in the full circuit:

Addington (Start and finish)

Platt (Direction 31)

Ightham (57A: Detour - see Appendix)

Borough Green (64)

Wrotham (75)

Associated local circuits

- AV2: Addington - Trottscliffe - Ryarsh - Addington
- PW2: Borough Green - Platt - Ightham - Borough Green
- PW1: Borough Green - Wrotham - Ightham - Borough Green

Full circuit: Much of this walk is in pleasant woodland, with plenty of variety once it gets going. The least attractive section is at the start (5-7, retraced at the end).

Roads and hindrances:

The road towards Addington (92) feels as if it should be busy but is quite manageable. Apart from that all roads you walk along are either quiet or have safe walkways. At all costs avoid getting drawn on to the A227 south of Ightham (49), but take one of the cricket-field options described.

You cross the A20 twice (19 and 79), but on both occasions the sightlines are good. There are moderately busy roads to cross at other points (55, 58, 64, 73, 92), but again they should present little difficulty.

The track away from, and back to, Addington (5-6 and 98-99) is not well cared for, and currently (June 2015) has acquired a fallen tree which tests ingenuity.

FULL CIRCUIT

Addington - Platt - Ightham - Borough Green - Wrotham - Addington

Notes taken: June 2015

The start and finish is at Addington Church (ME19 5BQ).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		With your back to the gate of Addington Church , facing north, turn left immediately and go down the narrow track. When you reach a metalled driveway, continue straight across it.	653 588	
2	2	Reach the cricket field and turn left to walk, clockwise, around it.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
3	3	Ignore the footbridge on the left and continue around the cricket boundary.		
4	5	Go left away from the cricket boundary, keeping the Village Hall (and beyond it the cricket pavilion) to your right and a store building to your left, pass a green gate, and continue along the left-hand edge of the car park towards the road.		
5	6	Cross the road and take the footpath immediately opposite. (There is a warning sign which implies that you should not, but it is presumably aimed not at you, but at people who might behave irresponsibly around the works ahead: the path, though sometimes overgrown and tricky, is clearly a signposted right of way.)		
6	7	Go straight on, towards the motorway, along a narrow path with a barbed-wire fence on your right.		
7	9	Continue ahead as the works access road comes in from the left.		
8	10	About 40 yds. before the motorway, turn left, briefly up a steep bank (now Wealdway), and continue ahead along the track, at first parallel to the motorway, then diverging from it a little.		
9	15	Carry on ahead, still with a fence to your left, as woodland opens out to the right.		
10	18	Follow the path as it swings to the left in front of a house.		
11	19	Pass a redundant stile and turn left on to a quiet road.		
12	20	Turn off to the right on a waymarked path through woodland.		
13	21	[Map point] Turn right on to the road.	645 588	
14	25	Continue along the road as it swings to the left.		
15	27	Cross a stream over a bridge.		
16	28	Immediately after a tudor-style house, turn off the road, up steps to the right, along a waymarked track (still Wealdway) alongside the house.		
17	37	Cross a minor road and continue ahead opposite into woodland. Keep alongside the fence on your left.		
18	40	Ignore the track on the right and continue ahead.		
19	42	Cross the A20 (good sightlines and a refuge) and carry on along the alleyway which goes ahead, slightly across to the right, with a fence to the left and, currently, a Chinese restaurant to the right. Continue past the restaurant car park on the left and the entrance to Railway Cottage on the right.		1.88
20	43	Go ahead under a railway bridge on to a path which goes gradually uphill among trees.		
21	45	Continue straight on, ignoring the left fork.		
22	51	Merge left on to the road at the top of the climb.		
23	53	Ignore the footpath to the left.		
24	54	(Opposite another path to the left) turn half-right along a narrow, shady path.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
25	57	[Map point] Emerging from this enclosed path, you are faced with a rapid succession of forest-path junctions: first go straight across a cross-path, and pass a rough bench on the right. After a few more seconds turn right along a second cross-path, and a few seconds after that go straight on, leaving the Wealdway as it forks off to the left. (It is important to deal with these junctions correctly: they all follow within about half a minute of each other.)	629 572	
26	61	Pass a bench on the right.		
27	62	Ignore an inviting fork to the left: go straight on.		
28	64	[Map point] At a cross-path next to a forest map and a bench, carry on down steps.	624 570	
29	65	Go alongside the fence which appears on your left.		
30	66	Continue more or less along the left-hand border of the graveyard.		
31	67	Go along the south side of Platt Church , past the west door, and down the steps. Turn left along the road.		2.95
32	68	Fork right along Long Mill Lane.		
33	71	After the house 'Dales' turn right down the signposted bridleway.		
34	72	Continue along the left-hand edge of a field.		
35	79	The track becomes a roadway between hedges. Continue along it.		
36	82	Cross the road and turn left. It is not necessary to walk down the road itself: there is a parallel track in the trees a few yards beyond.		
37	84	Turn right along a forest path which winds back and forth before descending, at a right-swing, to go alongside a field.		
38	91	Follow the path along the edge of the trees to the right and the field, beyond the fence, to the left; then continue past houses on the left towards the road at Basted.		
39	99	Turn left along the road.		
40	101	As this road (Mill Lane) swings left after Bridge House to become Plough Hill, instead go straight ahead along the signposted byway, and on after the last house into woodland.		
41	106	Look out for a stile up to the right (easily missed). Go over a footbridge to reach it, cross it and immediately turn left along a fenced path.	605 555	
42	107	Swing to the right, keeping near to the fence on the right, past (currently) a number of hurdles. Though not quite the most direct way, it is simplest to continue on this, alongside the fence on the right, all the way up to the end of the fence, at a cross-path.		
43	109	Turn left at this point, and edge slightly to the left and down.		
44	110	[Map point] Look out for, and take, a very sharp, signposted right turn along a fenced track towards houses.		
45	112	At the road turn left for about 20 yds., then right, by way of a stile next to a gate, up a rather surprising footpath along the left-hand edge of a private garden, through one gate, and then another further up.		5.14

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
46	118	Emerge from the trees, and about 40 yds. later turn right on to the pathway, metalled initially, through the orchard.		
47	123	At the farm buildings continue straight ahead uphill.		
48	125	Keep straight on on the public right of way, alongside the line of trees on the left (not forking to the right).		
49	128	[Map point] Reach the top edge of the cricket field. <i>[Strictly speaking the mapped right of way goes all the way to the left and down on to the hazardous A227 before climbing back and returning along the far boundary! This is unreasonable. At worst it would make sense, if discouraged by cricketers in the clubhouse, to go to the left and then clockwise round the field, adding about one minute to the stated time; but the following direct route is surely not one which could seriously be objected to.]</i> Go ahead to pass the cricket clubhouse and go on to the far right-hand corner of the field.		
50	130	Continue along the left-hand edge of the field.		
51	134	Go down steps and turn right along the road (Mill Lane).		
52	135	Just after Mill Lane House on the right, turn left down the footpath (currently unsignposted).		
53	138	At the T-junction of paths at the end, turn left. Follow the path as it goes steeply up, then down, and then down some steps alongside a road merging from the right.		
54	141	Go straight ahead down Busty Lane (hidden nameplate on the right); then once again straight on over a footbridge and turn right and left with the pathway towards the main road.		
55	142	Turn left along the road, then cross as soon as possible (for the best sightlines) on to the green verge opposite.		
56	144	Turn right up Fen Pond Road.		6.57
57	145	<i>[To visit Ightham Church, now divert instead to the Detour in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Turn right along an alleyway, then follow it as it turns to the right, at the end, towards the main road.		
58	148	Turn left along the main road, crossing when convenient.		
59	150	Turn right along a broad path immediately before Orchard House. Then, ignoring the gates and path ahead, turn left along an unsignalled footpath along the side of Orchard House.		
60	155	Immediately after a wide wooden footbridge, swing round up a bank to cross the road and continue along the footpath opposite.		
61	159	Continue ahead as the track becomes a metalled alleyway.		
62	160	Merge left into a road. Then, just after house number '1', turn right into a narrow passageway, which goes over a driveway, then on towards a road.		
63	162	Turn right along the road, then sharp left (in front of chartered accountants) along the major road.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
64	163	Pass Borough Green Church on your left, and cross over at the crossroads to go up the right-hand side of the main road opposite. (If necessary use the lights to the right to protect your crossing.) Go ahead out of Borough Green, passing Stone Court, The Avenue and Wye Road on the right. (Between Stone Court and The Avenue you can briefly escape the main road by using a grassy area alongside.)		7.54
65	171	[Map point] Then, at a lamp-post just after last houses on both sides, and just before the road swings decisively to the left, look for a metal swing-gate in the hedge to the right. Go through it and over a footbridge into an open field. [!F!] Go slightly to the left across this field towards a stile and wooden footbridge (next to a prominent water installation).	612 579	
66	174	Cross these and go ahead along a grassy path with a barbed-wire fence on the right.		
67	177	(Currently) turn left, as directed, around quarry workings.		
68	178	Go ahead, as a large field opens out, keeping to its left-hand edge, and at the far left-hand corner turn right with the field-edge towards the motorway footbridge.		
69	182	Cross the footbridge, and at the far side swing rightwards with the track through trees.		
70	185	[!F!] Look for a metal gate in the fence on the left, opposite the side of a tudor-style house, and use it to turn sharp left across an open field.		
71	187	Go through another gate, in the same direction, along an enclosed grassy path.		
72	189	At a third gate, at an intersection of metalled drives, turn along the one which goes to the left.	616 586	
73	192	Reach and cross the A227 (good sightlines). Turn right along it for about 20 yds. and then left along a track into the trees.		
74	195	Turn left at the main road (Bull Lane).		
75	200	Just after The Bull, turn right, to pass Wrotham Church .		9.28
76	201	Take the right fork (High Street, not Old London Road).		
77	202	Pass toilets (currently open) on the right.		
78	204	At the angled T-junction at the top, beyond the cricket ground on the right, turn right up a metalled pathway, signposted 'North Downs Way'.		
79	205	Reach the main road (A20 - good sightlines and walkways on both sides) and cross when convenient.		
80	206	Turn right (still NDW) along the minor road, Pilgrim's Way. (There is a road-name sign, but at an unhelpful angle!)		
81	208	There is a parallel path to the right.		
82	211	At a stile the path leads back to the road.		
83	214	Stay on the road, ignoring the parallel NDW alternative.		
84	219	[Map point] Turn down to the right at the road junction.	623 597	

* "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
85	223	When the downward slope has more or less levelled out (and having ignored footpath MR240 coming in from the left) turn left along the near side of a hedge, so that it will be on your right. The turning is currently unsignalled, and may require you to squeeze past a gate.		
86	235	Go through the big gate and turn right on to the road at Wrotham Water Farm. Then after about 25 yds. turn left at the road junction.		10.81
87	249	As you approach Trottscliffe, go to the left of the small grass island. Then cross the main road and continue straight ahead along Church Lane.		
88	253	Reaching the school, merge left into School Lane.		
89	254	[Map point] [!!F!!] Just beyond the Village Hall and the tennis club building, turn to the right off the road and, after passing the corner of the tennis court over a small grass area, embark on the crossing of a big open field, towards trees in the middle distance. (The target is about 30 yds. to the left of two big solitary trees.)		
90	257	[!!F!!] Pass those trees, making a tiny diversion to do so, and carry on, very slightly to the right of the original direction, aiming now at the right-hand edge of a larger clump of trees ahead.		
91	260	[!!F!!] Passing those trees, continue ahead in much the same direction, towards a line of trees in the middle distance.		
92	265	Cross a stile, and turn left on to Addington Lane.	649 596	12.28
93	268	As the road swings decisively to the left, and just before the gate of the works forecourt, turn right along a footpath (joining the Wealdway, as shown by the waymark).		
94	269	Cross the works road and follow the path opposite, almost at right-angles.		
95	270	Cross another works road at an angle, and go ahead in the same direction.		
96	271	Go down steps, and keep to the right to go through the subway under the motorway.		
97	272	About 40 yds. after the subway, continue ahead (parting from the Wealdway as it turns to the right up a steep bank).		
98	273	Stay alongside the barbed-wire fence on the left, ignoring the works access road as it goes away to the right.		
99	274	Continue straight on: do not cross the stream, but keep it on your right.		
100	276	Reach the road and go straight ahead along the right-hand edge of Addington's Village Hall car park.		
101	277	Pass a green gate and, reaching the cricket field, turn right to walk, anti-clockwise, around it.		
102	279	Ignore the footbridge on the right and continue around the cricket boundary.		

* **"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
103	280	Immediately opposite the cricket pavilion turn right, away from the cricket field, up a grassy track with a hedge on the right, and a little later on both sides.		
104	281	Carry straight on across a metalled driveway.		
105	283	Reach Addington Church , the starting-point of the walk.	653 588	13.05

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

APPENDIX to Full Circuit

Detour to Ightham Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
57A	0	For the very short detour to Ightham Church : Instead of Direction 57, continue along Fen Pond Road. The church soon appears on the left.		0.00
57B	1	To resume the walk from the church, turn right and retrace your steps along Fen Pond Road.		
57C	2	Turn left along the alleyway – the start of Direction 57 – and continue from there. Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.12 miles to cumulative distances.		0.12

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

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!

PLATT & WROTHAM - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	55, 58, 63b-64, 74, 79, 92	9
Quiet road \$\$	11, 13-15, 22-23, 31b-32, 39-40a, 51, 54a, 56, 61-62a, 63a, 72, 75-77, 80, 82-84, 86-88	24
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	34, 46, 48-50, 65-66, 68, 70, 85, 89-91	17
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1-8, 10, 16, 19, 24, 30-31a, 33, 35-37a, 38b, 41, 44-45, 47, 52-53, 54b, 57, 59-60, 62b, 67, 69a, 71, 81, 93-104	32
Woods	9, 12, 17-18, 20-21, 25-29, 37b-38a, 40b, 42-43, 69b, 73, 78	18

** 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 June 2015, but subject to frequent change:

The stile in 41 is wired down, and has climbs of 2ft. and 1ft.; but there is currently a big hole at ground level.

The one in 45 is wired down, but the fence to the left of it has easy gaps.

The stiles in Directions 65, 82 and 92 have easy gaps.