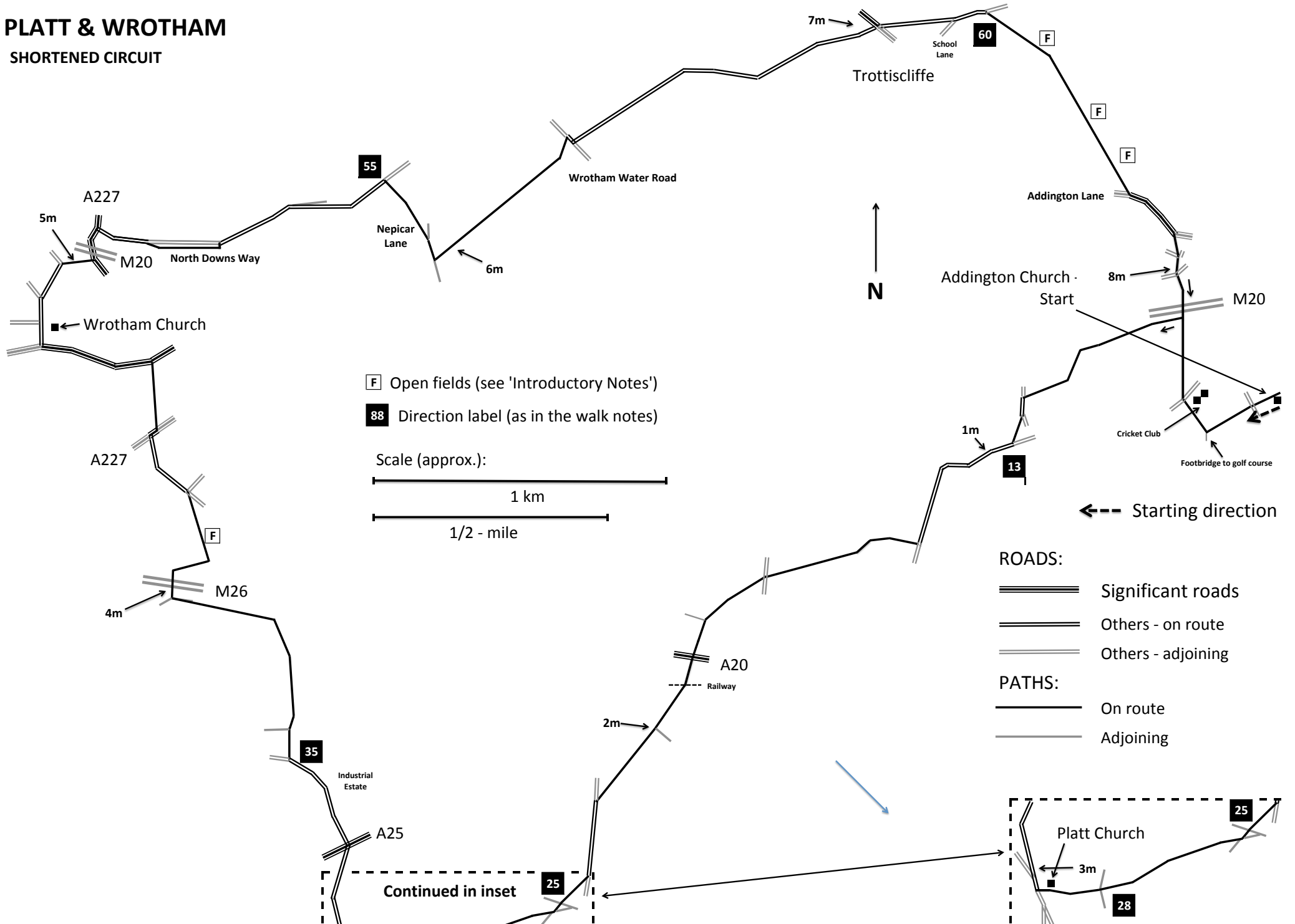


PLATT & WROTHAM

SHORTENED CIRCUIT



PLATT & WROTHAM CIRCUIT

Churches in the shortened circuit:

Addington (Start and finish)

Platt (Direction 31)

Wrotham (46)

Associated local circuits

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

Shortened circuit: This is a bit of a mixture: there are brief encounters with an unloved quarry edge (5-7, retraced at the end) and an industrial estate (33-34); but the dominant features are pleasant fields and woodland.

Roads and hindrances:

The road towards Addington (63) feels as if it should be busy but is quite manageable; and the two or three minutes through the industrial estate (33-34) require no more than ordinary care. Apart from that all roads you walk along are either quiet or have safe walkways.

You cross the A20 twice (19, 50), but on both occasions the sightlines are good. There are moderately busy roads to cross at other points (32, 44, 63), but again they should present little difficulty.

The track away from, and back to, Addington (5-6 and 69-70) is not well cared for, and currently (June 2015) has acquired a fallen tree which tests ingenuity.

SHORTENED CIRCUIT

Addington – Platt – 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.		
3	3	Ignore the footbridge on the left and continue around the cricket boundary.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
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 right along the road. Coming immediately to a fork, keep right, along Grange Road.		2.95
32	72	Cross the A25 (good sightlines) and continue along the road opposite.		
33	74	Cross the railway bridge, and go ahead into the industrial estate.		
34	75	Keep left and then fork right with the roadway.		
35	77	[Map point] Then turn right, away from the roadway and the industrial estate, up a broad track, passing through the remains of an old kissing gate to the right of a big metal gate.		
36	78	Follow the track as it swings gently to the right, through an open yellow metal gate.		
37	80	Emerge from the trees and go along the right-hand side of a big field, alongside the fence.		
38	81	Continue along the field-edge.		
39	83	As you approach the motorway, avoid dropping down towards it, but swing leftwards, along a faintly visible level track, parallel to it.		
40	89	Turn right over the footbridge across the motorway, and at the far side swing rightwards with the track through trees.		
41	92	[!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.		
42	94	Go through another gate, in the same direction, along an enclosed grassy path.		
43	96	At a third gate, at an intersection of metalled drives, turn along the one which goes to the left.	616 586	
44	99	Reach and cross the A227 (good sightlines). Turn right along it for about 20 yds. and then left along a track into the trees.		
45	102	Turn left at the main road (Bull Lane).		
46	107	Just after The Bull, turn right, to pass Wrotham Church .		4.94
47	108	Take the right fork (High Street, not Old London Road).		
48	109	Pass toilets (currently open) on the 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
49	111	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'.		
50	112	Reach the main road (A20 - good sightlines and walkways on both sides) and cross when convenient.		
51	113	Turn right (still NDW) along the minor road, Pilgrim's Way. (There is a road-name sign, but at an unhelpful angle!)		
52	115	There is a parallel path to the right.		
53	118	At a stile the path leads back to the road.		
54	121	Stay on the road, ignoring the parallel NDW alternative.		
55	126	[Map point] Turn down to the right at the road junction.	623 597	
56	130	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.		
57	142	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.		6.47
58	156	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.		
59	160	Reaching the school, merge left into School Lane.		
60	161	[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.)		
61	164	[!!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.		
62	167	[!!F!!] Passing those trees, continue ahead in much the same direction, towards a line of trees in the middle distance.		
63	172	Cross a stile, and turn left on to Addington Lane.	649 596	7.94
64	175	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).		
65	176	Cross the works road and follow the path opposite, almost at right-angles.		
66	177	Cross another works road at an angle, and go ahead in the same direction.		
67	178	Go down steps, and keep to the right to go through the subway under the motorway.		
68	179	About 40 yds. after the subway, continue ahead (parting from the Wealdway as it turns to the right up a steep bank).		
69	180	Stay alongside the barbed-wire fence on the left, ignoring the works access road as it goes away to the 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
70	181	Continue straight on: do not cross the stream, but keep it on your right.		
71	183	Reach the road and go straight ahead along the right-hand edge of Addington's Village Hall car park.		
72	184	Pass a green gate and, reaching the cricket field, turn right to walk, anti-clockwise, around it.		
73	186	Ignore the footbridge on the right and continue around the cricket boundary.		
74	187	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.		
75	188	Carry straight on across a metalled driveway.		
76	190	Reach Addington Church , the starting-point of the walk.	653 588	8.71

* *"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!

PLATT & WROTHAM - SHORTENED CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	32-34, 45, 50, 63	8
Quiet road \$\$	11, 13-15, 22-23, 31b, 43, 46-48, 51, 53-55, 57-59	32
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	37-39, 41, 56, 60-62	15
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1-8, 10, 16, 19, 24, 30-31a, 35-36, 40a, 42, 52, 64-75	28
Woods	9, 12, 17-18, 20-21, 25-29, 40b, 44, 49	17

** 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 (2) - Details noted in June 2015, but **subject to frequent change:**

The stiles in Directions 53 and 63 have easy gaps.