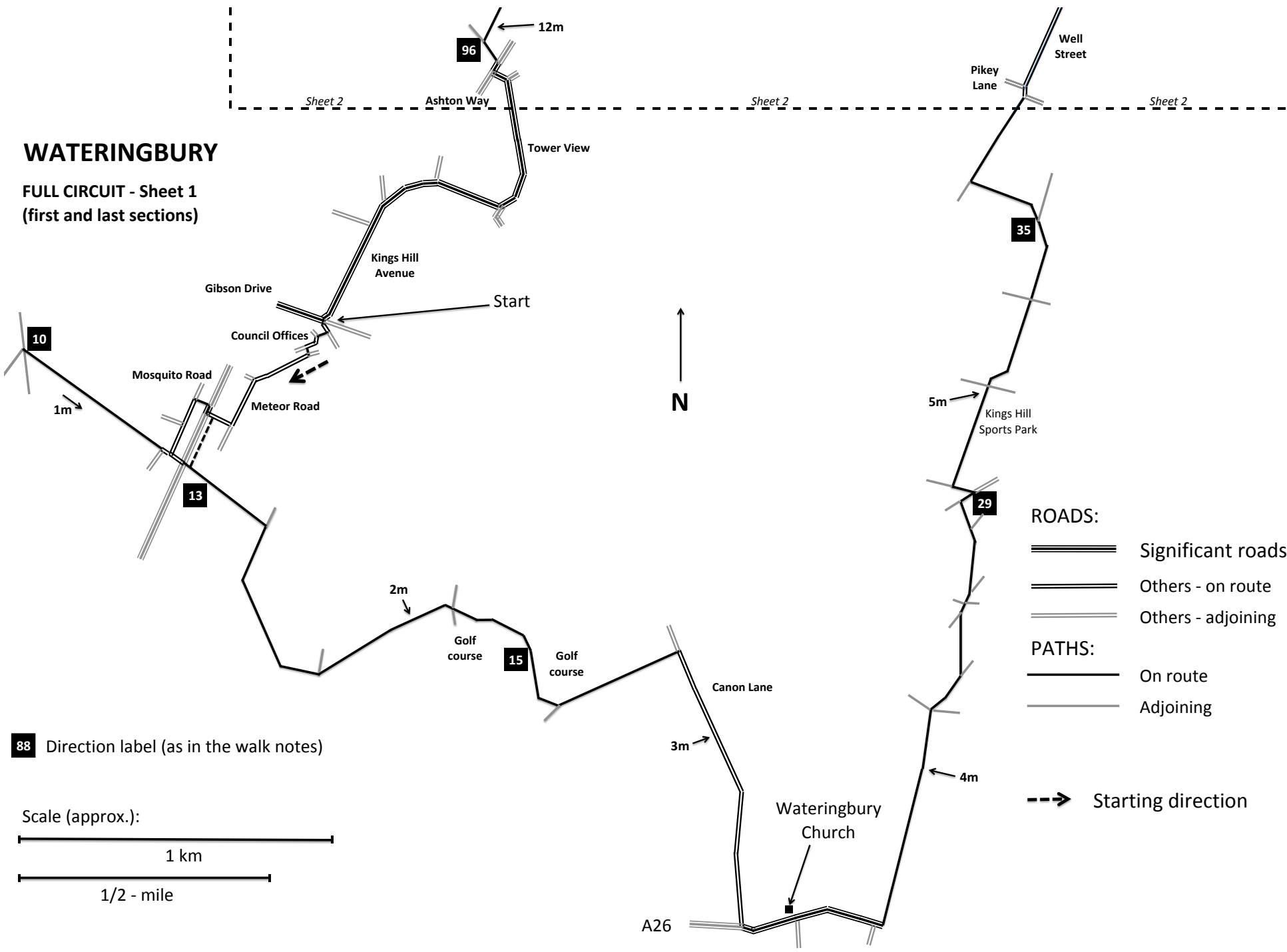
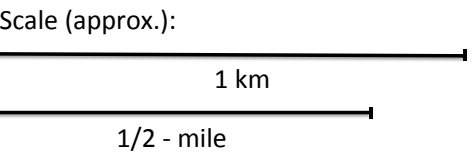


WATERINGBURY

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)



88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

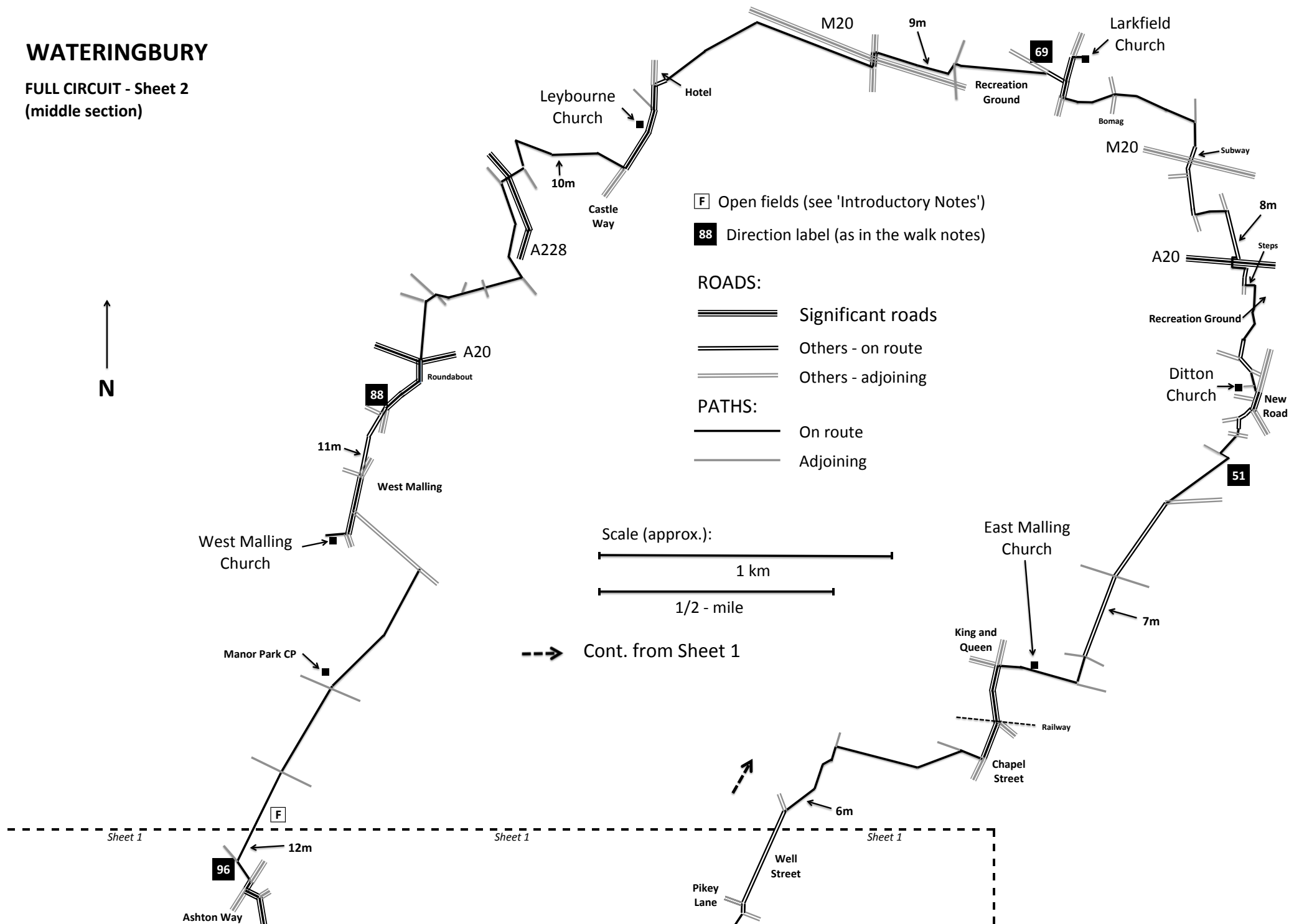


- ROADS:**
- Significant roads
 - Others - on route
 - Others - adjoining
- PATHS:**
- On route
 - Adjoining

--> Starting direction

WATERINGBURY

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2
(middle section)



WATERINGBURY CIRCUIT

Churches in the full circuit:

Wateringbury (Direction 20)

East Malling (46)

Ditton (55)

Larkfield (68B: Detour 1 - see Appendix)

Leybourne (76)

West Malling (90B: Detour 2 - see Appendix)

Associated local circuit:

- WA1: Ditton – Larkfield – Leybourne – East Peckham - Ditton

Full circuit: Kings Hill plus six town churches, linked by pleasant if unspectacular countryside, and featuring the Manor Park Country Park.

A possible shortening of the route: Near the start there is a short there-and-back section through trees (Directions 6-12) which is a spur included simply to close a gap between two spine sections*. Those not aiming to cover the spine in its entirety can, if they wish, replace this with a short cut, reducing the overall distance by nearly three quarters of a mile: see the note under Direction 6. (*And see 'Introductory Notes' for information about the spine.)

Roads and hindrances:

Some will find more roads here than is comfortable, but none are unduly dangerous or unpleasant. There are major roads to cross, mostly with central refuges available, and all with good or reasonable sightlines: the A228 at Directions 6 and 12 (for those walking the extra spur) and at 98; Chapel Street in East Malling (43); the A20 (at 60, and again at 87); New Hythe Lane (68/68B); Lunsford Lane (71); and Castle Way (75). Between Larkfield and Leybourne there are ten minutes or so close to the M20.

The tracks above Wateringbury (24-28) can be uncomfortably muddy, but otherwise this is easy walking.

FULL CIRCUIT

Kings Hill - Wateringbury - East Malling - Ditton - Larkfield - Leybourne - West Malling - Kings Hill

Notes taken: November 2015

The start and finish is in Kings Hill, at the roundabout where Gibson Drive meets Kings Hill Avenue (nearby postcode: ME19 4LJ).

	Mins.		OS	Miles
1		From the roundabout take the road (Forest Way) which leads southwards towards an archway.	671 555	

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
2	1	After the archway cut through the trees on the right, using a narrow track about 20 yds. long. At its end turn left along a roadway alongside the council offices.		
3	2	Stepping up between railings, go to the left through a gate (open from 6.30 a.m. to 10 p.m., except on Christmas Day), and then turn right on to Lancaster Way beyond.		
4	4	The road turns a little towards the left: follow the bend by way of the walkway on its left.		
5	6	Take the second turning on the right, opposite number 16.		
6	7	At the end of this road, <u>if walking the spur</u> (see the introductory comments) use the island a few yards to the right to cross the main road, cross the grass verge on the other side, and turn left along the access road (Mosquito Road) beyond. <i>If you are not planning to walk the spine in its unbroken entirety, you may wish to leave out the there-and-back spur to the end of Lord's Walk described here. In that case simply turn left at this point, walk alongside the main road for about a quarter of a mile until you reach, on your left, the rusty gate mentioned in Direction 13, and continue from there.</i> <i>If taking this option, deduct 14 minutes from subsequent total times and 0.71 miles from cumulative distances.</i>		
7	9	At the end of Mosquito Road, turn right (Beaufighter Road) and go as far as the barrier.		
8	10	As Beaufighter Road swings right towards the houses, instead, after passing to the right of the barrier, continue ahead down the footpath.		
9	12	Go straight ahead (ignoring two tracks forking off to the left).		
10	17	START OF THE SPINE SECTION [Map point] Reach the point at which the Offham Full Circuit (at its Direction 71) diverged from the Spine Walk. This is about 25 yds. beyond a small clearing on the left, and is marked by a pair of boulders on the right, between which the Spine Walk approached from Offham. Then retrace your steps.	661 555	
11	24	Emerge back at the start of Beaufighter Road and go straight ahead.		
12	25	Pass Mosquito Road, cross the main road and continue straight ahead opposite. (Sightlines at the road are good, but if the volume of traffic is troublesome divert briefly to use the refuge about 100 yds. to the left.)		
13	26	[Map point] Pass a rusty gate and follow the broad track all the way to a T-junction at the end.		1.31
14	30	Turn right at the T-junction. There now follows a pleasant long stretch which goes straight ahead or winds gently from side to side. Keep following the obvious main path. Before long it goes alongside and then across a golf course, over a number of crossing paths at which you still continue straight on. Also with increasing frequency you will meet low wooden barriers across the path, which you will walk round, or sometimes, with no trouble, step across.	669 549	

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
15	48	[Map point] Continue on the designated path as it emerges into an open area between golf holes.		
16	49	At a cross-paths follow the main track as it goes a little to the left (ignoring the paths to the right and further to the left).		
17	50	Merge leftwards on to a track which joins from the right.		
18	55	At the end turn right along the quiet road, gently downhill.		2.81
19	66	Turn left alongside the main road. (Keep on the left-hand side: the pavement is uncomfortably narrow in places but at least it exists throughout – unlike opposite!)		
20	68	END OF THE SPINE SECTION Pass <u>Wateringbury Church</u> on the left, and continue along the pavement on the left-hand side of the main road.		3.51
21	72	Just after Love Lane opposite, turn left up a broad, rough track.		
22	73	After Appleyard House continue ahead along the grassy path.		
23	74	At the wooden railings continue ahead, gently uphill.		
24	80	Ignore two gates on the right, and very briefly continue ahead. Then follow the field edge and fence as they swing to the right.		
25	82	Swing left and follow the enclosed path between a fence on the left and a hedge on the right.		
26	86	Keep ahead up the main path, ignoring tracks to left and right.		
27	88	Keep ahead, slightly to the left (ignoring the track which forks off to the right).		
28	91	Take the left fork.		
29	92	[Map point] When you reach a crossing path, turn right for about 30 yds. towards a big concrete slab, and then turn very sharply to the left, almost doubling back on yourself. (The tracks here are not exactly as shown on the OS map.)		4.73
30	93	Look out for a narrow track to the right and turn along it, again between concrete blocks.	691 550	
31		Emerge from the trees and go ahead alongside the playing field. Then carry on between the Kings Hill Sports Park building and its car park.		
32	96	Go straight across at a crosspaths and follow the track as it goes slightly to the right.		
33	97	Turn half-left to go along the left-hand edge of a field.		
34	100	Continue ahead, ignoring paths on both sides.		
35	102	[Map point] Take the left fork and go ahead past redundant metal gates.		
36	105	Turn right briefly alongside a field-edge.		
37	106	At the corner turn sharp right into trees, and follow the track until it reaches a road at a junction.		
38	110	Go down the road immediately opposite.		5.74
39	115	At the point where the road swings to the left, instead turn right down a footpath just before a hole-in-the-wall post box.		
40	119	Turn right along a path between trees on the left and a barbed-wire fence on the right.	696 568	
41	122	Emerge to go ahead along the right-hand edge of a grassy field, under power lines.		
42	124	At the far corner go through a wooden kissing gate, and on between houses towards the main road.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
43	125	Cross the road and turn left to go along the pavement on the far side.		
44	127	Carry on under the railway bridge, still to the right of the road.		
45	129	At the junction with Mill Lane by the King and Queen, turn right along the roadway to the church.		
46	130	Reach East Malling Church , and go slightly to the right to pass immediately along its south side.		6.74
47	131	At the end of the churchyard pass railings and carry on ahead.		
48	132	Turn left (next to the first pole after the churchyard).	705 570	
49	133	Go straight ahead along a broad, quiet roadway.		
50	140	Leave the roadway to go straight ahead between railings, towards the houses in the middle distance.		
51	144	[Map point] On reaching those houses turn sharp left in front of them for a few yards, then at the first opportunity turn right through a gap between them, along a signposted walkway. Go ahead as straight as possible, crossing an estate road and continuing beyond it.		
52	145	Go straight on, between bollards.		
53	146	After turning right into another road (Brampton Field) swing left at its end alongside a small green verge, and go on, with New Road converging from the right.		
54		Cross St Peter's Road and fork slightly away from the main road to stay close to the church on the left.		
55	147	Pass the approach path leading to Ditton Church .		7.64
56	148	Merge leftwards into the quiet road, and when it turns to the right follow it.		
57	149	At the end of the roadway continue ahead up an enclosed pathway.		
58	150	The path opens out to go alongside an open space, and at the end down steps swinging to the left.		
59	152	Turn right along the quiet road leading to the A20.		
60	153	Turn left alongside the A20. After about 40 yds. use the island to cross it and once across start out along Orchard Grove opposite.	710 585	
61	155	Just before the turning area at the end of Orchard Grove turn left along a footpath, narrow at first.		
62	157	At the end turn right into another quiet road.		
63	159	Swing slightly to the right through the subway under the motorway.		
64	160	Continue straight on along what has now become a track.		
65	161	Turn left on a broad pathway between industrial units.		
66	165	After a short steep climb cross the Bomag approach road.		
67	167	After another short climb pass some houses and turn right alongside the main road (New Hythe Lane).		
68	168	<i>[To visit Larkfield Church, now divert instead to Detour 1 in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Cross the road and set out along the right-angled extension to New Hythe Lane opposite.		8.70

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
69	169	[Map point] Go slightly left through a gate in the railings on the left, on to the playing field, and head for the far left-hand corner, down over the ridge, aiming at a point in the distance next to a pair of litter bins.		
70	172	Pass to the right of the red dog-litter bin, into trees, and a few steps further on turn left at a wooden kissing gate, taking the path which goes alongside the brick wall on your right (not the one further left which leads to the footbridge). Follow this metalled footpath as it turns to the right, still alongside the wall, and then goes ahead, parallel to the motorway audible on your left.	700 591	
71	176	At the end turn left alongside the road, and cross the bridge over the motorway. Cross the road when convenient (footway on both sides and good sightlines).		
72	177	Immediately after the bridge turn down to the right along a footpath parallel to the motorway.		
73	182	Follow the path as it turns half-left, away from the motorway, into woodland, and continue along the main path through the trees.		
74	186	Emerge from the trees and go ahead on the access road alongside the Premier Inn on your right.		
75	187	Turn left to go alongside the main road and cross when convenient (footway on both sides and good sightlines).		
76	189	Reach Leybourne Church , on the right of the road.		9.76
77	191	Level with the end of a traffic constriction on the road, turn right along a narrow track, at first gently uphill between tall fences, then across fields.	689 588	
78	195	At the end turn sharp left with the track.		
79	197	Turn right to go across the footbridge over the A228.		
80	198	After the footbridge, turn left, along the edge of a scrubby field.		
81	200	Carry on into trees.		
82	202	Ignore the first narrow path on the right.		
83	203	Turn right along the path marked MR133.	685 584	
84	206	Swing a little to the right with the path.		
85	207	Keep ahead (abandoning the main path as it swings further to the right). Go down steep steps as they turn a little to the left.	682 584	
86	208	Cross a footbridge at the bottom, then go to the left along a grassy path at the edge of a rough field.		
87	209	Find some steps, ahead and slightly to the left, leading up to the A20, which is probably audible above. Go up, cross the road (reasonable sightlines) and set off up the right-hand pavement of Town Hill.		
88	214	[Map point] Use the quieter King Street as an alternative (parallel) to the main road.		
89	217	Pass toilets on the right (usually open). Then rejoin the main road and continue up through the town.		
90	219	[To visit West Malling Church , now divert instead to Detour 2 in the Appendix.] Main route: Cross the road and turn left into Water Lane.		11.13

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
91	222	Turn to the right off the road through a MKG and immediately beyond go through a wooden gate (ignoring the path in between). Then turn right and go along the length of a long open grassy field keeping reasonably close to the trees along its right-hand edge.		
92	226	Go through another wooden kissing gate, about 60 yds. to the left of the far right-hand corner, into the main field of Manor Park Country Park. Stay over towards the left of this field, aiming towards a timber-style litter bin on the other side (unless you want to visit the restaurant and toilets, in which case make for the gap about 50 yds. further to the right).	680 572	
93	228	Pass to the left of the litter bin and follow the adjacent path as it goes ahead in much the same direction.		
94	229	Pass the country park's overflow car park on your right.		
95	230	[!!F!!] Go through a spring gate, and straight ahead across a huge field. <i>[There is usually a path marked, but if not the line is aiming at a point slightly (about 30 yds.) to the right of the highest point in the gently rising and falling land at the distant end of the field. Alternatively, look ahead to the left and see in the distance a green and white sign on the road entering Kings Hill, and to the right, equally far away, a large white house. Your target is about two-thirds of the way along the line joining these points, nearer to the house.]</i>		
96	239	[Map point] Reach and go through the strip of trees at the far end of the field, and beyond it turn left up an enclosed path in trees.	676 564	
97	240	Emerge from the trees to reach the road at a roundabout, and turn right along the footway to go anti-clockwise around it.		
98	241	Cross Ashton Way, and then turn right to set off along the grass at the right-hand side of Tower View.		12.11
99	246	Turn right at the roundabout and follow the road as it swings round to the left: make your own decision whether to cut the distance by crossing the road to the left-hand side (the inside). If you do you will need to cross back before the end, but that is not likely to be troublesome.		
100	257	Reach the Gibson Drive roundabout, the starting point of the walk.	671 555	12.96

* "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 1 to Larkfield Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
68A	0	Instead of crossing the road, continue along the right-hand pavement for a short distance.		
68B	1	Ignore the ramp road leading to Larkfield School House, but go a few steps further and climb the steps up to the west end of Larkfield Church . To rejoin the main route, return by the steps down to the main road and turn left, crossing when convenient.		0.05
68C	2	Rejoin the main route by turning right along the right-angled extension to New Hythe Lane. Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.10 miles to cumulative distances.		0.10

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

Detour 2 to West Malling Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
90A	0	Where the main route turns left into Water Lane at Direction 90, instead continue straight on, uphill.		
90B	2	At the top turn right into the churchyard of West Malling Church . To return to the main route simply retrace your steps.		0.09
90C	4	Rejoin the main route by turning right into Water Lane, and follow the directions from 90. Add 4 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.18 miles to cumulative distances.		0.18

* *"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!

WATERINGBURY - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	6a, 12, 19-20, 43-44, 53-54, 60, 67, 71, 75-76, 87, 89b-90, 97-99	19
Quiet road \$\$	1-5, 6b-7, 11, 18, 38, 45, 49, 51-52, 56, 59, 61-63, 68, 74, 88-89a	20
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	24, 31a, 33-34, 36, 41, 55, 58a, 69, 80a, 86, 91-92, 95	13
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	14-16, 21-23, 25-26, 29, 31b, 37b, 39, 42, 46-48, 50, 57, 58b, 64-66, 70, 72, 77-79, 80b, 96	30
Woods	8-10, 13, 17, 27-28, 30, 32, 35, 37a, 40, 73, 81-85, 93-94	19

** 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.