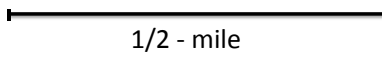
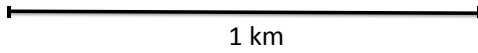


# WATERINGBURY

SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 1  
(first and last sections)

Scale (approx.):



**F** Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

**88** Direction label (as in the walk notes)

**-->** Starting direction

## ROADS:

Significant roads

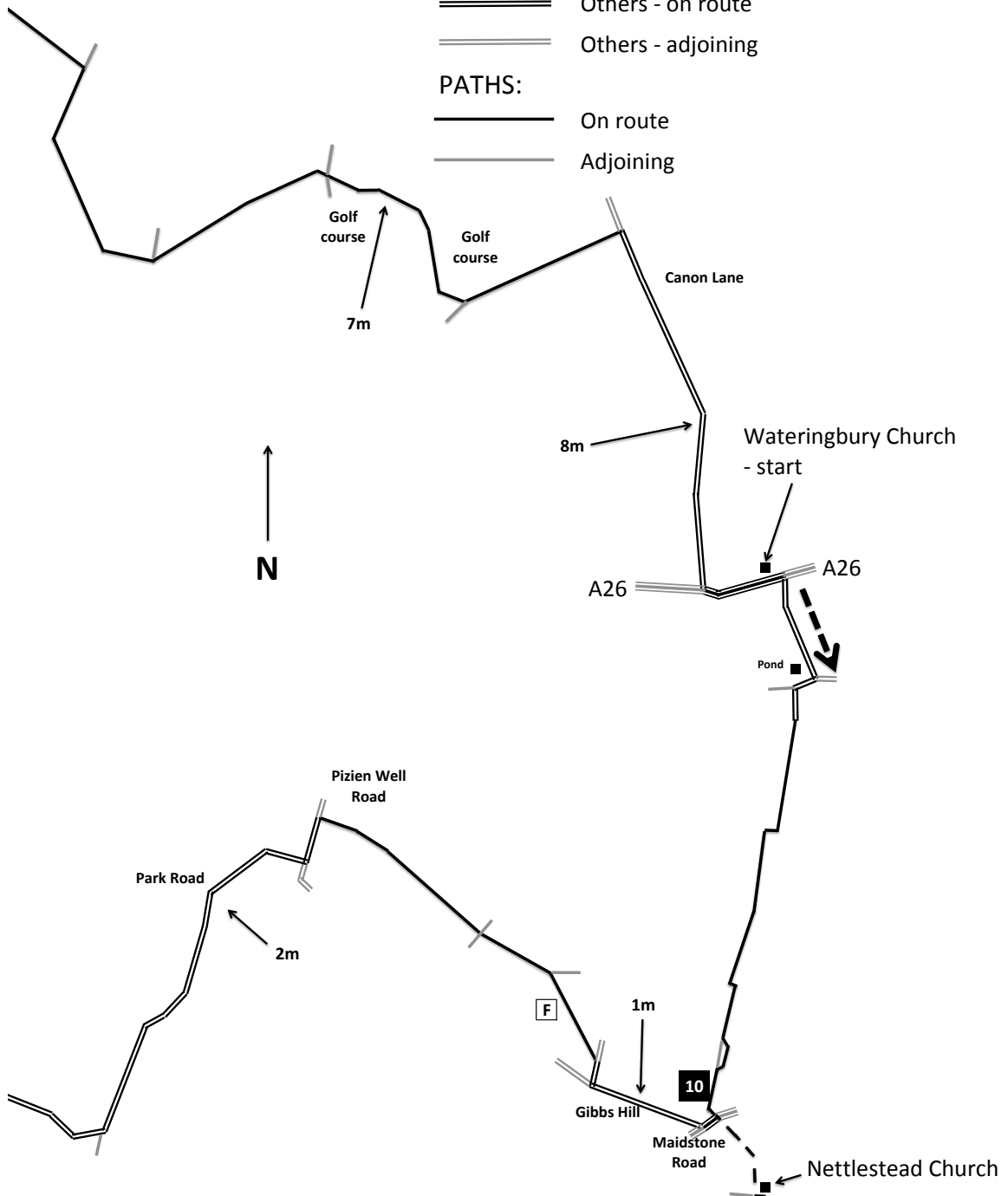
Others - on route

Others - adjoining

## PATHS:

On route

Adjoining



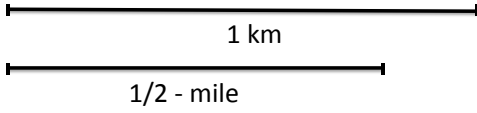
# WATERINGBURY

## SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 2 (middle section)

**F** Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

**88** Direction label (as in the walk notes)

Scale (approx.):



**-->** Cont. from Sheet 1

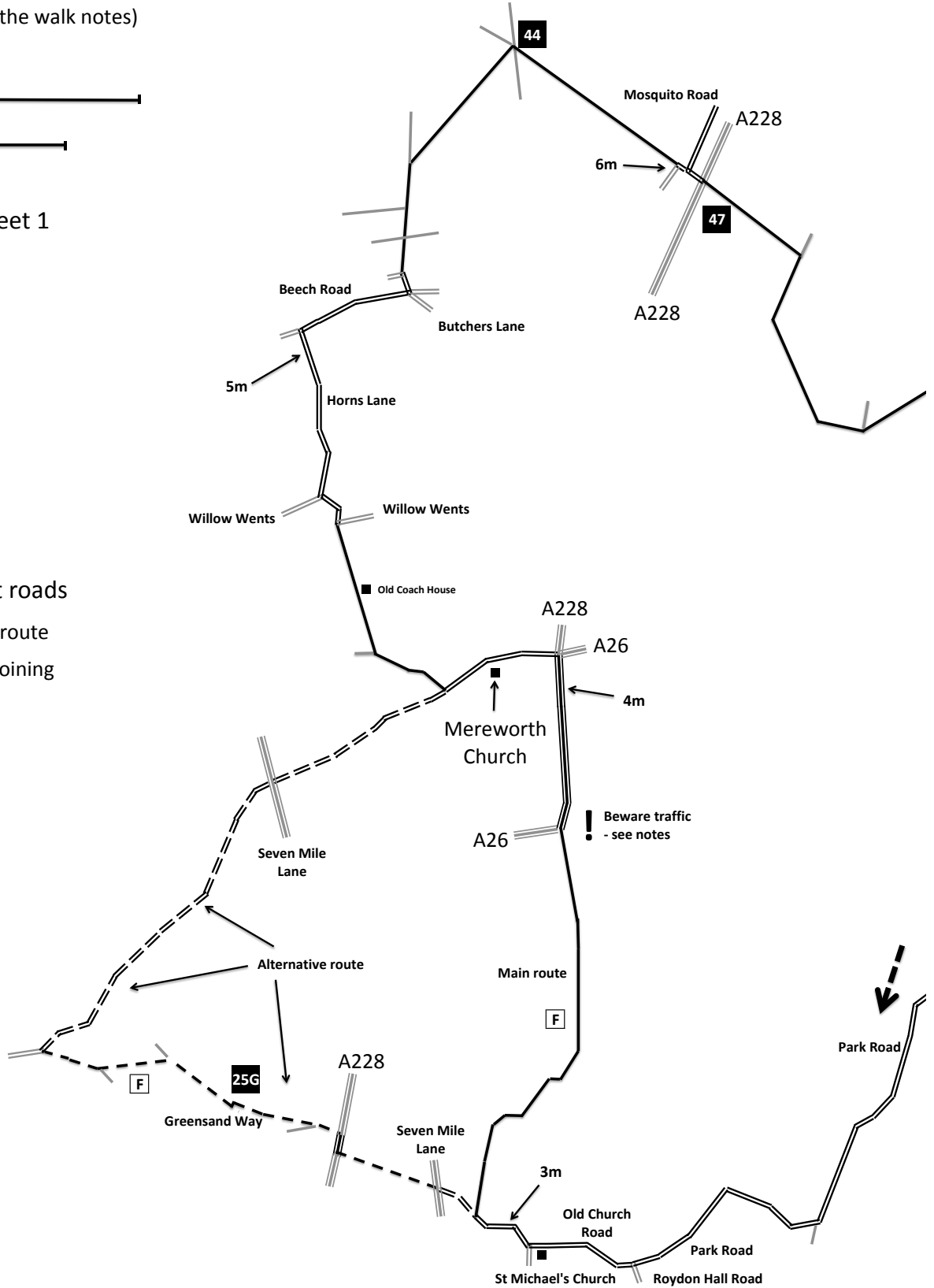


### ROADS:

- Significant roads
- Others - on route
- Others - adjoining

### PATHS:

- On route
- Adjoining



## WATERINGBURY CIRCUIT

### Churches in the shorter circuit:

Wateringbury (start and finish)

Nettlestead (Direction 11D: Detour - see Appendix)

Mereworth (31 / Appendix 25M)

### Associated local circuit

- OF1: Mereworth – West Peckham – Mereworth
- NY1: Wateringbury – Nettlestead – Teston – Wateringbury

**Shorter circuit:** There are some lovely views, particularly near the start and again before the descent to Mereworth. Towards the end the setting changes to woodland and golf course.

### Roads and hindrances:

The crossing of the A228 south of Kings Hill (Direction 46) is not difficult, and if necessary offers the option of a refuge at little cost in terms of distance.

I have known the narrow track at Direction 25 to be seriously overgrown: nothing secateurs cannot deal with, but it could slow you down. (It is fine currently, though.)

The route includes a larger than average proportion of walking on roads, but most of it is largely quiet and entirely pleasant. However, there is a serious issue to think about on the short stretch of the A26 before the Mereworth roundabout: **see the note at Direction 27.**

In view of the above I have included (in the Appendix) a slightly longer alternative avoiding Directions 25-32 (which does, however, miss out the rather fine view in 26).

This alternative ends in a further extended length of road (About 15/20 minutes, Dukes Place to Mereworth) but much quieter and pleasant. It crosses the A228 and A26 in quick succession, and later Seven Mile Lane – all crossings entirely manageable.

## SHORTER CIRCUIT

### **Wateringbury – Nettlestead – Mereworth – Wateringbury**

Notes taken: November 2015

The start and finish is at Wateringbury Church (ME18 5PN)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		<b>[DIRECTIONS 1-10 ARE ALSO PART OF THE NETTLESTEAD &amp; YALDING SPINE SECTION]</b> Stand with your back to <b>Wateringbury Church</b> and turn left alongside the main road.	685 536	

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
2	<b>1</b>	Cross the road and turn right, down Mill Lane. (If you delay your crossing until directly opposite the lane the sightlines will be good.)		
3	<b>3</b>	Swing right alongside the edge of the pond, and follow the road uphill.		
4	<b>4</b>	Carry on up the road as turns to the left (MR508), ignoring the footpath going straight on.		
5	<b>9</b>	Go straight on as the right of way crosses the forecourt of a house, with gates before and after.		
6		After a very brief pair of turns (right, then left) go ahead along the left-hand side of fields.		
7	<b>14</b>	When you reach railings at the bottom left-hand corner, go through them, and then through another pair, slightly to the right, to start along a metalled path between hedges.	685 527	
8	<b>16</b>	Use a gap on the left to divert, for the sake of variety, along the right-hand edge of a playing field, parallel to the track.		
9	<b>17</b>	Rejoin the track on your right.		
10	<b>19</b>	[Map point] Swing left towards the road which is a few yards below.		
11		[To visit <u>Nettlestead Church</u> , now divert instead to the <u>Detour</u> in the Appendix.]  At the road turn right, then immediately right again up Gibbs Hill.		
12	<b>24</b>	Just before Gibbs Hill swings right at the top, turn right along a roadway just after Rock Farm Cottages.		1.09
13	<b>25</b>	[!!F!!] Fork left on a footpath away from the roadway and through a metal gate.		
14	<b>28</b>	At the hedge at the top go through virtually straight on and ahead alongside apple trees on the right.		
15	<b>31</b>	At the crosspaths after another little rise go straight on, gently downhill.	678 528	
16	<b>33</b>	Swing slightly leftwards with the adjacent trees, towards houses in the middle distance.		
17	<b>37</b>	Turn left on to the road, and begin a steady extended climb (which will amount to an ascent of about 50 metres in all.)		1.71
18	<b>38</b>	Just before the road swings to the left, turn right along an adjoining road.		
19	<b>39</b>	Follow the road as it swings to the left.		
20	<b>51</b>	Reach the top. Ignore the footpath which goes ahead and instead swing right with the road as it descends.		
21	<b>55</b>	Swing left with the road.		
22	<b>59</b>	Pass and ignore the end of Roydon Hall Road, and continue ahead, steeply uphill.		
23	<b>62</b>	Pass the corner of the churchyard of St Michael's Church (now no longer used regularly but still consecrated and maintained).		
24	<b>63</b>	Turn right at the road junction.		

\* "*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
25	<b>65</b>	<i>[For the alternative route (see the introduction – ‘Roads and hindrances’) now follow instead the directions in the Appendix.]</i> Turn right off the road along a slightly concealed narrow track.	660 523	3.05
26	<b>69</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Go through the metal gate at the end (or currently, as the gate is blocked by a fallen branch, a convenient gap next to it), and then along the large field facing you. Given that no effort seems to be made (either currently or for a while past) to clear a suitable path along the mapped right-of-way line, it seems sensible and reasonable simply to go round to the right and follow the right-hand edge, very gently leftwards alongside the trees, all the way down to the main road at the bottom.		
27	<b>82</b>	Leave the field at the bottom right-hand corner, by climbing over a pronounced hump to the side of the busy main road. Turn right to follow the road. This is the A26, and it involves a stretch of about 100 yds. which demands extreme care and concentration. It is probably best to keep on the right-hand side as usual, and be prepared to take refuge in the narrow space at the side in the face of fast-moving oncoming traffic. (For a short distance there is a better space on the left, but using it would involve some tricky crossing and re-crossing, equally uncomfortable.)  <i>The unpleasantness of this admittedly short section is the reason why a slightly longer alternative continuation of the walk is also provided, for those who would prefer not to face the traffic. I would not regard the main route given here as irresponsibly hazardous, but it does demand extreme vigilance, and anyone proposing to use it for a group would need to use a pre-walk to make a careful risk assessment bearing in mind the nature of the group. Much depends on the state of the undergrowth on the very narrow right-hand verge: currently it is clear enough to walk along carefully, which makes a big difference.</i>		
28	<b>85</b>	At the approach to the roundabout, opposite the entrance to Brewers Hall, cross to the left-hand side (with sightlines which are now good!), and continue along the road past the roundabout, using the verges alongside the cycle tracks.		
29	<b>88</b>	Turn left on to The Street and cross to the pavement on the right.		
30	<b>89</b>	Pass Butchers Lane and go on along the road towards the church.		
31	<b>90</b>	Pass the gate of <b>Mereworth Church</b> opposite, and continue along the right-hand side of the road.		4.23
32	<b>91</b>	Cross Torrington Close and keep ahead.		
33	<b>92</b>	Turn right along a rough roadway, and go past a small shop. Then keep to the right of the forecourt of house number 99.		
34	<b>95</b>	When the path divides, turn right along a narrow track.	657 538	
35	<b>97</b>	Pass a redundant stile and continue ahead.		
36	<b>99</b>	Still continue ahead, joining a road as it comes in from 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
37	<b>100</b>	Swing left with the road, then immediately turn right, beside a little island of trees, to resume the original direction.		
38	<b>107</b>	Turn right at the island and T-junction at the top.		5.04
39	<b>110</b>	At the road junction, turn left along a rough unsignposted roadway.		
40	<b>111</b>	When the main roadway turns left, instead continue straight on down a footpath, again unsignposted.		
41	<b>112</b>	At the bottom, go straight across the crossing roadway, and go ahead uphill.		
42	<b>114</b>	At the top go straight on along a broad, grassy avenue (which has joined you from the left).		
43	<b>115</b>	Take a narrow right fork into the trees.		
44	<b>121</b>	<b>START OF THE SPINE SECTION (from here to the end)</b> [Map point] Reach a complicated intersection of paths, and take the less sharp of the two right turns.	661 555	
45	<b>127</b>	Emerge on to Beaufighter Road and go straight ahead.		
46	<b>128</b>	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.)		
47	<b>129</b>	[Map point] Pass a rusty gate and follow the broad track all the way to a T-junction at the end.		6.15
48	<b>133</b>	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	
49	<b>151</b>	Continue on the designated path as it emerges into an open area between golf holes.		
50	<b>152</b>	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).		
51	<b>153</b>	Merge leftwards on to a track which joins from the right.		
52	<b>159</b>	At the end turn right along the quiet road, gently downhill.		7.65
53	<b>169</b>	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!)		
54	<b>171</b>	Reach <b>Wateringbury Church</b> , the starting point of the walk.	685 536	8.35

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

## APPENDIX to Shorter Circuit

### Detour to Nettlestead Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
11A	<b>0</b>	On reaching the road (Direction 11), instead of turning right cross the road and go along the track directly opposite.		
11B	<b>1</b>	Follow the track as it bends to the right, and follow it along the upper edge of the churchyard.		
11C	<b>3</b>	Turn left towards the church porch.		
11D		Reach the south door of <b>Nettlestead Church</b> .		
11E	<b>6</b>	To rejoin the main route simply retrace your steps back to the main road. Cross it and follow Direction 11 by carrying on up Gibbs Hill, very slightly to the left. (To cross the road the sightlines are adequate, but to improve them you could go along it a bit to left.)  <b>Add 6 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.32 miles to cumulative distances.</b>		

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

### Alternative to avoid the tricky A26 section on the way to Mereworth

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
25A	<b>65</b>	At Direction 25, do not follow the narrow track on the right, but instead continue down the road. (The route as far as Dukes Place now follows the Greensand Way.)	660 523	3.05
25B	<b>67</b>	Cross the A228 (busy, but excellent sightlines) and continue ahead down the signposted footpath directly opposite.		
25C	<b>70</b>	Reach and cross the A26 and turn right alongside it. The sightlines for crossing are good, particularly if you cross sooner rather than later. Walk for about 70 yds. along the left-hand side of the road on the grass verge.		
25D	<b>71</b>	Turn left down a rough, broad track, signposted, between houses.		
25E	<b>72</b>	Fork right through a metal gate (still Greensand Way), ignoring the broader track which goes down to the left. Head across the grass towards the far right-hand corner.		
25F	<b>74</b>	At the corner go through the metal gate, then slightly to the right to cross a footbridge. Continue ahead between woodland on the right and a low hedge on the left.		
25G	<b>76</b>	[Map point] Slip through a wooden gate on the left (without changing your general direction, so that you are going along the right-hand side of the field).		
25H	<b>79</b>	[!!!] At a waymark post, leave the field edge to go (as waymarked - still Greensand Way) half-left across the field, in the direction of a tudor-style house (Dukes Place) in the middle distance.	651 527	
25I	<b>82</b>	At the corner of the field, bear right along a track.		

\* *"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
25J	<b>83</b>	Go straight ahead towards the main road.		
25K	<b>84</b>	Turn right along the road, abandoning the Greensand Way.		3.87
25L	<b>96</b>	Cross Seven Mile Lane (good sightlines) and go straight on along the left-hand side of the road opposite.		
25M	<b>103</b>	Just after house number 95, if not visiting Mereworth Church, rejoin the main route by turning left along the rough roadway as at Direction 33.  <b>Add 11 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.50 miles to cumulative distances.</b>  <i>Or, to detour for a visit to <b>Mereworth Church</b>, ignore that rough roadway on the left and walk on a little way to reach the church on your right. Then retrace your steps to turn right along the rough roadway as at Direction 33; and add a further 3 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.18 miles to cumulative distances.</i>	659 537	4.82

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

## 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!



<b>WATERINGBURY - SHORTER CIRCUIT</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	1, 27-32, 46, 53	8
Quiet road \$\$	2-4, 11-12, 17-24, 35-39, 45, 52	40
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	6, 8, 13, 15-16a, 26	15
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	5, 7, 9-10, 14, 16b, 25, 33-34, 40, 48-50	23
Woods	41-44, 47, 51	14

\*\* 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.

For those using the alternative at Direction 25, the numbers in the table above change a little, as follows:

<b>WATERINGBURY - SHORTER CIRCUIT via alternative in Direction 25</b>	<b>Direction numbers (not on the main route)</b>	<b>% of whole walk</b>
Busy road	25C, 25K-L	13
Quiet road \$\$	25A	39
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	25E, 25G-H	11
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	25B, 25D, 25F, 25I-J	24
Woods		13