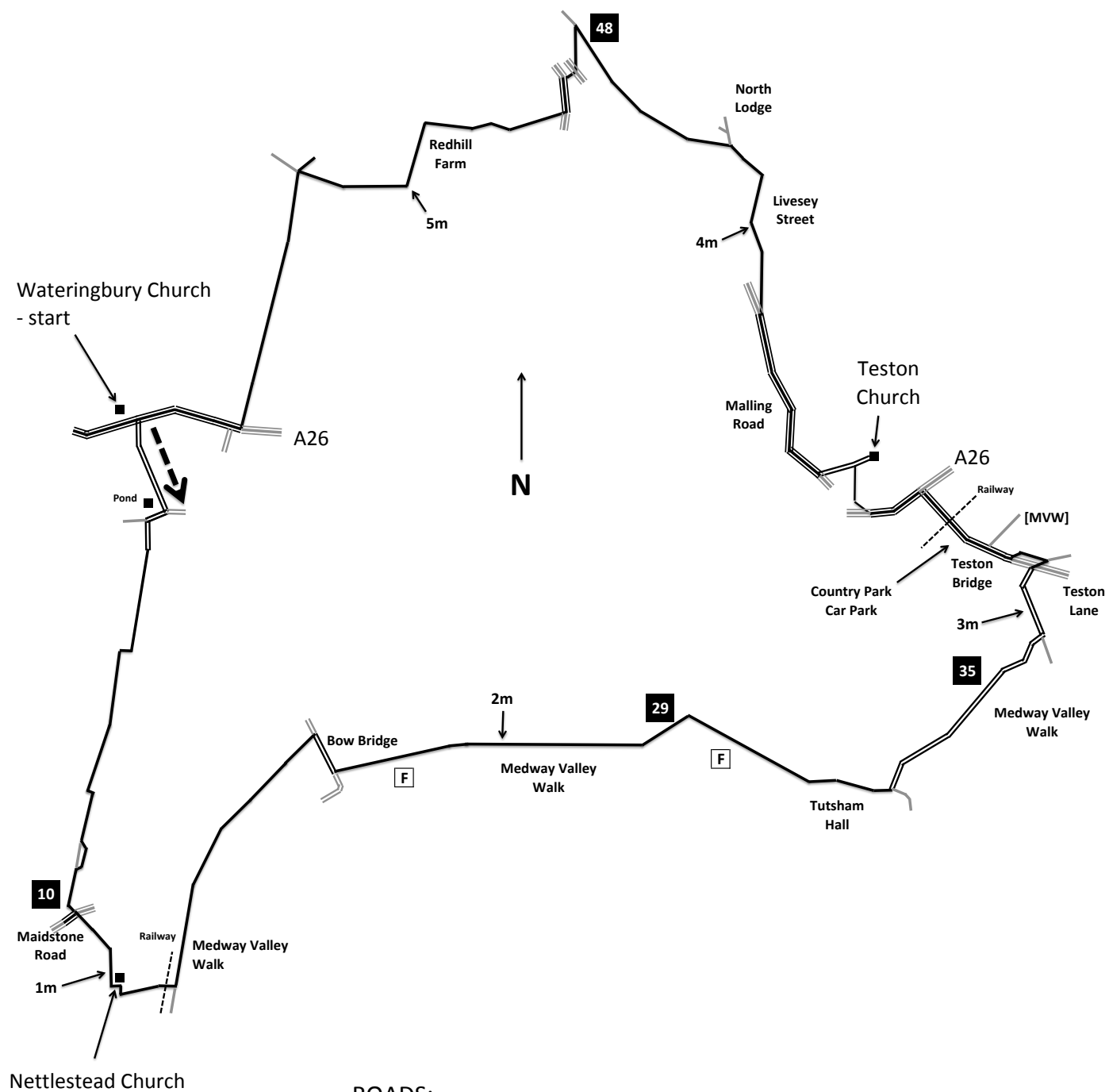


LOCAL CIRCUIT NY1: NETTLESTEAD & TESTON



ROADS:

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

PATHS:

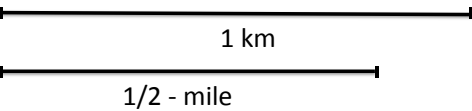
- On route
- Adjoining

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

--> Starting direction

Scale (approx.):



LOCAL CIRCUIT NY1: TUTSHAM HALL

Linked churches:

Wateringbury (start and finish)

Nettlestead (Direction 13)

Teston (44)

Roads and hindrances:

There are a few occasions on which you cross main roads (Directions 2, 10, 37, 40) but all have good sightlines and none are particularly troublesome.

Teston Bridge (38) demands extra care: single-file traffic potentially arriving from either side.

And the railway crossing (16) of course demands respect.

Notes taken: November 2015

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		Stand with your back to Wateringbury Church and turn left alongside the main road.	685 536	
2	1	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	3	Swing right alongside the edge of the pond, and follow the road uphill.		
4	4	Carry on up the road as it turns to the left (MR508), ignoring the footpath going straight on.		
5	9	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	14	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	16	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	17	Rejoin the track on your right.		
10	19	[Map point] Swing left to reach the road. Cross it, and go along the track directly opposite.		
11	20	Follow the track as it bends to the right, and follow it along the upper edge of the churchyard.		
12	22	Turn left towards the church porch.		
13		Reach the south door of Nettlestead Church . Turn right, and then left to go down the edge of the churchyard.		1.05
14	23	Go through a stone archway out into trees and down towards a footbridge.		
15	24	Cross the footbridge and continue ahead towards the railway.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
16	25	Cross the railway, and the stiles which protect it before and after, and carry on ahead to reach the Medway Valley Walk at the bottom.		
17	26	Reaching a T-junction of paths at the river, turn left. This is the start of a long stretch (as far as Direction 38) in the company of the Medway Valley Walk.		
18	31	Go over a footbridge, and onward along the river-front path.		
19	34	After passing a gate, climb up to the level of the bridge ahead, passing one side or the other of the white house.		
20	35	Reaching the road, turn right to go across the river (Bow Bridge).		1.64
21	37	Take the signposted footpath on the left, and go ahead over a stile.	691 527	
22		Go a little to the right through a metal gate, signposted and waymarked.		
23	39	[!!F!!] Go through another metal gate as waymarked, and follow a line diverging slightly from the left-hand side of the field, heading towards a pair of rather forlorn-looking trees.		
24	41	[!!F!!] Go through a metal gate and continue ahead in the same direction.		
25	43	Carry on over a footbridge.		
26	45	Carry on over a stile.		
27	46	Go over another footbridge into trees.		
28	48	And another footbridge.		
29	49	[Map point] Go through a gate out of the wood and follow the field edge, quite steeply uphill and to the right.		
30	51	[!!F!!] As the distant buildings of Tutsham Hall come into view carry on across the field, still uphill to start with, but less steeply now, aiming a little to the right of them, and towards a pair of trees in the middle distance.	701 528	
31	55	Go through a gate, passing to the left of the remains of a barn. Then follow the track as it goes slightly to the left, first up, then down.		
32	57	At the bottom go through another gate into a complex of buildings, and on uphill for 100 yds. or so.		
33	58	Ignore a stile on the left, but about 25 yds. further on turn left through a wooden kissing gate next to a cattle grid. Set off along the metalled path as it swings to the right and heads down towards the river and the lock.		2.70
34	61	Carry on ahead, ignoring the driveway up to the house on the right.		
35	63	[Map point] Go over another cattle grid, out of the Tutsham Hall estate. Follow the road as it winds down and up and left and right.		
36	66	Turn left with the road, ignoring the footpath 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
37	69	Reach the main road and cross it, to an information board opposite. You would in principle be turning left along the road, but there is a parallel alternative which avoids the traffic for a short distance. To reach it, at the board turn up, surprisingly, to the right for a few paces, then, instead of carrying on through the MKG, turn sharp left in the trees to go parallel to the road, which is now on your left.		
38	70	Rejoin the road ('with extreme caution', as the notice advises) and carry on over the bridge, using the escape booths as necessary to avoid single-line traffic from either direction.		
39	72	Pass the entrance to the country park car park and walk towards and over the level crossing using the pavement on the left-hand side.		3.18
40	74	Turn left at the top along the main road, and cross when convenient (good sightlines).		
41	76	Just after the road begins to swing to the right, turn off it up to the right along a narrow path, with railings at first.		
42	77	Cross a roadway and continue in the same direction along a path slightly to your right.		
43		Go ahead alongside the green on your left.		
44	78	At the top the entrance to Teston Church is on your right. To continue on the route turn left (Church Street) alongside the village green.		3.48
45	79	At the end turn right to go alongside the major road (Malling Road), and stay on the right-hand pavement to start with, passing the cricket ball factory opposite.		
46	85	Fork right along Livesey Street, ignoring the discouraging signs aimed at vehicular traffic.		
47	91	Fork left with the broad track just before the gate leading to North Lodge. (Ignore, if you notice it, the footpath sign which also points to the left from a point ahead a little beyond the gate.)	702 544	
48	98	[Map point] Opposite the entrance to Woodlands Cottage turn left up a narrow path into the woods.		
49	100	At the road go across and steeply uphill on the track opposite (slightly to the left).		
50	101	Reach a second road and turn left to follow it briefly, crossing when convenient.		
51	102	Turn right on to the signposted restricted byway, which starts as a metalled driveway into the Redhill Farm Estate.	697 545	
52	104	Continue along the winding roadway, with woodland now on the right.		
53	106	Go through the farmyard between the farm buildings.		
54	107	At the end of the metalled part of the roadway turn left past the door of Kenwater Cottage.		4.88
55	108	Continue ahead downhill along an enclosed grassy path.		
56	109	Follow the path as it swings to the right.		
57	113	Turn left down another grassy path past a pair of gates on the left.	690 543	

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
58	119	Pass between wooden barriers and carry on towards the main road ahead.		
59	121	Reach the main road and turn right. Stay, for now, on the pavement on the right of the road.		
60**	124	When you are opposite Mill Lane: <u>either, to continue the circuit</u> (if not visiting, or finishing at, Wateringbury Church), carry on from Direction 2, by crossing the road and going down Mill Lane;		
** or 60A	124	<u>... or, to detour to, or finish at, Wateringbury Church,</u> continue along the right-hand side of the main road.		
60B	125	Reach the church, on the right.	685 536	5.83
60C		If returning to the circuit having visited the church, resume from Direction 1.		

* **“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!

LOCAL CIRCUIT NY1	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 38-40, 45, 50, 59, 60A	14
Quiet road \$\$	2-4, 20, 35-36, 46, 51	19
Open field with livestock	22-25, 30	8
Edge of field with livestock	26, 29	3
Field (or edge) without livestock **	6, 8, 34, 43-44	9
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	5, 7, 9-13, 16-19, 21, 31-33, 37, 41-42, 47, 53-58	40
Woods	14-15, 27-28, 48-49, 52	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 (4) – Details noted in November 2015, but **subject to frequent change**:

The stiles which guard the railway crossing on either side (Direction 16) both have easy gaps.

Those in 21 and 26 both have dog gates.