




F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')



88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

LOCAL CIRCUIT NY2: WEST FARLEIGH

ROADS:

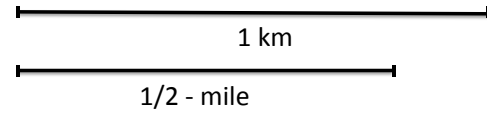
-  Significant roads
-  Others - on route
-  Others - adjoining

PATHS:

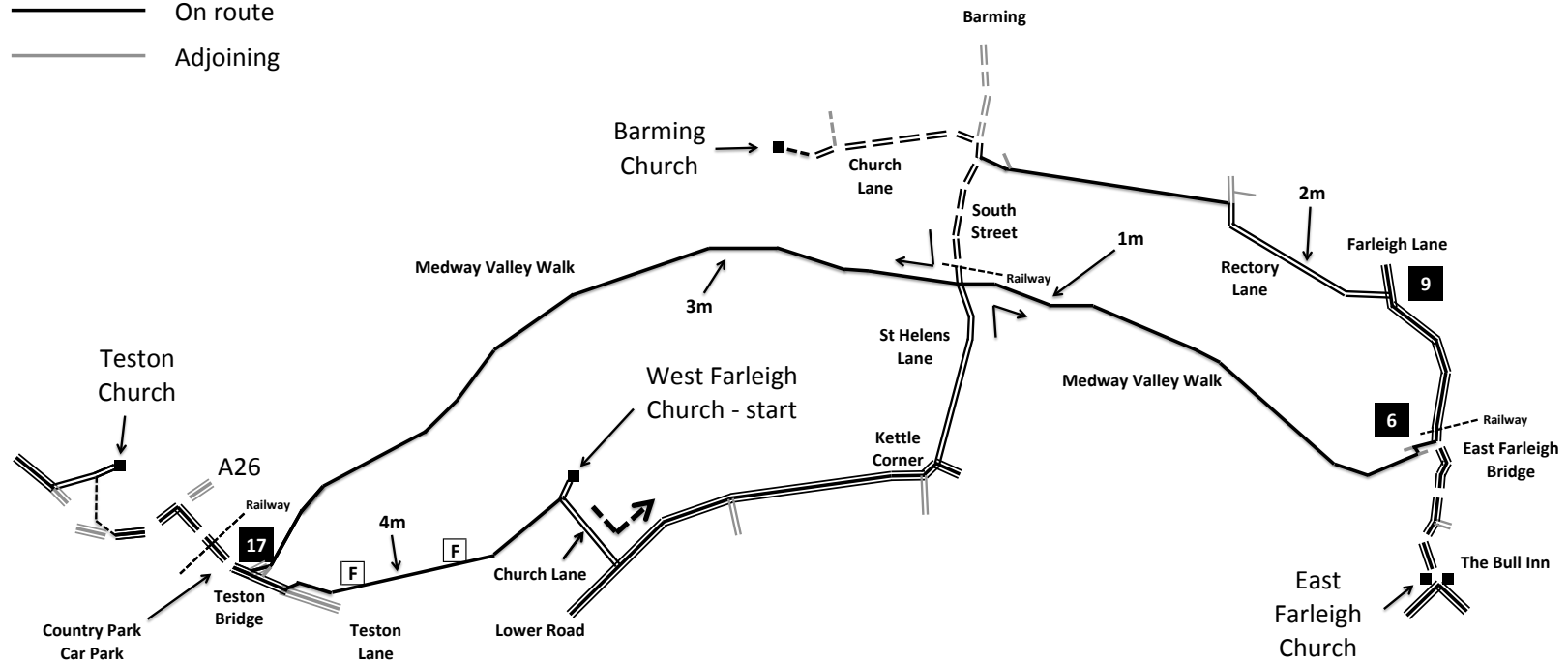
-  On route
-  Adjoining



Scale (approx.):



 Starting direction



LOCAL CIRCUIT NY2: WEST FARLEIGH

Linked churches:

West Farleigh (start and finish)

East Farleigh (Direction 7D: Detour 1 – see Appendix)

Barming (Direction 14D: Detour 2 – see Appendix)

Teston (Direction 17G: Detour 3 – see Appendix)

Roads and hindrances:

The roads in East Farleigh are a significant problem, particularly the crossing of the narrow bridge if you are making the detour to the church. Great care required! The road up from the level crossing on the main route is not much better: quite busy and narrow. In both cases traffic inevitably moves quite slowly through what amounts to an obstacle course – which helps! The crossing of Teston Bridge is, by contrast, perfectly manageable, through careful use of the escape booths.

Notes taken: December 2015 and January 2016

The start and finish is at West Farleigh Church (ME15 0PD) .

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		At the exit from West Farleigh Church , with your back to the church, set out along Church Lane which leads away to the left, south-eastwards.	715 535	
2	2	Turn left along the main road, staying on the left-hand side.		
3	11	As the main road swings to the right, instead turn left down St Helens Lane.		
4	15	Go between railings and up on to the footbridge to cross the Medway.		
5	16	On the far side, turn right and follow the Medway Valley Walk, as signposted, alongside the river on your right.		
6	30	[Map point] About 100 yds. short of the East Farleigh road bridge, look out for waymarks on the left directing you leftwards away from the river, up a brief zig-zagging passageway, which finally turns right towards the main road.		1.59
7	31	<i>[To visit East Farleigh Church, now divert instead to Detour 1 in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Turn left along the main road.		
8	32	Cross the level crossing, and begin a careful ascent of the road, which in places is narrow and winding, and is not a quiet as you would like.		
9	36	[Map point] Turn left along Rectory Lane.		
10	38	Follow the road as it bends to the right of Scraces Cottages.		
11	41	Swing right with the road, away from The Oast House.		

* **“Mins.” is very approximate!** See ‘Introductory Notes’ for an explanation of how this column is used.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
12	42	Turn left along a straight, wide path, with Barming Church visible in the distance ahead.	730 541	
13	48	Ignore the roadway which swings away to the right among the buildings, and instead carry on ahead, keeping the stone wall on your right.		
14	49	[To visit <u>Barming Church</u> , now divert instead to <u>Detour 2</u> in the Appendix.] Main route: On reaching the road at the end, turn left down the road.		
15	52	After passing under the railway bridge, at the point just before the footbridge over the Medway, turn right through the MKG and follow the Medway Valley Walk as it wanders along, by way of a series of footbridges and gates, between the river on your left and the railway on your right.		2.68
16	74	About 100 yds. short of Teston Bridge, fork slightly to the right along a grassy path towards a stile at the roadside.		3.77
17	75	[To visit <u>Teston Church</u> , now divert instead to <u>Detour 3</u> in the Appendix.] Main route: [Map point] Reach the stile, and cross it with care on to the road which is immediately beyond. Turn left on to the road and go over Teston Bridge, remembering that single-line traffic could be coming from either direction, and using the escape booths as necessary.		
18	76	Step down to the left to take the permissive path parallel to the road.		
19	78	Go ahead down steps, then up again towards a MKG.		
20		!!!F!!! Go through the MKG and onward diagonally across the field towards a waymarked gate in the middle distance. If the direction is not clear at first, aim slightly to the right of the mid-point of the line of trees opposite.		
21	79	!!!F!!! Go through the spring gate and on slightly further to the right towards a MKG in the middle distance.	712 533	
22	81	Go through the MKG, and a few trees beyond it, and turn to the left along the left-hand side of a field.		
23	82	At the corner go through a wooden kissing gate and continue along the left-hand edge of the cricket field.		
24	84	At the next corner cross a stile. Beyond is <u>West Farleigh Church</u> , the starting point of the walk.	715 535	4.25

* "**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 Local Circuit NY2

Detour to East Farleigh Church (Detour 1)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
7A	0	Instead of turning left at Direction 7, turn right to cross the bridge with great care.		0.00
7B	1	After the bridge, follow the road as it swings first to the right, then uphill to the left, using the pavement on the left-hand side of the road at the earliest opportunity.		
7C	3	Carry on uphill past the end of River Close.		
7D	5	At the junction at the top, at the Bull Inn, cross to the right, using the island separating the roads, and find, on the right, the lych-gate entrance to East Farleigh Church . To return to the main route, simply retrace your steps down to and over the bridge.		0.20
7E	9	Beyond the bridge go straight ahead at the point where you originally emerged from the passageway on to the main road, and resume from Direction 8. Add 9 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.40 miles to cumulative distances.		0.40

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

Detour to Barming Church (Detour 2)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
14A	0	Instead of turning left at Direction 14, turn right.		0.00
14B		Very soon, turn left along Church Lane.		
14C	5	Go through the gate into the churchyard.		
14D	6	Reach the south door of Barming Church . To rejoin the main route, retrace your steps along Church Lane.		0.30
14E	11	At the end of Church Lane, turn right and carry on down the road, past the point where you originally emerged from the footpath, and resume from Direction 15. Add 12 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.60 miles to cumulative distances.		

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

Detour to Teston Church (Detour 3)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
17A	0	Instead of turning left after the stile in Direction 17, turn right along the road and cross when convenient.		0.00
17B	1	Pass the entrance to the country park car park and walk towards and over the level crossing.		
17C	3	Turn left at the top along the main road, and cross when convenient (good sightlines).		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
17D	5	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.		
17E	6	Cross a roadway and continue in the same direction along a path slightly to your right.		
17F		Go ahead alongside the green on your left.		
17G	7	At the top the entrance to Teston Church is on your right. To rejoin the main route, retrace your steps down to the main road.		0.31
17H	9	Turn left along the main road, crossing when convenient.		
17I	11	Turn right down Teston Lane, towards and over the level crossing.		
17J	13	The detour ends level with the stile on the left (at the path leading up from the Medway Valley Walk). Continue over Teston Bridge, as from Direction 17. Add 13 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.62 miles to cumulative distances.		0.62

* ***“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 NY2	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	2, 7-8, 17	17
Quiet road \$\$	1, 3, 6b, 9-11, 14	20
Open field with livestock	20-21	5
Edge of field with livestock	22	1
Field (or edge) without livestock **	5a, 5c, 15-16, 23	34
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	4, 5b, 5d-6a, 12-13, 18-19	23
Woods		0

** 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 January 2016, but **subject to frequent change:**

The stiles (in Directions 17 and 24) both have easy gaps.