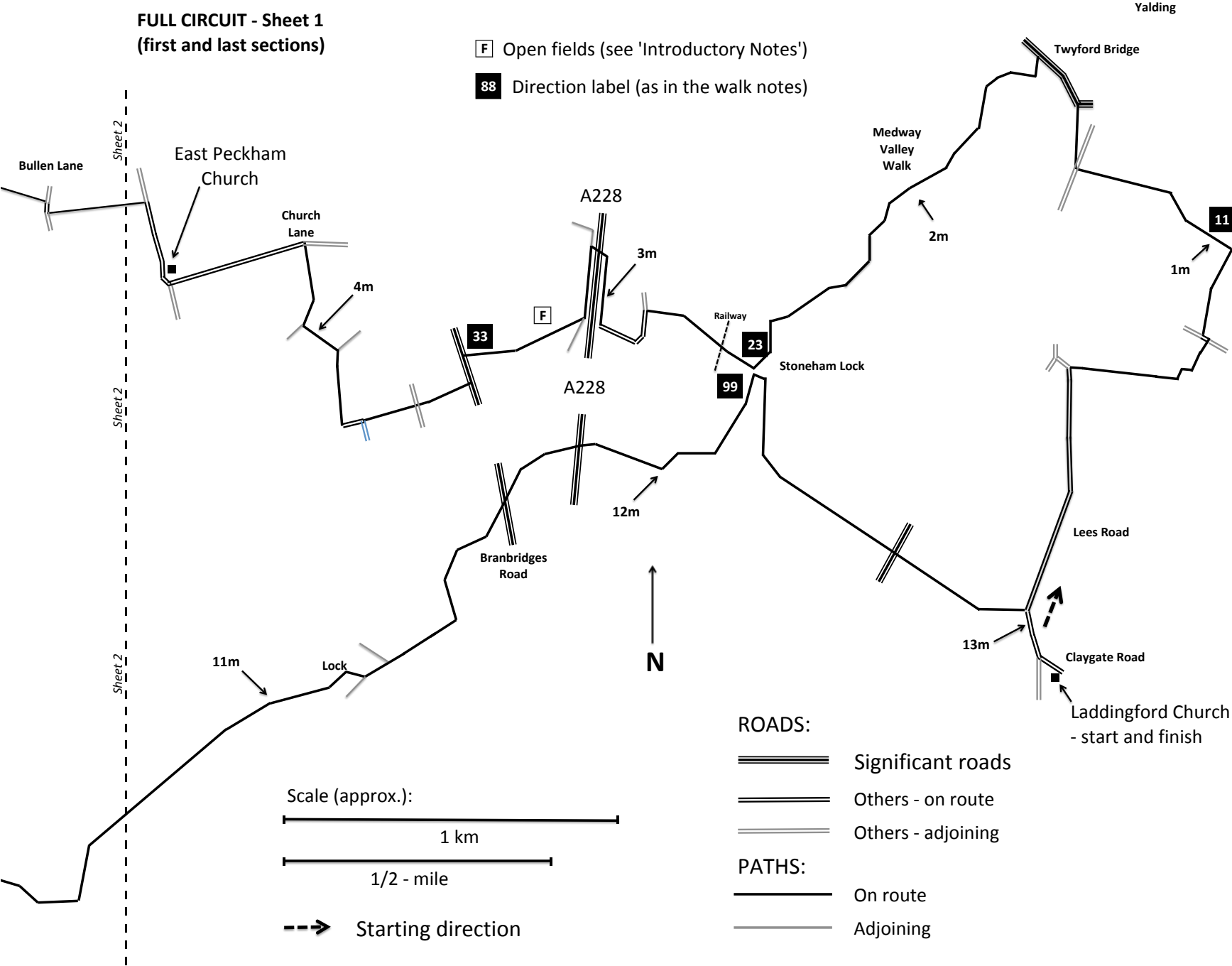


EAST PECKHAM

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)

- [F] Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')
- 88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)



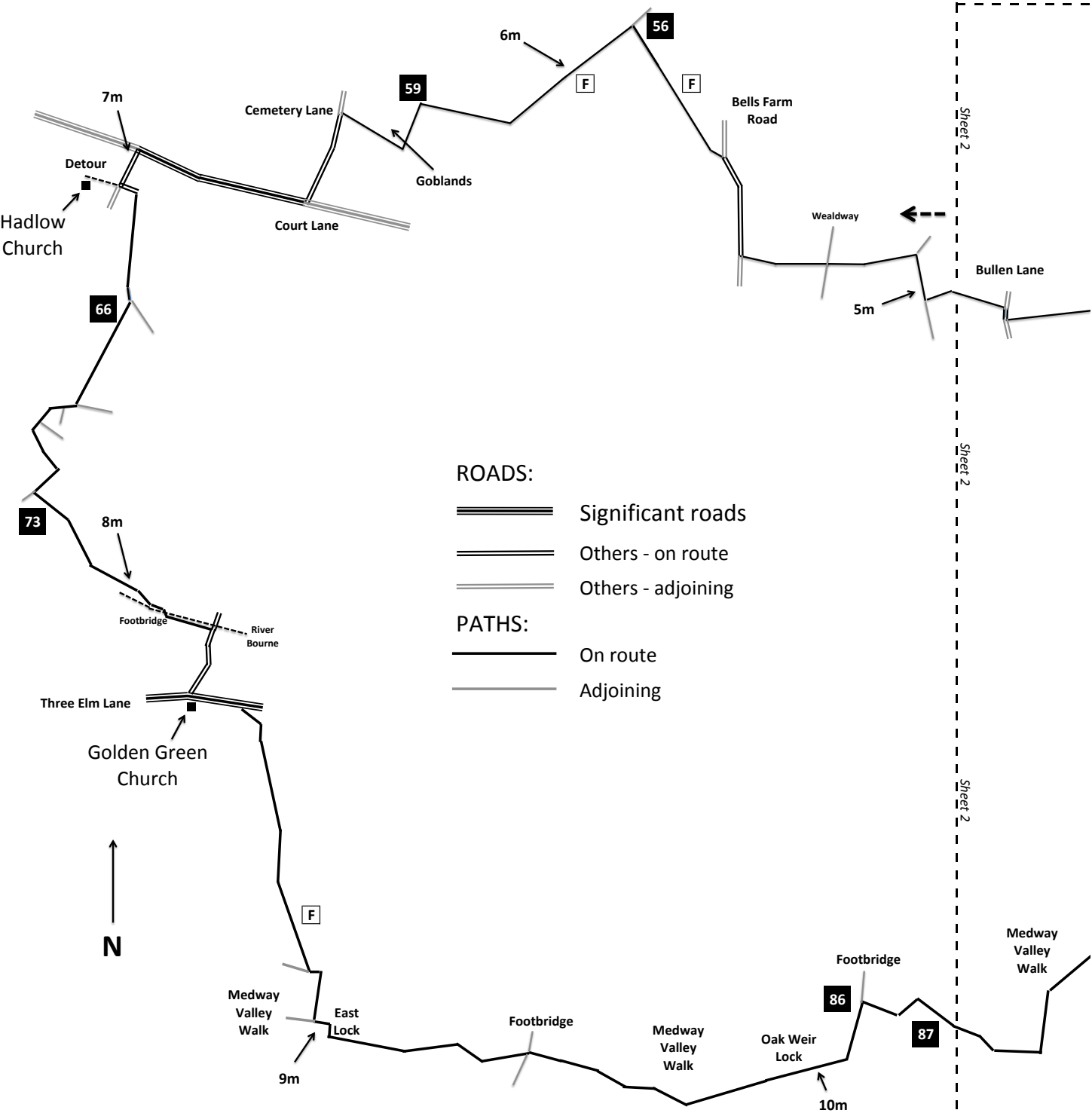
EAST PECKHAM

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2
(middle section)

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

←-- Cont. from Sheet 1



EAST PECKHAM CIRCUIT

Churches in the full circuit:

Laddingford (start and finish)

East Peckham (Direction 42)

Hadlow (64A: Detour - see Appendix)

Golden Green (76)

Associated local circuit

- EP1: East Peckham – Hadlow – East Peckham

Full circuit: Much of this walk – an early section and another towards the end - winds alongside the Medway via the Medway Valley Walk. The other sections take in East Peckham and Hadlow and some pleasant countryside in between; and, by way of the landfill site, keep the walker in touch with industrial reality (but not for too long).

Roads and hindrances:

Twyford Bridge (Direction 18) is tricky, but the escape booths mean you can, with care, cross safely.

Court Lane, on the way in towards Hadlow (62), is quite busy, but where it has no pavement the verge, though a bit rough, is adequate.

There are several roads to cross: most demand just ordinary care, but Branbridges Road (96) and Gravelly Ways (101) command extra respect, as does the railway crossing at 25.

FULL CIRCUIT

Laddingford (- Twyford Bridge) – East Peckham – Hadlow – Golden Green – Laddingford

Notes taken: February and March 2016

The start and finish is at Laddingford Church (ME18 6DG).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the north side of Laddingford Church on Claygate Road, turn left along the last few yards of the road and then at the junction turn right, staying on the pavement on the right-hand side of the road.	691 479	
2	3	Continue ahead, passing The Chequers opposite.		
3	7	Continue ahead, passing the entrance to Manor Farm on the right.		
4	12	A few yards before the road reaches a 3-way junction, turn away from it to the right along the rough driveway signposted as a footpath.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
5	14	At the end, immediately alongside a garage on the right, go straight ahead over a stile, and along an enclosed section of track to a further pair of stiles.		
6	16	Pass through a metal gate, and continue along the path, taking note of the instruction to stay alongside the stream. This soon involves swinging to the left with the path.		
7	17	Turn right to cross a footbridge over the stream, then immediately left to go alongside it.		
8	18	Go ahead through a wooden gate, still alongside the stream on your left (and ignoring a second footbridge on the left).		
9	19	Continue with the stream as it swings to the right, and then turn left towards a gate about 20 yds. away.		
10	20	Go through the gate and turn left along the road beyond, and then after about 20 yds. right, over a stile on to a footpath.	696 490	
11	22	[Map point] Swing left alongside the stream, keeping it to your right and ignoring the concrete bridge which appears on the right soon afterwards.		
12	28	After the field-edge path turns first right then left, look out for stile to the right, about 100 yds. short of the field's far right-hand corner. Cross the stile and turn left alongside the hedge.		
13	29	Carry straight on over the crossing path.		
14	31	Continue ahead along a winding path among fruit trees.		
15		Go through a rusty old gate and continue ahead.		
16	32	Reach the main road and cross it, turning diagonally to the right across the open space in the direction of blue recycling bins beyond the trees.	692 494	
17	34	Go over a footbridge and head towards Twyford Bridge clearly visible ahead, passing over the car park area (currently not in use).		
18	35	Leave the parking area by the access lane and turn left along the main road to cross the bridge, remembering that single-line traffic could be coming from either direction, and using the escape booths as necessary.		
19	37	START OF THE SPINE SECTION Immediately after the bridge turn sharp left over the lock gates, as signposted for the Medway Valley Walk which you are now joining for a while (as far as Stoneham Lock).		1.62
20	38	Keep to the right, immediately alongside the river, ignoring the driveway to Teapot Island; and continue along the Medway Valley Walk, staying as close to the river as possible. (There are two brief stretches where the path goes slightly to the left, along the right-hand side of fields, but then returns to go alongside the river.)		
21	50	Cross a footbridge to go again along the right-hand side of a field for a third time.		
22	51	And again return to walk alongside the river.		
23	55	[Map point] Reach Stoneham Lock and go over the two footbridges on the right, crossing the Medway in the process.		2.54
24		After the second bridge, cross a stile and go ahead to a railway crossing.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
25	56	Cross the railway with due care.		
26	57	After another stile turn right alongside the tracks of a marshalling yard, and then, about 10 yds. later, turn left across the lines to follow an improvised grit track towards the works ahead. Go ahead over a raised platform and on as straight as possible, without getting drawn into gated enclosures beside.		
27	60	Immediately beyond a MKG turn left along a quiet road.		
28	62	After a swing to the right, turn right again on to a broad approach road leading away from the landfill site toward the busy A228 ahead.		
29	64	But about 10 yds. before the exit gate go down to the right. Pass beside a redundant stile and follow the rough path as it swings further to the right to go parallel to the main road above on the left.		
30	68	Keep up to the left to cross the stream over a bridge, and then go ahead up the steps of the footbridge to cross the A228.	677 492	
31	70	Coming down off the bridge continue straight ahead along a winding path, keeping the stream on your right, parallel to the main road on your left. (You have now doubled back, having engaged in a short detour to achieve the crossing of the A228.)		
32	73	!!!F!!! Follow the path which swings to the right and emerges in an open field. Go directly across this large field towards the road on the far side. If the direction is unclear, diverge slightly away from the hedge on the right, and aim at a single stately red-brick house on the road ahead (not the pair of red-brick houses half-hidden by trees further to the right).		
33	77	[Map point] Turn left at the road, staying, for now, on the left-hand pavement.		
34	79	Just after the house 'South Hale' opposite, cross the road and go between the barriers along a narrow metalled footpath between tall fences. END OF THE SPINE SECTION		3.56
35	81	Continue ahead between barriers across a minor road.		
36	83	Meeting another minor road as it turns a corner, briefly continue straight ahead along it.		
37		Then, just after house number 29, turn right along another enclosed footpath between high fences, metalled to start with.		
38	86	Turn left over a footbridge, then continue ahead in this new direction, away from the stream along a track between hedges.		
39	88	Emerge into a field and turn right to walk along its right-hand edge.		
40	91	Turn left along Church Lane.	668 492	
41	96	At the T-junction at the end turn right.		
42		Pass the west end of East Peckham Church .		4.48
43	99	Turn left along a signposted footpath between fences, then after about 30 yds. keep straight ahead through a gate and continue ahead along the right-hand side of a field.		

* **"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
44	102	At the end of the field go straight on through a wooden kissing gate on to a narrow path between fences and then under a house.		
45	103	At the road turn right, then left after about 25 yds. along a concrete roadway which then swings gradually to the right among fruit trees.		
46	105	Ignore any waymark inviting you to turn right between the trees. (It should be the correct way, but the area it leads to is often impossibly overgrown, so best avoided.) Instead continue along the path as it swings leftwards down to a crossing track.		
47	106	At this T-junction turn right.	658 494	
48	107	As this track swings to the right, instead turn left, crossing the line of the stream, and go between a wire fence on the right and a tall hedge on the left.		
49	109	Keep alongside the fence on the right as a field opens out on the left.		
50	111	Continue ahead at the junction with the Wealdway.		
51	113	Pass through a gap about 25 yds. to the right of the far left-hand corner of the next field, and carry on towards the road.		
52	114	At the road turn right.		5.39
53	117	Turn left off the road at the 'Orchard Lodge' sign, and walk on with a garden to your left and a hedge on your right		
54		Go across the rugby field, at an angle rightwards, to a stile about 30 yds. to the left of its far right-hand corner.		
55	118	!!!F!!! Cross the stile and go on in much the same direction across the field beyond, angling towards the end of the trees on the right.		
56	122	[Map point] !!!F!!! When you reach this corner of the trees, turn left. This is more or less a right-angle turn, which re-crosses the same field on a different diagonal. The line is now somewhat to the left of the prominent Hadlow Tower, aiming at a point about 20 yds. to the left of the right-hand end of the line of trees in the middle distance.	650 502	
57	126	!!!F!!! Reach the far side of the field and, maintaining roughly the same line, go briefly through the trees and on across the field beyond, ignoring two tempting right turns on the way: the direction is still diagonally across the field, heading still a little to the left of Hadlow Tower, and towards the left-hand end of the farm buildings ahead.		
58	128	!!!F!!! At a waymark post turn right, now towards the right-hand end of the farm buildings.		
59	131	[Map point] Immediately after passing, on the right, a series of solar panels and then a line of trees, turn left along a roadway leading into the Goblands Farm estate.		
60	133	Turn right before Hop Kilns alongside the Business Centre.		
61	135	At the exit turn left along the road, ignoring the footpath which is signposted on the right a few yards later.		6.50

* **"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
62	138	At the end turn right along the main road, using at first the reasonable verge on the right if necessary, then cross to use the pavement on the left once it appears.		
63	144	Turn left along The Forstal.		
64	145	[To visit <u>Hadlow Church</u> , now divert instead to the <u>Detour</u> in the Appendix.] Main route: Opposite a narrow metalled pathway on the right, turn left to join the end of another estate road.		
65	146	At the end turn half-right along a metalled pathway.		
66	149	[Map point] At a fork, after a slight swing to the left, take the right-hand path, keeping alongside the fence on the right.		7.29
67	150	Go through a MKG and ahead along the left-hand edge of a grassy field.		
68	154	At the end of the field continue ahead through a MKG and down a few yards to a T-junction of paths.		
69		There turn right (despite the waymark pointing left!).		
70	155	Ignore the little track to the left and continue downhill on the main track.		
71	156	At the bottom keep right to follow the field edge, which then swings left after about 30 yds..		
72	158	Turn right through a gap and go along a grassy path with a field on the left and a wooden fence on the right.	634 489	
73	159	[Map point] Just before a hedged stream, turn left alongside it.	633 488	
74	165	After following the field edge as it swings gently left and right (and ignoring an uninviting footbridge halfway along), leave the field by way of another footbridge on the right, and then immediately turn left along a narrow track alongside the river, towards the road a little further ahead.		
75	167	At the road turn right.		
76	170	When you reach the main road, <u>Golden Green Mission Church</u> is directly ahead opposite. But to continue on the route turn left and walk along the left-hand side of the road.		8.31
77	171	Cross the road and turn right along Kelchers Lane.		
78	173	At the end of the houses go ahead through a MKG on to a grassy path (not waymarked) along the edge of a big field.		
79	176	As the field-edge, trees and stream swing away to the right, part company with them, going straight on towards a tiny gap in the hedge ahead.		
80	178	[!!F!!] Go through the gap and very slightly left, towards buildings in the middle distance.		
81	181	Meeting a broader path, turn briefly left along it, and after about 30 yds. follow its right-swing to regain your original direction.		
82	183	As you approach East Lock, turn left along the Medway Valley Walk path which will now take you downstream along the river for three miles or so. First, use one of the lock crossings to go over on to the far (right) bank.		
83	185	Leave the lock area through a MKG and set off along the right bank.		9.07

* **"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
84	191	At the bridge carry on along the right bank through two MKGs.		
85	200	Carry on past Oak Weir Lock and over the wooden footbridge beyond it, still on the right bank of the Medway.		
86	206	[Map point] Do not cross the river at the footbridge. Instead turn right to stay alongside on the right bank.		10.10
87	211	[Map point] As the trees come to an end the MVW continues more or less along the right bank on an enclosed path, but for the sake of variety you might prefer to go along the edge of the open field a few yards to the right, staying parallel and close to the line of the river.		
88	216	The MVW and the field-alternative come together and continue along the left-hand edge of a field.		
89	218	In the course of a significant right-swing in the field edge, leave the field and rejoin the river by turning left over a footbridge.		
90	219	Pass a footbridge over the river on the left, and continue along the right bank.		
91	221	Once again choose between the riverside MVW and a parallel field edge – but a much shorter alternative this time.		
92	222	The field-edge alternative comes to an end.		
93	227	Next to the weir turn right over a footbridge, and after it left (despite the waymark) to continue along the right bank.		11.15
94	228	Continue ahead as another footbridge comes in from the left.		
95	235	At the end continue ahead, now with industrial premises to your right, behind metal fencing.		
96	236	Reach and, with particular care, cross the busy road at the end. Once across, turn left down a short ramp parallel to the road, and after about 30 yds. turn right to rejoin the Medway.		
97	240	Continue ahead under the bridge carrying the A228.		
98	246	Go under the railway bridge and follow the river as it swings to the left.		
99	250	[Map point] At Stoneham Lock, a few yards before the footbridge over the river, leave the MVW by turning sharp right along a narrow path (no sign or waymark), among trees.		12.25
100	253	Follow the path as it emerges into an open area and swings to the left.		
101	260	Reach and cross a road - the sightline to the right is limited, calling for particular care - and continue opposite along a path which begins slightly to your right.	686 483	
102	263	Go ahead over a footbridge.		
103	265	Stay straight ahead between houses, keeping the side-fence of Brook House on your right.		
104**		When you reach the road: either, to continue the circuit (if not visiting, or finishing at, Laddingford Church), cross the road, turn left, and carry on from Direction 2.		12.98
** or 104A		... or, to detour to, or finish at, Laddingford Church , turn right along the road, crossing when convenient to the walkway on the far, left-hand, side of the road.		
104B	267	To reach Laddingford Church follow the left fork (Claygate Road).		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
104C	268	Laddingford Church is on the right of Claygate Road, a few yards along.	691 479	13.12
104D		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.

APPENDIX to Full Circuit

Detour to Hadlow Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
64A	0	For the very short detour to Hadlow Church : Instead of Direction 20 turn right along a narrow pathway to the church’s north entrance.		0.00
64B	5	Then retrace your steps to the start of the narrow pathway where you started the detour.		
64C	11	Rejoin the main route, by going straight ahead at the junction (where there would have been a left-turn at Direction 64). Add 3 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.14 miles to cumulative distances.		0.14

* ***“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!

EAST PECKHAM - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-3, 33, 40, 62, 76, 104A-B	11
Quiet road \$\$	4, 27-28, 36, 41-42, 52, 60-61, 63-64	8
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock	43b, 83b-84a	4
Field (or edge) without livestock **	10-14, 16-18, 20b, 20d, 21b, 32, 39, 49-50, 54-56, 57b-58, 67, 71-73, 78-81, 83a, 85b, 87-88, 91, 100a, 100c, 100e	31
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	5, 7-8, 15, 19-20a, 20c, 20e-21a, 22-26, 29-31, 34-35, 37-38, 43a, 44-48, 51, 53, 57a, 59, 65-66, 68, 74-75, 77, 82, 84b-85a, 95-99a, 100b, 100d, 101-103	36
Woods	6, 9, 69-70, 86, 89-90, 92-94, 99b	10

** 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 (8) – Details noted in March 2016, but **subject to frequent change:**

The three stiles in Direction 5 are all sealed down to the ground without gaps. The first two both have rises of about 1ft. and 2ft., and the third one is slightly bigger (about 18 ins. and 2 ft.)

The stile in 10 has a big gap at the bottom. The one in 12 is wired down, but there is a hole about 6 ins. square: if this is too small the rises are about 6ins. and 3 ft.

In 24 and 26, the stiles protecting the railway are of similar design (and the first one has a hole to the side, about 6ins. wide): their rises are about 10 ins. and 20 ins.

The stile in 55 has easy gaps.