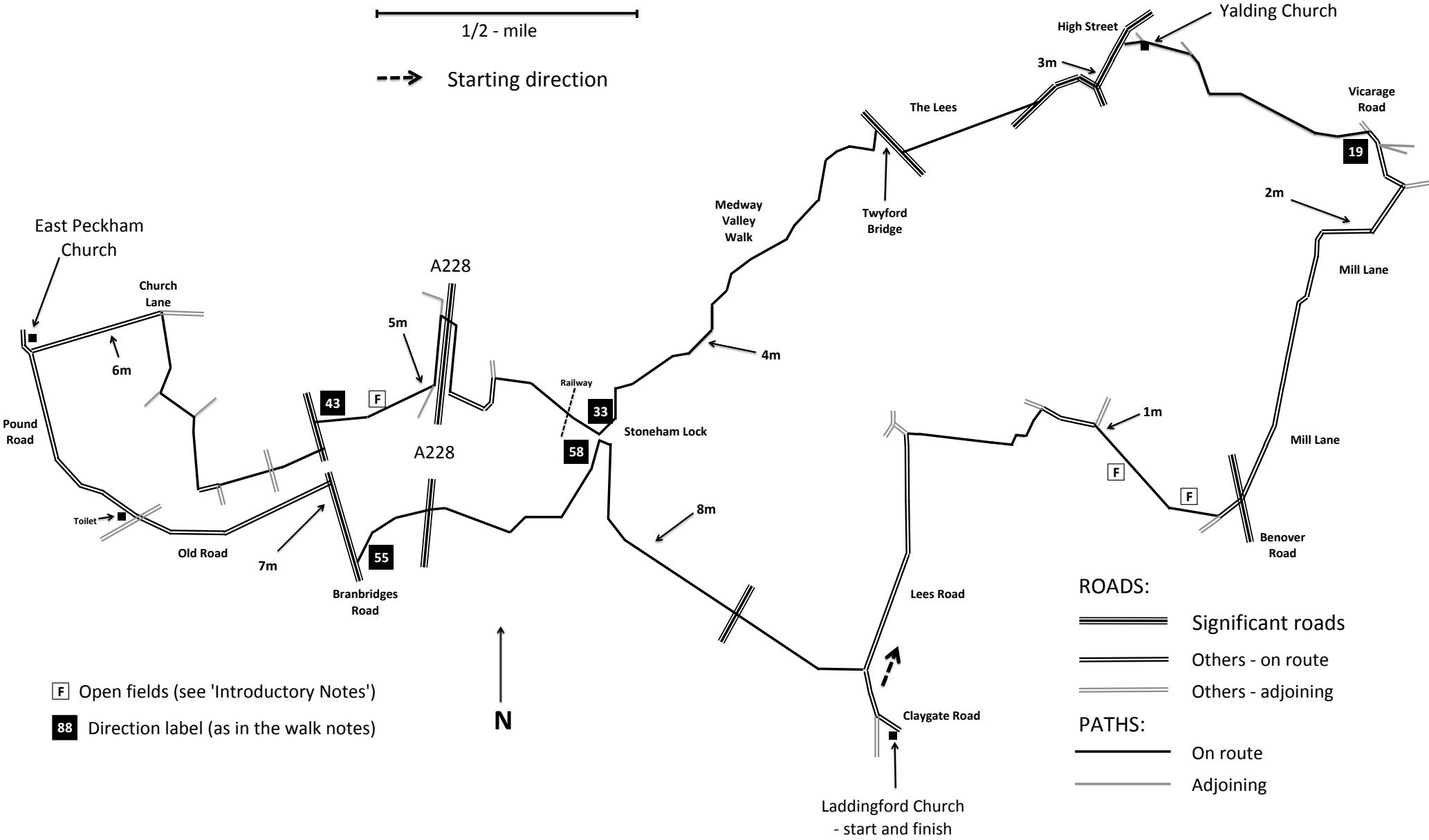
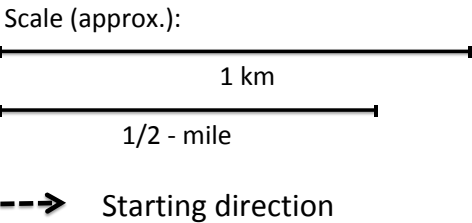


EAST PECKHAM

SHORTER CIRCUIT



[F] Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

[88] Direction label (as in the walk notes)

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

EAST PECKHAM CIRCUIT

Churches in the shorter circuit:

Laddingford (start and finish)

Yalding (Direction 24)

East Peckham (51A: Detour – see Appendix)

Associated local circuit

- LA1: Collier Street (- Benover) – Laddingford – Collier Street (not yet published)

Shorter circuit: This shortened version retains part of the riverside side element which characterises the full circuit (as well as the brief industrial sections). There is perhaps a little too much road walking, in town and country, for some tastes, but the surroundings are for the most part pleasant enough.

Roads and hindrances:

Twyford Bridge (Direction 28) is tricky, but the escape booths mean you can, with care, cross safely.

There are several roads to cross: most demand just ordinary care, but Gravelly Ways (60) commands extra respect, as does the railway crossing at 35.

SHORTER CIRCUIT

Laddingford - Yalding - East Peckham - 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.		
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.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
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 right along the road beyond, passing the entrance to Barn Oast.	696 490	
11	22	!!F!! When the road turns left, instead turn right, passing next to a gate into a huge field, and set out across it on, currently, a slightly raised causeway. The direction is towards a solitary set of features in the vast expanse, consisting of a couple of small trees and a little waymark post.		
12	25	!!F!! Pass this point and continue in the same direction towards the trees ahead at the far edge of the field.		
13	27	!!F!! Go through trees and over a little footbridge and a rough stile, and then turn half-left across a field, diverging a little from the right-hand field edge. Head towards a building with a corrugated roof and a set of gates over in the middle distance.	699 486	
14	29	Go through the wooden kissing gate and on along a short driveway.		
15		Merge leftwards on to a minor road.	701 486	
16	30	Approaching the main road, keep to the left of the green triangle, cross the road, and immediately fork right along Mill Lane.		1.35
17	44	After walking along the length of Mill Lane, turn left at the end along Vicarage Road.		
18	46	Pass a stile on the right and continue ahead along the road.		
19	47	[Map point] Turn left along an enclosed track.		
20	50	Go through a kissing gate and along the right-hand edge of a playing field.		
21	52	Continue directly ahead over the car park.		
22	53	Start along a narrow track among trees.		
23	55	Go through a gate and after few yards turn half-left into the churchyard, along a metalled path.		
24	57	Reach Yalding Church . Then go straight ahead and merge with the pavement on the left-hand side of the main road.		2.74
25	60	After following the road as it winds between buildings and crosses the narrow bridge, turn right at the T-junction and follow the pavement on the right-hand side of the road.		
26	62	After the last of the houses, at the corner of the large grassy open space (The Lees), go into it past the wooden barrier and walk across towards a wooden footbridge, following a line slightly to the left of a tall tree encircled by a metal bench. The line takes you away from the road you have just left, but only slightly.		

* **"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
27	65	Cross the footbridge and continue in the same direction, aiming towards the traffic light on the road in the middle distance, at the left-hand end of Twyford Bridge.		
28	68	Leave the grass at a point about 15 yds. to the left of that traffic light, and turn right to cross the bridge, remembering that single-line traffic could be coming from either direction, and using the escape booths as necessary.		
29	69	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).		3.34
30	70	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.)		
31	82	Cross a footbridge to go again along the right-hand side of a field for a third time.		
32	83	And again return to walk alongside the river.		
33	87	[Map point] Reach Stoneham Lock and go over the two footbridges on the right, crossing the Medway in the process.		4.26
34		After the second bridge, cross a stile and go ahead to a railway crossing.		
35	88	Cross the railway with due care.		
36	89	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.		
37	92	Immediately beyond a MKG turn left along a quiet road.		
38	94	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.		
39	96	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.		
40	100	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	
41	102	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.)		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
42	105	[!!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).		
43	109	[Map point] Turn left at the road, staying, for now, on the left-hand pavement.		
44	111	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		5.28
45	113	Continue ahead between barriers across a minor road.		
46	115	Meeting another minor road as it turns a corner, briefly continue straight ahead along it.		
47		Then, just after house number 29, turn right along another enclosed footpath between high fences, metalled to start with.		
48	118	Turn left over a footbridge, then continue ahead in this new direction, away from the stream along a track between hedges.		
49	120	Emerge into a field and turn right to walk along its right-hand edge.		
50	123	Turn left along Church Lane.	668 492	
51		<i>[To visit East Peckham Church, now divert instead to the Detour in the Appendix.]</i>		
	128	Main route: Turn left, staying on the left-hand pavement.		6.17
52	135	At a road junction among shops and public buildings there are toilets over to the right, currently open during the daytime. But if not using them continue along the left-hand pavement.		
53	136	Swing left with the road, then cross to the right-hand side when convenient.		
54	143	At the T-junction at the end, turn right, crossing the road before the right-hand pavement comes to an end before the first bridge.		
55	146	[Map point] Immediately after the second bridge join the Medway Valley Walk by turning left, doubling back on yourself down a short ramp parallel to the road. Then after about 30 yds. turn right, along the line of the Medway.		
56	150	Continue ahead under the bridge carrying the A228.		
57	156	Go under the railway bridge and follow the river as it swings to the left.		
58	160	[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.		7.77
59	163	Follow the path as it emerges into an open area and swings to the left.		
60	170	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	
61	173	Go ahead over a footbridge.		

* **"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	175	Stay straight ahead between houses, keeping the side-fence of Brook House on your right.		
63**		When you reach the road: <u>either, to continue the circuit</u> (if not visiting, or finishing at, Laddingford Church), cross the road, turn left, and carry on from Direction 2.		8.50
** or 63A		<u>... or, to detour to, or finish at, Laddingford Church</u> , turn right along the road, crossing when convenient to the walkway on the far, left-hand, side of the road.		
63B	177	To reach Laddingford Church follow the left fork (Claygate Road).		
63C	178	<u>Laddingford Church</u> is on the right of Claygate Road, a few yards along.	691 479	8.64
63D		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 Shorter Circuit

Detour to East Peckham Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
51A		To reach <u>East Peckham Church</u> , turn right instead of left at the end of Church Lane to reach the path to the west door.		0.00
51B		To rejoin the main route retrace your steps to the Church Lane junction and continue ahead down the left-hand side of Pound Road as at Direction 52. Add 1 minute to subsequent total times and 0.06 miles to cumulative distances.		0.06

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!

EAST PECKHAM - SHORTER CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-3, 17-18, 24b-25, 28, 43, 50-54, 63A-B	29
Quiet road \$\$	4, 10, 15-16, 37-38, 46	14
Open field with livestock	13	1
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	11-12, 20, 26-27, 30b, 30d, 31b, 42, 49, 59a, 59c, 59e	15
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	5, 7-8, 14, 19, 21, 22b-24a, 29-30a, 30c, 30e-31a, 32-36, 39-41, 44-45, 47-48, 55-58a, 59b, 59d, 60-62	39
Woods	6, 9, 22a, 58b	2

** 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 (6) – 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 13 is wired down, and has rises of about 6 ins. and 18 ins.

In 34 and 36, 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.