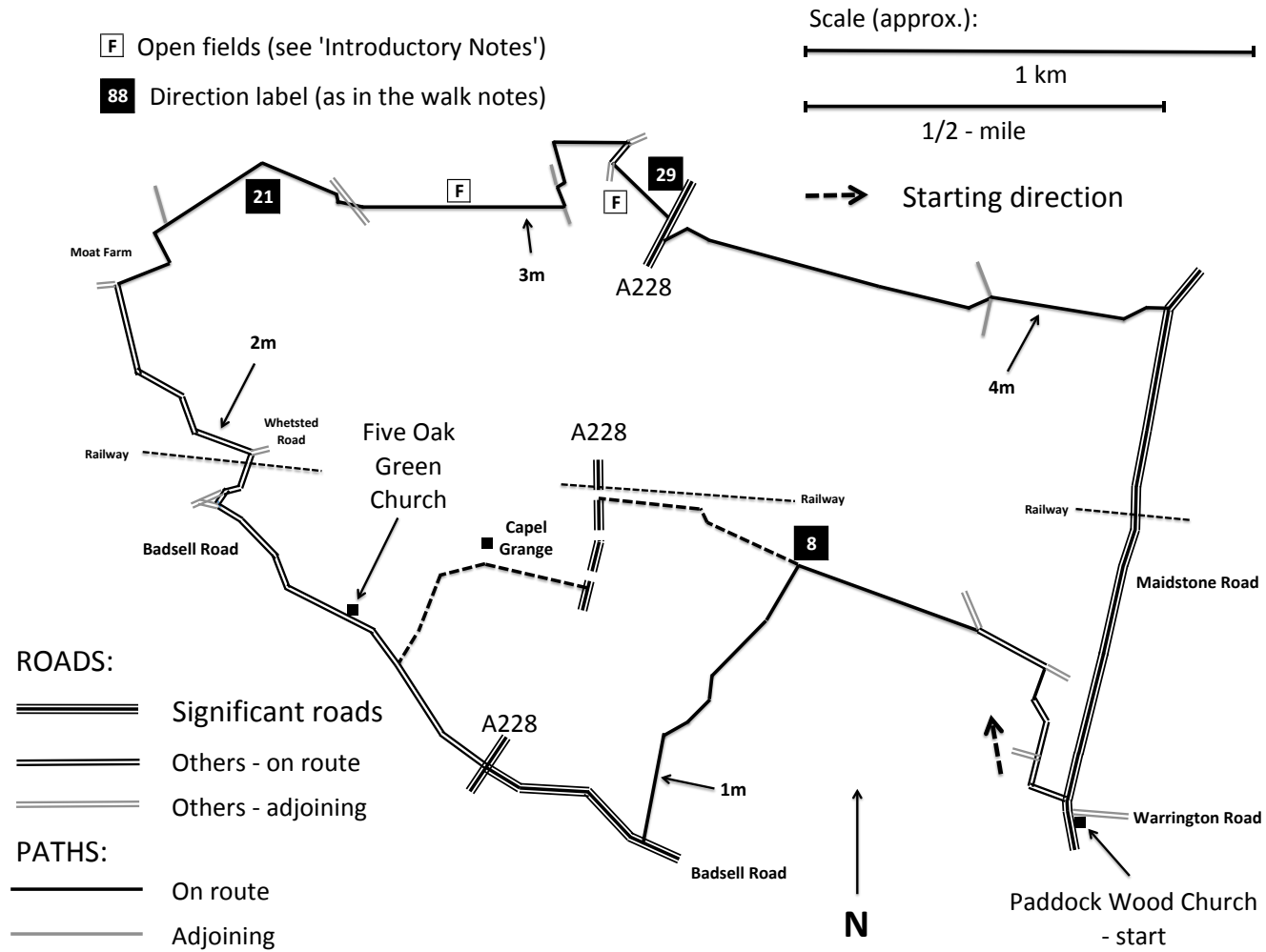


LOCAL CIRCUIT FO1: PADDOCK WOOD & FIVE OAK GREEN



LOCAL CIRCUIT FO1: PADDOCK WOOD AND FIVE OAK GREEN

Linked churches:

Paddock Wood (start and finish)

Five Oak Green (Direction 15)

Roads and hindrances:

The road section in Direction 12 is unpleasant but mercifully brief. It involves a good few seconds of walking on the left-hand side looking over your shoulder for approaching traffic. There is an alternative (written up in the Appendix), but it simply exchanges one traffic problem for another – requiring you to walk for two or three minutes on a fairly tight verge along the A228. Both options are entirely survivable but, for a few minutes, joyless.

Other road sections are not a problem, given ordinary care.

The narrow track in 24 is unloved: the note provides alternative approaches if necessary.

Notes taken: March and April 2016

The start and finish is at **Paddock Wood Church** (TN12 6JJ) at the junction of Maidstone Road and Warrington Road.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		Starting at <u>Paddock Wood Church</u> at the junction of Maidstone Road and Warrington Road, cross Maidstone Road and turn right along the far pavement.	668 446	
2		After a few yards turn left along a signposted footpath. (If you reach Apple Court on the left you have gone too far: the turning is just before it.)		
3	1	At the end turn right to join the cul-de-sac end of Alliance Way. Continue along its full length, ignoring the turning to the left.		
4	4	At the end of the road go slightly leftwards along a metalled footpath which emerges at a road (Mount Pleasant) next to a church.		
5	5	Turn left along the road.		
6	7	Pass Cogate Road on the left, and, as the road now immediately starts to swing to the right, instead go straight ahead along a narrow footpath.		
7	9	Go over a concrete footbridge and a crossing path and go ahead in the same direction, towards the trees in the middle distance, but having shifted slightly to the left so that you have the ditch on your right.		
8	12	<i>Here, if you prefer, follow the alternative route (see the introduction).</i> [Map point] When you reach the trees at the end, do not go into them, but turn left to follow the edge of the wood.		0.63
9	16	Carry on, ignoring the concrete bridge on your right.		
10	18	Continue along the line of the stream and the field-edge as they swing right and then left.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
11	21	Carry on ahead along a driveway towards the main road.		
12	22	Reach the main road and turn right. <i>This short section of road is busy with fast-moving traffic, and you will probably want to cross over and back a couple of times for reasonable sightlines at right-hand bends, one near the start and the other a little way before the roundabout at the end.</i>		
13	26	Reach the roundabout and carry on beyond it in the same direction.		
14	30	The alternative route joins from the right in the form of a footpath. Ignore it and continue ahead alongside the road.		1.54
15	32	Pass Five Oak Green Church on the right.	652 451	
16	37	At the grass triangle turn sharp right along Whetsted Road.		
17	39	After crossing the railway bridge (poor sightlines, but enough leeway to the side, and relatively little traffic), immediately turn left down the driveway leading to Moat Farm, and swing right with it next to the houses at the bottom.		
18	46	Just before the junction at Moat Oast, turn right over a narrow, signposted footbridge. Then adjust slightly leftwards to go along the left-hand side of the large field beyond.	646 458	2.29
19	48	Swing left with the field edge past some little embankments.		
20	49	At the end make the obvious right turn, and continue along the field edge (ignoring the MKG on the left).		
21	52	[Map point] Turn a little to the right, still inside the hedge on the left, and now with fruit trees on the right.		
22	55	[!!F!!] At the end go slightly to the right to cross the footbridge over the stream, then come back leftwards to cross the roadway at an angle and head over the field in a direction slightly to the left of the cluster of oasthouses in the middle distance (bearing 090).		
23	60	There is a MKG in the far right-hand corner: go through this. <i>[There is no suggestion on the ground that it is necessary to follow the little three-sides-of-a-rectangle diversion marked as the right of way on the OS map.]</i> Beyond the MKG turn left along the broad track (away from the gate marked 'private').		3.04

* ***"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
24	61	Go through the MKG on the right on to a much narrower track parallel to the original one. <i>There is a point along this track where it is currently seriously overgrown. We may dare to hope that this is a temporary state of affairs following recent storms, but this might not be so. It is not impossible to pass, though secateurs (at least) would help significantly. If all else fails there are two alternatives, both of them reasonable, but neither blessed with legitimacy: a) avoid the hindrance by climbing, fairly easily, the fence on the right to cut off the approaching corner, repeating the process after the corner to rejoin the narrow track; b) retrace your steps through the MKG back to the 'private' gate, go through the gate, turn left at the oasthouses and left again at the road, and soon go (in this case by right-turn) over the footbridge in Direction 28. In (b) the distance from the 'private' gate to the footbridge is 0.20 mile - around 5 minutes).</i>	656 461	
25	63	Assuming you have passed the site of the current hindrance, follow the track when it turns right.		
26	65	Go ahead through a spring gate.		
27		Go over a footbridge, and immediately turn right along a road.		
28	66	!!F!! Cross a footbridge on the left and start out across a field, heading at an angle towards a gap which is just visible on the far side, in line with a solitary house (bearing 140).	658 461	
29	68	[Map point] Go through the gap on to the A228 opposite Capel Cottage Garden Nursery. Cross immediately (good sightlines) and on far side turn right on the verge alongside the road.		
30	69	After crossing the nursery's entrance road, turn left along a rough roadway, which very soon swings to the right..		
31	70	Go ahead along the right-hand side of a massive field.		
32	74	Continue along the roadway as it crosses a stream and bends slightly to the left.		
33	77	Keep to the left and go through a gate (away from farm buildings on the right).		
34	78	After house number 3 go straight ahead over a crossing path.		3.93
35	82	Turn right along the main road (Maidstone Road), crossing to its left-hand side before the right-hand pavement runs out.		
36	88	Cross the railway bridge.		
37	92	Pass Mount Pleasant on the right.		
38	96	Reach Paddock Wood Church , the starting point of the walk.	668 446	4.86

* **"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 FO1

Alternative route from Paddock Wood to Five Oak Green Road

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
8A	0	Instead of turning left on reaching the trees (Direction 8), go straight on into the them. Then very soon go over a wooden footbridge and ahead, with a stream on your left.		0.00
8B	3	In sight of the railway ahead, turn left along a concrete footpath and continue alongside the hedge on the left.		
8C	6	Pass alongside big metal gates, and go on to the busy A228 at the top. There cross the road and walk carefully down its right-hand side.		0.30
8D	8	Turn right along the roadway leading to Capel Grange.		0.43
8E	10	When the main roadway swings to the right towards the main building, instead carry straight on along the lesser roadway.		
8F	11	Swing to the left past the 'Private' sign (presumably not applicable to pedestrians – it is a clearly documented right of way). Then complete the gradual left turn, and head out of the complex along a metalled driveway, between fences at first.		
8G	15	Reach the main road and turn right alongside it. Deduct 3 minutes from subsequent total times and 0.13 miles from cumulative distances.		0.78

* ***“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 FO1	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 12-16, 27, 29, 35-37, [[8C]	34
Quiet road \$\$	2-3, 5, 11, 17, 34, [8D-F]	19
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	7-10, 18-20, 22a, 28, 31-32	32
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	4, 6, 21, 22b-26, 30, 33, [8B]	15
Woods	[8A]	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: There are currently no stiles on this walk.