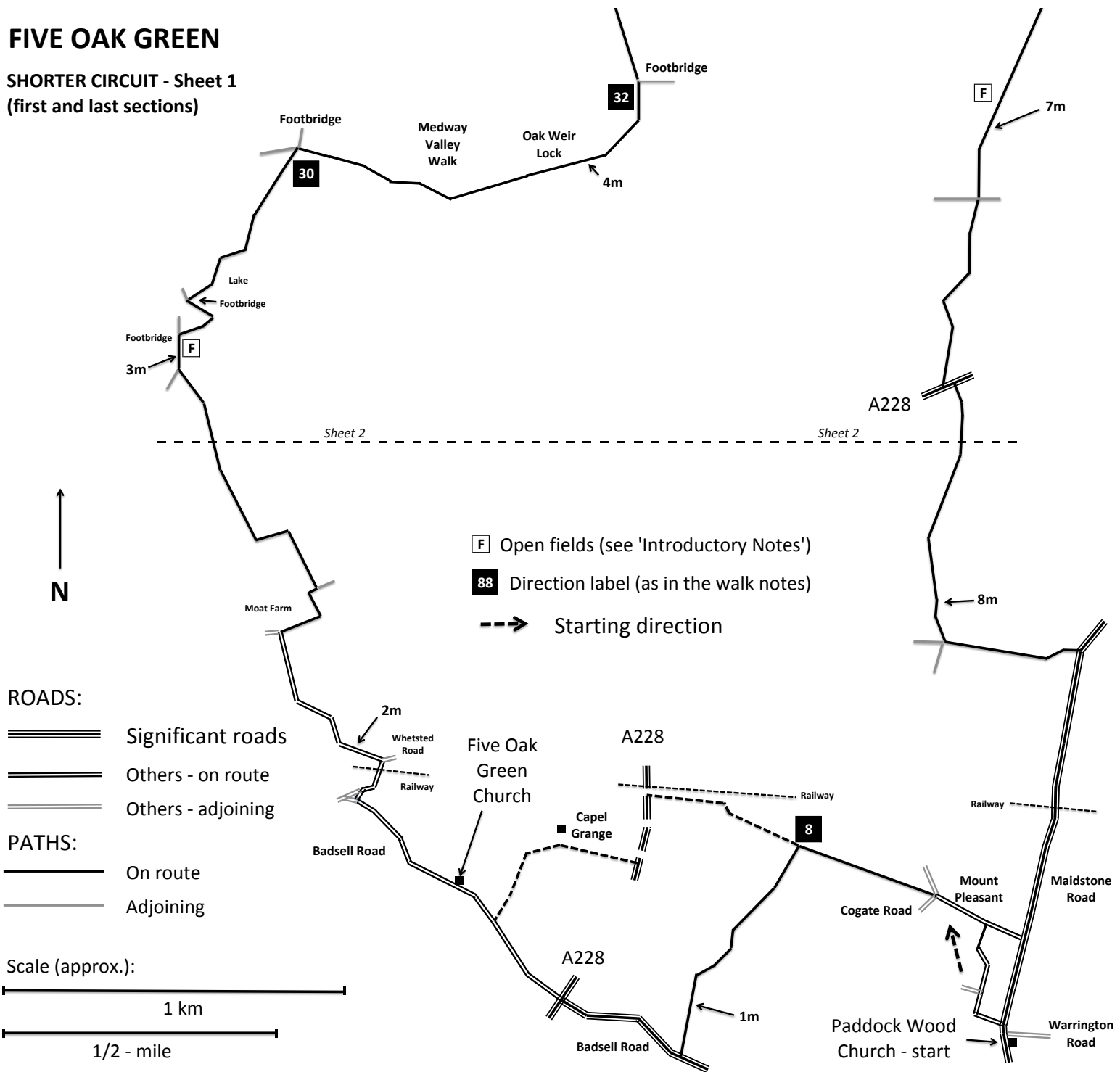


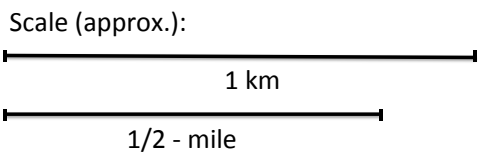
FIVE OAK GREEN

SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)



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

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



FIVE OAK GREEN

SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 2 (middle section)

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

ROADS:

==== Significant roads

==== Others - on route

==== Others - adjoining

PATHS:

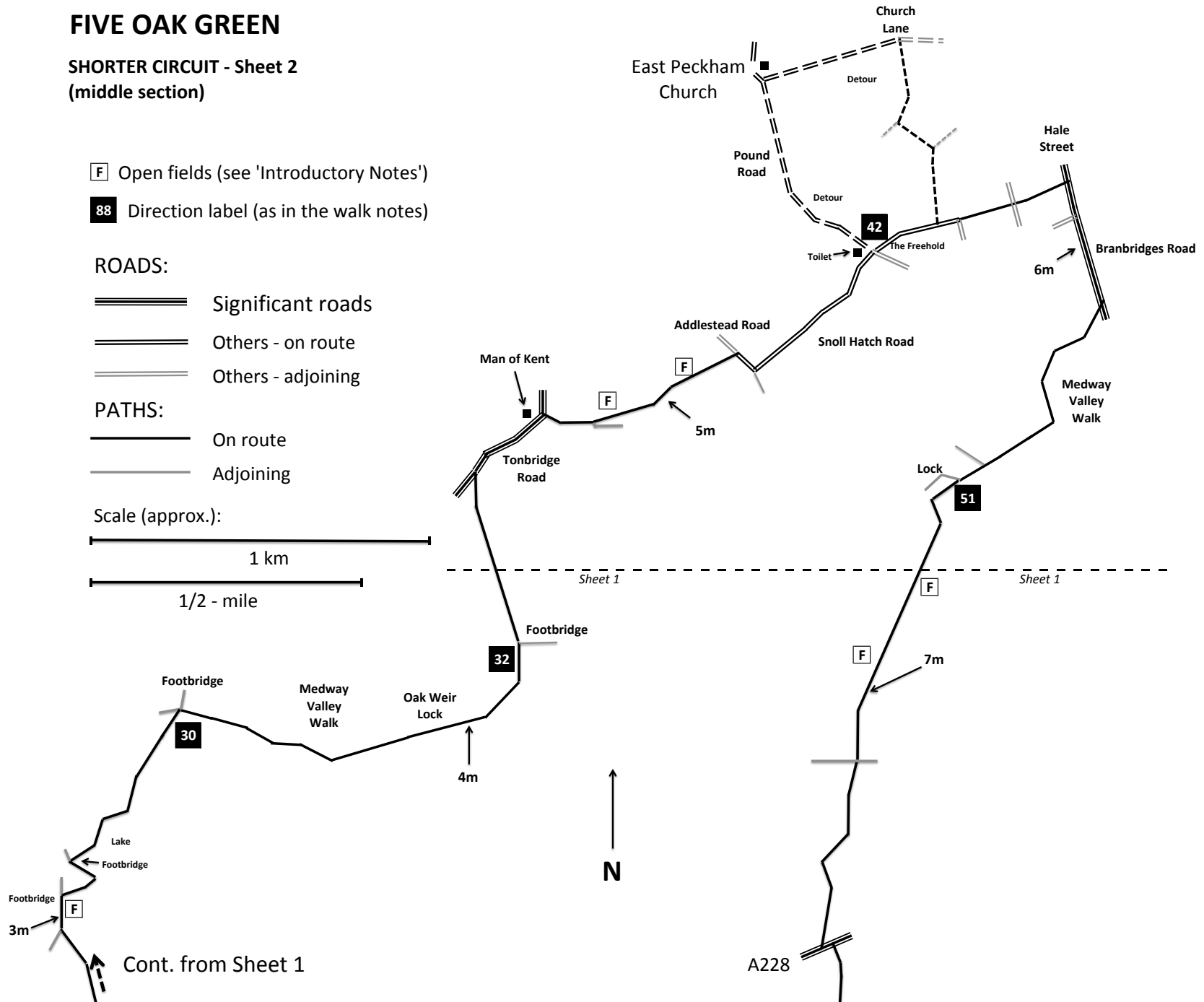
— On route

— Adjoining

Scale (approx.):

—————
1 km

—————
1/2 - mile



Cont. from Sheet 1

FIVE OAK GREEN CIRCUIT

Churches in the shorter circuit:

Paddock Wood (start and finish)

Five Oak Green (Direction 15)

East Peckham (42B: Detour - see Appendix)

Associated local circuits

- FO1: Paddock Wood – Five Oak Green – Paddock Wood
- FO2: Capel – Tudeley – Five Oak Green – Capel

Shorter circuit: This is a quietly pleasant walk (once the early roads are behind you – see below!). The water in the middle of the walk (around Hammer Dyke and along the Medway) offer a change from the fields and grasslands before and after.

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.

Mud can be a feature when alongside the water, but not impossibly so.

SHORTER CIRCUIT

Paddock Wood – Five Oak Green – East Peckham – Paddock Wood

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 Paddock Wood Church 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.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
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.		
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 then go through the MKG on the left and across the concrete roadway. Continue ahead, away from the roadway, with a fence on the left and fruit trees on the right.		
21	52	At the end turn left along a broad grassy avenue.		
22	53	At the end of the trees to the right, use the footbridge to turn right, and walk along the right-hand edge of a huge field, with a stream on your right to start with.		
23	58	Go over a concrete bridgeway, and then immediately turn left, and about 20 yds. later right, along a well-worn path.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
24	60	!!!F!!! In the left-hand corner at the end, sidle through a MKG and carry on across the next field toward a wooden footbridge.		
25	61	Cross the bridge and immediately turn right alongside the stream, ignoring the 'straight-on' waymark. Follow the stream as it turns to the left.	644 467	3.03
26	63	When confronted by a big old gate complete a loop by turning left again.		
27	64	Turn right over a footbridge (not waymarked) and go ahead, at first alongside the lake on the right.	64387 46796	
28	68	Cross a stile and carry on through trees.		
29	69	Emerge to go along the left-hand edge of a big grassy field, with a stream on your left.		
30	72	[Map point] Reaching the Medway, do not cross the bridge, but turn right to join the Medway Valley Walk.		
31	82	Carry on past Oak Weir Lock and over the wooden footbridge beyond it, still on the right bank of the Medway.		
32	87	[Map point] Go straight on across the bridge, and beyond it swing leftwards with the main path.	657 474	4.20
33	91	Go ahead, past a wooden gate, joining a road which meets you from the right.		
34	94	Turn right along the road. (Special care required for the first 50 yds. or so, until a pavement begins on the right.)		
35	97	Opposite the Man of Kent use the footbridge on the right, parallel to the road, and immediately beyond it turn right along a broad track, with the stream on your right.		
36	99	Ignore the footbridge on the right, and continue along the footpath, still alongside the stream for the moment.		
37	100	!!!F!!! Go leftwards a little away from the stream, towards a nearby power pole.		
38	101	!!!F!!! Pass immediately to the right of the pole and head towards the mid-point of the row of houses in the middle distance.		
39	102	!!!F!!! Swing very slightly to the left to go alongside a ditch, still towards the mid-point of the row of houses.		
40	104	!!!F!!! Go past a wooden barrier on the right and go ahead to the road.		5.13
41	105	Turn right along the road, and then follow it as it turns to the left and continues all the way to East Peckham.	664 483	
42	111	[Map point] <i>[To visit <u>East Peckham Church</u>, now divert instead to the <u>Detour</u> in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Just after toilets (currently open) cross the main road and continue ahead directly opposite, along The Freehold.		
43	114	Pass the end of a footpath on the left and continue ahead.		
44	115	As the road turns right and becomes Orchard Road, instead go straight ahead along a metalled alleyway between the backs of houses.		
45	117	Continue ahead between barriers across a minor road.		

* "**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
46	119	START OF THE SPINE SECTION (from here to the end) Reach the main road, cross over and turn right along the far pavement.		5.87
47	120	Pass Old Road on the right and continue ahead.		
48	123	Cross the road after the second bridge and start along the Medway Valley Walk, next to industrial premises on the left and the river on the right.		
49	124	On the left the fencing comes to an end and is replaced by woodland.		
50	131	Ignore the footbridge on the right.		
51	132	[Map point] Part company with the MVW by ignoring the wooden footbridge next to the lock, and continuing straight ahead.		
52	133	Swing leftwards over a wooden footbridge, then go ahead, ignoring further footbridges, towards a mound where the trees open out.		
53	135	[!!F!!] At the mound turn right to find yourself at the end of a large grassy field stretching away into the distance. Set out across it, moving gradually away from the trees on the right, without getting drawn towards the mobile homes to the left. Head (bearing 205) in the direction of the the most distant power pole and the small grey structure next to it, a point at the right-hand end of the far-off trees which form the left-hand border of the field.	669 478	
54	138	[!!F!!] This line takes you first about 60 yds. to the left of a complex signpost on the right at the edge of the field, ...		
55	139	[!!F!!] ... across a roadway, ...		
56	140	[!!F!!] ... about 60 yds. to the right of a signpost at the left-hand edge, ...		
57	141	[!!F!!] ... and about 40 yds. to the right of another one, converging on the trees on the left about 20 yds. to the left of the pole, and going a little further to the left to follow the line of the stream.		
58	143	Cross the roadway, ignoring the bridge on the left, and continue along the line of the stream to your left.	667 471	7.14
59	150	About 30 yds. to the right of the stream, find a stile to cross into the next field, and carry on as the stream bends to rejoin you.		
60	152	Reach the A228, and turn left for a few yards.		
61		Then turn right by crossing the road and following the signposted footpath alongside the stream, which is now on your right.		
62	155	After passing a little bit of woodland, remain alongside the stream as a massive field opens up on the left.		
63	162	At a crossing of paths, turn left along a metalled roadway.		8.07
64	167	Turn right along the main road (Maidstone Road), crossing to its left-hand side before the right-hand pavement runs out.		
65	172	Cross the railway bridge.		

* **“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
66**	177	When you reach Mount Pleasant on the right: <u>either, to continue the circuit</u> (if not visiting, or finishing at, Paddock Wood Church), turn right on to Mount Pleasant. After about 150 yds., just after another church, meet the footpath which is turning to its left to join you at Direction 5, and continue from there.		
** or 66A	177	<u>... or, to detour to, or finish at, Paddock Wood Church,</u> continue along the main road.		
66B	180	Reach <u>Paddock Wood Church,</u> at the junction with Warrington Road.	668 446	9.00
66C		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

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, resuming the main route from Direction 14. 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.

Detour to East Peckham Church – see next page

Detour to East Peckham Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
42A	0	Instead of crossing main road in Direction 42, turn left along it.		0.00
42B	7	Carry on at the junction with Church Lane, and about 30 yds. later turn right into the path to the west door of East Peckham Church .		0.44
42C	8	After visiting the church, retrace your steps as far as the Church Lane junction, but now turn left along Church Lane.		
42D	13	Turn off the road to go between barriers on the right and along a signposted footpath which goes along the left-hand edge of a large playing field.	668 492	0.75
42E	16	About 60 yds. after this path goes into a small group of trees, turn left, away from the field, on a narrow enclosed path.		
42F	18	Go ahead over a footbridge, and after it turn right to go alongside the stream on your right, and then along a narrow alleyway.		
42G	21	At the road at the end, turn left, and resume the main route from Direction 44. Add 18 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.99 miles to cumulative distances.		1.11

* ***“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!

FIVE OAK GREEN - SHORTER CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 12-16, 34, 41, 46-47, 60, 64-66A	26
Quiet road \$\$	2-3, 5, 11, 17, 33, 42-43, 63	14
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock	29-30a	3
Field (or edge) without livestock **	7-10, 18-20a, 21-24, 31b, 36-39, 53-59, 61a, 62	33
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	4, 6, 20b, 25-27, 30b-31a, 32, 35, 40, 44-45, 48, 52	18
Woods	28, 49-51, 61b	6

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

The stile in Direction 28 is wired down and has rises of 1 ft. and 18 ins.

The one in 59 has easy gaps.