

FIVE OAK GREEN

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)

ROADS:

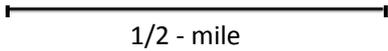
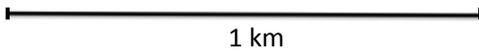
-  Significant roads
-  Others - on route
-  Others - adjoining

PATHS:

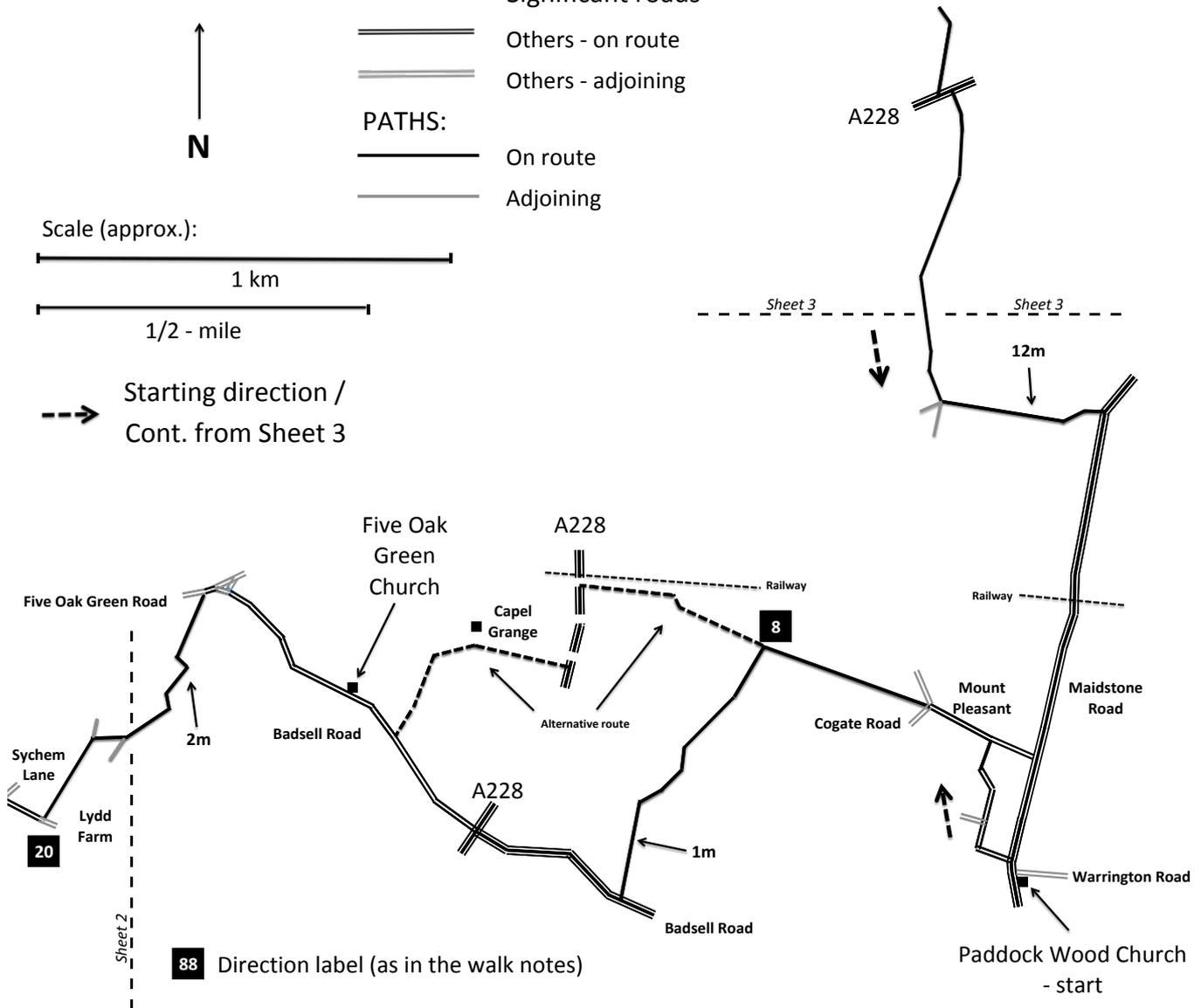
-  On route
-  Adjoining



Scale (approx.):



 Starting direction /
Cont. from Sheet 3



88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

FIVE OAK GREEN

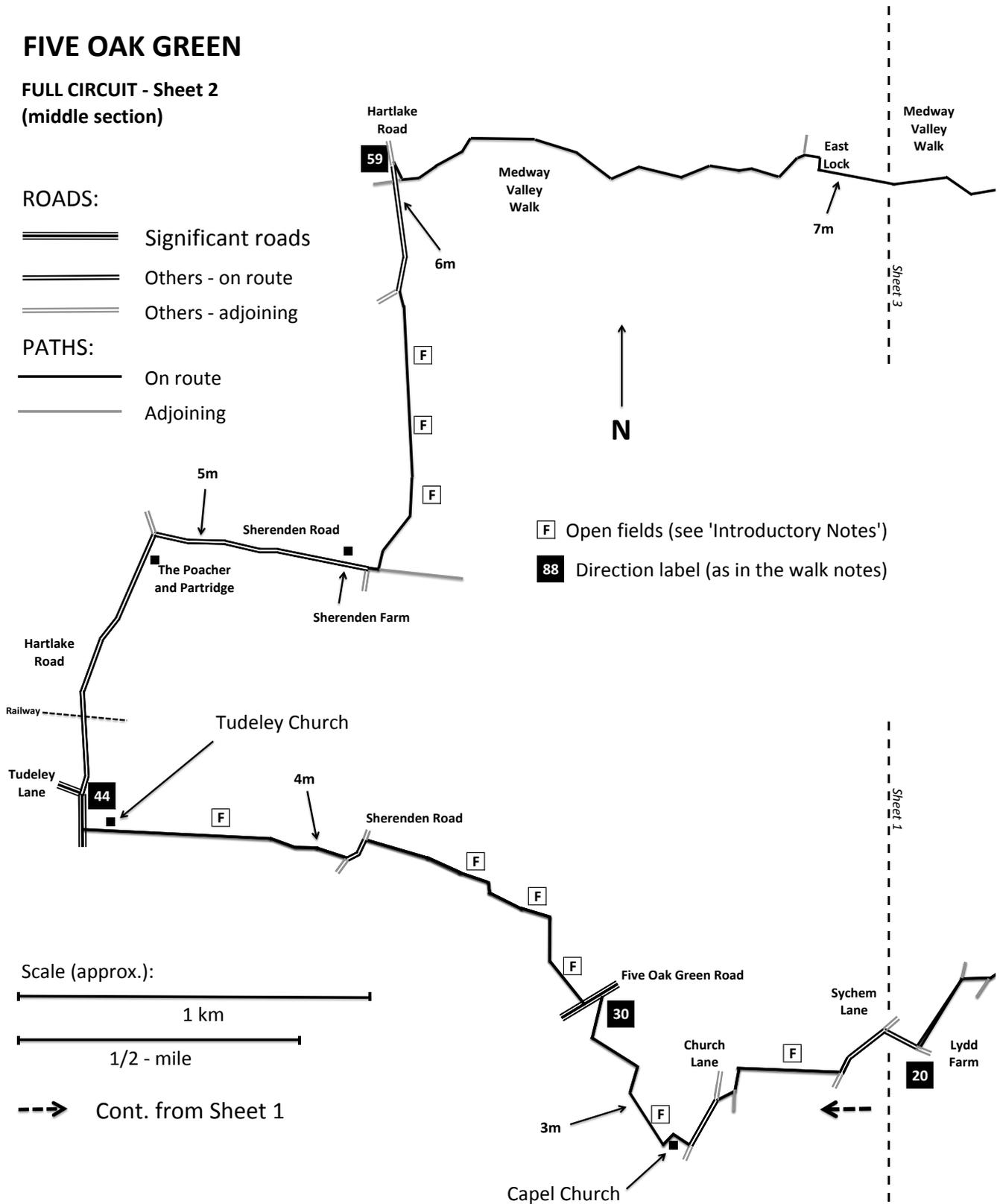
FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2
(middle section)

ROADS:

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

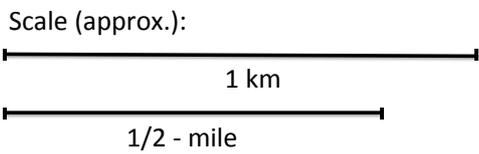
PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining



F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)



 Cont. from Sheet 1

FIVE OAK GREEN

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 3
(third section)

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

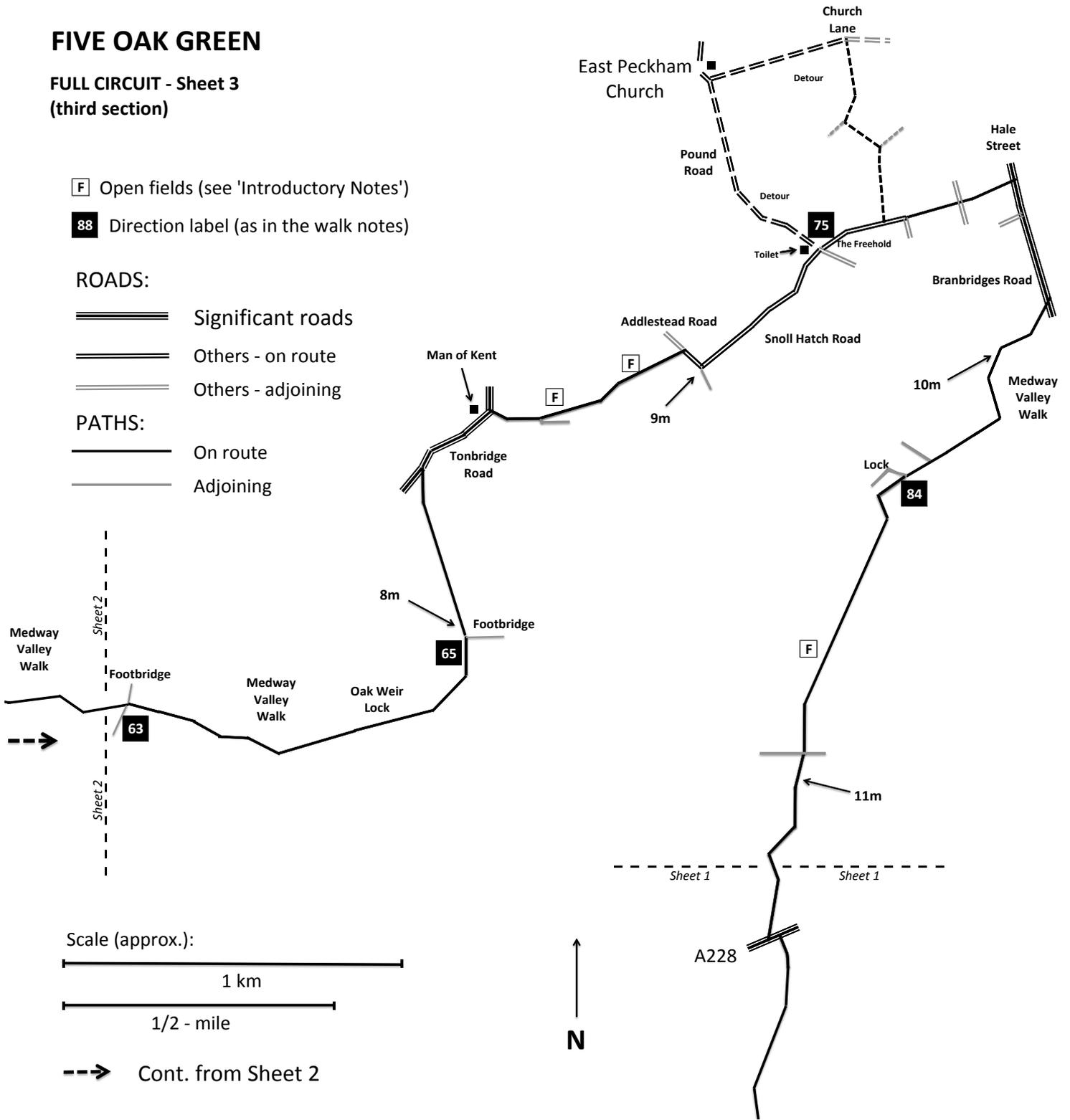
88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

ROADS:

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

PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining



Scale (approx.):



1 km



1/2 - mile

 Cont. from Sheet 2

FIVE OAK GREEN CIRCUIT

Churches in the full circuit:

Paddock Wood (start and finish)

Five Oak Green (Direction 15)

Capel (27)

Tudeley (42)

East Peckham (Direction 75B: Detour - see Appendix)

Associated local circuits

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

Full circuit: This is a quietly pleasant walk (once the early roads are behind you – see below!). The centrepiece is the extended section of the Medway Valley Walk, but it benefits from the variety in the countryside before and after, as well as a town interlude in East Peckham.

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 fallen trees currently in Direction 29 are only a minor hindrance, and easily walked round.

FULL CIRCUIT

Paddock Wood – Five Oak Green – Capel Church – Tudeley – 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.)		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
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 rightwards 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	Cross to the left-hand side of the road, and opposite the grass triangle in Five Oak Green turn left along a signposted passageway immediately after Ivy House. This becomes a narrow, winding footpath, between high walls and fences at first.		
17	42	Cross a metal stile, and continue ahead alongside the stream on your left.		
18	43	Where the tracks divide turn along the right-hand one.		
19	44	Cross a stile and turn left immediately beyond it, and go along a broad grassy avenue.		
20	48	[Map point] At the end, in the left-hand corner, cross a stile and turn right along the road.		
21	50	At the T-junction at the end turn left.		
22	52	[!F!] Turn right, through or over an old gate, to cross directly over a big field.		
23	55	Turn left in front of the line of trees.	639 447	
24	56	Keep across to the right over a desolate little clearing, and head for the road which becomes visible over to the right.		

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!!F!! : Field crossing might be unmarked. See 'Open Fields' in 'Introductory Notes' for some thoughts about dealing with this.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
25	57	Turn left along the road.		
26	59	Turn right up the footpath to the church car park, and at the far left-hand corner go up the steps and swing left towards the end of the church.		
27	60	Reach the west door of Capel Church , and turn right along the metalled pathway. Do not go through the gate but go along the right-hand side of the fence to a stile.		2.92
28	61	!!!F!!! Cross the stile and go slightly to the right across the field ahead. The line is the simple diagonal which is needed to cut off the first corner on the right. Once you have achieved this keep along the right-hand field edge, which soon turns downhill to the left.		
29	67	At the bottom step over a redundant stile into trees and follow the track which keeps to the right, still in the trees but parallel and very close to the open field visible on the right. (Currently there are the branches of storm-damaged trees blocking the main track at one point here - a manageable and presumably temporary hindrance.)		
30	68	[Map point] Reach the road and turn briefly along it to the left, past the George and Dragon.		
31	69	!!!F!!! Turn right, on the signposted footpath WT181. <i>The route from here to Sherenden Road (Direction 37) is characterised by open fields which need to be crossed without indications of direction except for the occasional waymark to confirm (with luck!) that your latest decision has been correct. The 'open fields' comments in the site's introductory link very much apply.</i> In this first field the line is almost, but not quite, at a right-angle from the road, on a bearing of 300, heading directly to the most prominent tree at the corner of the woodland ahead, where there is a waymark pointing along the right-hand edge of the trees, parallel to power lines about 30 yds. to the left.		
32	73	!!!F!!! Follow the edge of the wood leftwards, under the power lines. A few yards after this left-turn keep ahead in the new direction across the next field. (No longer follow the the woodland edge as it turns away further to the left again.) Your line is towards a point where a waymark post is just visible at the right-hand corner of another wood across the field.		
33	75	Reach this corner and go ahead along the left-hand field-edge, turning right at the end for about 40 yds. to an obvious gap in the line of small trees.	63285 45184	
34	76	!!!F!!! Turn left through the gap and go ahead (back to the original direction, away from the line of trees you have just crossed). The target is now the gate visible directly across the field. Start out across the field towards it.	63205 45247	
35	77	And continue ahead in the same direction, now along the left-hand side of a field.		
36	79	Go through the wooden kissing gate, and on along a grassy avenue.		
37	81	Go through a metal gate, and then left along Sherenden Road.		3.83

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!!!F!!! : Field crossing might be unmarked. See 'Open Fields' in 'Introductory Notes' for some thoughts about dealing with this.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
38	83	Turn off the road to the right. (Currently no signpost, but a waymark on a gate a few yards along.) The waymarked gate takes you briefly to the left of the parallel access road, but then returns you to it. There is currently construction work in progress and the line of the route may not be clear in advance, but surprisingly there is no problem if you go straight on keeping across to the right.	628 453	
39	85	Go through a metal gate and briefly across a field to bigger gates beyond.		
40	86	[!!F!!] Cross a stile and go straight ahead across a huge field, heading directly towards the distant church.		
41	91	Carry straight on along a grassy path inside the churchyard.		
42	92	Pass Tudeley Church and go ahead out of the church grounds through a wooden gate.		4.30
43	93	Turn right at the road, and stay on the right-hand pavement.		
44	94	[Map point] Keep straight on (not left) along the lesser road.		
45	96	Cross the hump-backed railway bridge. (The sightlines are not good, but there is a little escape room at the sides for the careful walker.)		
46	101	Ignore footpaths signposted to left and right.		
47	102	Pass the Poacher and Partridge on the right.		
48	104	Turn right along Sherenden Road.		4.92
49	112	When the road turns right at Sherenden Farm, instead go straight ahead along the footpath past the gate.		
50	113	After about 100 yds. turn left over a little footbridge, then keep ahead to the right along the row of trees which marks the boundary of the farmyard.		
51		[!!F!!] At the end of those trees turn slightly to the right towards a footbridge in the middle distance. The route currently goes between small trees, and the bearing is roughly 025.		
52	115	[!!F!!] Cross the footbridge and go slightly leftwards to another one about 100 yds. away.		
53	116	[!!F!!] Go almost straight ahead towards a pair of poles another 100 yds. or so away.		
54	117	[!!F!!] Go between the poles and towards a dark red post in the middle of the vast field ahead.		
55	120	[!!F!!] Pass the post and head towards the trees, aiming at a point about 30 yds. to the right of their left-hand end.		
56	123	Here go ahead into the trees and follow a winding track among them.	629 469	
57	124	Turn right to go along the road.		
58	127	Cross Hartlake Bridge.		6.04
59	128	[Map point] About 50 yds. after the bridge double back on yourself to the right, and go through a wooden gate and down a few steep steps towards the river.		
60	129	Reach the river and turn left to walk alongside it (Medway Valley Walk).		

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!!F!! : Field crossing might be unmarked. See 'Open Fields' in 'Introductory Notes' for some thoughts about dealing with this.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
61	145	Continue ahead as a path joins from the left and go on to approach East Lock. Use one of the lock crossings to go over on to the far (right) bank.		
62	147	Leave the lock area through a MKG and set off along the right bank.		
63	153	[Map point] At the bridge carry on along the right bank through two MKGs.		7.28
64	163	Carry on past Oak Weir Lock and over the wooden footbridge beyond it, still on the right bank of the Medway.		
65	168	[Map point] Go straight on across the bridge, and beyond it swing leftwards with the main path.	657 474	
66	172	Go ahead, past a wooden gate, joining a road which meets you from the right.		
67	175	Turn right along the road. (Care required for the first 50 yds. or so, until a pavement begins on the right.)		
68	178	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.		8.52
69	180	Ignore the footbridge on the right, and continue along the footpath, still alongside the stream for the moment.		
70	181	[!!F!!] Go leftwards a little away from the stream, towards a nearby power pole.		
71	182	[!!F!!] Pass immediately to the right of the pole and head towards the mid-point of the row of houses in the middle distance.		
72	183	[!!F!!] Swing very slightly to the left to go alongside a ditch, still towards the mid-point of the row of houses.		
73	185	[!!F!!] Go past a wooden barrier on the right and go ahead to the road.		
74	186	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	
75	192	[Map point] <i>[To visit East Peckham Church, now divert instead to the Detour in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Just after toilets (currently open) cross the main road and continue ahead directly opposite, along The Freehold.		
76	195	Pass the end of a footpath on the left and continue ahead.		
77	196	As the road turns right and becomes Orchard Road, instead go straight ahead along a metalled alleyway between the backs of houses.		
78	198	Continue ahead between barriers across a minor road.		
79	200	START OF THE SPINE SECTION Reach the main road, cross over and turn right along the far pavement.		9.66
80	201	Pass Old Road, opposite on the right, and continue ahead.		
81	204	Cross the road after the second bridge to turn right along the Medway Valley Walk, between industrial premises on the left and the river on the right.		

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!!F!! : **Field crossing might be unmarked.** See ‘Open Fields’ in ‘Introductory Notes’ for some thoughts about dealing with this.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
82	205	On the left the fencing comes to an end and is replaced by woodland.		
83	212	Ignore the footbridge on the right.		
84	213	[Map point] Part company with the MVW by ignoring the wooden footbridge next to the lock, and continuing straight ahead.		
85	214	Swing leftwards over a wooden footbridge, then go ahead, ignoring further footbridges, towards a mound where the trees open out.		
86	216	[!!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	
87	219	[!!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, ...		
88	220	[!!F!!] ... across a roadway, ...		
89	221	[!!F!!] ... about 60 yds. to the right of a signpost at the left-hand edge, ...		
90	222	[!!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.		
91	224	Cross the roadway, ignoring the bridge on the left, and continue along the line of the stream to your left.	667 471	
92	231	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.		
93	233	Reach the A228, and turn left for a few yards.		11.32
94		Then turn right by crossing the road and following the signposted footpath alongside the stream, which is now on your right.		
95	236	After passing a little bit of woodland, remain alongside the stream as a massive field opens up on the left.		
96	243	At a crossing of paths, turn left along a metalled roadway.		
97	248	Turn right along the main road (Maidstone Road), crossing to its left-hand side before the right-hand pavement runs out.		
98	253	Cross the railway bridge.		
99**	258	When you reach Mount Pleasant on the right: either, to continue the circuit (if not intending to complete the spine section, or 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.		12.63
** or 99A	258	... or, to complete the spine section, or to detour to, or finish at, Paddock Wood Church, continue along the main road.		

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!!F!! : *Field crossing might be unmarked.* See ‘Open Fields’ in ‘Introductory Notes’ for some thoughts about dealing with this.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
99B	260	END OF THE SPINE SECTION The spine route (moving into the Brenchley sector) turns left along Old Kent Road at the double sharp-left turn it shares with Commercial Road. But continue ahead if you are making for Paddock Wood Church.		12.72
99C	261	Reach <u>Paddock Wood Church</u> , at the junction with Warrington Road.	668 446	12.79
99D		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

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 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
75A	0	Instead of crossing the main road in Direction 75, turn left along it; then cross to its right-hand side when convenient.		0.00
75B	7	Carry on at the junction with Church Lane, and about 30 yds. later turn right into the path leading to the west door of East Peckham Church .		0.44
75C	8	After visiting the church, retrace your steps as far as the Church Lane junction, but now turn left along Church Lane.		
75D	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
75E	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.		
75F	18	Go ahead over a footbridge, then turn right to go alongside the stream on your right, and finally along a narrow alleyway.		
75G	21	At the road at the end, turn left, and resume the main route from Direction 77. Add 18 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.99 miles to cumulative distances.		1.11

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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 - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 12-15, 30, 43-47, 57-58, 67, 74, 79-80, 93, 97-98, 99A-B	24
Quiet road \$\$	2-3, 5, 11, 20-21, 25, 37, 48, 66, 75-76, 96, 99	12
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock	62b-63a	3
Field (or edge) without livestock **	7-10, 19, 22-23, 28, 31-35, 39-40, 49, 52-55, 60, 62a, 64b, 69-72, 86-92, 94a, 95	38
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	4, 6, 16-18, 24, 26-27, 36, 38, 41-42, 50-51, 59, 61, 63b-64a, 65, 68, 73, 77-78, 81, 85	17
Woods	29, 56, 82-84, 94b	5

** 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 stiles in Directions 17, 20 and 92 all have easy gaps.

The one in 19 is tall (rises of about 2 ft. and 2 ft.), and the one in 28 only a little smaller (about 18 ins. and 18 ins), but both of these currently have the benefit of conveniently big holes alongside.

The stile in 40 is securely wired down, and has rises of about 18 ins. and 2 ft.