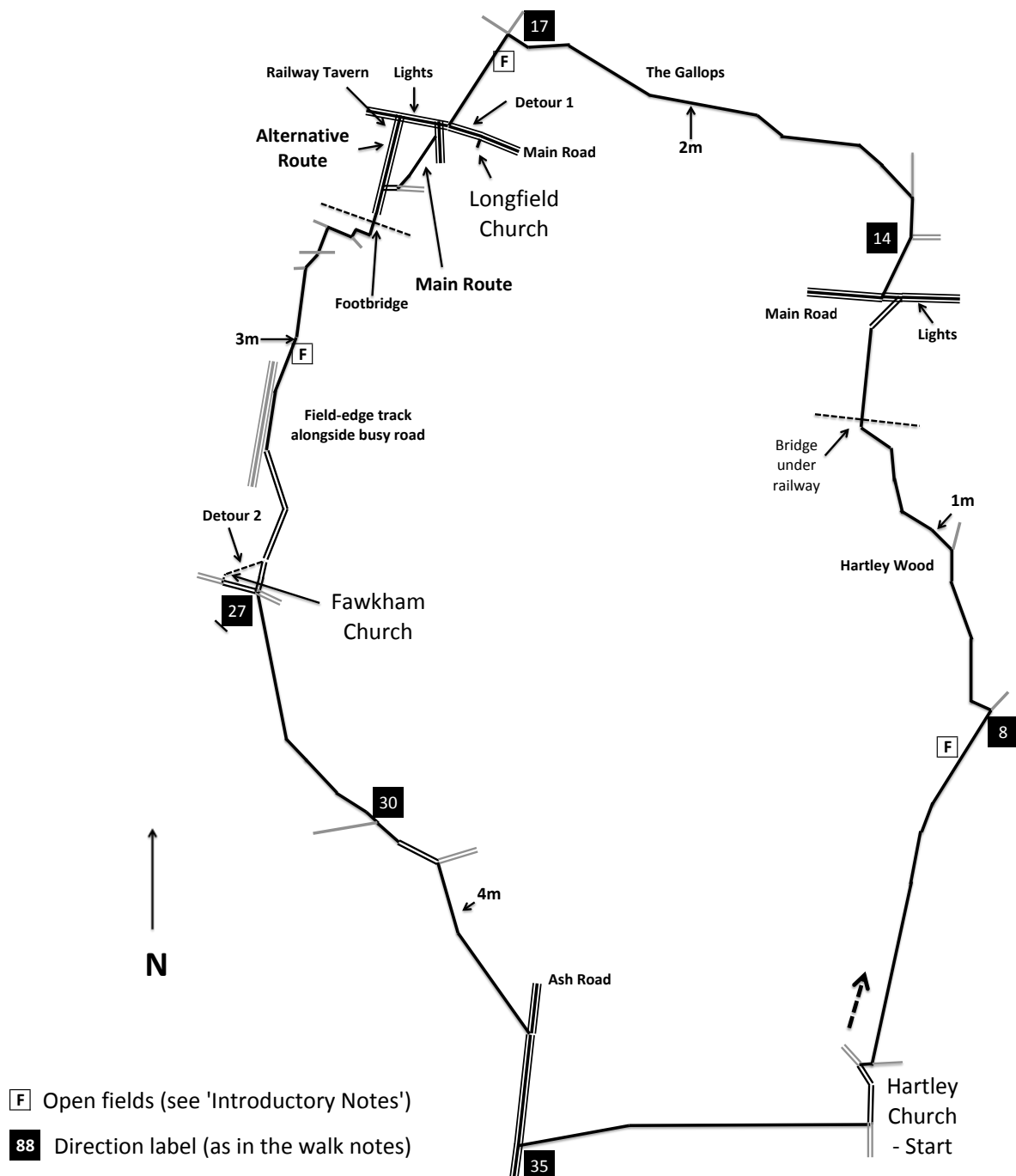


LOCAL CIRCUIT LH1: HARTLEY



LOCAL CIRCUIT LH1: HARTLEY

Linked churches:

Hartley (start and finish)

Longfield (Direction 18A: Detour 1 – see Appendix)

Fawkham (26A: Detour 2 – see Appendix)

Roads and hindrances:

You cross main roads on four occasions, always with good sightlines and nothing to fear unduly: at 13; in Longfield (first at 18 or 18A, where the mini-roundabout complicates matters but also slows the traffic down, then at 20, where nothing on wheels moves fast); and at 34. The short stretches on minor roads are generally harmless. In practice it is not necessary to engage with the hazardous Fawkham Road at 24.

Notes taken: December 2011; updated August 2014

The start and finish is at Hartley Church (DA3 8DY).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		Turn right (northwards) out of the grounds of <u>Hartley Church</u> , and go along the road. (It is a very short and quiet stretch of road, but you can avoid tarmac after the parking area on the right by taking the little parallel path.)	613 667	
2	2	Turn right through the entrance gate to Manor Field - the small pedestrian gate is not locked, but avoid the private drive to the left of the track! Then immediately turn left to walk along the left-hand edge of the playing field.		
3	4	In the corner at the end go through a MKG and continue along the left-hand edge of a field.		
4	8	At the end of this field continue ahead, next to a panel fence.		
5	9	Cross a driveway, and continue along the path which begins very slightly to the left and goes on between fences.		
6	11	!!!F!!! Go through a wooden gate, opening out on to a grassy field. The line across the field is now very slightly right, keeping to the right of the large tree ahead and aiming at a wooden gate visible in the middle of the line of trees opposite.		
7	14	Go straight ahead into these trees (SD 215).		
8	15	[Map point] After about 60 yds. (following, currently, a yellow arrow painted on a tree) turn left towards a long panel fence. Then swing right to follow the fence, keeping it to your left.	616 676	
9	18	When the fence angles away to the left, continue straight on instead.		

* *"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
10	19	At a junction of waymarked paths, follow the left-hand one (SD295). This winds between the trees, but always keep on the main track. <i>[This suggestion is the simplest to follow. As often in woods there are alternatives, using one or two of the tracks further to the left, some of which are marginally more direct. The important thing is to reach the bridge at 12.]</i>	615 681	
11	22	Swing leftwards to go parallel to the railway.		
12	25	Turn right through a bridge under the railway. Follow ahead along a path which then becomes a rough drive, and then a metalled access road next to a school.	613 684	
13	29	This leads to the main road. Cross it (with the help of the nearby lights if necessary) and turn left along the pavement on the other side. Then very soon turn right on to a footpath which leads steeply up the right-hand side of a large field.		
14	32	[Map point] Ignore the road on the right beyond railings. Here, up ahead to the left, at right angles, you can see a long hedge which the route will follow until it is directly above Longfield. To reach the hedge use the diagonal track which appears after about 40 yds.	614 689	1.57
15	34	Set out alongside the hedge, parallel to the valley and main road down to the left. It is not clear which side of the hedge is correct. Perhaps both are, leaving you to choose between views: Longfield and beyond to the left; Northfleet and the river to the right. There are gaps at a few points in the hedge: for what it is worth, the waymarks suggest walking first on the right, then either side, then on the left; but it really seems not to matter.		
16	46	Power lines above. (Carry on.)		
17	48	[Map point] [!!F!!] Turn left at a pole, on what is at present a clear track parallel to power lines (currently between planted tractor tyres) down to the centre of Longfield. Straight down: towards the bottom there are waymark, kissing gate and steps, leading to the main road.	604 694	
18	52	<i>[To visit <u>Longfield Church</u>, now divert instead to <u>Detour 1</u> in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Turn right along the main road. The route will then turn left and go, very briefly, up the right-hand side of Hartley Road. So it is worth waiting to cross the main road, to achieve this, until just after the mini-roundabout. There is a good deal of traffic, but it tends to move slowly here, and the sightlines are good. <i>(Or, if there is an uncomfortable amount, delay crossing the main road even longer and use the Station Road alternative in the Appendix instead.)</i>	603 691	2.49

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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
19	53	Having started up Hartley Road, turn right after a few yards up a well concealed (but signposted) narrow alley. This leads between fences and walls past the unlovely backs of various premises, over an access road and on, before emerging surprisingly at the entrance road to the Waitrose car park.		
20	55	Turn right along this to reach the major road. Cross it and turn left. Ahead you will see the footbridge over the railway.	600 690	
21	57	Go over the footbridge. After descending carry straight on, parallel to the railway, through the car park, past the first dozen spaces. Then go through the gap in the fence on the left, and go left across the grass (away from the railway) between the houses to reach an estate road a few seconds later. Turn right for about 40 yds., then (by number 29) go left up the path between more houses.		
22	60	Cross the next road and carry on, to the right of number 15, along what is now an identifiable track over the grass between the last of the houses.		
23	61	Keep straight on (not right) at the junction of narrow paths, going ahead between fences.		
24	63	!!!F!!! Emerge into an open field, and go ahead to join the Fawkham Road as it merges from the right. (Aim very slightly to the left of the distant '40' speed-limit sign on the road.) The OS map suggests that you have to go along the road for a little way, but in fact there is what looks like an uncontroversial track along its near side, as far as its junction with Steep Hill, which is the next leg of the route.		
25	67	Turn left up Steep Hill.	598 683	
26	70	<i>[To visit Fawkhams Church, now divert instead to Detour 2 in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Pass a gate on the right, which would lead to the burial ground of Fawkhams Church.		
27	71	[Map point] At the junction of Steep Hill and Castle Hill, go up the path opposite Steep Hill, to the right of the entrance to Talbot Lodge.	598 680	3.42
28	72	Go to the left of the private entrance to Hillside Cottage, passing between fences on the narrow path.		
29	76	Through a pair of metal gates, and still straight ahead.		
30	81	[Map point] Follow the two waymarks in quick succession (easily missed) for SD221, taking you first to the right, and then to the left, back to the original direction.		
31	82	The path becomes a metalled road. Keep straight on past the back of a school.		
32	83	Still straight on, abandoning the road as it goes to the left. A signpost and, soon, a waymark confirm this continuing direction. It is the path shown as leading to Farm View.		

* "**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
33	87	Go between railings towards the main road, now in sight.		
34	89	Reaching and crossing the main road, turn right to walk on the pavement.		
35	93	[Map point] Soon after the Black Lion (not before it, as you might infer from the symbol on the OS map), turn left along a footpath (opposite 'Appledore').	604 666	
36	94	At the end go through the railings, and more or less straight ahead, with a large open field now to the right and allotments to the left. Ignore all paths to right and left.		
37	97	Pass a bench and an information board. Continue straight on.		
38	99	Through a metal gate, and still straight ahead.		
39	104	You reach the starting point at Hartley Church .	613 667	4.96

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

APPENDIX to Local Circuit LH1

Detour to Longfield Church (Detour 1)

18A	<p>When you come down to the main road in Longfield (Direction 18), Longfield Church is on the other side of the road, and a little way to the left. To rejoin the main route afterwards, turn left outside the church and go back along Main Road without crossing it. Cross the bottom of Hartley Road, go along it left for a few yards, and then turn right up the alley in Direction 19.</p> <p>Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.10 miles to cumulative distances.</p>
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Alternative in Longfield (for a protected crossing of the road) – if not visiting the church

At 18 go along to the lights before crossing the main road. Cross there and go along past the petrol station. Then cross Station Road and turn left to walk up the length of its right-hand side. At the top, go over the footbridge as at 21, and on from there.

(No significant addition to total times or cumulative distances.)

Detour to Fawkham Church (Detour 2)

26A	<p>To reach Fawkham Church go through the gate on the right (referred to in Direction 26) and down. The detour will take about two additional minutes if you use Castle Hill beyond to regain the main route in an anti-clockwise sweep and resume at Direction 27.</p> <p>Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.11 miles to cumulative distances.</p>
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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 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 LH1	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	18, 20, 34	6
Quiet road \$\$	1, 25-26, 31	8
Open field with livestock	6	3
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	2-3, 14-17, 24, 36-37	34
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	4-5, 11-13, 19, 21-23, 27-28, 32-33, 35, 38	35
Woods	7-10, 29-30	15

** 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.