

# LOCAL CIRCUIT PW1: WROTHAM & IGHTHAM

**F** Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

**88** Direction label (as in the walk notes)

**ROADS:**

 Significant roads

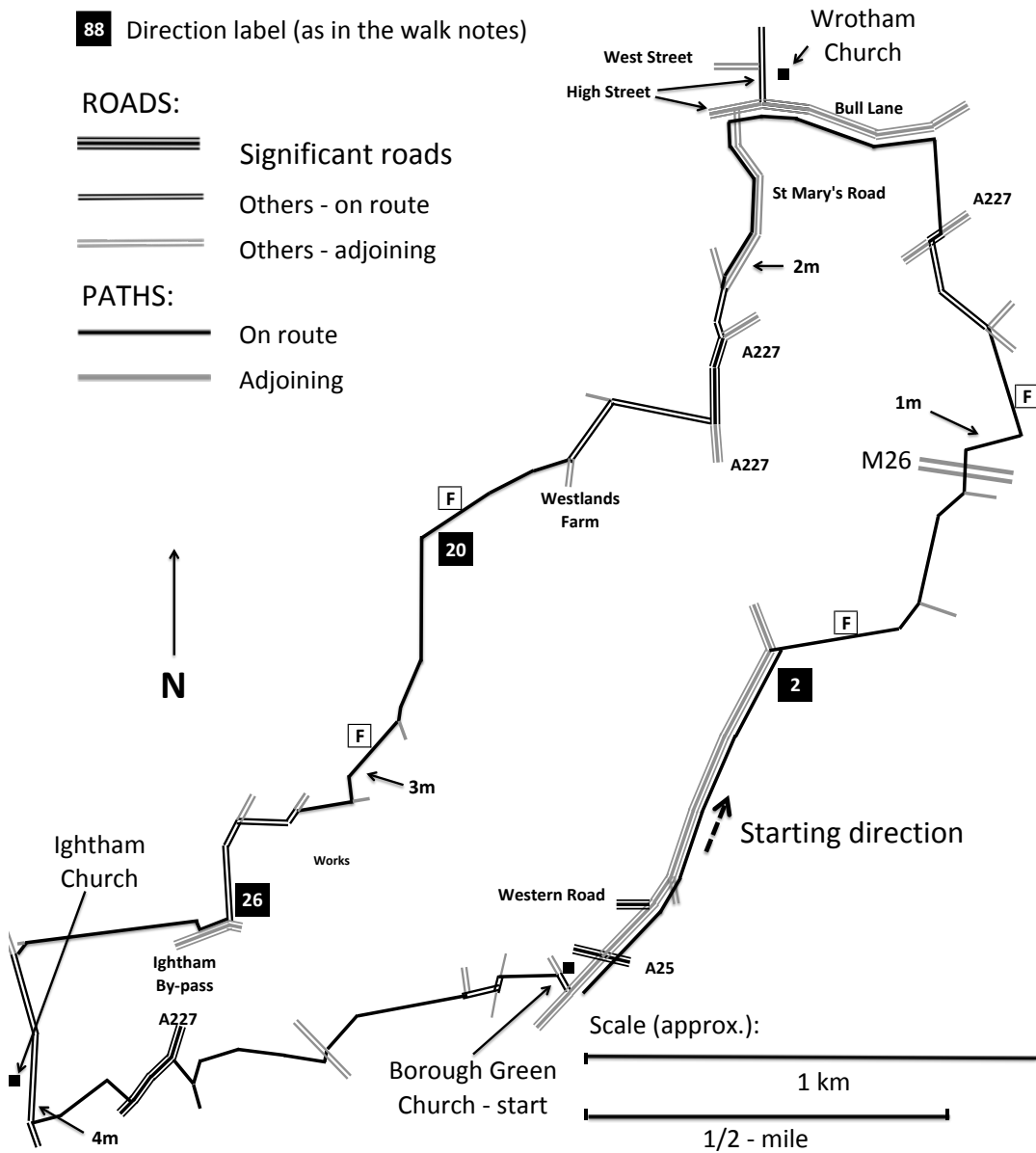
 Others - on route

 Others - adjoining

**PATHS:**

 On route

 Adjoining



## LOCAL CIRCUIT PW1: WROTHAM & IGHTHAM

### Linked churches:

Borough Green (start and finish)

Wrotham (Direction 12)

Ightham (29)

### Roads and hindrances:

All the roads you walk along are either reasonably quiet or have safe walkways.

There are moderately busy roads to cross (1, 10, 31), but they should present little difficulty.

The state of the undergrowth at Direction 26 can amount to a hindrance of sorts at some times of year.

Notes taken: June 2015

The start and finish is at **Borough Green Church** (Quarry Hill – TN15 8RE).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		Outside the east end of <b><u>Borough Green Church</u></b> turn left towards the crossroads, and cross over to go up the right-hand side of the main road opposite. (If necessary use the lights to the right to protect your crossing.) Go ahead out of Borough Green, passing Stone Court, The Avenue and Wye Road on the right. (Between Stone Court and The Avenue you can briefly escape the main road by using a grassy area alongside.)	608 572	
2	<b>8</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Then, at a lamp-post just after last houses on both sides, and just before the road swings decisively to the left, look for a metal swing-gate in the hedge to the right. Go through it and over a footbridge into an open field. <b>[!!F!!]</b> Go slightly to the left across this field towards a stile and wooden footbridge (next to a prominent water installation).	612 579	
3	<b>11</b>	Cross these and go ahead along a grassy path with a barbed-wire fence on the right.		
4	<b>14</b>	(Currently) turn left, as directed, around quarry workings.		
5	<b>15</b>	Go ahead, as a large field opens out, keeping to its left-hand edge, and at the far left-hand corner turn right with the field-edge towards the motorway footbridge.		
6	<b>19</b>	Cross the footbridge, and at the far side swing rightwards with the track through trees.		
7	<b>22</b>	<b>[!!F!!]</b> Look for a metal gate in the fence on the left, opposite the side of a tudor-style house, and use it to turn sharp left across an open field.		
8	<b>24</b>	Go through another gate, in the same direction, along an enclosed grassy path.		

\* **"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
9	<b>26</b>	At a third gate, at an intersection of metalled drives, turn along the one which goes to the left.	616 586	
10	<b>29</b>	Reach and cross the A227 (good sightlines). Turn right along it for about 20 yds. and then left along a track into the trees.		
11	<b>32</b>	Turn left at the main road (Bull Lane).		
12	<b>37</b>	<b>Wrotham Church</b> is a few yards up to the right. But continue ahead past the bus stop.		1.74
13	<b>38</b>	Turn left down St Mary's Road. Go down the right-hand side, along the walkway, raised at first.		
14	<b>43</b>	At the end turn left. Cross the road next to the '40' speed limit sign and go on to the major road ahead.		
15	<b>45</b>	Turn right along this road (the A227) and go along the walkway on the right-hand side, over the bridge across the motorway.		
16	<b>47</b>	Turn right, away from the road, through the entrance to Westlands Farm. (There is a small pedestrian gate to the right of the locked vehicle gate.)		
17	<b>49</b>	Swing left with the metalled roadway.		2.39
18	<b>51</b>	Turn right off the roadway through a metal gate on to a waymarked track (which becomes concrete after about 60 yds.). Go along the right-hand side of the field.		
19	<b>52</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Straight ahead through the big gate. Beyond the solitary tree ahead there is a MKG across the field. Head for this.		
20	<b>55</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Go through the MKG, over a little footbridge, then immediately turn left along a rough path between a hedge on the left and a barbed-wire fence on the right.		
21	<b>62</b>	After gently swinging to the right, the path makes a clear turn to the left. Instead of following it, turn off it to go through a metal gate straight ahead. <b>!!!F!!!</b> Then go up diagonally to the left to a gate next to an abandoned red-brick building.	604 578	
22	<b>64</b>	Go through this second gate, then ahead for about 30 yds. across rough ground. Then turn right, as waymarked, down an equally rough track towards a rusty gate at the bottom.		3.08
23	<b>66</b>	Go through the gap to the left of the gate, to merge leftwards into an industrial access road.		
24	<b>67</b>	Turn left on to another road.		
25	<b>69</b>	Go through the wooden kissing gate next to the main exit gate, and on towards the roundabout visible ahead.		
26	<b>71</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> At the roundabout, turn right alongside the road. After about 20 yds. (and 20 yds. before the first lamp-post) turn right, across the undergrowth. (The track may be just visible.) When you reach the other side of this rough parcel of land - in effect a T-junction - turn left along a track which is at first equally obscure.	600 573	
27	<b>72</b>	The track soon improves, after a pair of turns, right and left. Continue ahead as it winds from side to side, always between the road on the left and the railway on the right.		

\* **"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
28	<b>77</b>	Just before the end of the track, fork left to cut off the corner, and turn left along the road. It may be best to criss-cross the road – not that it is more than moderately busy. Judge for yourself. There is a continuous path or safe verge on the left-hand side (only) from number 35 onwards.		
29	<b>82</b>	On the right of the road, hidden behind a hedge and grass verge, is <b>Ightham Church</b> . Continue ahead down the road.		3.95
30	<b>83</b>	Turn left along an alleyway, then follow it as it turns to the right, at the end, towards the main road.		
31	<b>86</b>	Turn left along the main road, crossing when convenient.		
32	<b>88</b>	Turn right along a broad path immediately before Orchard House. Then, ignoring the gates and path ahead, turn left along an unsignalled footpath along the side of Orchard House.		
33	<b>93</b>	Immediately after a wide wooden footbridge, swing round up a bank to cross the road and continue along the footpath opposite.		
34	<b>97</b>	Continue ahead as the track becomes a metalled alleyway.		
35	<b>98</b>	Merge left into a road. Then, just after house number '1', turn right into a narrow passageway, which goes over a driveway, then on towards a road.		
36	<b>100</b>	Turn right along the road, then sharp left (in front of chartered accountants) along the major road.		
37	<b>101</b>	Reach <b>Borough Green Church</b> , the starting point of the walk.	608 572	4.94

\* *"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!

<b>LOCAL CIRCUIT PW1</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	1, 11-12, 15, 26a, 31, 36b	22
Quiet road \$\$	9, 13-14, 16-17, 23-25, 28-29, 34-35a, 36a	27
Open field with livestock	19	3
Edge of field with livestock	18	2
Field (or edge) without livestock **	2-3, 5, 7, 20-22, 26b	19
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	4, 6a, 8, 30, 32-33, 35b	18
Woods	6b, 10, 27	10

\*\* 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.

**STILE (1)** - Details noted in June 2015, but **subject to frequent change**:

The stile in Direction 2 has easy gaps.