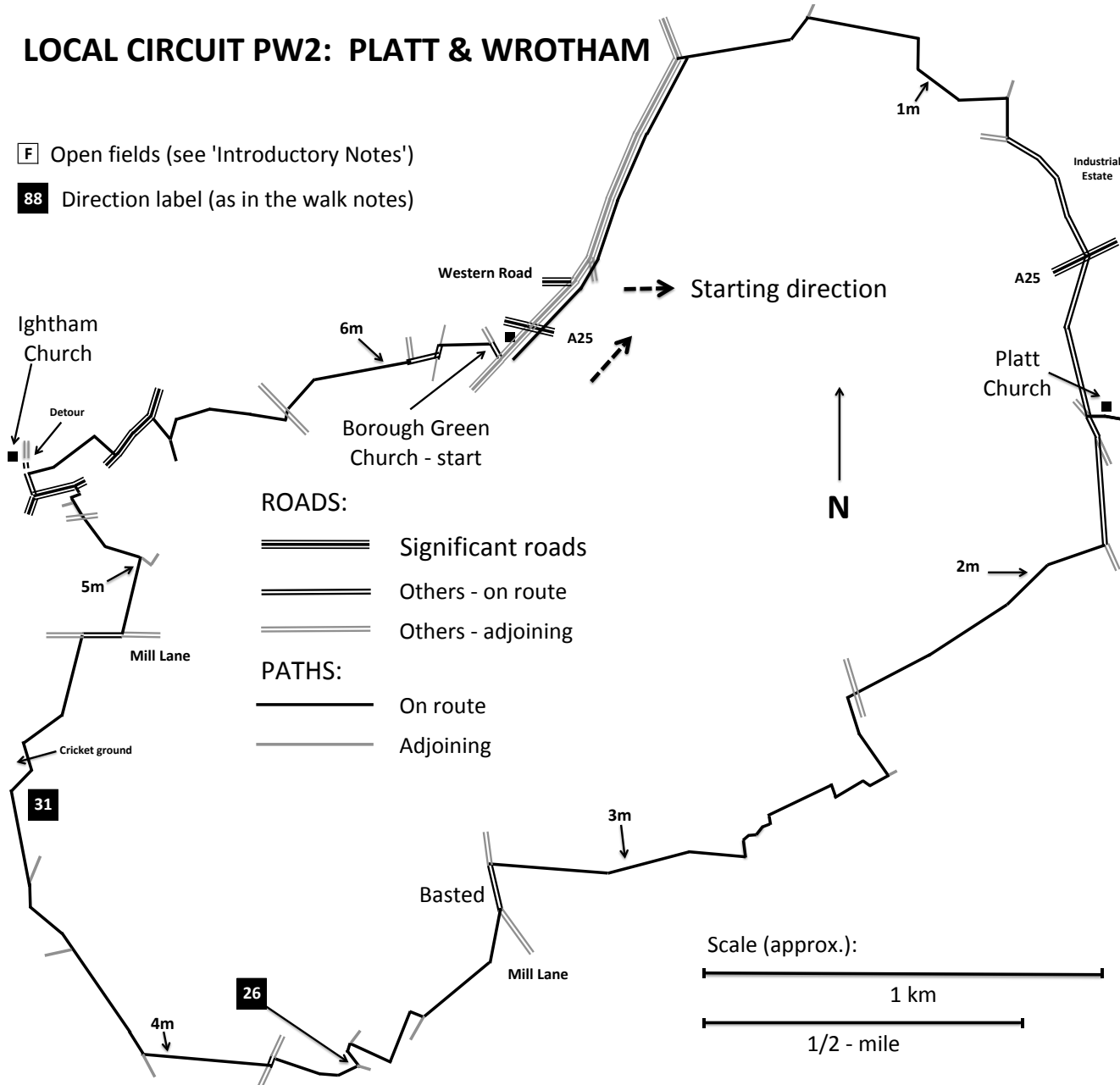


LOCAL CIRCUIT PW2: PLATT & WROTHAM

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)



LOCAL CIRCUIT PW2: PLATT & IGHTHAM

Linked churches:

Borough Green (start and finish)

Platt (Direction 13)

Ightham (39A: Detour – see Appendix)

Roads and hindrances:

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

The crossings and re-crossings of the A25 (Directions 1 and 12) and A227 (37,40) are moderately busy but should present little difficulty; and the two or three minutes through the industrial estate (9) require no more than ordinary care.

At all costs avoid getting drawn on to the A227 south of Ightham (31), but take one of the cricket-field options described.

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 <u>Borough Green Church</u> 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	8	[Map point] 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. [!!F!!] Go slightly to the left across this field towards a stile and wooden footbridge (next to a prominent water installation).	612 579	
3	11	Cross these and go ahead along a grassy path with a barbed-wire fence on the right.		
4	14	(Currently) turn left, as directed, around quarry workings.		
5	15	Turn right alongside the barbed-wire fence, with a big field to your left.		
6	18	Follow the path as it turns right with the fence, with a ditch now on your left.		0.96
7	19	Turn left with the path, into trees.		
8	22	At a T-junction of paths turn right towards a big metal gate.		
9	23	Go to the left of the big gate, through the remains of an old kissing gate, and merge leftwards into the roadway.		
10	25	Swing right with the road, to leave the industrial estate.		

* **"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
11	26	Cross the railway bridge.	621 575	
12	28	Cross the A25 (good sightlines) and continue along Grange Road immediately opposite.		
13	33	Pass Platt Church on the left.		1.67
14	34	Fork right along Long Mill Lane.		
15	37	After the house 'Dales' turn right down the signposted bridleway.		
16	38	Continue along the left-hand edge of a field.		
17	45	The track becomes a roadway between hedges. Continue along it.		
18	48	Cross the road and turn left. It is not necessary to walk down the road itself: there is a parallel track in the trees a few yards beyond.		
19	50	Turn right along a forest path which winds back and forth before descending, at a right-swing, to go alongside a field.		
20	57	Follow the path along the edge of the trees to the right and the field, beyond the fence, to the left; then continue past houses on the left towards the road at Basted.		
21	65	Turn left along the road.		
22	67	As this road (Mill Lane) swings left after Bridge House to become Plough Hill, instead go straight ahead along the signposted byway, and on after the last house into woodland.		
23	72	Look out for a stile up to the right (easily missed). Go over a footbridge to reach it, cross it and immediately turn left along a fenced path.	605 555	
24	73	Swing to the right, keeping near to the fence on the right, past (currently) a number of hurdles. Though not quite the most direct way, it is simplest to continue on this, alongside the fence on the right, all the way up to the end of the fence, at a cross-path.		
25	75	Turn left at this point, and edge slightly to the left and down.		
26	76	[Map point] Look out for, and take, a very sharp, signposted right turn along a fenced track towards houses.		
27	78	At the road turn left for about 20 yds., then right, by way of a stile next to a gate, up a rather surprising footpath along the left-hand edge of a private garden, through one gate, and then another further up.		3.84
28	84	Emerge from the trees, and about 40 yds. later turn right on to the pathway, metalled initially, through the orchard.		
29	89	At the farm buildings continue straight ahead uphill.		
30	91	Keep straight on on the public right of way, alongside the line of trees on the left (not forking to the right).		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
31	94	[Map point] Reach the top edge of the cricket field. <i>[Strictly speaking the mapped right of way goes all the way to the left and down on to the hazardous A227 before climbing back and returning along the far boundary! This is unreasonable. At worst it would make sense, if discouraged by cricketers in the clubhouse, to go to the left and then clockwise round the field, adding about one minute to the stated time; but the following direct route is surely not one which could seriously be objected to.]</i> Go ahead to pass the cricket clubhouse and go on to the far right-hand corner of the field.		
32	96	Continue along the left-hand edge of the field.		
33	100	Go down steps and turn right along the road (Mill Lane).		
34	101	Just after Mill Lane House on the right, turn left down the footpath (currently unsignposted).		
35	104	At the T-junction of paths at the end, turn left. Follow the path as it goes steeply up, then down, and then down some steps alongside a road merging from the right.		
36	107	Go straight ahead down Busty Lane (hidden nameplate on the right); then once again straight on over a footbridge and turn right and left with the pathway towards the main road.		
37	108	Turn left along the road, then cross as soon as possible (for the best sightlines) on to the green verge opposite.		
38	110	Turn right up Fen Pond Road.		5.27
39	111	<i>[To visit Ightham Church, now divert instead to the Detour in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Turn right along an alleyway, then follow it as it turns to the right, at the end, towards the main road.		
40	114	Turn left along the main road, crossing when convenient.		
41	116	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.		
42	121	Immediately after a wide wooden footbridge, swing round up a bank to cross the road and continue along the footpath opposite.		
43	125	Continue ahead as the track becomes a metalled alleyway.		
44	126	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.		
45	128	Turn right along the road, then sharp left (in front of chartered accountants) along the major road.		
46	129	Reach Borough Green Church , the starting point of the walk.	608 572	6.24

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

APPENDIX to Local Circuit PW2

Detour to Ightham Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
39A	0	For the very short detour to <u>Ightham Church</u> : Instead of Direction 57, continue along Fen Pond Road. The church soon appears on the left.		0.00
39B	1	To resume the walk from the church, turn right and retrace your steps along Fen Pond Road.		
39C	2	Turn left along the alleyway – the start of Direction 57 – and continue from there. Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.12 miles to cumulative distances.		0.12

* ***"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 PW2	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 9-11, 37, 40, 45b	16
Quiet road \$\$	12-14, 21-22a, 33, 36a, 38, 43-44a, 45a	15
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	2-3, 5, 16, 28, 30-32	21
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	4, 6, 8, 15, 17-19a, 20b, 23, 26-27, 29, 34-35, 36b, 39, 41-42, 44b	35
Woods	7, 19b-20a, 22b, 24-25	14

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

The stile in Direction 2 has easy gaps.

The one in 23 is wired down, and has climbs of 2ft. and 1ft.; but there is currently a big hole at ground level.

The stile in 27 is wired down, but the fence to the left of it has easy gaps.