

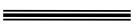
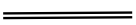

NETTLESTEAD & YALDING

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)



F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

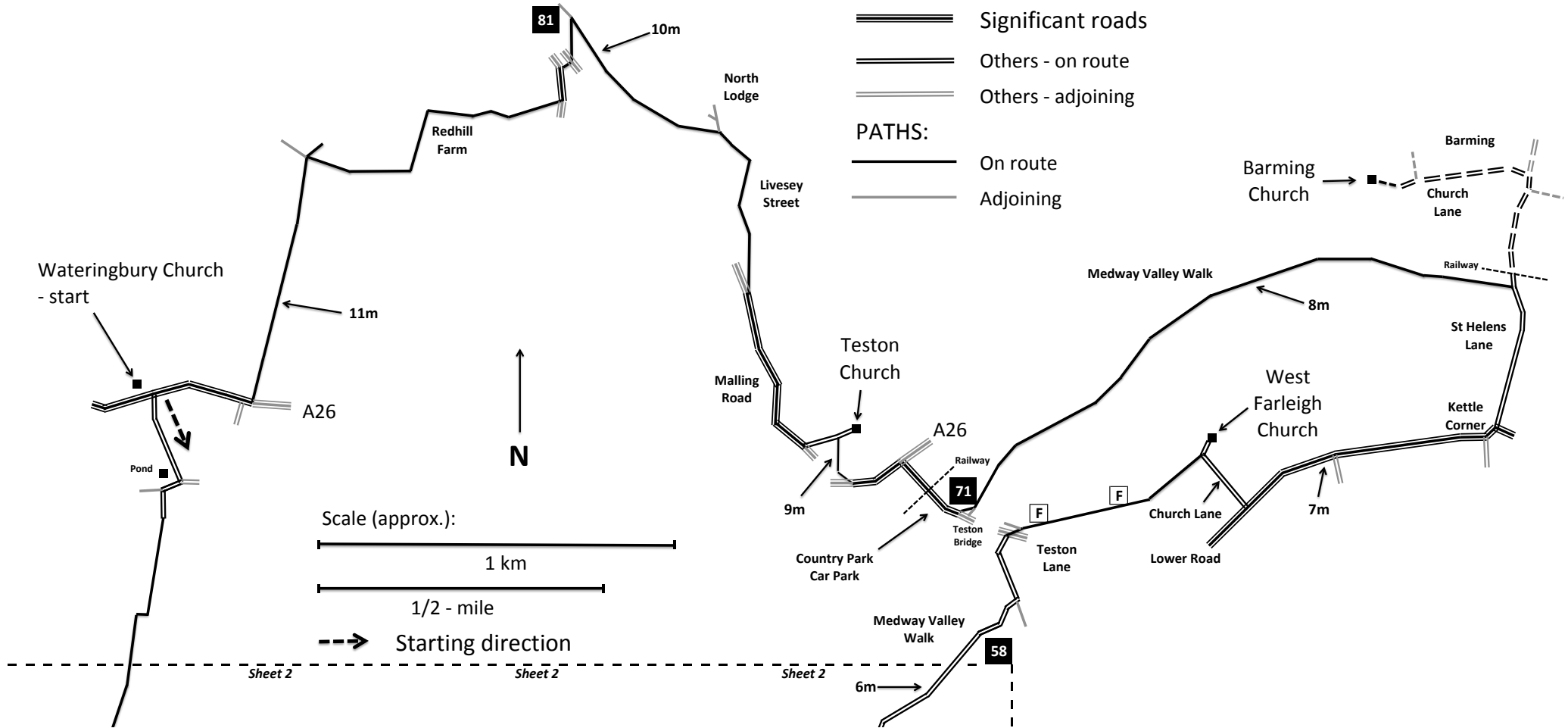
88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

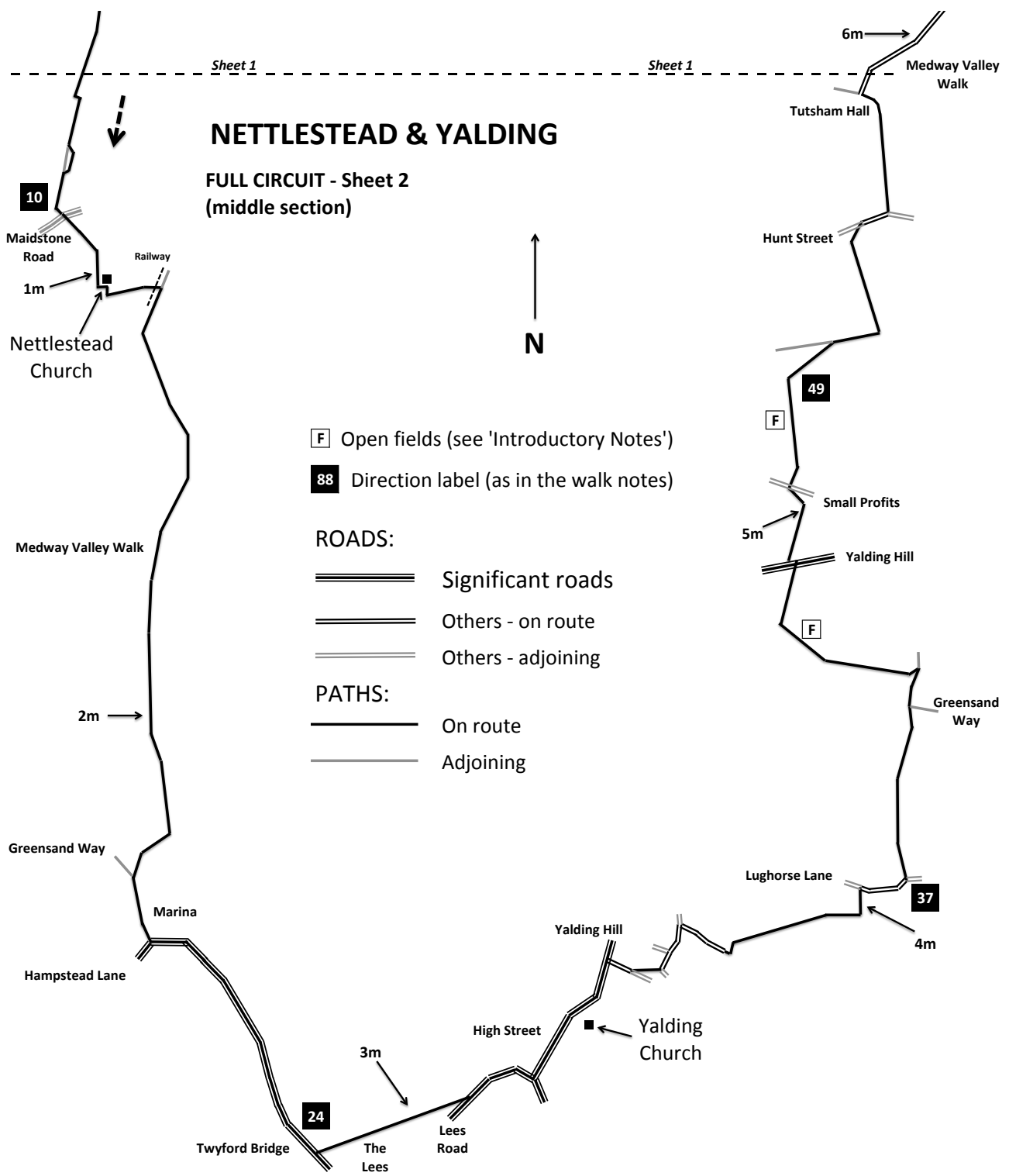
ROADS:

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

PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining





Sheet 1

Sheet 1

10

Maidstone Road
 1m
 Nettlestead Church
 Railway



6m

Tutsham Hall
 Medway Valley Walk

Hunt Street

49

[F]

Small Profits

5m

Yalding Hill

[F]

Greensand Way

Medway Valley Walk

2m

Greensand Way

Marina

Hampstead Lane

Lughorse Lane

37

4m

Yalding Hill

High Street

Yalding Church

24

3m

Twyford Bridge

The Lees

Lees Road

NETTLESTEAD & YALDING CIRCUIT

Churches in the full circuit:

Wateringbury (start and finish)

Nettlestead (Direction 13)

Yalding (29)

West Farleigh (65)

Barming (69D: Detour - See Appendix)

Teston (77)

Associated local circuits

- NY1: Wateringbury - Nettlestead - Teston - Wateringbury
- NY2: West Farleigh - East Farleigh - Barming - Teston - West Farleigh
- NY3: Yalding - Hunton - Yalding

Full circuit: A varied walk, with fine views between Wateringbury and Nettlestead and later around Tutsham Hall, some woodland, and extended visits to the Medway Valley Walk.

Roads and hindrances:

The road crossings demand ordinary care: none are unduly hazardous. As ever the railway crossing (16) commands respect.

Twyford Bridge (24) is tricky, but the escape booths mean you can, with care, cross safely.

FULL CIRCUIT

Wateringbury - Nettlestead - Yalding - West Farleigh - Barming - Teston - Wateringbury

Notes taken: November and December 2015

The start and finish is at Wateringbury Church (ME18 5PN)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		[DIRECTIONS 1-10 ARE ALSO PART OF THE WATERINGBURY SHORTER CIRCUIT] START OF THE SPINE SECTION Stand with your back to <u>Wateringbury Church</u> and turn left alongside the main road.	685 536	
2	1	Cross the road and turn right, down Mill Lane. (If you delay your crossing until directly opposite the lane the sightlines will be good.)		
3	3	Swing right alongside the edge of the pond, and follow the road uphill.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
4	4	Carry on up the road as it turns to the left (MR508), ignoring the footpath going straight on.		
5	9	Go straight on as the right of way crosses the forecourt of a house, with gates before and after.		
6		After a very brief pair of turns (right, then left) go ahead along the left-hand side of fields.		
7	14	When you reach railings at the bottom left-hand corner, go through them, and then through another pair, slightly to the right, to start along a metalled path between hedges.	685 527	
8	16	Use a gap on the left to divert, for the sake of variety, along the right-hand edge of a playing field, parallel to the track.		
9	17	Rejoin the track on your right.		
10	19	[Map point] Swing left to reach the road. Cross it, and go along the track directly opposite.		
11	20	Follow the track as it bends to the right, and follow it along the upper edge of the churchyard.		
12	22	Turn left towards the church porch.		
13		Reach the south door of Nettlestead Church . Turn right, and then left to go down the edge of the churchyard.		
14	23	Go through a stone archway out into trees and down towards a footbridge.		
15	24	Cross the footbridge and continue ahead towards the railway.		
16	25	Cross the railway, and the stiles which protect it before and after, and carry on ahead to reach the Medway Valley Walk at the bottom.		
17	26	Turn right to follow the Medway Valley Walk, keeping (for the next mile or so) as close as possible to the river on your left.		1.14
18	27	Go through a gate and swing leftwards to stay next to the river alongside an open field on the right.		
19	30	The path takes you into a short stretch of woodland.		
20	32	And out again into the open.		
21	40	Still alongside the river, embark on an enclosed stretch of track amid impermeable vegetation on both sides.		
22	48	Merge with the Greensand Way as it joins from the right.		
23	49	Reach the road opposite Yalding station. Cross the road and turn left to go up over the bridge, using the right-hand walkway to start with. Beyond the bridge cross back to the left-hand side when convenient.		2.33
24	57	[Map point] Go ahead over Twyford Bridge, remembering that single-line traffic could be coming from either direction, and using the escape booths as necessary. END OF THE SPINE SECTION		
25	58	Immediately after the bridge turn left off the road, as signposted, over the open field, gradually converging on the main road, which, having itself swung leftwards, is over to the right. Head initially for a footbridge (next to a tall tree encircled by a metal bench).		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
26	61	Cross the footbridge and continue in the same direction, aiming to join the road at the obvious point about 80 yds. beyond its '30' speed limit sign.	693 498	
27	64	At that point, in the corner of the field, go through the wooden barriers and turn left along the left-hand side of the road.		
28	66	At the road junction immediately after the phone box, turn left to cross the bridge over the Beult.		
29	69	Pass the end of the short footpath leading to Yalding Church .		3.38
30	71	Turn right along Vicarage Road.		
31		After a few yards follow the path (Windmill Path leading to the almshouses) which starts by angling leftwards up away from Vicarage Road.		
32	73	At the top merge leftwards alongside a quiet road, and cross it when convenient.		
33	74	Just before the end of this road turn right, up Mount Avenue.		
34	76	As the road reaches a dead-end, go straight ahead through a MKG and into trees. Follow the track as it turns left then right.		
35	81	Turn left with the path.		
36	82	Pass a redundant MKG and then turn right along the road.		
37	84	[Map point] As the road is halfway through a double bend, turn left up a signposted byway.		
38	91	Continue ahead at the point where the Greensand Way turns off to the right.		
39	93	Use the steps to climb up the bank to the left, then follow the track as it swings briefly further to the left, and then right to start along a long straight path between fences, with fields to left and right.	708 510	
40	96	Pass a brick store and continue ahead, still between fences.		
41	99	[!!F!!] After the fences come to an end, still continue straight ahead between open fields.		
42	100	At the end turn sharp right, uphill, alongside the hedge, and beyond it the road, on your left.		
43	104	At the top go to the left past a redundant stile, and then carefully down a couple of tricky steps to the road. Cross it, going slightly to the left, to start, by way of a stepping stile, along the signposted track opposite. The track passes first alongside some industrial debris (seemingly a permanent state of affairs), and then along the left-hand side of a field.		4.86
44	106	Ignore the gate in the left-hand hedge, and continue along the field-edge.		
45	107	In the far left-hand corner, turn left to cross a stile. Carry on for a few yards, then turn right with the track past a redundant MKG towards a road.		
46	108	Cross the road and go ahead along the track opposite into trees.		
47	109	[!!F!!] Emerging from the trees into a rough space of heathland, go ahead and very slightly leftwards across it. The line might be confirmed by a very faint track; or perhaps use as a target a white building in the distance beyond trees (visible in November, but perhaps not when those trees have leaves!).	704 516	

* "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
48	111	Carry on into undergrowth, along a now slightly clearer path.		
49	112	[Map point] Follow the track as it turns right among trees at a waymark post.	70410 51863	
50	114	Turn left away from the field, with the path, as waymarked, down a little ridge to a stile.		
51		Cross the stile and continue to the right, along the field-edge.		
52	116	Turn left, down the far edge of the same field.		
53	119	After swinging to the right towards the bottom corner, go past a barrier, and turn right along the road.		
54	120	After about 80 yds. turn left into the Tutsham estate.		
55	124	At the bottom, next to a big open barn, follow the roadway to the left.		
56		After a few yards turn right over a cattle grid, and set off along the metalled path as it swings to the right and heads down towards the river and the lock.		5.82
57	126	Carry on ahead, ignoring the driveway up to the house on the right.		
58	128	[Map point] Go over another cattle grid, out of the Tutsham estate. Follow the road as it winds down and up and left and right.		
59	131	Turn left with the road, ignoring the footpath to the right.		
60	134	Reach the main road and cross it, to an information board opposite. Here turn up to the right towards a MKG.		
61		[!!F!!] Go through the MKG and onward diagonally across the field towards a waymarked gate in the middle distance. If the direction is not clear at first, aim slightly to the right of the mid-point of the line of trees opposite.		
62	137	[!!F!!] Go through the spring gate and on slightly further to the right towards a MKG in the middle distance.	712 533	
63	139	Go through the MKG, and a few trees beyond it, and turn to the left along the left-hand side of a field.		
64	140	At the corner go through a wooden kissing gate and continue along the left-hand edge of the cricket field.		
65	142	At the next corner cross a stile. Beyond, the entrance to West Farleigh Church is ahead. To continue on the route turn right, south-eastwards, along Church Lane.		6.69
66	144	Turn left along the main road, staying on the left-hand side.		
67	153	As the main road swings to the right, instead turn left down St Helens Lane.		
68	157	Go between railings and up on to the footbridge to cross the Medway.		
69	158	[To visit Barming Church , now divert instead to the Detour in the Appendix.] Main route: On the far side of the footbridge, turn left through the MKG alongside the river, and follow the Medway Valley Walk as it wanders along, by way of a series of footbridges and gates, between the river on your left and the railway on your right.		7.56

* "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
70	180	About 100 yds. short of Teston Bridge, fork slightly to the right along a grassy path towards a stile at the roadside.		8.65
71	181	[Map point] Reach the stile, and cross it with care on to the road which is immediately beyond. Turn right along the road and cross when convenient.		
72	182	Pass the entrance to the country park car park and walk towards and over the level crossing.		
73	184	Turn left at the top along the main road, and cross when convenient (good sightlines).		
74	186	Just after the road begins to swing to the right, turn off it up to the right along a narrow path, with railings at first.		
75	187	Cross a roadway and continue in the same direction along a path slightly to your right.		
76		Go ahead alongside the green on your left.		
77	188	At the top the entrance to Teston Church is on your right. To continue on the route turn left (Church Street) alongside the village green.		
78	189	At the end turn right to go alongside the major road (Malling Road), and stay on the right-hand pavement to start with, passing the cricket ball factory opposite.		
79	195	Fork right along Livesey Street, ignoring the discouraging signs aimed at vehicular traffic.		9.40
80	201	Fork left with the broad track just before the gate leading to North Lodge. (Ignore, if you notice it, the footpath sign which also points to the left from a point ahead a little beyond the gate.)	702 544	
81	208	[Map point] Opposite the entrance to Woodlands Cottage turn left up a narrow path into the woods.		
82	210	At the road go across and steeply uphill on the track opposite (slightly to the left).		
83	211	Reach a second road and turn left to follow it briefly, crossing when convenient.		
84	212	Turn right on to the signposted restricted byway, which starts as a metalled driveway into the Redhill Farm Estate.	697 545	
85	214	Continue along the winding roadway, with woodland now on the right.		
86	215	Go through the farmyard between the farm buildings.		
87	216	At the end of the metalled part of the roadway turn left past the door of Kenwater Cottage.		10.44
88	217	Continue ahead downhill along an enclosed grassy path.		
89	219	Follow the path as it swings to the right.		
90	223	Turn left down another grassy path past a pair of gates on the left.	690 543	
91	229	Pass between wooden barriers and carry on towards the main road ahead.		
92	231	Reach the main road and turn right. Stay, for now, on the pavement on the right of the road.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
93**	234	When you are opposite Mill Lane: <u>either, to continue the circuit</u> (if not visiting, or finishing at, Watringbury Church), carry on from Direction 2, by crossing the road and going down Mill Lane;		11.37
** or 93A	234	<u>... or, to detour to, or finish at, Watringbury Church,</u> continue along the right-hand side of the main road.		
93B	235	Reach <u>Watringbury Church,</u> on the right.	685 536	11.39
93C		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

Detour to Barming Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
69A	0	For the detour to <u>Barming Church:</u> Instead of turning left along the Medway Valley Walk at Direction 69, carry straight on under the railway bridge, and continue ahead, steeply uphill.		0.00
69B	5	Turn left along Church Lane.		
69C	10	Go through the gate into the churchyard.		
69D	11	Reach the south door of <u>Barming Church.</u> To rejoin the main route, simply retrace your steps, turning right at the end of Church Lane.		0.47
69E	20	Just before the reaching the footbridge over the Medway, turn right through the MKG along the Medway Valley Walk, continuing on the main route from Direction 69. Add 20 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.94 miles to cumulative distances.		0.94

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FOR THOSE WHO WALK WITH THEIR DOGS

See footnote on next page.

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!

NETTLESTEAD & YALDING - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 23-24, 27-29, 66, 71-73, 78, 83, 92-93A	19
Quiet road \$\$	2-4, 30, 32-33, 36, 53-54, 58-59, 65, 67, 79, 84	17
Open field with livestock	61-62	2
Edge of field with livestock	63	0.4
Field (or edge) without livestock **	6, 8, 18, 20, 25-26, 41-44, 47, 52b, 56-57, 64, 69-70, 76-77	28
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	5, 7, 9-13, 16-17, 21-22, 31, 34b-35, 37b-40, 45, 49b-52a, 55, 60, 68, 74-75, 80, 86-91	28
Woods	14-15, 19, 34a, 37a, 46, 48-49a, 81-82, 85	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 (7) – Details noted in December 2015, but subject to frequent change:

The stiles which guard the railway crossing on either side (Direction 16) both have easy gaps, as do the stepping stile in 43, and those in 65 and 71.

The stile in 45 has two climbs of 1.5 ft. each.

The one in 51 has climbs of 2ft. and 1.5 ft., but there is currently a handy hole to one side.