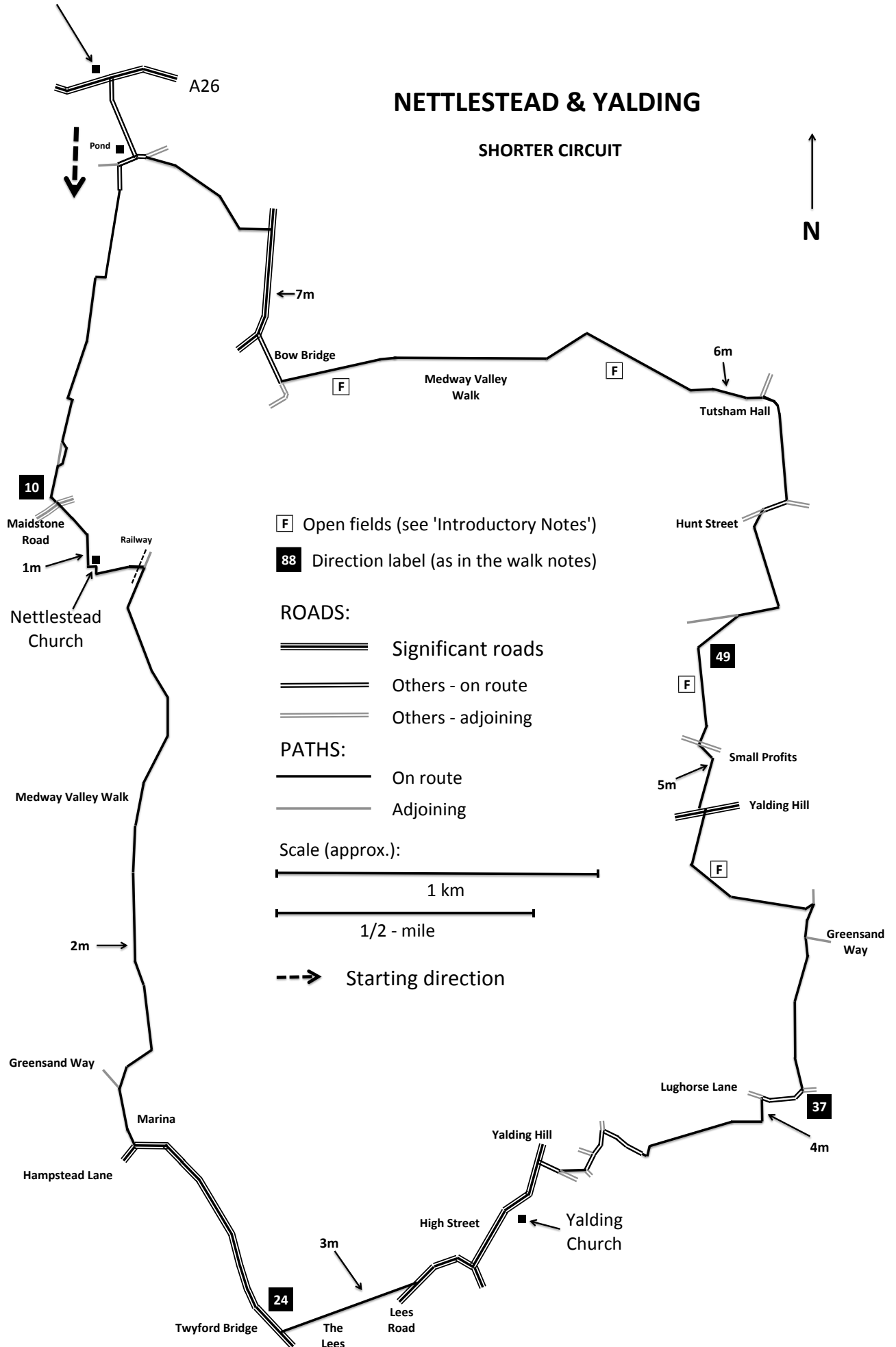


Wateringbury Church  
- start

# NETTLESTEAD & YALDING

## SHORTER CIRCUIT



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

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

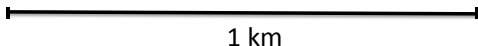
### ROADS:

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

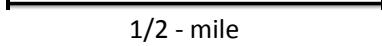
### PATHS:

- On route
- Adjoining

Scale (approx.):



1 km



1/2 - mile

Starting direction

# NETTLESTEAD & YALDING CIRCUIT

## Churches in the shorter circuit:

Wateringbury (start and finish)

Nettlestead (Direction 13)

Yalding (29)

## Associated local circuits

- NY1: Wateringbury – Nettlestead – Teston – Wateringbury
- NY3: Yalding – Hunton – Yalding

**Shorter circuit:** This retains most of the features of the full circuit, but on a smaller scale: the scenery between Wateringbury and Nettlestead, a different but equally pleasant view from Tutsham, and occasional woodland; with the Medway Valley Walk still much in evidence.

## 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.

## SHORTER CIRCUIT

### **Wateringbury – Nettlestead – Yalding – Wateringbury**

Notes taken: November and December 2015

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		<b>[DIRECTIONS 1-10 ARE ALSO PART OF THE WATERINGBURY SHORTER CIRCUIT]</b> <b>START OF THE SPINE SECTION</b> Stand with your back to <b>Wateringbury Church</b> and turn left alongside the main road.	685 536	
2	<b>1</b>	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	<b>3</b>	Swing right alongside the edge of the pond, and follow the road uphill.		
4	<b>4</b>	Carry on up the road as it turns to the left (MR508), ignoring the footpath going straight on.		
5	<b>9</b>	Go straight on as the right of way crosses the forecourt of a house, with gates before and after.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
6		After a very brief pair of turns (right, then left) go ahead along the left-hand side of fields.		
7	<b>14</b>	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	<b>16</b>	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	<b>17</b>	Rejoin the track on your right.		
10	<b>19</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Swing left to reach the road. Cross it, and go along the track directly opposite.		
11	<b>20</b>	Follow the track as it bends to the right, and follow it along the upper edge of the churchyard.		
12	<b>22</b>	Turn left towards the church porch.		
13		Reach the south door of <b>Nettlestead Church</b> . Turn right, and then left to go down the edge of the churchyard.		
14	<b>23</b>	Go through a stone archway out into trees and down towards a footbridge.		
15	<b>24</b>	Cross the footbridge and continue ahead towards the railway.		
16	<b>25</b>	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	<b>26</b>	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	<b>27</b>	Go through a gate and swing leftwards to stay next to the river alongside an open field on the right.		
19	<b>30</b>	The path takes you into a short stretch of woodland.		
20	<b>32</b>	And out again into the open.		
21	<b>40</b>	Still alongside the river, embark on an enclosed stretch of track amid impermeable vegetation on both sides.		
22	<b>48</b>	Merge with the Greensand Way as it joins from the right.		
23	<b>49</b>	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	<b>57</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Go ahead over Twyford Bridge, remembering that single-line traffic could be coming from either direction, and using the escape booths as necessary. <b>END OF THE SPINE SECTION</b>		
25	<b>58</b>	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).		
26	<b>61</b>	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	<b>64</b>	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	<b>66</b>	At the road junction immediately after the phone box, turn left to cross the bridge over the Beult.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
29	<b>69</b>	Pass the end of the short footpath leading to <b>Yalding Church</b> .		3.38
30	<b>71</b>	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	<b>73</b>	At the top merge leftwards alongside a quiet road, and cross it when convenient.		
33	<b>74</b>	Just before the end of this road turn right, up Mount Avenue.		
34	<b>76</b>	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	<b>81</b>	Turn left with the path.		
36	<b>82</b>	Pass a redundant MKG and then turn right along the road.		
37	<b>84</b>	[Map point] As the road is halfway through a double bend, turn left up a signposted byway.		
38	<b>91</b>	Continue ahead at the point where the Greensand Way turns off to the right.		
39	<b>93</b>	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	<b>96</b>	Pass a brick store and continue ahead, still between fences.		
41	<b>99</b>	[!!F!!] After the fences come to an end, still continue straight ahead between open fields.		
42	<b>100</b>	At the end turn sharp right, uphill, alongside the hedge, and beyond it the road, on your left.		
43	<b>104</b>	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	<b>106</b>	Ignore the gate in the left-hand hedge, and continue along the field-edge.		
45	<b>107</b>	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	<b>108</b>	Cross the road and go ahead along the track opposite into trees.		
47	<b>109</b>	[!!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	
48	<b>111</b>	Carry on into undergrowth, along a now slightly clearer path.		
49	<b>112</b>	[Map point] Follow the track as it turns right among trees at a waymark post.	70410 51863	
50	<b>114</b>	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	<b>116</b>	Turn left, down the far edge of the same field.		

\* **"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
53	<b>119</b>	After swinging to the right towards the bottom corner, go past a barrier, and turn right along the road.		
54	<b>120</b>	After about 80 yds. turn left into the Tutsham estate.		
55	<b>124</b>	At the bottom, next to a big open barn, follow the roadway to the left.		
56		After a few yards (now following the Medway Valley Walk) ignore the cattle grid and gate, and then the stile, on your right, and go ahead, down and up, through the farm buildings.		5.82
57	<b>125</b>	Go through the gate at the end of the farmyard, and ahead.		
58	<b>126</b>	Follow the broad track down towards the remains of a barn.		
59	<b>127</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Pass to the right of the barn and through a gate, uphill to start with, then gently down towards a distant signpost.		
60	<b>131</b>	At the signpost follow the curve of the hill gently down to the left, gradually edging towards the river on your right.		
61	<b>133</b>	Go through a gate into woodland, now close to the river.	700 528	
62	<b>134</b>	Carry on over a footbridge.		
63	<b>135</b>	Go over another footbridge out of the trees.		
64	<b>136</b>	Carry on over a stile.		
65	<b>139</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Go over another footbridge and ahead.		
66	<b>142</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Go through a metal gate and cross the field, edging gradually towards the fence on your right. Aim midway between, to the left, a big white building in the middle distance and, to the right, the light-green railings of Bow Bridge.		
67	<b>144</b>	Continue past another metal gate, currently redundant.		
68	<b>145</b>	And go through a final metal gate in the far right-hand corner.		
69		Cross a stile and go ahead towards a road.		
70	<b>146</b>	Turn right along the road.		
71		After a few yards, cross the Medway over Bow Bridge.		6.85
72	<b>147</b>	Go ahead over the level crossing, now abandoning the Medway Valley Walk.		
73	<b>148</b>	Opposite The Railway (pub), turn right along the main road, staying on its right-hand side to start with.		
74	<b>149</b>	Cross at the crossing and carry on up the left-hand side.		
75	<b>152</b>	Just before Leney Road opposite, turn left down the byway.		
76	<b>153</b>	Follow the track round to the right.		
77	<b>158</b>	Merge leftwards alongside a road.	687 534	
78**	<b>159</b>	When you reach the pond a few yards later: <b>either, to continue the circuit</b> (if not visiting, or finishing at, Wateringbury Church), go straight on and up the the hill as in Direction 3, and carry on from Direction 4;		
** or 78A	<b>159</b>	<b>... or, to detour to, or finish at, Wateringbury Church</b> , swing right with the road (to keep the pond on your left), and continue up along the road.		
78B	<b>162</b>	Reach and cross the main road, and turn left along its far side.		
78C	<b>163</b>	Reach <b>Wateringbury Church</b> , on the right.	685 536	7.66
78D		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.

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

## 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!

<b>NETTLESTEAD &amp; YALDING - SHORTER CIRCUIT</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	1, 23-24, 27-29, 73-74, 78B	15
Quiet road \$\$	2-4, 30, 32-33, 36, 53-54, 70-72, 77-78A	15
Open field with livestock	59, 64-67	6
Edge of field with livestock	60, 63	2
Field (or edge) without livestock **	6, 8, 18, 20, 25-26, 41-44, 47, 52b	20
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	5, 7, 9-13, 16-17, 21-22, 31, 34b-35, 37b-40, 45, 49b-52a, 55-58, 68-69, 75-76	33
Woods	14-15, 19, 34a, 37a, 46, 48-49a, 61-62	8

\*\* 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 does the stepping stile in 43.

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.

Those in 64 and 69 have dog gates.