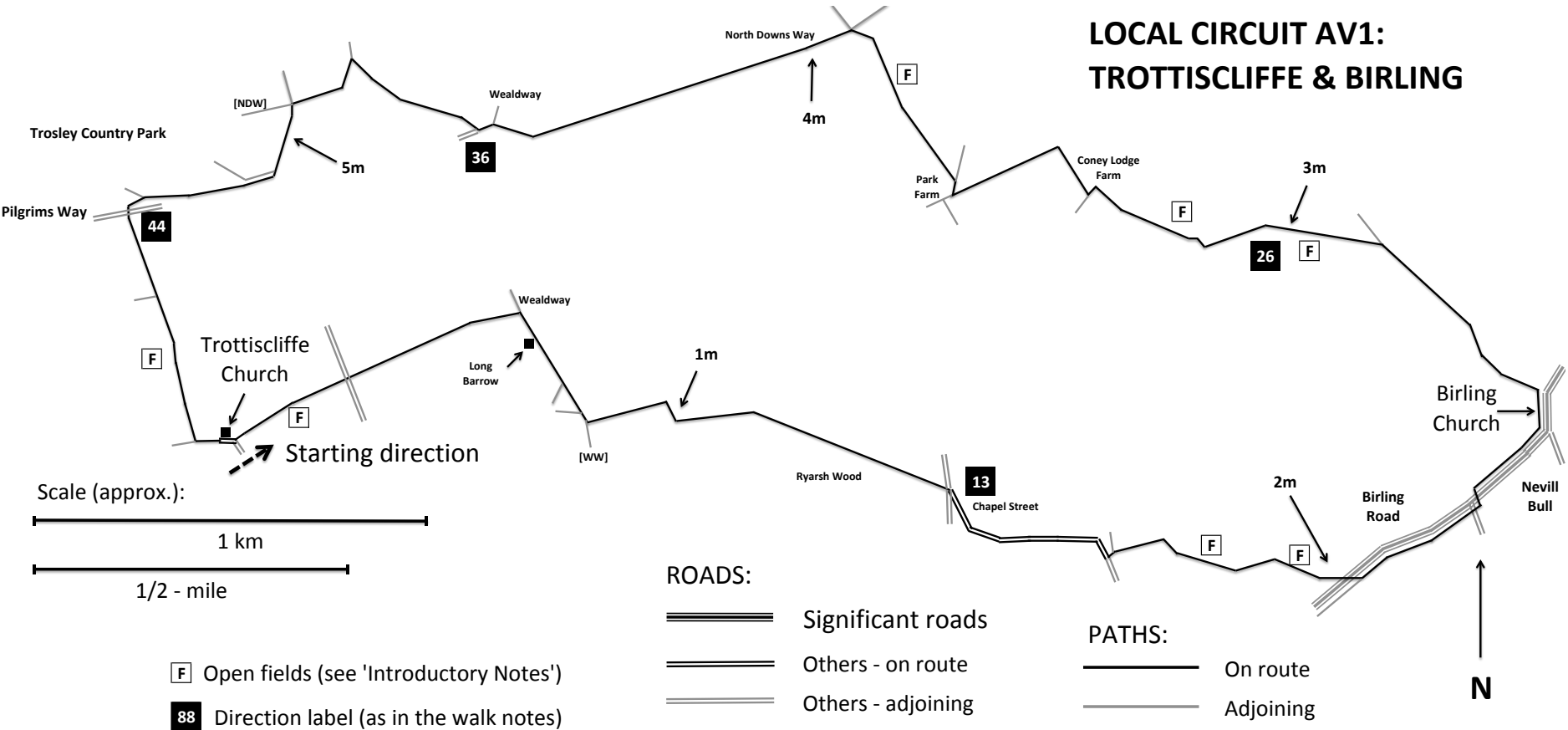


# LOCAL CIRCUIT AV1: TROTTSCLIFFE & BIRLING



## LOCAL CIRCUIT AV1: TROTTISCLIFFE & BIRLING

### Linked churches:

Trottscliffe (start and finish)

Birling (Direction 22)

### Roads and hindrances:

The only roads are the cul-de-sac in Direction 3 (quiet), Chapel Street (13 – quiet) and Birling Road (19 – reasonably so).

Ryarsh Wood (10-12) can be on the muddy side. The climb in the North Downs Way (36) is substantial, and the corresponding descent (39) deserves respect.

Notes taken: May and June 2015

The start and finish is at Trottscliffe Church (ME19 5EE).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		At the south side of <b>Trottscliffe Church</b> , with your back to the gateway, turn left and walk along the roadway. After about 30 yds., at the end of the little white fence, turn sharp left up a steep and narrow track into trees.	646 605	
2	<b>1</b>	<b>[!!F!!]</b> After a brief climb up this track, emerge at the start of a large field, and continue ahead in the same direction, gently uphill.		
3	<b>6</b>	Go across the road and continue along the cul-de-sac opposite.		
4	<b>7</b>	After a small parking area on the left, go ahead along the track, past the vehicle gate.		
5	<b>10</b>	Go straight ahead along the right-hand side of a field.		
6	<b>12</b>	Follow the rightward swing in the track, and very soon merge into the Wealdway as it comes in from the left.		
7	<b>13</b>	Ignore the private access road on the left and pass the Long Barrow monument on the right.		
8	<b>15</b>	When the main path swings decisively to the right, instead go slightly left, downhill along a clear but narrow and currently unmarked track.		
9	<b>16</b>	Merge left into a broader track, which then soon swings right again. Then, faced with the choice of two MKGs, go through the one to the left (turning away from the Wealdway, which goes straight on. Having made this left turn, go ahead along a wide open passageway between fenced fields.		
10	<b>19</b>	Go straight ahead into the wood.	657 606	
11	<b>22</b>	Fork right, as waymarked.		
12	<b>25</b>	Go to the left through a gap beside a redundant stile, and then over two little footbridges.		
13	<b>29</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Emerge from the trees at a road junction and go half-right along Chapel Street.		1.33

\* *"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
14	<b>35</b>	When the road has swung rightwards through a right-angle, go past a house on the left and, about 40 yds. later, turn left at a waymark, next to a pole. Then go ahead, keeping well across to left, but ignoring the waymark which actually points to the left: the direction is straight on down along the right-hand edge of a field, as confirmed by a waymark which comes a little too late to be really useful.	669 602	
15	<b>37</b>	In the bottom right-hand corner, turn right through a gap.		
16	<b>38</b>	<b>[!!F!!]</b> Go through a MKG and turn half-left up across a field, then swing a little to the left towards the top to go past the buildings .		
17	<b>41</b>	<b>[!!F!!]</b> Cross a stile into a new field and head for a gate in its far right-hand corner.		
18	<b>43</b>	<b>[!!F!!]</b> Go through the gate, and ahead in the same direction to another gate in the fence on the right.		
19	<b>44</b>	Go through this gate and down some steps to reach the road. Cross it and turn left along the walkway. It is a perfectly pleasant road with a safe walkway on the right-hand side. (But be prepared for traffic coming from behind occasionally to be next to you on 'your' side of the road, having been traffic-calmed.)		2.03
20	<b>49</b>	After crossing Masters Lane continue ahead, but cross to the pavement on the left-hand side.		
21	<b>52</b>	Swing left with the road, after passing the Nevill Bull.		
22	<b>53</b>	After passing <b>Birling Church</b> on the right and Ley Farm on the left, leave the road by going up steep steps on the left.		
23	<b>54</b>	Go through a MKG at the top and follow the obvious path which goes along the left-hand edge of the field, swinging gently to the right to pass farm buildings.		
24	<b>57</b>	Pass the farm buildings and go ahead through a MKG.		
25	<b>62</b>	<b>[!!F!!]</b> Go through a MKG on the left and over a footbridge, and then turn half-right (so that you have turned half-left from the original direction). Go across the field on that diagonal.	676 610	
26	<b>66</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> On the far side of the field merge leftwards into the track along its edge.		
27	<b>68</b>	At the far right-hand corner go slightly to the right into a few trees. <b>[!!F!!]</b> Then carry on in the same direction, aiming a little to the right of a red-brick house in the middle distance.		
28	<b>72</b>	Turn a little to the left to go through the farmyard.		3.33
29	<b>73</b>	Turn right on to concrete path.		
30	<b>75</b>	Turn left on to broader concrete path.		
31	<b>79</b>	Immediately before first of the buildings ahead, turn sharp right on to a narrow, overgrown and unpromising track.	665 611	
32		<b>[!!F!!]</b> Then very soon use a kissing gate up to the left to make a half-left turn towards the downs across a large field. The direction is about 30 degrees to the left of the right-hand field-edge, towards the corner of a patch of woodland jutting out into the field.		

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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
33	<b>87</b>	When you meet those trees go ahead into them through a MKG.		
34	<b>88</b>	Turn left on to the North Downs Way.	662 615	3.95
35	<b>101</b>	Continue straight ahead as the Wealdway comes down from the right.		
36	<b>102</b>	[Map point] Embark on a hard climb by turning right (still NDW) up steps alongside the gates to Harpwood, at first on an enclosed track, later alongside woodland on the left		
37	<b>110</b>	At the top turn sharp left (still NDW), immediately passing a wooden kissing gate.		
38	<b>113</b>	Leave the NDW by turning left at a cross-paths, quite steeply downhill, with steps.	647 613	
39	<b>114</b>	Admire the view at the MKG. Then carry on (carefully - it is not as smooth underfoot as it seems!) down the steep, grassy hill, aiming towards the gates at the bottom right-hand corner.		4.97
40	<b>119</b>	At the bottom turn right through the further of the two kissing gates (the one immediately next to the notice-board) to keep correctly to the left of the fence dividing the two parallel tracks. Go gently uphill.		
41	<b>120</b>	The paths then diverge. Yours goes a little to the left and levels off.		
42	<b>121</b>	Pass a pylon on the left.		
43	<b>123</b>	In spite of a waymark with a blue arrow ahead, instead, just before it, turn down to the left (unsignposted) into the trees.		
44	<b>124</b>	[Map point] Go through a gap next to a redundant gate, down some steps and across the road, and carry on a few yards in the same direction to start ahead along a narrow track.		
45	<b>127</b>	[!!F!!] Carry on ahead, through a wooden gate, ignoring the path coming in from the right.		
46	<b>132</b>	At the end of the path turn left in front of the farm buildings, and go through the farmyard.		
47	<b>133</b>	Arrive back at <b>Trottiscliffe Church</b> , the start of the walk.	646 605	5.82

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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!

<b>LOCAL CIRCUIT AV1</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	19-21	8
Quiet road \$\$	1, 3, 13	8
Open field with livestock	17-18	2
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	2b, 5, 14, 16, 23-26, 27b, 29-30, 32, 39-42, 45	42
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	2a, 4, 6-7, 9, 15, 22, 28, 31, 35-36a, 43-44, 46	15
Woods	8, 10-12, 27a, 33-34, 36b-38	26

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

There is one stile (in Direction 17) and it has easy gaps.