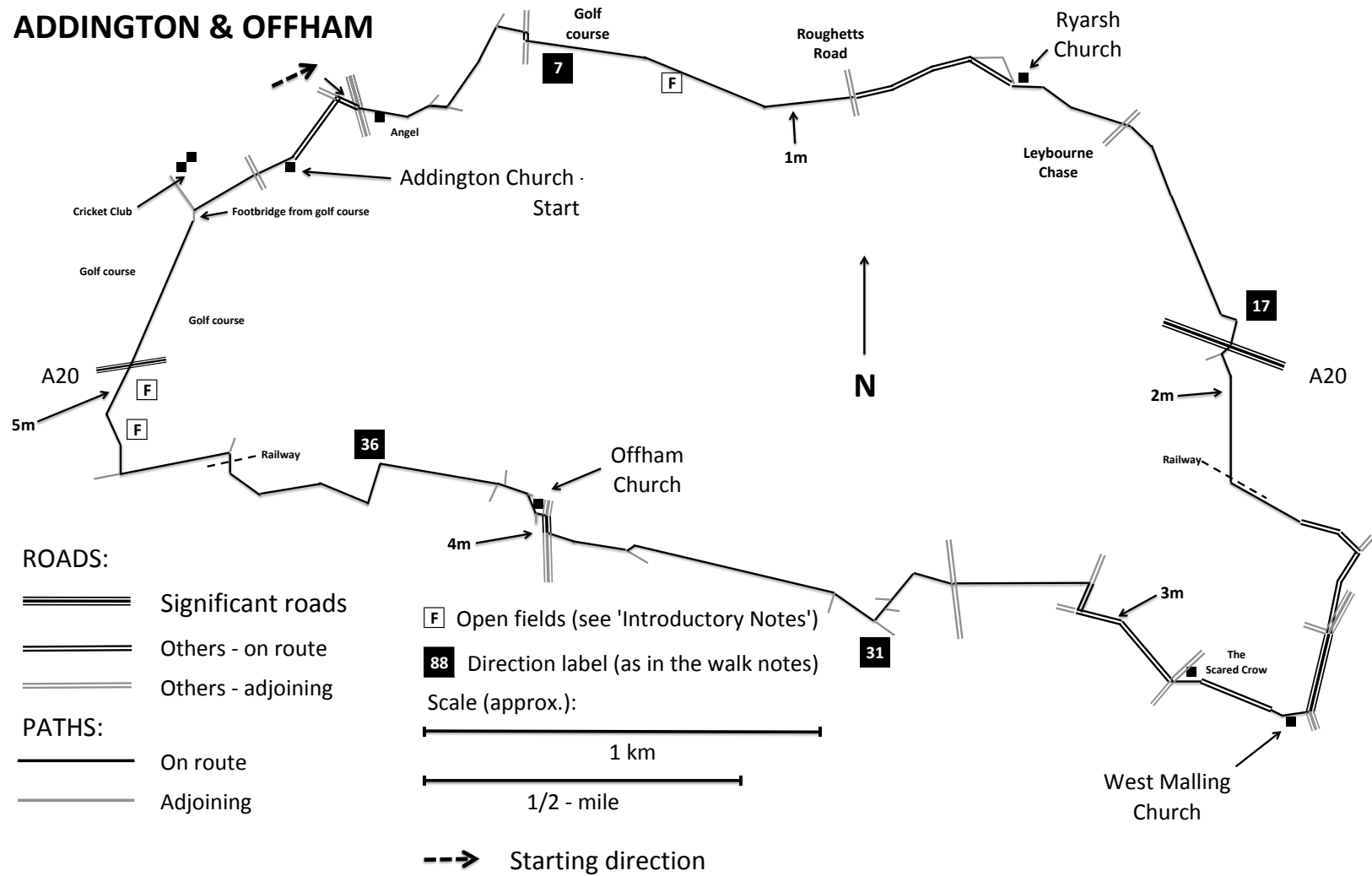


## LOCAL CIRCUIT AV3: ADDINGTON & OFFHAM



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### Linked churches:

Addington (start and finish)

Ryarsh (Direction 13)

West Malling (24)

Offham (33)

### Roads and hindrances:

The A20 needs to be crossed twice, but in both cases there are good sightlines. There are no other significant issues with roads or hindrances. Just look out for trains on the level crossing and balls on the golf course.

Notes taken: June 2015

The start and finish is at Addington Church (ME19 5BQ).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		With your back to the gate of <b>Addington Church</b> , facing north, go straight ahead down the metalled roadway.	653 588	
2	3	At the end turn right.		
3	4	At the main road go straight across between the green on the left and The Angel on the right, down Millhouse Lane.		
4	6	Just before 'Kingfishers' turn right down a hidden track and then very soon take the path to the left.		
5	8	Turn right through a wooden kissing gate and go ahead alongside the private garden on the right.		
6	11	Turn right, briefly along a road, then left after a few yards.		
7	12	[Map point] Embark on the crossing of the golf course, taking care to look out for flying golf balls, left and right as necessary. On the far side go slightly to the right uphill.		
8	16	Go through a MKG, and keep virtually straight on (not right) up a little rise through trees. <b>!!!F!!!</b> Then emerge from the trees on to a large expanse of heathland and continue across it. There may be a track faintly visible, but in any case go a little way to the right, slightly away from the left-hand edge. Keep to the right of the first fence which, after a minute or two, comes out part of the way at right-angles towards you from the left. After that, the point you are aiming at, though initially there seems to be no future in it, is about 60 yds. to the right of the far left-hand corner of the field. Here, at the last moment, a MKG comes into view.	662 592	
9	20	Go through the MKG and continue along the right-hand side of the field.		
10	23	Go through a wooden kissing gate and ahead on an enclosed 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
11	<b>24</b>	At the end cross the road and continue ahead along Church Road.		
12	<b>27</b>	Follow the road as it swings to the right.		
13	<b>28</b>	Turn left through the gate and follow the path through the churchyard of <b>Ryarsh Church</b> .		1.33
14	<b>29</b>	At the end of path go through the gate and turn right. Then very soon fork left down the obvious metalled pathway.		
15	<b>31</b>	Go through a kissing gate, and ahead along a path between barbed-wire fences.		
16	<b>33</b>	Emerge to cross the road (the approach road to the Leybourne Chase development) and go ahead – or very slightly to the right – along the waymarked track, which leads through woodland and over two footbridges to reach the side of a building on the right.		
17	<b>40</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Turn right at the railings. Then go over another footbridge and up a narrow path to reach the A20 beside The Wheatsheaf.	678 585	
18	<b>42</b>	Cross the road (good sightlines) and go up Brickfields opposite. Then after about 30 yds. fork left.		
19	<b>43</b>	Faced with three drives to private properties, go along the waymarked footpath to the right of the middle one.		
20	<b>46</b>	Cross the railway with due care, and then turn to go more or less alongside it.		2.15
21	<b>49</b>	Go ahead as the track becomes a metalled roadway.		
22	<b>51</b>	Turn right into King Street.		
23	<b>53</b>	After toilets (currently open) merge into the main road and continue ahead uphill on the right-hand pavement.		
24	<b>56</b>	At the top turn right into the churchyard of <b>West Malling Church</b> . Follow the middle of the three paths, which leads past the main north door of the church, and then, after a bench, out of the churchyard on the far side.		2.65
25	<b>57</b>	Passing St Mary's Centre on the left, start down the quiet cul-de-sac (or the parallel walkway to the left) to a green.		
26	<b>60</b>	Cross the green, by the side of the Scared Crow (though the name is not yet visible), cross the road and go ahead along the right-hand pavement of Fartherwell Avenue.	676 576	
27	<b>64</b>	Turn right into Alma Road.		
28	<b>65</b>	After about 100 yds. turn left along a footpath, initially between concrete side-walls.		
29	<b>67</b>	Continue ahead as a big field opens out to the right.		
30	<b>69</b>	Cross the road and continue along the footpath opposite, and turn left with it at the corner of the field.		3.32
31	<b>82</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> After ignoring paths off to right and left, reach a T-junction with a broad track, and turn right along it. Follow this track eventually going between buildings and on to the main road.	669 578	
32	<b>83</b>	Turn right along the road.		4.00

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
33	<b>84</b>	After about 100 yds. go through the churchyard gates to the left, and on to the south door of <b>Offham Church</b> . Continue along the churchyard path and turn right at the road which leads through the farmyard.		
34	<b>85</b>	Beyond the farmyard turn left, along a broad track.		
35	<b>86</b>	Continue ahead at crosspaths.		
36	<b>90</b>	[Map point] Swing left with the path, and very soon, when you reach the corner of woodland turn right to go along the edge of the trees, parallel with the railway once again.		
37	<b>95</b>	After edging across to the right with the path, go under the railway bridge. After the bridge immediately turn left to walk alongside the railway, which is now up to your left.		4.66
38	<b>97</b>	Go ahead through a kissing gate, along the top left-hand edge of a field.		
39	<b>98</b>	[!!F!!] Turn right, down across the field, to reach another kissing gate at the bottom.	649 582	
40	<b>99</b>	[!!F!!] Go through this gate and ahead in the same direction.		
41	<b>100</b>	[!!F!!] At a further kissing gate turn towards the right. Strictly speaking you should be going right alongside the hedge on the right, but that area is currently so overgrown that it makes sense simply to head up towards the top right-hand corner as best possible across the clearer area.		
42	<b>102</b>	At the top right-hand corner go through a final MKG and cross the A20 (good sightlines). Go ahead, slightly to the right, towards the golf course. Initially the route goes along the left-hand edge of the golf club car park (currently something of a building site, as it seems the car park is being extended); then once on the course itself it goes downhill and generally very slightly to the right. Before long, at the top of a steeper drop, Addington Cricket Club comes into view at the bottom, beyond a fence, at the right-hand end of which is a gap. In this gap is a footbridge which is your immediate target. On the golf course be aware of golf-ball danger, especially at the bottom near the driving range.		5.03
43	<b>107</b>	When you reach the footbridge go over it and turn right along the boundary of the cricket field.		
44	<b>108</b>	Immediately opposite the cricket pavilion turn right, away from the cricket field, up a grassy track with a hedge on the right, and a little later on both sides.		
45	<b>109</b>	Carry straight on across a metalled driveway.		
46	<b>111</b>	Arrive back at <b>Addington Church</b> , the start of the walk.	653 588	5.47

\* *"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**

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 AV3</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	23, 32	3
Quiet road \$\$	1-3, 11-12, 18a, 21-22, 25-27	21
Open field with livestock	39-40	2
Edge of field with livestock	9, 38	3
Field (or edge) without livestock **	8b, 29-31, 35-36, 41	27
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	4-7, 10, 13-15, 17, 18b-20, 24, 28, 33-34, 42-45	34
Woods	8a, 16, 37	9

\*\* 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 (2)** - Details noted in June 2015, but **subject to frequent change**:

The only stiles are the two on either side of the railway level crossing in Direction 20, and they both have easy gaps.