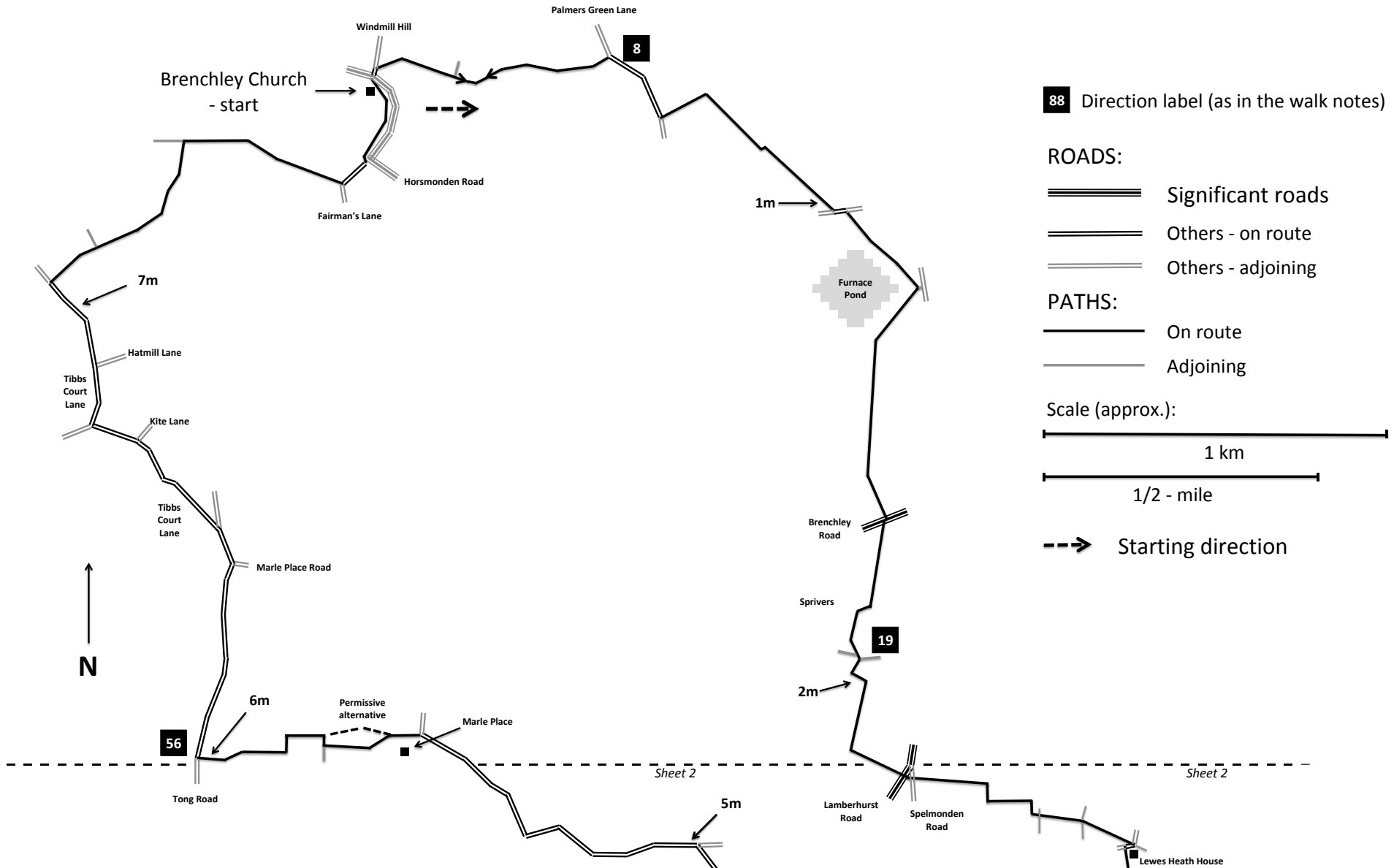


LOCAL CIRCUIT BR1: HORSMONDEN

Sheet 1 (first and last sections)



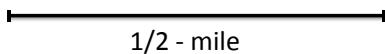
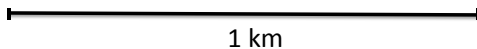
LOCAL CIRCUIT BR1: HORSMONDEN

Sheet 2 (middle section)

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

Scale (approx.):



--> Cont. from Sheet 1



ROADS:

Significant roads

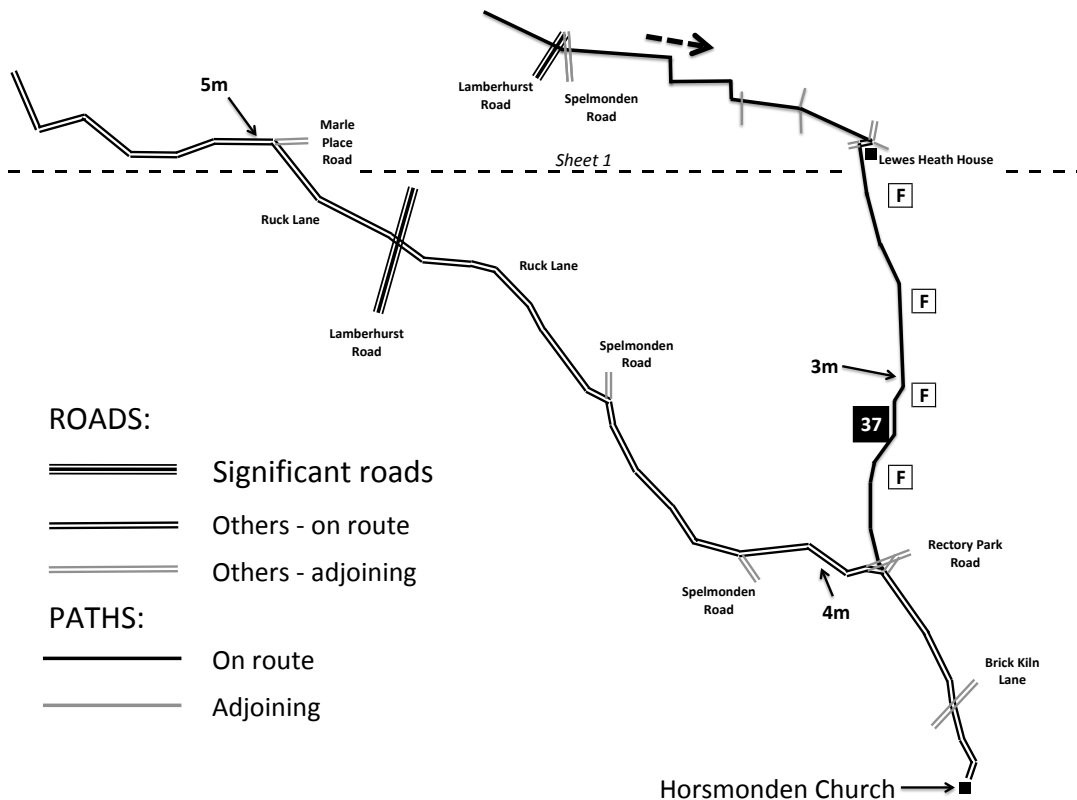
Others - on route

Others - adjoining

PATHS:

On route

Adjoining



LOCAL CIRCUIT BR1: HORSMONDEN

Linked churches:

Brenchley (start and finish)

Horsmonden (Direction 41)

This route is longer than usual for a Local Circuit. It exists primarily to provide such a circuit for Horsmonden Church, which is exceptional (though not unique) in the distance it is away from any other churches in the diocese. Brenchley is the nearest: nearly 6 miles return even for the flying crow. The 8 miles described here could actually be shortened, but in reality only slightly; and any such shortening would, as far as I can see, provide a somewhat less enjoyable route.

Roads and hindrances:

The second half of the walk is tarmac-heavy, but those roads are in pleasant surroundings and I have found them to be very quiet. The busy Brenchley-to-Horsmonden road and the B2162 (twice) need crossing with a bit of care but without undue difficulty.

Notes taken: April 2016

The start and finish is at **Brenchley Church** (TN12 7NH)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the north door of <u>Brenchley Church</u> go ahead along the path to the lych-gate.	680 417	
2		Cross the road and carry on up the right-hand edge of the grass triangle, and immediately after the shop and cottage on the right, turn right along the narrow passageway, which then becomes a track down through a tunnel of trees.		
3	4	Cross a stile and carry on down a steeply dropping avenue between fruit trees.		
4	5	At the bottom go slightly leftwards along a long plank which becomes a footbridge.		
5	6	Beyond the footbridge go ahead and then slightly to the right, steeply uphill.		
6	8	Pass alongside a redundant stile, and continue ahead along the right-hand edge of a field.		
7	12	At the end cross a stile and go ahead to the road.		
8		[Map point] Reaching the road at Palmers Green Cottage, turn right.		
9	15	After Hononton Cottage, and about 40 yds. after passing a gate, turn left up through a gap as waymarked, and then walk along an avenue between fruit trees.		0.63
10	16	Go straight ahead, guided by another waymark.		
11	17	Go about 70 degrees right, as waymarked, along the left-hand side of a screen of trees.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
12	20	Carry on in the same direction, moving across very slightly to the left, to go now along the right-hand side of a new screen of trees, with an open field on your right..		
13	24	Turn left along the roadway for about 40 yds., then right again towards Furnace Pond at the bottom.	693 414	
14	26	Turn left through a metal gate to go along to the left of the pond.		
15	28	At the end of the lake go slightly to the left to go over a footbridge. Then, at waymarks (not entirely clear) immediately beyond a house, turn right along a narrow track, alongside the house's fence on your right.		
16	29	The track goes ahead, now winding among trees.		
17	37	Pass a redundant stile, and, joining a driveway, go ahead towards the main road.		1.63
18	38	Go over a stile and go ahead to cross the road, and, slightly further to the right, continue along the metalled avenue, into Sprivers, on the far side.		
19	44	[Map point] At the crosspaths ignore the signs inviting you left, and go straight ahead, between water on both sides. Then follow the path as it swings left, then right.		
20	47	Turn left with the pathway.	693 398	
21	50	Reach the road, and (slightly across to the left) go along the right-hand side of grass triangle and on beyond it, so that you have crossed both the roads which are merging at that point. Then go up away from them to start along the signposted footpath, between fences.		2.27
22	52	Go ahead along an avenue between fruit trees. <i>For several minutes now the route will, guided by waymarks, turn a series of right-angles, right and left in turn, along and between the rows of trees, rather than following the direct diagonal line implied by the OS map.</i>		
23		Start the sequence by turning right, as waymarked.		
24	53	Then left.		
25	55	And right.		
26	56	And left, going ahead over a crossing path.		
27	58	And now straight on, though without benefit of waymark, in the same direction between more trees.		
28	60	At the end, look across a little to the right to find a gap, which you go through to reach a complicated junction of roads and paths. Choose the footpath, somewhat to the right, which goes to the right of Lewes Heath House.	702 395	
29	61	Go through a sturdy wooden kissing gate - the first of several on the track between here and Horsmonden Church. Go ahead along a broad grass avenue.		
30	62	Ignore the gate on the right, and continue along the grass avenue, which narrows to a point at the far end.		
31	63	[!F!] At that point go through another gate, and ahead a short way to another one across the 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
32	64	[!!F!!] Continue along the line of kissing gates, now into a few trees.		
33	65	[!!F!!] Go slightly to the right, towards a pair of big trees very close to each other.		
34	67	[!!F!!] Pass these trees and go on to a bridge over a stream.		
35	68	[!!F!!] Cross the stream, and go ahead, through another gate and over a little hump to yet another gate, and a footbridge beyond it.		
36		[!!F!!] After the footbridge go steeply uphill on the other side, if anything angling a little to the right, to meet a fence at the top.	702 389	
37	71	[Map point] When you meet the fence, go to the right alongside it, as it bends gently to the left..		
38	72	[!!F!!] After another gate next to the fence, go diagonally to the right across the undulating field. It might be possible to see traces of a path leading first towards a point about 30 yds. to the right of the nearest solitary tree, then aiming past the next tree to a final wooden kissing gate leading to a road.		
39	75	Emerge on to the road at the grass triangle, and walk straight across it and down the minor road beyond.	702 386	
40	80	Go straight across at the angled crossroads.		
41	82	Reach the gate at the north side of Horsmonden Church . After visiting the church, retrace your steps back across the angled crossroads and along the road to the grass triangle.		3.62
42	89	At the triangle turn left.	702 386	
43	93	At the top merge rightwards into the 'major' road.		
44	98	Turn left up the minor road.		
45	105	Reach and cross the main road, and continue opposite along Ruck Lane.		4.80
46	110	Merge leftwards down Marle Place Road.		
47	121	At the approach to Marle Place, swing right with the road, but immediately regain your original direction by turning left along a footpath, passing a gate and going ahead towards Marle Place itself.		5.61
48	122	After about 100 yds., reach a parking area on the right. <i>There are now, for a brief few minutes, two slightly different options. Described as the main route is the waymarked track into a little bit of rough woodland, after which you turn to the right to meet the alternative. (The alternative, not described in detail, is a permissive path which makes its ground to the right at the outset, going to the far corner of the car park, and then goes ahead through some trees, before emerging at the start of a plantation of fruit trees and going straight on where the main route joins by its left-turn at Direction 52.)</i>		
49	123	After passing ahead alongside the car park, the main route follows the waymark and goes straight on at a gate.		
50		Go straight ahead into the woodland, along a rough path which veers slightly to the right as it nears its end..		
51	125	Emerging from the wood, ignore the left-turn waymark and turn up to the right for about 50 yds..		

* **"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
52	126	Turn left, next to some waymarks where the alternative rejoins, to start along a series of avenues between fruit trees.	678 398	
53	127	At a waymark post (currently fallen, so of limited value) turn left, then, after a further 40 yds. or so, right - still following the avenues between rows of trees.		
54	128	At another waymark, concealed behind one of the trees, turn half-left, and when the trees on the left come to an end carry on towards a gap in the far left-hand corner of the field.		
55	129	Go through the gap and along the rough roadway towards a gate and the road ahead.		
56	130	[Map point] Turn right along the road.		
57	134	Go straight ahead, passing the end of Marle Place Road on the right.		
58	137	At the road junction at the bottom stay on the major road, turning slightly left.		
59	138	Fork left away from the major road up Tibbs Court Lane.		6.48
60	143	Ignore Kite Lane on the right, and continue ahead, swinging slightly to the left with the major road..		
61	145	At the triangle turn right (road signposted to Brenchley).		
62	147	Ignore Hatmill Lane and go straight ahead, downhill.		
63	150	Join the High Weald Landscape Trail by turning right along the signposted footpath, briefly alongside a private garden (Southfield Cottages), towards a new wooden gate.		7.08
64	151	Go through the gate, and ahead, among trees at first.		
65	153	Continue ahead, ignoring the track to the left.		
66	155	Swing left with the main path and follow it down to a footbridge over the stream running out of the fishing lake.		
67	156	Cross the footbridge and carry on, as straight ahead as possible.		
68	158	At the junction of paths, turn right with the main path.	674 416	
69	161	Carry on through a wooden gate and turn slightly right.		
70	163	The path becomes a metalled roadway going straight ahead to pass Wagon Lodge.		
71	164	Turn left along the road.		
72		After about 30 yds., go up a few steps and along a narrow track parallel to the road down on your right.		
73	167	Continue ahead along the footpath which follows the right-hand side of the churchyard and towards to the right (east) end of the church ahead.		
74	169	Reach the north door of Brenchley Church , the starting point of the walk.	680 417	7.99

* *"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 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 BR1	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1	0.3
Quiet road \$\$	8, 39-49, 55-62, 71	47
Open field with livestock	38	1
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	5-6, 12, 19b, 29-31, 33-37	11
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	2-4, 7, 9-11, 13-15, 17, 19a, 20-28, 52-54, 63, 64b, 66, 68-70, 72-73	28
Woods	16, 18, 32, 50-51, 64a, 65, 67	13

** 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 April 2016, but **subject to frequent change:**

All the stiles crossed (Directions 3, 7 and 18) have easy gaps.