

BRENCLEY

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

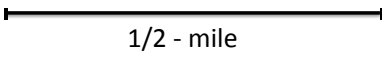
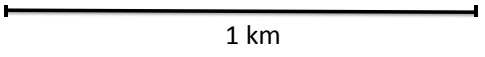
--- Others - adjoining

PATHS:

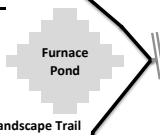
— On route

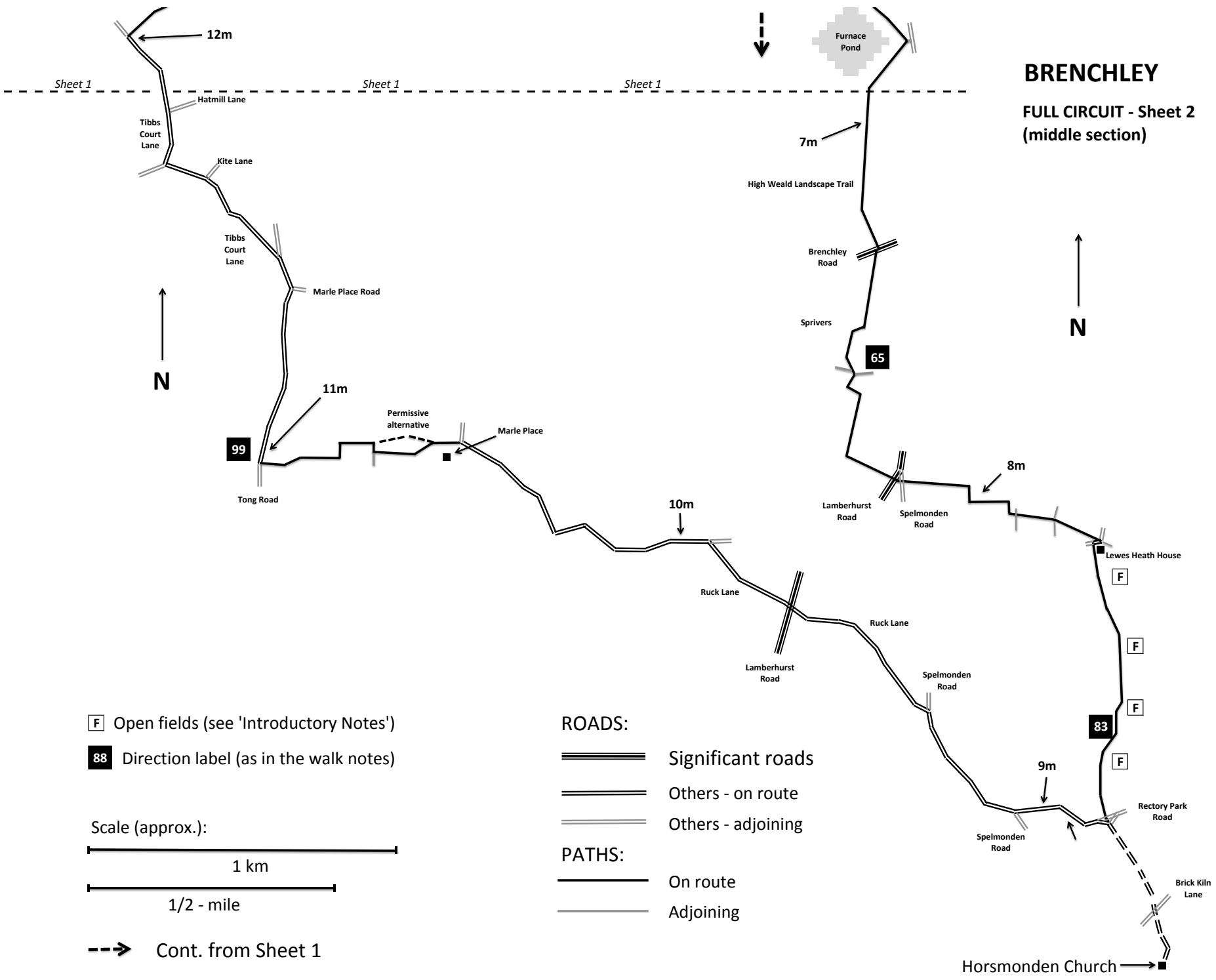
--- Adjoining

Scale (approx.):



Starting direction **-->**





BRENCHLEY CIRCUIT

Churches in the full circuit:

Brenchley (start and finish)

Paddock Wood (Direction 26)

Horsmonden (Direction 85C: Detour - see Appendix)

Because of the distances between Horsmonden Church and any others in the diocese, there are, exceptionally, only three churches linked in this Full Circuit.

Associated local circuits

- BR1: Brenchley – Horsmonden Church - Brenchley

Full circuit: Sections of this walk join the High Weald Landscape Trail, a delightful surprise for one coming across it for the first time. And generally, in this borderland between Low Weald and High Weald, when the route climbs a little there is often ample reward in the views.

Roads and hindrances:

The three miles after Horsmonden Church are 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. The only unpleasantness is amid fairly robust traffic in Mile Oak Road (Directions 40-41), but it is over in less than five minutes, so perhaps tolerable.

The footbridge in Direction 50 is not easy, but manageable if not rushed. (Or it would of course be possible, as a glance at the OS map will show, to stay on the road at 47 and make a small diversion to get to the start of Palmers Green Lane at 53.

FULL CIRCUIT

Brenchley – Paddock Wood – Horsmonden Church - Brenchley

Notes taken: April 2016

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		Leave the church from the north door and the lych gate which opens on to the road. Turn left at the lych-gate and walk along the road, crossing when convenient.	680 417	
2	3	Turn right up Holly Bank, and use the raised walkway on the right of the road.		
3	5	Turn left at the top, cross over, and after about 20 yds. go up steps on the right to walk along the field-edge.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
4	7	Look for a wooden gate in the fence on the right and slip through it to continue in the original direction, between fences; and then swing rightwards towards the end.		
5	8	Go a little to the left along the metalled driveway.		
6	9	Turn right through the wooden gate, and after about 30 yds. turn left along the clear line between the trees.		
7	10	Keep straight ahead, along the right-hand side of the screen of trees.		
8		[Map point] After about 25 yds. turn right along the third of the regularly spaced avenues between the fruit trees. This turn is level with a waymark post which you might spot behind you on the other side of the screen of trees which you are leaving. If you have found the right avenue it will lead you directly to a gate in the hedge on the other side of the field. If not you can easily correct when you get to the other side.		
9	12	[!!F!!] Go through the gate and continue across the field between the fruit trees, roughly parallel to the fence over on the left and heading, to start with, in the direction of the light-green industrial buildings in the far distance.		
10	14	When the fence comes to join you from the left go alongside it and embark on a pleasant trail along a long grassy avenue, defined by well-kept fences on both sides on its journey up and down and from side to side.	674 424	
11	26	[Map point] After a final swing to the left, turn right to join another path coming down from the left, and go ahead to a wooden kissing gate.		1.26
12	27	Go through the gate, and on up the path ahead.		
13	28	Just after the top go straight on, gently downhill, ignoring the path which joins from the right.		
14	29	Go ahead into a narrow passageway between fences.		
15	31	Turn right along the road.		
16	33	[!!F!!] Opposite the end of Waterman's Lane, turn left over a metal stile, and go slightly to the right towards another stile on the far side of the field.		
17	34	Cross the stile and go into the wood. There is no 'correct' way through the trees, but not much scope for going wrong if you remain reasonably close to the direction in which you crossed the field to the stile.		
18	36	[Map point] There is a road on the far side, and when you reach it turn left along it.		
19	39	Ignore Green Lane on the right and continue ahead on the right-hand pavement.		
20	40	Turn right along Linnet Avenue and follow it as it swings to the left and then the right.		
21	43	Turn left into Chaffinch Way.		
22		Turn right between metal barriers along a metalled pathway between houses, just beyond number 6 on the right.		
23	44	At the end go through more metal barriers, and straight on along the road opposite, with house number 15 on your right.		

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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
24	46	At the T-junction at the end turn right.		
25		At the end turn sharp left.		
26	51	Reach the junction with Maidstone Road (with Paddock Wood Church beyond a house, over to the left). To continue on the route turn right at the exit from the church to go along the right-hand pavement of Maidstone Road.		2.50
27	52	START OF THE SPINE SECTION Fork right, then immediately right again along Old Kent Road.		
28	59	Having walked the full length of Old Kent Road, at the junction at the end (next to the John Brunt VC) turn right to cross the road and walk along the enclosed metalled footpath which begins there.		
29	64	END OF THE SPINE SECTION At the end, next to the railway footbridge, go virtually straight ahead for about 25 more yards, then turn right at the metal barriers to walk along a path separated from the field on its left by thick undergrowth.		
30	68	At the end follow the fence on the right as it bends to the right and leads you into a narrow passageway which twists right and left and leads out to the main road.		
31	69	Pass the barrier to cross the road, and then turn left along the pavement on the far side, immediately swinging right with the road.	676 449	
32	71	Continue along the road, ignoring the end of Warrington Road on the right; and then similarly go on past the end of Queen Lane.		3.55
33	75	Ignore the footpath on the right and the one on the left.		
34	76	[Map point] But at the next footpath on the right follow it over a stile and walk along the left-hand edge of a big field.	678 444	
35	80	Continue along the left-hand field-edge, ignoring the gap on the left.		
36	81	And go on, now on the right-hand edge of a new field.		
37	83	Reaching the corner of the farm buildings, turn left, as signposted, along the farm driveway.		
38	84	Turn left along the road.		
39	85	At the next junction, keep right with the major road.		
40	88	Follow this road to its end, then turn right into Mile Oak Road.		
41	90	Ignore the end of Knowle Lane and continue along the road.		4.49
42	92	Turn left along a signposted footpath, then go through a new wooden gate and along the left-hand side of a garden to a stile at the end.	681 434	
43	93	[!!F!!] Cross the stile, and go on, slightly further to the right, heading directly for a waymark post across the field.		
44	94	At the post turn right keeping the stream on your left.		
45	96	[!!F!!] Turn left over a footbridge and walk all the way across the long field, exactly at a right-angle from the track and the stream you have just left, heading towards the road at the other end.	683 433	

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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
46	102	[Map point] When you reach the far end find some steps to climb the bank, then turn right up the road.		
47	107	Turn left off the road after the houses, along a path marked Knowle Lodge.		
48	108	[!!F!!] After the house, turn half-right as waymarked, across a field, at first to a waymark post next to a little seat.		
49	109	[!!F!!] From there go a bit further to the right. At the top of the rise you will reach a point from which you can see down to a footbridge where you will cross a stream.	688 427	
50	110	[!!F!!] Cross the bridge (climbing on and off over tricky railings), and head upwards, a little to the left, to a stile at the top of the field.		
51	112	Cross the stile and go along a narrow track.		
52	113	As a drive joins from the right, go along it to a road.		
53	114	Go across and start along Palmers Green Lane opposite.		5.57
54	122	[Map point] Join the High Weald Landscape Trail as it comes in from the right, opposite Palmers Green Cottage; and go straight on a little further down the road.		
55	125	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.		6.20
56	126	Go straight ahead, guided by another waymark.		
57	127	Go about 70 degrees right, as waymarked, along the left-hand side of a screen of trees.		
58	130	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..		
59	134	Turn left along the roadway for about 40 yds., then right again towards Furnace Pond at the bottom.	693 414	
60	136	Turn left through a metal gate to go along to the left of the pond.		
61	138	At the end of the pond 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.		
62	139	The track goes ahead, now winding among trees.		
63	147	Pass a redundant stile, and, joining a driveway, go ahead towards the main road.		7.20
64	148	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.		
65	154	[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.		
66	157	Turn left with the pathway.	693 398	

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
67	160	Reach the road, and (slightly across to the left) go along the right-hand side of the 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.		7.84
68	162	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>		
69		Start the sequence by turning right, as waymarked.		
70	163	Then left.		
71	165	And right.		
72	166	And left, going ahead over a crossing path.		
73	168	And now straight on, though without benefit of waymark, in the same direction between more trees.		
74	170	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	
75	171	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.		
76	172	Ignore the gate on the right, and continue along the grass avenue, which narrows to a point at the far end.		
77	173	!!!F!!! At that point go through another gate, and ahead a short way to another one across the field.		
78	174	!!!F!!! Continue along the line of kissing gates, now into a few trees.		
79	175	!!!F!!! Go slightly to the right, towards a pair of big trees very close to each other.		
80	177	!!!F!!! Pass these trees and go on to a bridge over a stream.		
81	178	!!!F!!! Cross the stream, and go ahead, through another gate and over a little hump to yet another gate, and a footbridge beyond it.		
82		!!!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	
83	181	[Map point] When you meet the fence, go to the right alongside it, as it bends gently to the left.		
84	182	!!!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.		
85	185	<i>[To visit Horsmonden Church, now divert instead to the Detour in the Appendix.]</i> Emerge on to the road at the grass triangle, and turn right.	702 386	8.87
86	189	At the top merge rightwards into the 'major' road.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
87	194	Turn left up the minor road.		
88	201	Reach and cross the main road, and continue opposite along Ruck Lane.		9.73
89	206	Merge leftwards down Marle Place Road.		
90	217	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.		10.54
91	218	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>		
92	219	After passing ahead alongside the car park, the main route follows the waymark and goes straight on at a gate.		
93		Go straight ahead into the woodland, along a rough path which veers slightly to the right as it nears its end.		
94	221	Emerging from the wood, ignore the left-turn waymark and turn up to the right for about 50 yds.		
95	222	Turn left, next to some waymarks where the alternative rejoins, to start along a series of avenues between fruit trees.	678 398	
96	223	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.		
97	224	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.		
98	225	Go through the gap and along the rough roadway towards a gate and the road ahead.		
99	226	[Map point] Turn right along the road.		
100	230	Go straight ahead, passing the end of Marle Place Road on the right.		
101	233	At the road junction at the bottom stay on the major road, turning slightly left.		
102	234	Fork left away from the major road up Tibbs Court Lane.		11.41
103	239	Ignore Kite Lane on the right, and continue ahead, swinging slightly to the left with the major road.		
104	241	At the triangle turn right (road signposted to Brenchley).		
105	243	Ignore Hatmill Lane and go straight ahead, downhill.		
106	246	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.		12.01
107	247	Go through the gate, and ahead, among trees at first.		
108	249	Continue ahead, ignoring the track to the left.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
109	251	Swing left with the main path and follow it down to a footbridge over the stream running out of the fishing lake.		
110	252	Cross the footbridge and carry on, as straight ahead as possible.		
111	254	At the junction of paths, turn right with the main path.	674 416	
112	257	Carry on through a wooden gate and turn slightly right.		
113	259	The path becomes a metalled roadway going straight ahead to pass Wagon Lodge.		
114	260	Turn left along the road.		
115		After about 30 yds., go up a few steps and along a narrow track parallel to the road down on your right.		
116	263	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.		
117	265	Reach the north door of <u>Brenchley Church</u> , the starting point of the walk.	680 417	12.94

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APPENDIX to Full Circuit

Detour to Horsmonden Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
85A	0	To reach Horsmonden Church, instead of turning right at the grass triangle, walk straight across it and down the minor road beyond.	702 386	0.00
85B	5	Go straight across at the angled crossroads.		
85C	7	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.		0.32
85D	14	Rejoin the main route, by turning left at the triangle (where there would have been a right-turn at Direction 85). Add 14 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.64 miles to cumulative distances.		0.64

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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!

BRENCHLEY - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 18-19, 26, 31-33, 38-41, 46	10
Quiet road \$\$	2-3a, 15, 20-21, 23-25, 27, 37, 53-54, 85-92, 98-105, 114	36
Open field with livestock	84	1
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	9, 16, 34-36, 43-45, 48-50, 58, 65b, 75-77, 79-83	14
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	3b-8, 10a, 10c, 10e-14, 22, 28-30, 42, 47, 51-52, 55-57, 59-61, 63, 65a, 66-74, 95-97, 106, 107b, 109, 111-113, 115-116	28
Woods	10b, 10d, 17, 62, 64, 78, 93-94, 107a, 108, 110	11

** 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 (6) - Details noted in April 2016, but subject to frequent change:

All the stiles on this walk (in Directions 16, 17, 34, 43, 51 and 64) have easy gaps.