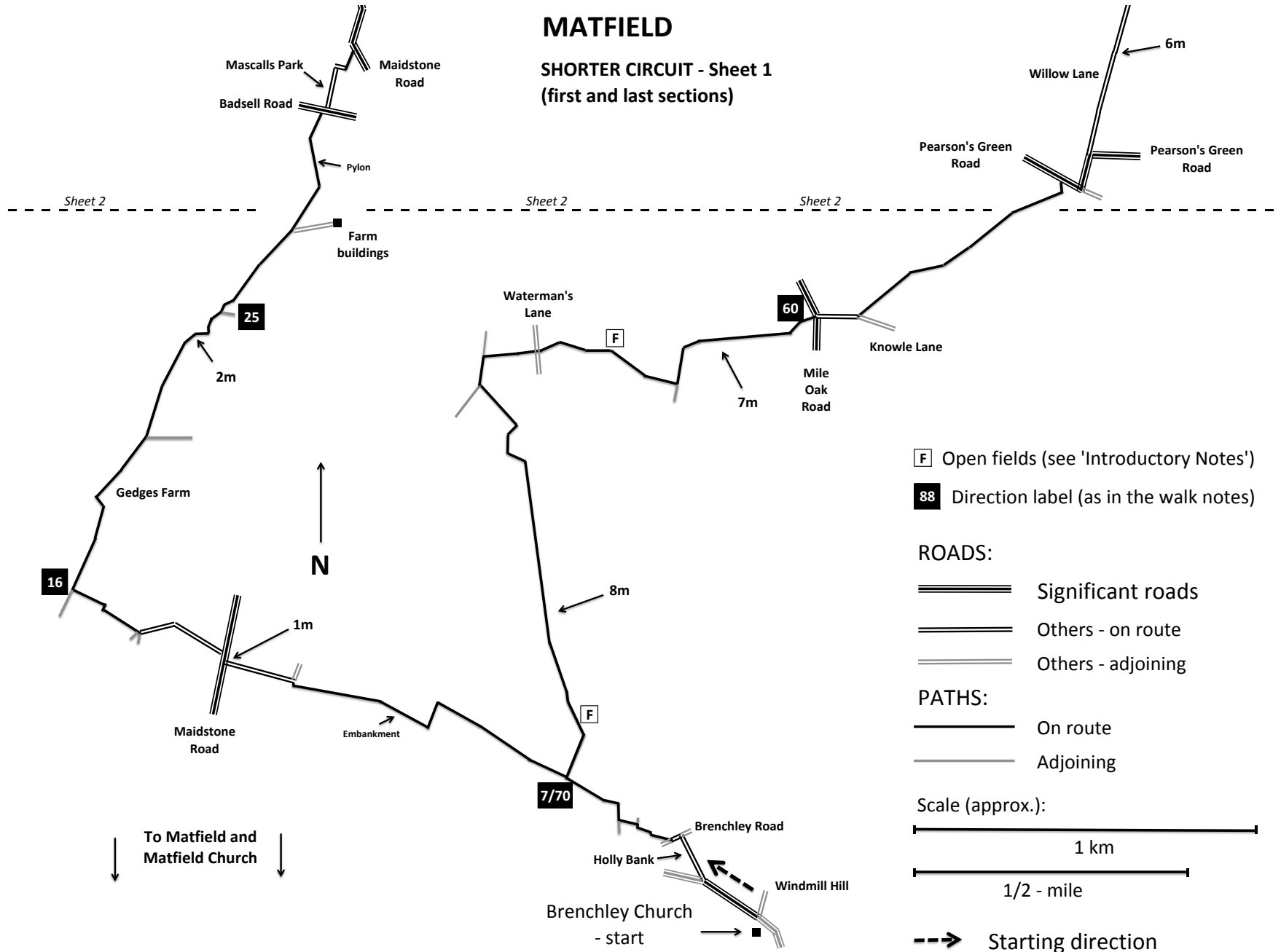


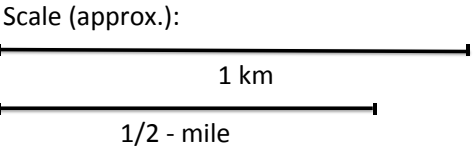
# MATFIELD

## SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 1 (first and last sections)



MATFIELD

SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 2  
(middle section)



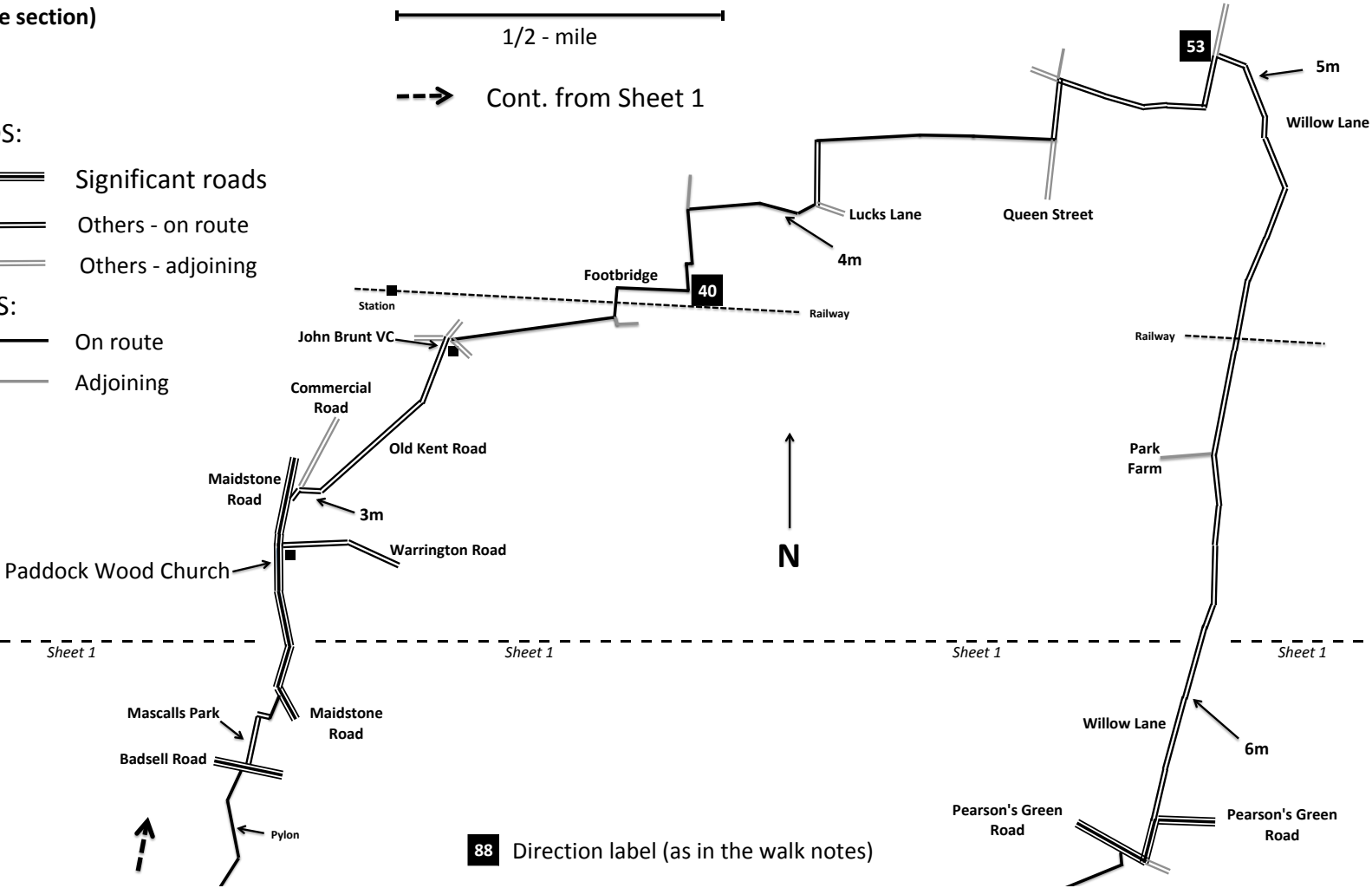
---> Cont. from Sheet 1

ROADS:

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

PATHS:

- On route
- Adjoining



## MATFIELD CIRCUIT

### Churches in the shorter circuit:

Brenchley (start and finish)

Paddock Wood (Direction 34)

*The spine sections in the Brenchley and Matfield sectors have been severely shortened to enable Horsmonden Church to be included in a Full Circuit. This Shorter Circuit covers both those spine sections, and is therefore included in both Brenchley and Matfield sectors. Though appearing separately under both headings, these two Shorter Circuits are identical.*

### Associated local circuits

- MF1: Matfield – Brenchley – Matfield

**Shorter circuit:** Alternating between High Weald and Low Weald, there are some delightful stretches (such as the northward view around Direction 14, and the rolling landscapes around 66).

### Roads and hindrances:

There are routine crossings of fairly busy roads: Maidstone Road (twice – Directions 13 and 33), Badsell Road (30) and the junction by the John Brunt VC (36), but in each case the sightlines are good and ordinary care will be enough. There is a brief brush with Pearson's Green Road (55-56), which is no busier but needs to be crossed a couple of times to deal with the right-hand bend.

Queen Street and Willow Lane (50-54) form an extended (half-hour or so) section on roads, which will not please those averse to tarmac; but I have always found them to be very quiet and – Willow Lane particularly – pleasant. (The railway bridge (54) looks worrying in prospect, but the alert walker will find it quite manageable.)

## **SHORTER CIRCUIT**

**Brenchley – Matfield North - Paddock Wood - 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	[Map point] Keep straight ahead, along the left-hand side of the screen of trees.		
8	16	<i>Around here the straight line shown on the OS map is not quite a reality.</i>  At the end, faced by a screen of trees, do not go through it, but turn left alongside it.		
9	17	Turn right at the end of the screen, then go ahead and up, slightly to the right, to walk along the length of a small embankment.		
10	19	At the end go through a gap at the corner of a new field and continue straight ahead, once again with fruit trees on the left and a tree-screen on the right.	668 424	
11	21	Go straight on along a narrow enclosed path.		
12	22	Go briefly right and left to continue along a roadway in the same direction.		
13	25	Reach the main road (Maidstone Road). Cross it and go along it for about 20 yds. to the right. Then take the roadway on its left, signposted as a footpath.		1.16
14	28	Where various tracks converge at a pair of oasthouses, go slightly to the right along an enclosed track.		
15	29	Keep alongside the fence on the right, departing from the main track, down a narrow enclosed path.		
16	31	[Map point] At the T-junction of paths at the end turn right.		
17	34	Turn left to go alongside the farmhouse of Gedges Farm.		
18	35	Turn right (not waymarked) at the first opportunity, down the roadway through the farm buildings.	660 430	
19	37	Leave the farm area through the exit gate.		
20	38	About 30 yds. after the roadway starts to swing to the right, instead leave it by going through a narrow, discreetly waymarked gap on the left, and onward in the original direction alongside the hedge on the right and a field beyond rough undergrowth on the left.		
21	40	Carry on, now between two fields, towards the trees ahead.		
22	42	Reaching the trees bend towards the right alongside them.		
23	43	Go through a gap in the trees on the left, about 25 yds. short of the far left-hand corner, and a few yards later emerge into a small open area. Go across it, a little to the right, towards its far edge.		
24	44	At that edge go a little further to the right, down an avenue with thick undergrowth on the left and fruit trees on the right.		
25		[Map point] A few yards later, avoid the long avenue leading along to the right, but go, very briefly, slightly left, then slightly right, to the top of a long, quite steep, approach to the farm in the middle distance below.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
26	<b>45</b>	Go down towards the the right-hand side of the farmhouse.		
27	<b>47</b>	Pass the house ('The Oast – Mascalls Pound Farm'), and, as the roadway swings to the right, leave it by going straight ahead, simply walking easily down between the rows of trees. There is no waymark or other indication.		2.26
28	<b>50</b>	At the screen of trees at the end, turn left to go alongside them.	667 438	
29	<b>52</b>	Pass directly under a pylon!		
30	<b>54</b>	On reaching the main road, cross it, turn right along the far pavement, and after a few yards left into Mascalls Park.		
31	<b>56</b>	At the end turn right towards the turning circle.		
32		At the far side of the turning circle start along a narrow passageway leading to the main road.		
33	<b>57</b>	Reach the main road and turn left, crossing when convenient.		
34	<b>61</b>	Reach <b>Paddock Wood Church</b> on the right, at the junction with Warrington Road. After visiting the church continue ahead a little further along Maidstone Road.		2.90
35	<b>62</b>	<b>START OF THE SPINE SECTION</b> Fork right, then immediately right again along Old Kent Road.		
36	<b>69</b>	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.		
37	<b>74</b>	Just before the end turn left to go up across the railway footbridge.		3.59
38	<b>75</b>	On descending turn right along the protected walkway alongside the road.		
39	<b>76</b>	Keep straight on, still within the protected walkway, over a driveway.		
40	<b>77</b>	[Map point] At the end, faced with the entrance to the water treatment centre, turn left.		
41	<b>78</b>	Turn right over a little footbridge, then immediately left again.		
42	<b>80</b>	Turn away to the right along a waymarked footpath.	678 455	
43	<b>84</b>	After passing a horse-riding area and some tatty storage units, turn left at the end into Lucks Lane.		
44	<b>86</b>	As the road swings to the left, instead turn right along a footpath marked by a ground-level slab.		
45	<b>88</b>	Go ahead through a spring gate along a narrow enclosed track, slightly on your right.		
46	<b>91</b>	At the end, after another spring gate, go straight ahead along the roadway opposite.		
47	<b>92</b>	As the roadway swings left, leave it by going straight ahead over a stile (the first of a series of three, each easily visible from the previous one), and across the field beyond.		
48	<b>93</b>	Cross the second stile into a new field.		
49	<b>94</b>	And a third stile. Then go ahead, briefly through a private garden.		
50		Turn left on to the road.		4.55
51	<b>96</b>	Follow the road as it turns right.		
52	<b>100</b>	Follow the road as it turns left.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
53	<b>102</b>	<b>END OF THE SPINE SECTION</b> [Map point] Turn right into Willow Lane, and follow it as it immediately swings to the right.		
54	<b>111</b>	Go over the hump-backed railway bridge. The sightline is not good, but there is just adequate space beside the road until the point where it is possible to see and be seen.		5.44
55	<b>125</b>	At the end of Willow Lane, continue ahead (not left) along the major road (Pearson's Green Road).	689 440	6.18
56	<b>126</b>	Follow the road as it swings to the right.		
57	<b>127</b>	Turn sharp left away from the road along a well-concealed track. The turning is not waymarked, but there is a ground-level slab set back from the road next to a little dip which you have to cross. The track then continues, slightly rightwards, among trees.		
58	<b>130</b>	Keep straight on, ignoring crossing paths, neighbouring footbridges and, at the end, a parking area.		
59	<b>137</b>	At the end turn right on to the road.		
60	<b>139</b>	[Map point] Cross the major road and continue along the broad bridleway opposite, passing houses and then swinging briefly left and right.		
61	<b>143</b>	Start a leftward swing along the main path, next to a house.		
62	<b>145</b>	Turn right over a stile along a narrow waymarked footpath.		7.12
63	<b>146</b>	[!!F!!] At the end turn half-right between fence-posts, heading directly towards a gap in the trees in the middle distance and a waymark post (bearing 315).		
64	<b>148</b>	[!!F!!] Change direction in the same field, turning half-left (bearing 280).		
65	<b>151</b>	Turn right along the road for about 30 yds., then left along a broad path marked by a ground-level slab. Here and in the next two directions the route is all along grassy avenues, clearly marked with well-kept fences at the sides.	673 434	
66	<b>153</b>	At a T-junction of paths at the top turn left.		
67	<b>155</b>	About 80 yds. after going through a wooden kissing gate at the bottom, fork left at junction of paths. Follow the path as it swings to the right, and onward as it pursues its well-defined course up and down and from side to side.		
68	<b>169</b>	[!!F!!] Go slightly to the right with the path, no longer alongside, but not far from, the fence on the right, heading, between the fruit trees, towards a gate across the field. This is not the big one in the far right-hand corner but the one in a small gap about 40 yds. further to the left.		
69	<b>171</b>	Go through the gate and on ahead, still gently uphill, between the rows of fruit trees (bearing 205).		

\* *"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
70**	<b>173</b>	[Map point] Faced with a screen of trees: <b>either, to continue the circuit</b> (if not visiting, or finishing at, Brenchley Church), slip between the trees ahead and immediately turn right alongside them on their left; and carry on from Direction 7;	674 422	8.38
** or 70A	<b>173</b>	... <b>or, to detour to, or finish at, Brenchley Church</b> , turn left, alongside the trees to start with, and then carry on ahead along the clear line between the fruit trees.		8.38
70B	<b>175</b>	About 30 yds. before reaching a fence at the end, turn right along the field-edge, then after about 30 yds. turn left, away from the field, through a wooden gate, on to a waymarked metalled driveway.		
70C	<b>176</b>	Just before this roadway meets another at a junction, slip across to the right, as indicated, to follow its line alongside a dividing fence.		
70D	<b>177</b>	Go through a wooden gate, and keep left to go along the field-edge.		
70E	<b>178</b>	At the end go down a few steps, and turn left along the road. Then after about 20 yds. turn right, down Holly Bank, walking along the raised walkway on the left of the road.		
70F	<b>180</b>	Turn left at the bottom and cross the road when convenient.		
70G	<b>183</b>	Reach the lych-gate entrance to <b>Brenchley Church</b> .	680 417	8.84
70H		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.*

## **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 (on the next page) 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>MATFIELD - SHORTER CIRCUIT</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	1, 33-34, 43, 55-56, 70F	8
Quiet road \$\$	2-3a, 12-13, 30-31, 35, 46, 50-54, 59, 70E	31
Open field with livestock	47-48	1
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	9, 21-23, 44, 63-64, 68	7
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	3b-8, 10-11, 14-20, 24-29, 32, 36-42, 45, 49, 60-62, 65-67a, 67c, 67e, 69-70D	44
Woods	57-58, 67b, 67d	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 (4)** – Details noted in April 2016, but **subject to frequent change**:

The three stiles encountered in quick succession in Directions 47-49 are all wired down (though the second of them, in 48, currently has a big gap below it). The rises are, roughly:

in 47 - 18 ins. and 2 ft.

in 48 (a double stile) - 1ft., 1ft. and 2 ft.

in 49 - 18 ins. and 18 ins.

The stile in 62 has easy gaps.