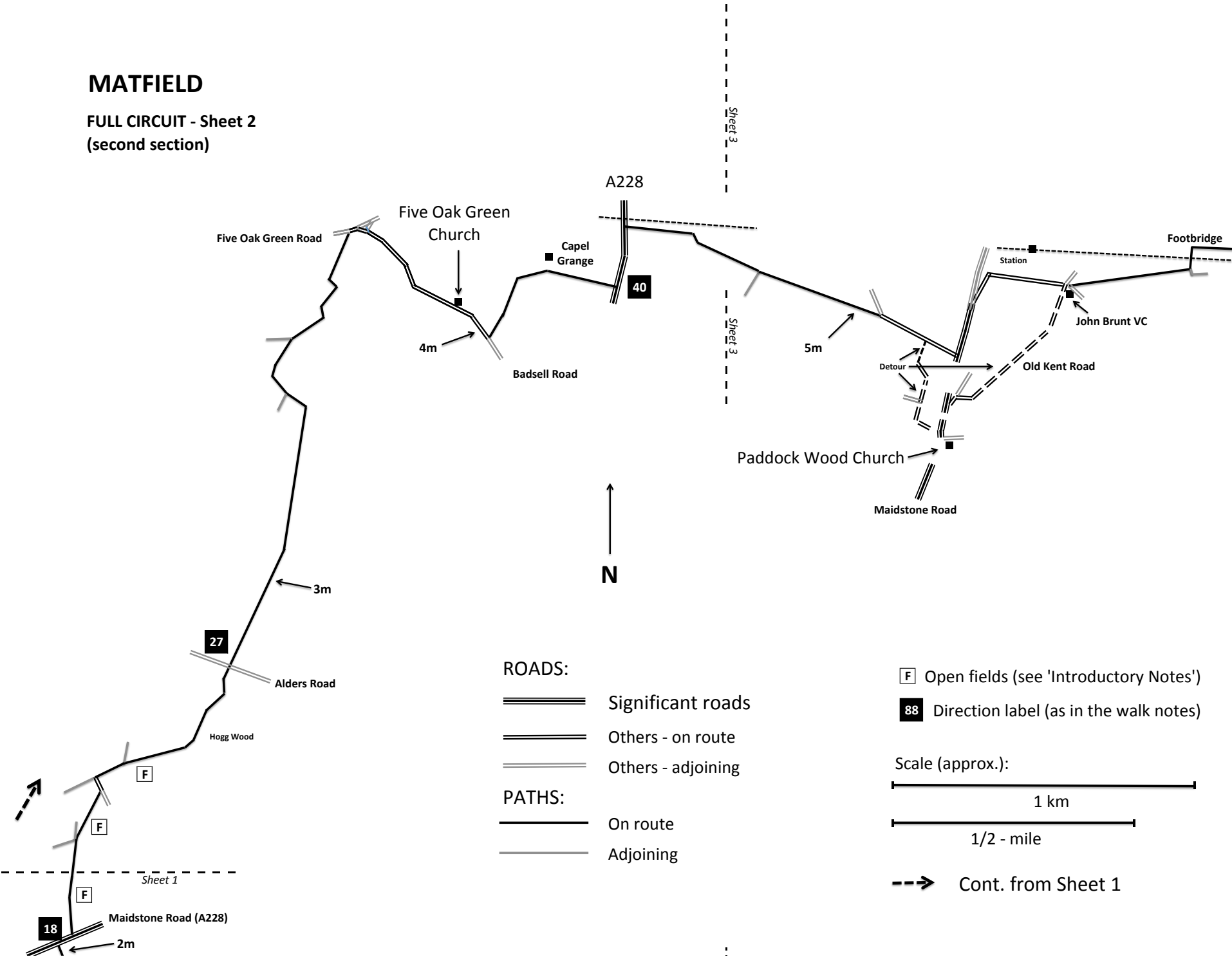


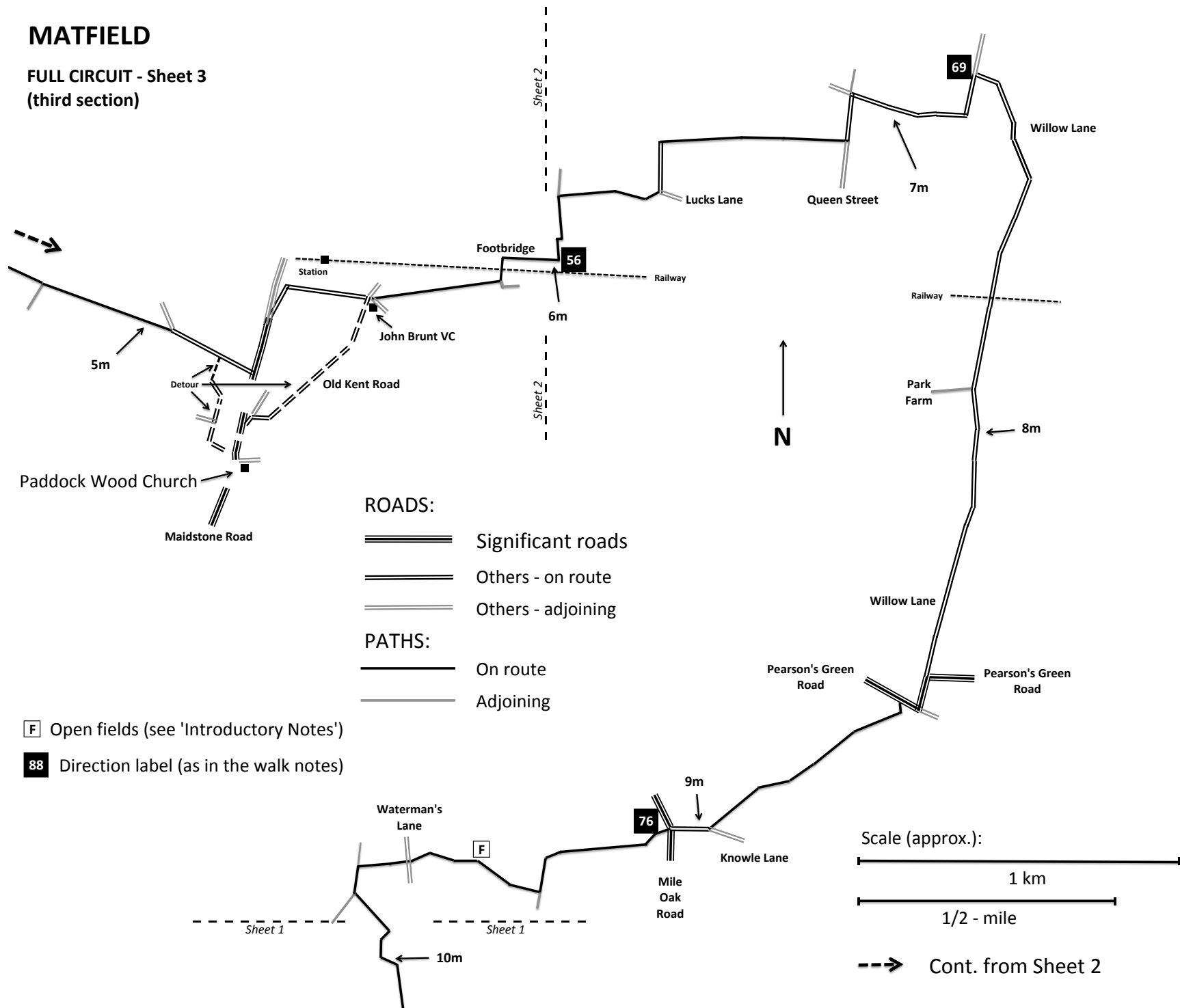
MATFIELD

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2
(second section)



MATFIELD

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 3
(third section)



MATFIELD CIRCUIT

Churches in the full circuit:

Matfield (start and finish)

Five Oak Green (Direction 35)

Paddock Wood (47D: Detour - see Appendix)

Brenchley (92)

Associated local circuits

- MF1: Matfield – Brenchley - Matfield

Full circuit: Alternating between High Weald and Low Weald, there are some delightful stretches (such as the northward view around Direction 5, and the rolling landscapes around 82).

Roads and hindrances:

At Direction 18 there is an unpleasant minute or so alongside the A228.

It may be noticed that the section between Five Oak Green and the outskirts of Paddock Wood (36 to 43) uses, in the opposite direction, the route relegated because of traffic to 'alternative' status in walks in the Five Oak Green sector. Though still joyless, the problematic two or three minutes along the A228 (Direction 40) are a little easier this way round, as the bend in the road is now towards the left. (If preparing for a group walk it would be worth giving serious consideration to taking secateurs on the pre-walk, and devoting some time to clearing the off-road space on the right here, which will make walking much easier.)

There is a brief brush with Pearson's Green Road (71-72), which is only moderately busy but needs to be crossed a couple of times to deal with the right-hand bend.

Queen Street and Willow Lane (66-70) 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 (70) looks worrying in prospect, but the alert walker will find it quite manageable.)

FULL CIRCUIT

Matfield – Five Oak Green – Paddock Wood – Brenchley - Matfield

Notes taken: April and May 2016

The start and finish is at **Matfield Church** (near the junction of Maidstone Road and Sophurst Lane, TN12 7LH).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the lych-gate by the north door of Matfield Church , carefully cross the main road and turn left along Bramble Reed Lane opposite. (For a better leftward sightline to cross the road it might be advisable to go a little to the right along the pavement, towards the bus stop, cross, and return those few yards on the other side.)	654 408	
2	7	Continue along the road as it swings right at Hayes View Farm.		
3	14	[Map point] After much winding with the road, finally leave it, just before a road junction, by turning left over a stile into woods, and continue upwards along the winding track, if anything tending slightly to the right..		
4	17	Emerge to go alongside fruit trees on the left, and follow this field-edge as it veers a little to the left, and then right.		
5	20	At the end go through a gap on to a road. Immediately to the right is a junction: go straight across to start along the lesser road directly ahead, signposted for Albans Farm. (The route has been following the High Weald Landscape Trail for the past few minutes, but now abandons it.)		0.93
6	22	Swing right with the roadway at 'Penumbra'.		
7	24	Ignore the waymark on the left and the accompanying reference to a re-routing of a path. This relates to a different right of way. Carry straight ahead along the roadway.		
8	26	And still carry on, ignoring any suggestion that this is a private road. It is a right of way, as confirmed by later waymarks.		
9	27	As the roadway starts to bend to the right, go virtually straight ahead, turning away from it on the left, along a very narrow passageway between private houses..		
10	28	Next to a stile on the left, go slightly right, downhill, along the broader of the two possible tracks.		
11	30	At a waymark post, turn left down a winding path through the trees.	644 423	
12	31	Cross a footbridge at the bottom, and start to climb beyond.		
13	32	Go straight on over the crossing path.		
14	35	[Map point] Reach crosspaths and turn right, downhill (even though this is currently the only direction which does not figure in the waymarks!).	641 424	
15	37	After a steep drop cross a footbridge and go up on the far side.		1.65
16	38	Leave the wood by going straight ahead at the path junction.		
17	43	As the roadway turns to the right, instead go straight ahead through a gate and on along the grass, past a tennis court.		
18	45	[Map point] Go through a gate to reach the road, and turn right, carefully, along it for about 50 yds. It can be very busy, but at least the sightline is good.		
19	46	[!!F!!] Cross over the road and go over the remains of a stile into the field beyond. This is a long and fairly narrow field, and as you walk away from the road the line is the long diagonal towards the far right-hand corner.		

* **"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
20	50	!!!F!!! Here there is a wide gap, with waymarks: go slightly further to the right (direction not precisely waymarked) and across the next field to a gap where there is a stile about 80 yds. to the right of the far corner.	639 433	
21	53	Cross the stile and turn left down the roadway.		
22	54	Turn right when faced with electricity premises.		
23	55	!!!F!!! Go through a MKG, and then strike out across the field, parallel to, or moving slightly away from, the power lines above on the left.		2.47
24	58	On the other side find the start of the track into the trees. It is about 80 yds. to the right of the line of the power lines. Follow this rough track as it winds, gradually leftwards, through the wood.	642 436	
25	61	Reach a gap by a pole and go ahead through it, as waymarked, ahead.		
26	62	After crossing under the power lines, go along the winding track, still through forest but less thick now, keeping in touch with, and gradually converging on, the fence to the left.		
27	65	[Map point] At the end, after meeting the fence on the left and crossing a stile, reach a road and cross it. Continue ahead opposite, going through a fragmentary gate next to a big metal one, and start along a long avenue among fruit trees, keeping straight on and ignoring paths to right and left until you reach the far end.		
28	75	At the very end swing left, as waymarked, along the field-edge.		3.36
29	76	Turn right over a footbridge and go along a narrow winding path, soon crossing a concrete footbridge.		
30	78	At a junction of paths, choose the one which goes slightly to the right, keeping the oasthouse and building on your left.		
31	80	At another junction, converge to the right.		
32	82	Cross a metal stile followed by a footbridge. Then go up and down over a few steps, and carry on ahead as the track winds from side to side, finally approaching the houses in Five Oak Green.		
33	85	Go under a house, emerge on to the road, and turn right.		
34	86	After the end of the grass triangle, continue along the main road, crossing over when convenient.		
35	91	Pass Five Oak Green Church on the left.		3.92
36	93	Opposite a yellow sign 'Solar Park', turn left into a driveway, correctly marked as a footpath (despite the 'Private' sign presumably aimed at motorists).		
37	95	Follow the driveway as it swings towards the right away from the entrance to a private garden.		
38	96	When the driveway approaches its end at the entrance to another private garden, leave it to go straight ahead, pass beside a metal gate, and turn half-right keeping the main building about 100 yds. to the left.		
39	97	Join the main driveway at its bend as it comes away from the main building, and follow it straight ahead to the main road.		

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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
40	100	[Map point] On reaching the main road go straight across, then turn left to walk with great care alongside it.		
41	102	Immediately before the railway bridge, turn right, away from the main road, passing to the side of the big metal gates.		
42	104	Go into the trees ahead over a footbridge, and then immediately turn right to walk alongside the stream.		
43	107	Go ahead over the wooden footbridge towards the edge of the wood.		
44	108	Emerge from the trees and go straight over the crossing path and along the right-hand side of the ditch ahead.	662 452	
45	110	At the end continue in the same direction (after shifting about 5 yds. to the left) past metal barriers along an enclosed passageway.		4.94
46	113	Meeting the roads at the end at the metal barriers, cross Cogate Road and go straight ahead along Mount Pleasant.		
47	115	[To visit <u>Paddock Wood Church</u> , now divert instead to the <u>Detour</u> in the Appendix.] Main route: Pass a church building on the right and continue ahead.		
48	116	At the main road turn left, and go across at the nearby crossing.		
49	118	Opposite Allington Road, as the railway bridge rises ahead, ignore this and instead use the minor road which forks right.		
50	120	At the end, turn right with the road, at the boundary of the station car park.		
51	121	At the war memorial, cross Commercial Road and go straight ahead.		
52	123	START OF THE SPINE SECTION Reaching a complicated junction at the John Brunt VC, cross the roads and go directly ahead to walk along the enclosed metalled footpath which begins there.		
53	128	Just before the end turn left to go up across the railway footbridge.		5.86
54	129	On descending turn right along the protected walkway alongside the road.		
55	130	Keep straight on, still within the protected walkway, over a driveway.		
56	131	[Map point] At the end, faced with the entrance to the water treatment centre, turn left.		
57	132	Turn right over a little footbridge, then immediately left again.		
58	134	Turn away to the right along a waymarked footpath.	678 455	
59	138	After passing a horse-riding area and some tatty storage units, turn left at the end into Lucks Lane.		
60	140	As the road swings to the left, instead turn right along a footpath marked by a ground-level slab.		
61	142	Go ahead through a spring gate along a narrow enclosed track, slightly on your right.		
62	145	At the end, after another spring gate, go straight ahead along the roadway opposite.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
63	146	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.		
64	147	Cross the second stile into a new field.		
65		And a third stile. Then go ahead, briefly through a private garden.		
66	148	Turn left on to the road.		6.82
67	150	Follow the road as it turns right.		
68	154	Follow the road as it turns left.		
69	156	END OF THE SPINE SECTION [Map point] Turn right into Willow Lane, and follow it as it immediately swings to the right.		
70	165	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.		7.71
71	179	At the end of Willow Lane, continue ahead (not left) along the major road (Pearson's Green Road).	689 440	8.45
72	180	Follow the road as it swings to the right.		
73	181	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.		
74	184	Keep straight on, ignoring crossing paths, neighbouring footbridges and, at the end, a parking area.		
75	191	At the end turn right on to the road.		
76	193	[Map point] Cross the major road and continue along the broad bridleway opposite, passing houses and then swinging briefly left and right.		
77	197	Start a leftward swing along the main path, next to a house.		
78	199	Turn right over a stile along a narrow waymarked footpath.		9.39
79	200	[!!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).		
80	201	[!!F!!] Change direction in the same field, turning half-left (bearing 280).		
81	205	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	
82	207	At a T-junction of paths at the top turn left.		
83	209	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.		

* ***"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
84	223	[!!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.		
85	225	Go through the gate and on ahead, still gently uphill, between the rows of fruit trees (bearing 205).		
86	227	[Map point] Faced with a screen of trees at the end, turn left, alongside the trees to start with, and then carry on ahead along the clear line between the fruit trees.	674 422	10.65
87	228	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.		
88	229	Just before this roadway meets another at a junction, slip across to the right, as indicated, to follow its line alongside a dividing fence.		
89	230	Go through a wooden gate, and keep left to go along the field-edge.		
90	232	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.		
91	234	Turn left at the bottom and cross the road when convenient.		
92	237	Reach the lych-gate entrance to Brenchley Church . Follow the footpath to the left (east) of the church, which then goes through the churchyard, winding parallel to the road down on the left. (You are now, for a while, on the High Weald Landscape Trail.)		11.11
93	238	At the end of the churchyard continue ahead down a narrow track.		
94	240	Go down steps to the left, then right to join the road.		
95	241	Turn right along a metalled roadway, signposted as a footpath, to pass Wagon Lodge.		
96	243	The roadway becomes an enclosed footpath. Continue ahead.		
97	245	Carry on through a wooden gate and turn slightly left.		
98	248	[Map point] Swing left with the main path, still on the HWLT.		
99	250	Cross a bridge over the stream running out of the fishing lake. Then walk slightly uphill, following the track as it turns right.		
100	254	Continue ahead, ignoring the track to the right.		
101	255	Go through a wooden kissing gate and alongside a private garden to a road, along which you turn right.		12.02
102	258	As the road reaches the middle of a leftward swing, turn right, opposite The Cottage, along a broad, waymarked roadway. Then immediately turn off it to the left along a much narrower (unwaymarked) track among trees.	669 412	
103	260	Turn right on to a road.		
104	261	After passing the entrance to The Branches, turn left up the signposted footpath immediately before the next house.		

* ***"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
105	267	At a junction, about 20 yds. short of reaching a main road, turn sharp left (almost doubling back on yourself, and leaving the HWLT). The new direction is towards oasthouses in the middle distance.	667 417	
106	269	Ignore the turning to Swingle Swangle Farmhouse on the right, but carry on down the main roadway and then bend with it to the left.		12.59
107	270	[Map point] Turn up a waymarked path to the right.		
108	271	Go very slightly left, now alongside fruit trees.		
109	275	<i>In reality not quite the official straight line shown on the OS map!</i> [!!F!!] At the end go through a narrow gap in the facing trees, and find yourself confronted with impermeable ranks of fruit trees. Avoid them by turning right along the field-edge.	662 414	
110	276	Then turn left at the corner.		
111	278	Go ahead as a broader track joins, coming up from the right.		
112	279	Turn left along a broad grassy avenue between fruit trees.		
113	280	Reaching a gap on the right, go through it and start along a clear footpath, keeping the hedge on your right, and more rows of fruit trees on your left.		
114	283	At the end go through a wooden gate and continue ahead along a concrete roadway (which looks private but is a public bridleway). This then swings gently to the right and passes private driveways.	659 411	13.27
115	287	Turn left alongside the main road, staying on the pavement on the left.		
116	291	Go across to the church by crossing the minor road to the lych-gate, which is still on the left of the main road after its bend.		
117	292	Reach the north door of Matfield Church , the starting-point of the walk.	654 408	13.72

* **"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.

APPENDIX to Full Circuit

Detour to Paddock Wood Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
47A	0	To visit Paddock Wood Church, turn right off Mount Pleasant opposite house number 62, along the signposted footpath (a metalled passageway).		
47B	1	Go slightly leftwards as this joins the end of a cul-de-sac (Alliance Way), and walk along the whole length of it.		
47C	3	In the turning circle at the end go to the left through a gap, and ahead towards the main road.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
47D	4	At the end Paddock Wood Church is at the nearby junction with Warrington Road over to the right across the road. After visiting the church, to rejoin the main route turn right at the church exit and stay on the right-hand side of the main road, crossing the end of Warrington Road and going ahead.		0.26
47E	6	Fork right, then immediately right again along Old Kent Road.		
47F	13	Having walked the full length of Old Kent Road, at the junction at the end (next to the John Brunt VC) rejoin the main route at Direction 52, turning right to cross the road and walking along the enclosed metalled footpath which begins there. Add 5 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.27 miles to cumulative distances.		0.71

* ***"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!

MATFIELD - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	18, 33-35, 40, 48-51, 59, 71-72, 91, 115-116	11
Quiet road \$\$	1-2, 5-8, 21, 36-37, 39, 46-47, 62, 66-70, 75, 90, 94, 101b, 103, 105-106, 114	28
Open field with livestock	19-20, 23, 63-64	3
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	17b, 17d, 44, 60, 79-80, 84	4
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	9, 16-17a, 17c, 22, 27-32, 38, 41, 45, 52-58, 61, 65, 76-78, 81-83a, 83c, 83e, 85-89, 92-93, 95-97, 99a, 100a, 101a, 104, 107-108, 111-113	38
Woods	3-4, 10-15, 24-26, 42-43, 73-74, 83b, 83d, 98, 99b, 100b, 102, 109-110	16

** 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 (9) – Details noted in April and May 2016, but **subject to frequent change:**

The stile in Direction 3 has easy gaps.

The one in 19 is about 2 ft. high, but is in poor condition and offers several easier ways over or round it.

The stile in 21 is wired down and both its rises are about 18 ins.

Those in 27 and 32, and later in 78, have easy gaps.

The three stiles encountered in quick succession in Directions 63-65 are all wired down (though the second of them, in 64, currently has a big gap below it). The rises are, roughly:

in 63 - 18 ins. and 2 ft.

in 64 (a double stile) - 1ft., 1ft. and 2 ft.

in 65 - 18 ins. and 18 ins.