

LOCAL CIRCUIT LA1: COLLIER STREET

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

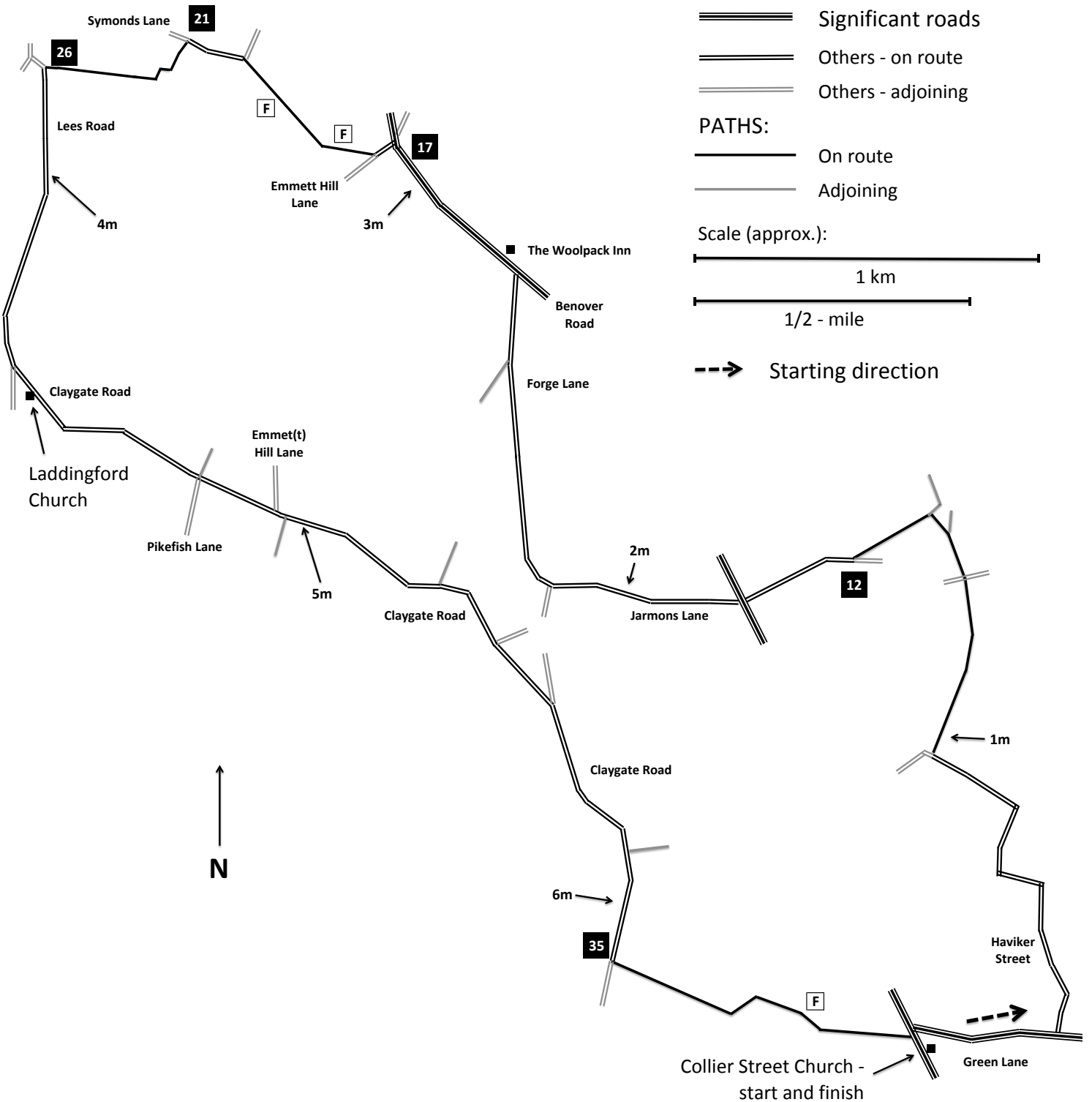
— Adjoining

Scale (approx.):

————— 1 km

————— 1/2 - mile

---> Starting direction



LOCAL CIRCUIT LA1: COLLIER STREET

Linked churches:

Collier Street (start and finish)

Laddingford (Direction 29)

Roads and hindrances:

This is not a walk for those averse to tarmac and horses. There are relatively few footpaths in the Low Weald, and, to provide a Local Circuit route linking Collier Street with another church, three-quarters of the distance has had to be on roads – nearly all pleasant ones, but roads nonetheless. And the lively horses in Direction 7 – see the note there – can be off-putting, though they have so far proved harmless enough beneath the bluster.

Green Lane (Direction 1) is quite busy, but manageable with care.

At all four crossings of the main B2162 road (Directions 13, 15, 17 and 41) there are good sightlines.

There is currently a minor barbed-wire issue in Direction 6.

Notes taken: April 2016

The start and finish is at Collier Street Church (TN12 9RS).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		Leaving the west end of Collier Street Church , turn right along the main road, then immediately right again along Green Lane.	717 460	
2	5	Just beyond the end of a row of houses on the right, turn left along the minor road opposite.		
3	10	Turn left with the road at Brandenbury.		
4	13	Follow the road as it swings to the right.		
5	15	At Spitzbrook Lodge ignore the pair of roadways leading straight on into the property, and instead follow the road round to the left.		
6	18	Turn to the right, away from the road, across an old but sound stile, and walk along the right-hand edge of a pair of fields. At the boundary between them the barbed wire is uncomfortably close. In this second field keep to the left of the line of trees.		0.97
7	20	Near the corner go through a MKG, over a slab of concrete which serves as a bridge, and through a narrow gap into another field. Head for another MKG, following a line about 30 yds. to the right of the pole ahead. [I have walked a number of times across this and the succeeding fields, and have every time been 'welcomed' at close quarters by a dozen or so very frisky horses. They are rather alarming, but while I can obviously not vouch for their future conduct it is a fact that, whispering sweet nothings in their direction and maintaining a steady pace, I have never really feared any harm from them.]		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
8	22	Go through the MKG and a few trees and ahead into the next field. Here the right of way strictly speaking heads to an invisible footbridge in the far left-hand corner. But currently the track at that point is hopelessly unloved and overgrown, so it seems reasonable to head instead for the gap about 100 yds. further right.		
9	24	Here cross another slab bridge and go on, slightly leftwards now, towards another MKG just to the right of a house and outbuildings in the middle distance.		
10	25	Go through this MKG and another one immediately on its right, and then continue, as far as possible, along the left-hand edge of the next field.	718 474	
11	28	Look for a MKG in the left-hand edge, and use it to make a half-left turning on to the corner of an open field. From there turn left to go along the left-hand edge of this field, with the stream on your left, towards gates about 40 yds. short of the far left-hand corner.	717 475	
12	31	[Map point] Go through the MKG and merge rightwards into the farm road. Go along this, between farm buildings and houses to start with.		
13	36	Reach the main road, cross to Jarmons Lane opposite and start out along this minor road.		1.82
14	42	Soon after passing oasthouses on the right, turn right at the junction (Forge Lane).		
15	53	Turn left along the main road, cross it and walk along the right-hand side.		
16	54	Pass The Woolpack Inn on your right.		2.79
17	59	[Map point] Cross back, and turn left along Emmett Hill Lane.		
18	60	Turn a little to the right as signposted and go through a wooden gate next to a large metal one. !!!F!!! Head for the distant far right-hand corner.		
19	62	!!!F!!! In that corner cross a rough old stile. Then go over a wooden footbridge through a few trees and straight on over the large field beyond. The line is currently well marked, but if there is any doubt aim at a point a little to the left of a white house in the middle distance. You might be able to make out a metal gate at the end.		
20	67	Go past the gate at the end and meet a road as it turns a corner. Turn left along it.	697 489	
21	69	[Map point] As the road starts to swing to the left just beyond Barn Oast, turn left through a gate. Follow the track beyond as, after about 20 yds., it turns to the right and then to the left to follow the line of the stream. For the next few minutes the route stays alongside the stream, on your right to start with.		3.56
22	71	Ignore the first footbridge on your right.		
23	72	Turn right over the second footbridge, then immediately left to stay alongside the stream for a few steps more, before the path moves away from it to the 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	73	Pass through a metal gate, then cross a pair of stiles and, at the end of this enclosed section of track, a third stile.		
25	76	Cross this stile and emerge at the dead end of a road. Go ahead along it.		
26	78	[Map point] Reach the main road near a junction, and turn left along this first road (ignoring the others beyond).		
27	87	Pass The Chequers on the other side of the road.		4.32
28	89	At the road junction turn left (Claygate Road).		
29		Very soon continue ahead past the north entrance to Laddingford Church , on the right.		
30	96	Go ahead at the junction with Pikefish Lane on the right.		
31	99	Go ahead at the junction with Emmett Hill Lane on the left.		
32	108	At the road junction, go ahead, ignoring the road to the left.		5.42
33	111	Go slightly to the right, as another road merges from the left.		
34	116	Ignore the signposted footpath on the left.		
35	119	[Map point] Turn left along a second signposted footpath. (The shabby stile referred to in earlier versions of these notes is now pretty well impassable, and redundant anyway, as ample gaps exist beside the new gate.) Now go ahead along the right-hand side of the huge field.		6.10
36	123	At the corner at the end of the field go on along a winding track in trees.		
37	124	After 100 yds. or so, look out for a footbridge hidden away to the right, cross it, then immediately turn left towards a stile.		
38	125	!!!F!!! Cross the stile and start out across the field beyond, slightly rightwards, aiming at the left-hand side of a farm building on the other side – a line almost directly towards the distant church. (The OS map shows a field-edge on this line: I understand there used to be a wind-break here, but it is no more.)		
39	127	Next to the building, cross the stile and continue ahead, keeping store buildings on the right.		
40	128	Go past a gate, and turn half-left along a long drive heading directly towards the church.	714 461	
41	131	Go through a gate. A little to the right across the road is the entrance to Collier Street Church , the starting point of the walk.	717 460	6.69

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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.

Most of this walk is on roads. In the breakdown which follows I have found it particularly difficult to distinguish between 'busy road' and 'quiet road' in many places, of which the stretch along Claygate Road (Directions 28-34, a quarter of the walk) is the main example. Here I finally decided on 'busy' simply because the small amount of traffic, including the occasional bus, could be approaching quite quickly. You will know best how to handle your dog, and indeed whether to take on the route together at all.

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!

LOCAL CIRCUIT LA1	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road (see above)	1, 15-16, 26-34	43
Quiet road \$\$	2-5, 12-14, 17, 20, 25, 40	34
Open field with livestock	7-9, 18b	4
Edge of field with livestock	6, 10-11	7
Field (or edge) without livestock **	19, 35, 38	8
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	18a, 22, 24, 37, 39	3
Woods	21, 23, 36,	2

** 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 - see next page.

STILES (7) – Details noted in April 2016, but **subject to frequent change**:

The stile in Direction 6 has easy gaps.

The one in 19 is wired down, and has rises of about 6 ins. and 18 ins.

The three stiles in Directions 24 and 25 are all sealed down to the ground without gaps. The first one has rises of about 18 ins. and 2 ft., and the other two are slightly smaller (about 1 ft. and 2 ft.).

The stiles in Directions 38 and 39 are both wired down, but are currently damaged with holes in the wiring (about 6 ins. in each case). The rises are about 18 ins. and 30 ins. (in 38), and 2ft. and 1 ft. (in 39).