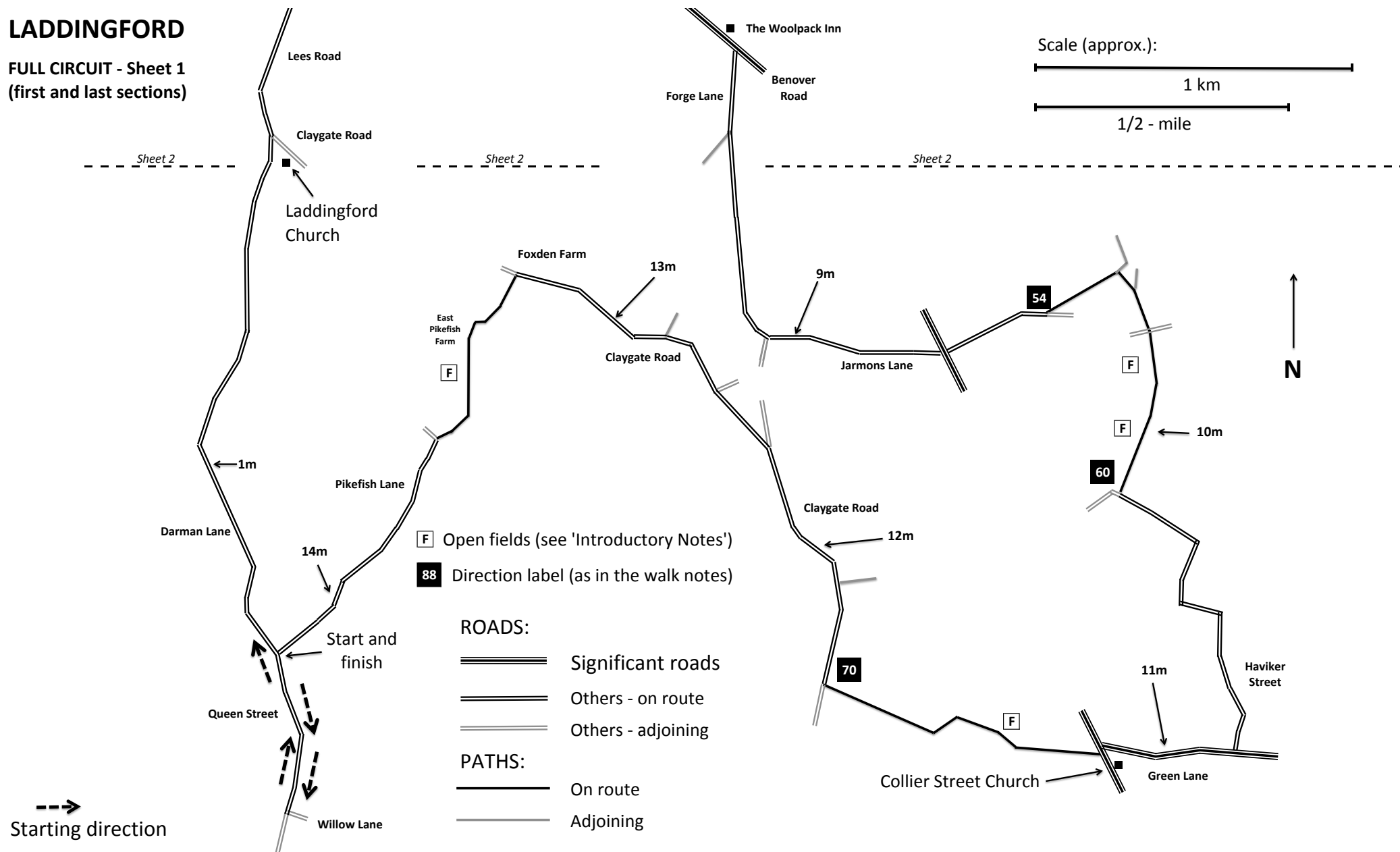
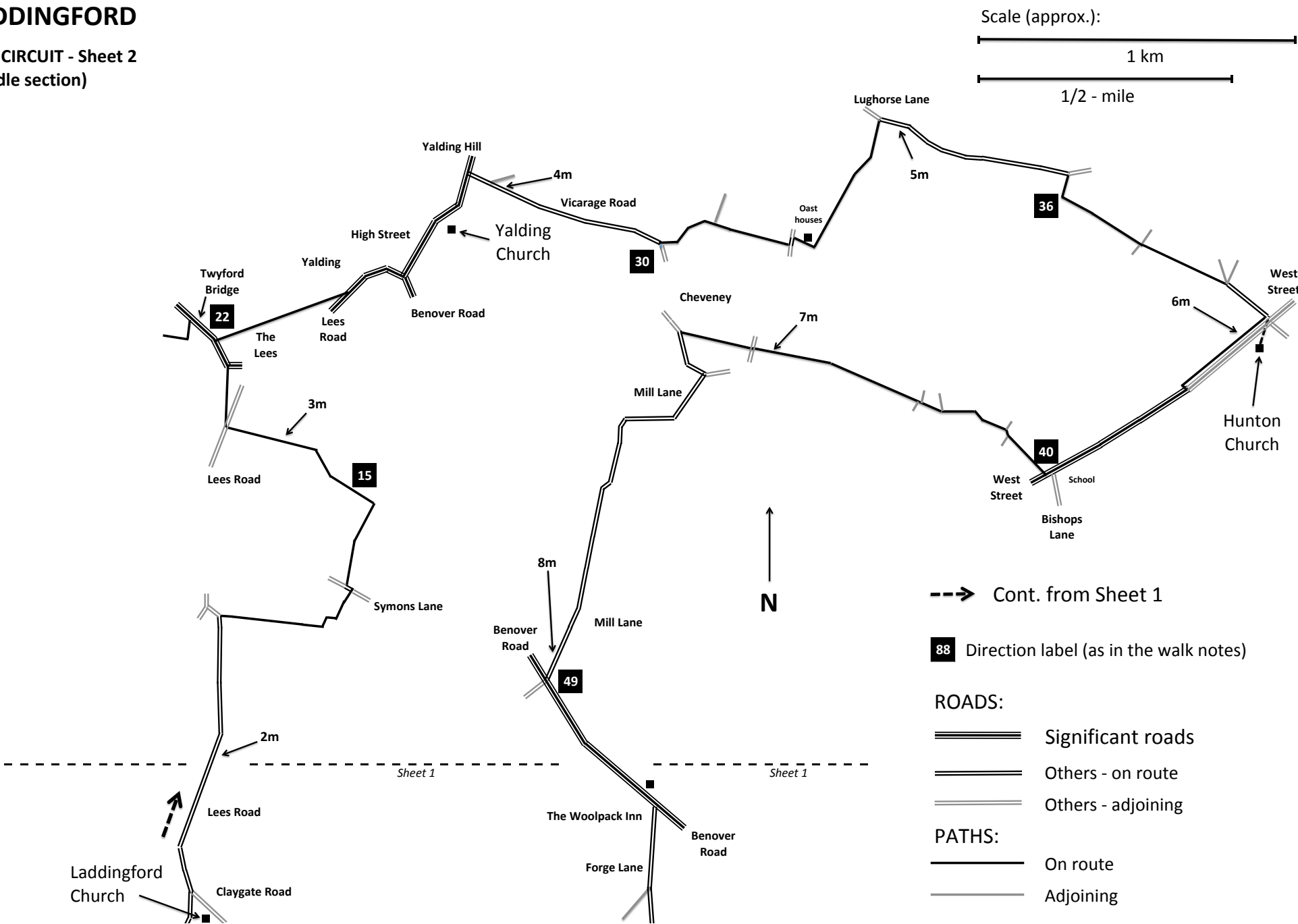


## FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1 (first and last sections)



LADDINGFORD

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2  
(middle section)



# **LADDINGFORD CIRCUIT**

## **Churches in the full circuit:**

Laddingford (Direction 5)

Yalding (27)

Hunton (38)

Collier Street (64)

## **Associated local circuits**

- NY3: Yalding – Hunton – Yalding
- LA1: Collier Street – Laddingford – Collier Street

**Full circuit:** There is more tarmac in this walk than some would like. There are relatively few footpaths in the Low Weald, and this route has for now been seriously compromised (and stretched to an uncomfortable length) by the closure, pending repairs, of the footbridge over the Beult between Hunton and Collier Street. (If it ever re-opens the route will be revised to incorporate that agreeable, and shorter, section.) That said, the roads are mostly pleasant and quiet, and the route will be enjoyed by those who have no particular dislike of the black stuff.

The start is an 'optional extra': The start written up here is a short there-and-back section (Directions 1-3) which is included simply to close a gap between two spine sections\*. Those not aiming to cover the spine in its entirety can, if they wish, simply start from Direction 4. (\*And see 'Introductory Notes' for information about the spine.)

## **Roads and hindrances:**

The extensive road sections are, from a human point of view, largely very quiet (but those who walk with their dogs see the note at the end). The road crossings are routine.

The lively horses in Direction 56 – see the note there – can be off-putting, though they have so far proved harmless enough beneath the bluster.

## **FULL CIRCUIT**

**Fowle Hall – Laddingford – Twyford Bridge – Yalding – Benover – Collier Street – Fowle Hall**

Notes taken: May and June 2016

The start and finish is at the Fowle Hall road junction, at the south end of Darman Lane where it meets Pikefish Lane and Queen Street (near TN12 6PP).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		<p>If walking the opening there-and-back section (see the introductory comments): With your back to Pikefish Lane turn leftwards (south) along the start of Queen Street.</p> <p><i>If you are not planning to walk the spine in its unbroken entirety, you may wish to leave out the there-and-back starting section (to the junction with Willow Lane) described here. In that case start out on the route by instead turning right (north) from the end of Pikefish Lane along the start of Darman Lane and continue from Direction 4.</i></p> <p><b><i>If taking this option, deduct 13 minutes from subsequent total times and 0.64 miles from cumulative distances.</i></b></p>	690 464	
2	<b>3</b>	Pass the end of Wagon Lane on the right.		
3	<b>6</b>	<p><b>START OF THE SPINE SECTION</b></p> <p>Reach the end-point of the Matfield Full Circuit (at its Direction 69) at the junction of Queen Street and Willow Lane. Then retrace your steps.</p>		
4	<b>13</b>	Passing the starting point, now ignore Pikefish Lane and continue ahead.		0.64
5	<b>35</b>	Pass the end of Claygate Lane. <b>Laddingford Church</b> is on the right, set back a little way from the junction.		1.72
6	<b>38</b>	Continue ahead, passing The Chequers opposite.		
7	<b>43</b>	Continue ahead, passing the entrance to Manor Farm on the right.		
8	<b>47</b>	A few yards before the road reaches a 3-way junction, turn away from it to the right along the rough driveway signposted as a footpath, starting immediately to the left of the gated entrance to Laddingford House.		
9	<b>49</b>	At the end, immediately alongside a garage on the right, go straight ahead over a stile, and along an enclosed section of track to a further pair of stiles.		
10	<b>52</b>	Pass through a metal gate, and continue along the path, taking note of the instruction to stay alongside the stream. This soon involves swinging to the left with the path.		2.46
11		Turn right to cross a footbridge over the stream, then immediately left to go alongside it.		
12	<b>53</b>	Go ahead through a wooden gate, still alongside the stream on your left (and ignoring a second footbridge on the left).		
13	<b>54</b>	Continue with the stream as it swings to the right, and then turn left towards a gate about 20 yds. away.		
14	<b>55</b>	Go through the gate and turn left along the road beyond, and then after about 20 yds. right, over a stile on to a footpath.	696 490	
15	<b>57</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Swing left alongside the stream, keeping it to your right and ignoring the concrete bridge which appears on the right soon afterwards.		
16	<b>63</b>	After the field-edge path turns first right then left, look out for stile to the right, about 100 yds. short of the field's far right-hand corner. Cross the stile and turn left alongside the hedge.		
17	<b>64</b>	Carry straight on over the crossing path.		
18	<b>66</b>	Continue ahead along a winding path among fruit trees.		
19	<b>67</b>	Go through a rusty old gate and continue ahead.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
20		Reach the main road and cross it, turning diagonally to the right across the open space in the direction of blue recycling bins beyond the trees.	692 494	3.08
21	<b>69</b>	Go over a footbridge and head towards Twyford Bridge clearly visible ahead, passing over the car park area (currently not in use).		
22	<b>71</b>	Leave the parking area by the access lane, cross the main road, and turn left for a few yards along it towards the bridge. <b>[Map point]</b> Do not cross the bridge, but turn right at the signpost to set off across the the open space (The Lees), gradually converging on the main road, which, having itself swung leftwards, is over to the right. Head initially for a footbridge (next to a tall tree encircled by a metal bench).		
23	<b>74</b>	Cross the footbridge and continue in the same direction, aiming to join the road at the obvious point about 80 yds. beyond its '30' speed limit sign.		
24	<b>77</b>	At that point, in the corner of the field, go through the wooden barriers and turn left along the left-hand side of the main road.		
25	<b>79</b>	At the road junction immediately after the phone box, turn left to cross the bridge over the Beult.		
26	<b>81</b>	After crossing the bridge, fork rightwards along a footpath leading into the church grounds.		
27	<b>82</b>	Reaching the west end of <b>Yalding Church</b> , turn left to take the path away from the church.		
28		Turn right along the main road.		
29	<b>84</b>	At the junction turn right along Vicarage Road.		
30	<b>92</b>	<b>END OF THE SPINE SECTION</b> <b>[Map point]</b> Just before the road bends to the right, fork slightly left along a minor roadway signposted as a footpath. Follow this as it bends to the right and carry on, ignoring the footpath on the left. Head towards the cluster of oasthouses in the middle distance, passing "Cheveney" on the right.		4.31
31	<b>98</b>	At the end turn left, and then right to pass the oasthouses, keeping them on your left.		
32	<b>99</b>	At the roadway at the end go slightly to the left through a wooden gate, and finally, when faced with the entrance to the house, swing left with the path.		
33	<b>102</b>	Where two alternative ways ahead present themselves, move across slightly to take the right-hand one.		
34	<b>105</b>	Turn right along the road.	712 504	
35	<b>112</b>	Just before the road swings to the left, turn right next to gates along a path (no signpost or waymark) with a fence on the left.		
36	<b>113</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> After about 100 yds. stay alongside that fence as it turns decisively to the left.		
37	<b>116</b>	Continue ahead, passing the gate through a wooden barrier on its left, and go straight on towards the church in the middle distance.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
38	<b>122</b>	At the end <b>Hunton Church</b> is on the far side of the main road. But to continue on the route turn right over a little footbridge before the road, and carry on along the permissive path (parallel to ditch and road to your left).		5.87
39	<b>128</b>	Cross another footbridge to go alongside the road itself, in the same direction. Stay on the right-hand side.		
40	<b>132</b>	[Map point] Just after the pavement comes to an end, and after the school and Bishops Lane opposite, turn right along Grove Lane.		
41	<b>135</b>	A little after the gates to Grove Lodge on the left, swing left with the road.		
42	<b>136</b>	Swing left with the road at The Wool House.		
43	<b>137</b>	Go through a wooden kissing gate beside a locked gate, and continue ahead.		
44		Start along the right-hand edge of a field.		
45	<b>138</b>	At a staggered junction of paths go straight ahead under power lines.		
46	<b>145</b>	Go over a stile, cross the minor road beyond, and, after another stile, continue opposite across the middle of a rough field.		
47	<b>148</b>	Cross a stile and and turn left along the road.	706 497	7.19
48	<b>150</b>	At the fork in the road turn right along Mill Lane.		
49	<b>164</b>	[Map point] After walking along the length of Mill Lane, turn left along the main road at the end, and stay on the left-hand side to go along the verge.		
50	<b>170</b>	Pass The Woolpack Inn.		8.35
51	<b>171</b>	Cross the road to turn right and walk along Forge Lane opposite.		
52	<b>181</b>	At the T-junction at the end turn left along Jarmons Lane (signposted for Collier Street).		
53	<b>188</b>	Cross the main road and continue opposite along the road marked 'Private Road Den Farm', eventually passing Den Farm House on the left and West View on the right.		
54	<b>192</b>	[Map point] Just after the road bends slightly to the right, go through a MKG on your left and walk along the right-hand side of the field, alongside the stream.		
55	<b>195</b>	Tucked away surprisingly in the right-hand corner, find an exit from the field diagonally on your right. This takes you down a little dip and up the other side to a half-hidden MKG. Go through this and turn half-right again to walk along the right-hand edge of this new field.	717 475	9.75

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
56	198	<p><b>!!!F!!!</b> After passing a delapidated storage facility, go through a pair of MKGs and set out across the next field as below. [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. They can, however, be a distraction from the following slightly tricky piece of navigation!]</p> <p><i>The direction is more or less straight ahead from the pair of MKGs, and towards a gap in the trees on the far side. If you imagine the field as a diamond (with the longest possible way across therefore being the furthest tip of the diamond), the gap is nearly 100 yds. to the right of that tip, at a point where there is a concrete bridge over a stream. (Unhelpfully, the OS-mapped and strictly correct right of way goes another 100 yds. or so further still to the right where there is supposed to be a gap, but, currently at least, that line is thoroughly overgrown, making the concrete bridge, as above, the realistic way.)</i></p>		
57	200	<p><b>!!!F!!!</b> At the bridge go slightly to the right into the next field. About 100yds. away is screen of trees: make for the middle of this, a little to the left of the line of the pole visible beyond them.</p>		
58	201	<p><b>!!!F!!!</b> Buried among these trees is a MKG. Go through, and head across the next field towards a gate on the far side.</p>		
59	203	Next to the gate squeeze through a narrow gap and cross another concrete-slab bridge. Then go through a MKG and along the left-hand edge of two fields.		
60	205	<b>[Map point]</b> Cross an old but sound stile and turn left along the road.		
61	208	Turn right, away from the entrance to Spitzbrook.		
62	212	Turn right, away from the entrances to Brandenbury Barn and Brandenbury Farm.		
63	217	At the T-junction with a major road, turn right along it (using the verges, such as they are, on one side the other).		10.85
64	223	At the end, <b>Collier Street Church</b> is on the left. To continue on the main route turn left opposite the school, go a few yards along the main road and cross it; then immediately turn right along a metalled roadway, signposted as a footpath, through a wooden gate and on.		
65	227	Swing right with the roadway, in front of the house, and pass a gate. Then go along to the right of the stone building towards a stile.		

\* **“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
66	<b>228</b>	<b>[!!F!!]</b> Cross the stile, and head slightly further to the left towards what, at this distance, looks like a single line of trees on the other side of the field, with your aim being at its mid-point. When you get nearer you will see that the trees to the left are in fact set back a fair distance from the others; so now ignore those left-hand ones and head for a point a few yards to the right of the corner of the woodland, at the left-hand end of the rest, where there is a stile. (The OS map shows a field-edge along your line across this field: I understand there used to be a wind-break here, but it is no more.)		
67	<b>230</b>	Cross the stile and go ahead along the narrow pathway, with a fence on the left and a stream on the right.	712 461	
68	<b>231</b>	Turn right over a little footbridge, and, once over, immediately left.		
69	<b>232</b>	Emerge from the trees and go ahead along the left-hand edge of a huge field.		
70	<b>236</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Turn right along Claygate Road. (The shabby stile referred to in earlier notes is now pretty well impassable, and redundant anyway, as ample gaps exist beside the new gate.)		11.73
71	<b>244</b>	At the first road junction keep left with the major road.		
72	<b>247</b>	At the next junction go straight ahead.		
73	<b>250</b>	Continue along the road between Wolsey Place and Wolsey Cottages.		
74	<b>256</b>	Opposite the entrance to Foxden Farm, turn left along the lane indicated for East Pikefish Farm.		12.89
75	<b>258</b>	Before the first of the farm buildings, and immediately after a gate, turn right along a roadway. In principle, you should then go ahead all the way to the corner, and then turn left; but it may be necessary to do some easy improvising to find your way around debris and achieve this left turn.		
76	<b>260</b>	Go through a metal gate and ahead along the edge of a garden lawn.		
77	<b>261</b>	At the end of the lawn, go through another gate and straight on.		
78		Go through a gate on the left of a small building and through another gate. Then immediately pass between moveable barriers and on along an enclosed path at the side of a field.		
79	<b>263</b>	<b>[!!F!!]</b> At the end go between rusty metal posts and then immediately through a metal gate and on, slightly to the right, across the next field. There is currently a defined but very overgrown path, aiming about 20 yds. to the left of a huge tree in the middle distance.		
80	<b>266</b>	At the end reach a tarmac area directly alongside a gate on the right. Go through the gate and turn left along the road (Pikefish Lane).	696 470	
81	<b>276</b>	Reach the end of Pikefish Lane, the starting point of the walk.	690 464	13.82

\* ***"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.



## 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 places. If in doubt I finally decided on 'busy' simply because the small amount of traffic could be approaching quite quickly. Hence the high proportion of the walk which I have allocated to the 'busy road' category. 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 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>LADDINGFORD - FULL CIRCUIT</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	1-7, 22a, 24-25, 28, 39, 47, 49-50, 63-64a, 70-73, 80	38
Quiet road \$\$	8, 29-30, 34, 40-42, 48, 51-53, 60-62, 64b, 74	31
Open field with livestock	56-58	1
Edge of field with livestock	54-55, 59	3
Field (or edge) without livestock **	14-18, 20-21, 22b-23, 35-38, 44-46, 66, 69, 79	19
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	9, 11-12, 19, 26-27, 31-32, 43, 65, 67, 75-78	5
Woods	10, 13, 33, 68	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 (11)** – Details noted in June 2016, but **subject to frequent change**:

The three stiles in Direction 8 are all sealed down to the ground without gaps. The first two both have rises of about 1ft. and 2ft., and the third one is slightly bigger (about 18 ins. and 2 ft.)

The stile in 14 has a big gap at the bottom. The one in 16 is wired down, but there is a hole about 6 ins. square: if this is too small the rises are about 6ins. and 3 ft.

The three stiles in 46 and 47 all have easy gaps, and so has the one in 60.

The stiles in Directions 66 and 67 are both wired down, but are currently damaged with holes in the wiring (about 6 ins. in each case). The rises are about 2ft. and 1 ft. (in 66) and 18 ins. and 30 ins. (in 67).