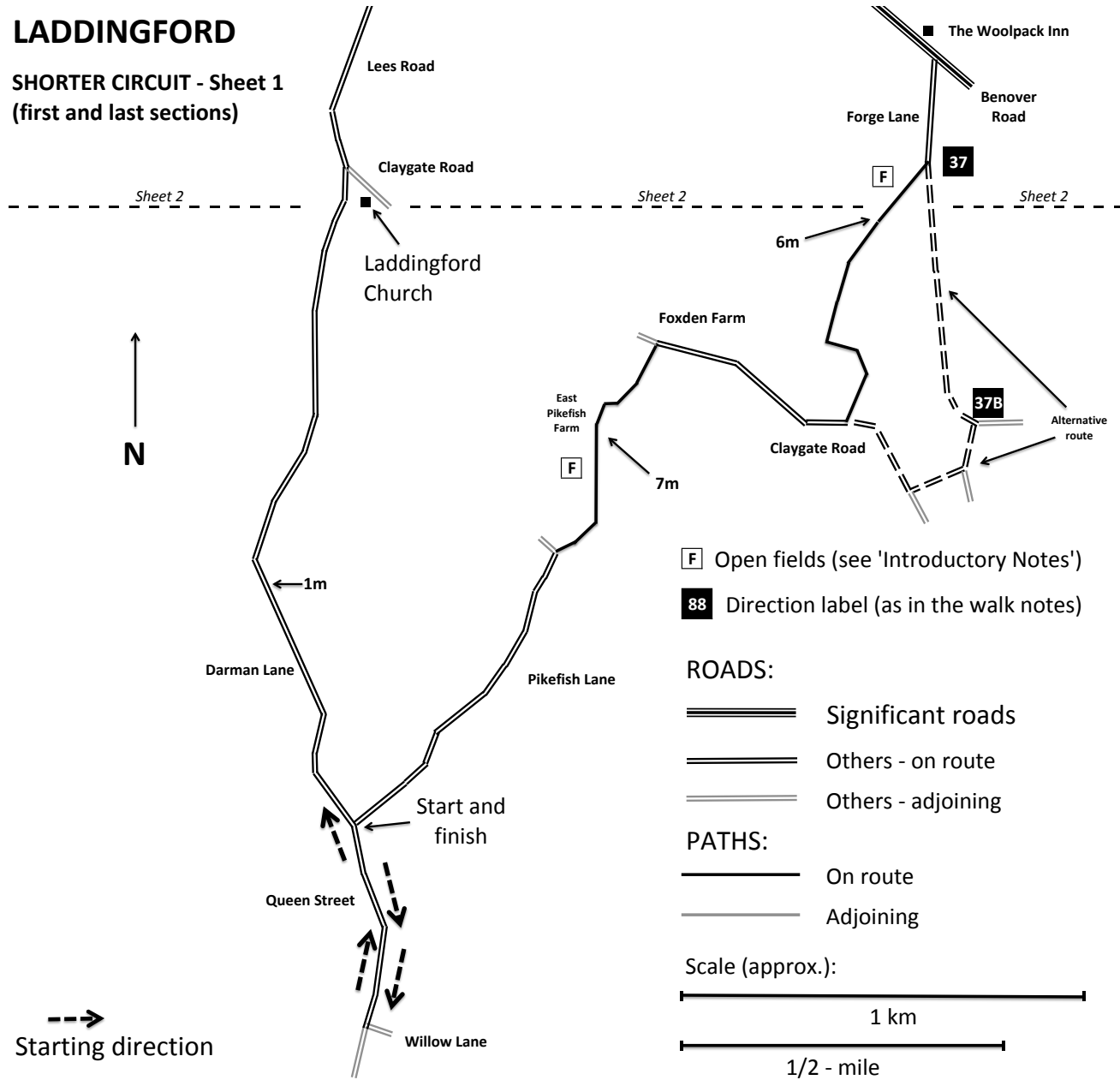


LADDINGFORD

SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 1 (first and last sections)



LADDINGFORD


SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 2 (middle section)


F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)


ROADS:

 Significant roads

 Others - on route

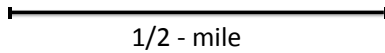
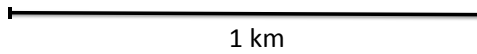
 Others - adjoining

PATHS:

 On route


 Adjoining

Scale (approx.):

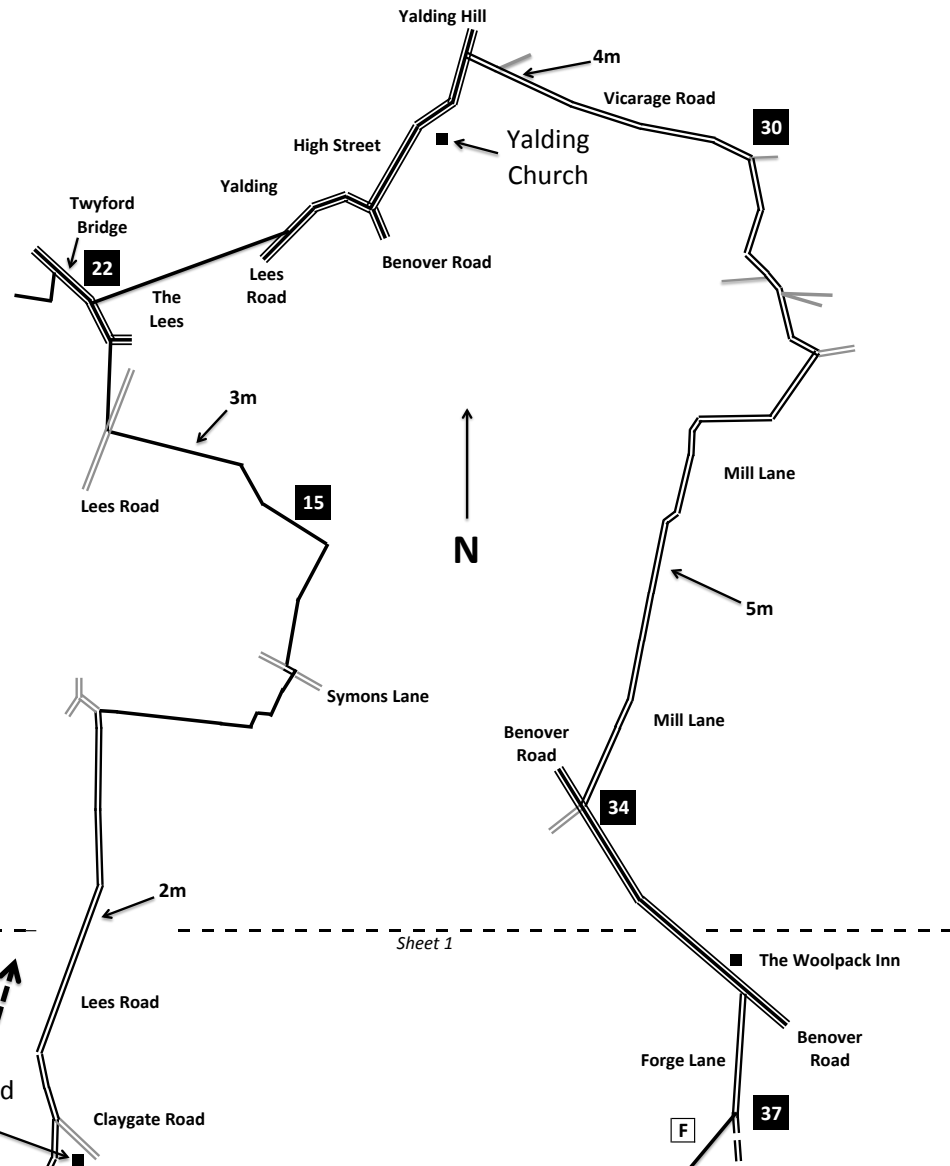


Sheet 1

Sheet 1

 Cont. from Sheet 1

Laddingford Church



LADDINGFORD CIRCUIT

Churches in the shorter circuit:

Laddingford (Direction 5)

Yalding (27)

Associated local circuits

- LA1: Collier Street – Laddingford – Collier Street

Shorter circuit: This is not a walk for those averse to tarmac. There are relatively few footpaths in the Low Weald, and this route, along with the corresponding Full Circuit, has for now been seriously compromised by the closure, pending repairs, of the footbridge over the Beult between Hunton and Collier Street. The combined effect of these factors has been the high proportion of road (about three quarters). 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 link between Forge Lane and Claygate Road (Directions 37-42) involves a series of somewhat unloved stiles and footbridges and ends by crossing an uncomfortably high stile: the cumulative effect might be a little tiresome. A road alternative is added in the Appendix.

SHORTER CIRCUIT

Fowle Hall – Laddingford – Twyford Bridge – Yalding – Benover – 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><i>If taking this option, deduct 13 minutes from subsequent total times and 0.64 miles from cumulative distances.</i></p>	690 464	
2	3	Pass the end of Wagon Lane on the right.		
3	6	START OF THE SPINE SECTION 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.		
4	13	Passing the starting point, now ignore Pikefish Lane and continue ahead.		0.64
5	35	Pass the end of Claygate Lane. Laddingford Church is on the right, set back a little way from the junction.		1.72
6	38	Continue ahead, passing The Chequers opposite.		
7	43	Continue ahead, passing the entrance to Manor Farm on the right.		
8	47	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	49	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	52	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	53	Go ahead through a wooden gate, still alongside the stream on your left (and ignoring a second footbridge on the left).		
13	54	Continue with the stream as it swings to the right, and then turn left towards a gate about 20 yds. away.		
14	55	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	57	[Map point] Swing left alongside the stream, keeping it to your right and ignoring the concrete bridge which appears on the right soon afterwards.		
16	63	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	64	Carry straight on over the crossing path.		
18	66	Continue ahead along a winding path among fruit trees.		
19	67	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	69	Go over a footbridge and head towards Twyford Bridge clearly visible ahead, passing over the car park area (currently not in use).		
22	71	Leave the parking area by the access lane, cross the main road, and turn left for a few yards along it towards the bridge. [Map point] 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	74	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	77	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	79	At the road junction immediately after the phone box, turn left to cross the bridge over the Beult.		3.66
26	81	After crossing the bridge, fork rightwards along a footpath leading into the church grounds.		
27	82	Reaching the west end of Yalding Church , turn left to take the path away from the church.		
28		Turn right along the main road.		
29	84	At the junction turn right along Vicarage Road.		
30	92	END OF THE SPINE SECTION [Map point] Follow the road as it bends to the right, ignoring the minor roadway on the left signposted as a footpath.		
31	95	Ignore the footpath on the right and continue along the road.		
32	96	Ignore the stile on the left and continue along the road.		
33	98	At the fork in the road turn right along Mill Lane.		4.60
34	112	[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.		
35	117	Pass The Woolpack Inn.		5.67
36	118	Cross the road to turn right and walk along Forge Lane opposite.		
37	121	<i>Here, if you prefer, follow the alternative route (see the introduction).</i> [!!F!!] Turn away from the road by going beside a little gate on the right and follow a line between fields. (Bearing at first about 210). Before long this leads alongside a stream on the left.		
38	124	[!!F!!] Approaching the corner at the end, go a little to the right, and, by way of a footbridge and a stile, through a gap about 15 yds. to the right of the corner itself. Then go ahead over the next field, keeping to the right of the big brick buildings in the middle distance.		

* **"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
39	127	After passing the buildings, and about 150 yds. beyond them in the corner to the left, cross a hidden footbridge with stiles before and after it. Then go ahead along the right-hand side of the next field, and follow the field-edge as it bends leftwards, virtually through a right-angle, towards a waymark post.	703 477	
40	131	At the post turn right towards, once again, a footbridge between a pair of stiles.		
41		Cross the footbridge and walk along the right-hand side of one final field as you head towards the road.		
42	133	After passing to the left of a gated enclosure, reach the road by means of an excessively high stile and turn right along it.		
43	139	Opposite the entrance to Foxden Farm, turn left along the lane indicated for East Pikefish Farm.		6.69
44	141	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.		
45	143	Go through a metal gate and ahead along the edge of a garden lawn.		
46	144	At the end of the lawn, go through another gate and straight on.		
47		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.		
48	146	!!!F!!! 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.		
49	149	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	7.10
50	159	Reach the end of Pikefish Lane, the starting point of the walk.	690 464	7.62

* **“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

Alternative route from Forge Lane to Claygate Road

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
37A	0	Instead of turning off Forge Lane (Direction 37), continue along it.		5.86
37B	7	[Map point] At the first road junction keep virtually straight on (ignoring the left turn signposted for Collier Street).		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
37C	8	At the next junction turn right.		
37D	10	At the T-junction at the end, turn right again.		
37E	13	Continue along the road between Wolsey Place and Wolsey Cottages (rejoining the main route as it crosses the tall stile at Direction 42). Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.24 miles to cumulative distances. (This is not an error! The apparent discrepancy is because of the slowness of the country route and the easiness of the road!)		6.60

* *“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.

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 – half of the road distance, in fact. 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 (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!

LADDINGFORD - SHORTER CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-7, 22a, 24-25, 28, 30-32, 34-35, 42, 49	54
Quiet road \$\$	8, 29, 33, 36, 43	20
Open field with livestock	38	1
Edge of field with livestock	39-41	3
Field (or edge) without livestock **	14-18, 20-21, 22b-23, 37, 48	15
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	9, 11-12, 19, 26-27, 44-47	6
Woods	10, 13	1

** 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 stile in 38 and the first of the pair in 39 have easy gaps.

The second one in 39 and the first of the pair in 40 are both wired down and have rises of about 18 ins. and 2 ft.

The second one in 40 is wired down and has rises of about 1 ft. and 2 ft.

The stile in 42 has rises of 6 ins. and 3 ft.: quite a challenge for humans, but even though it is wired down dogs are likely to benefit from a big hole at the bottom.