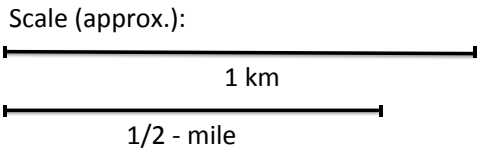
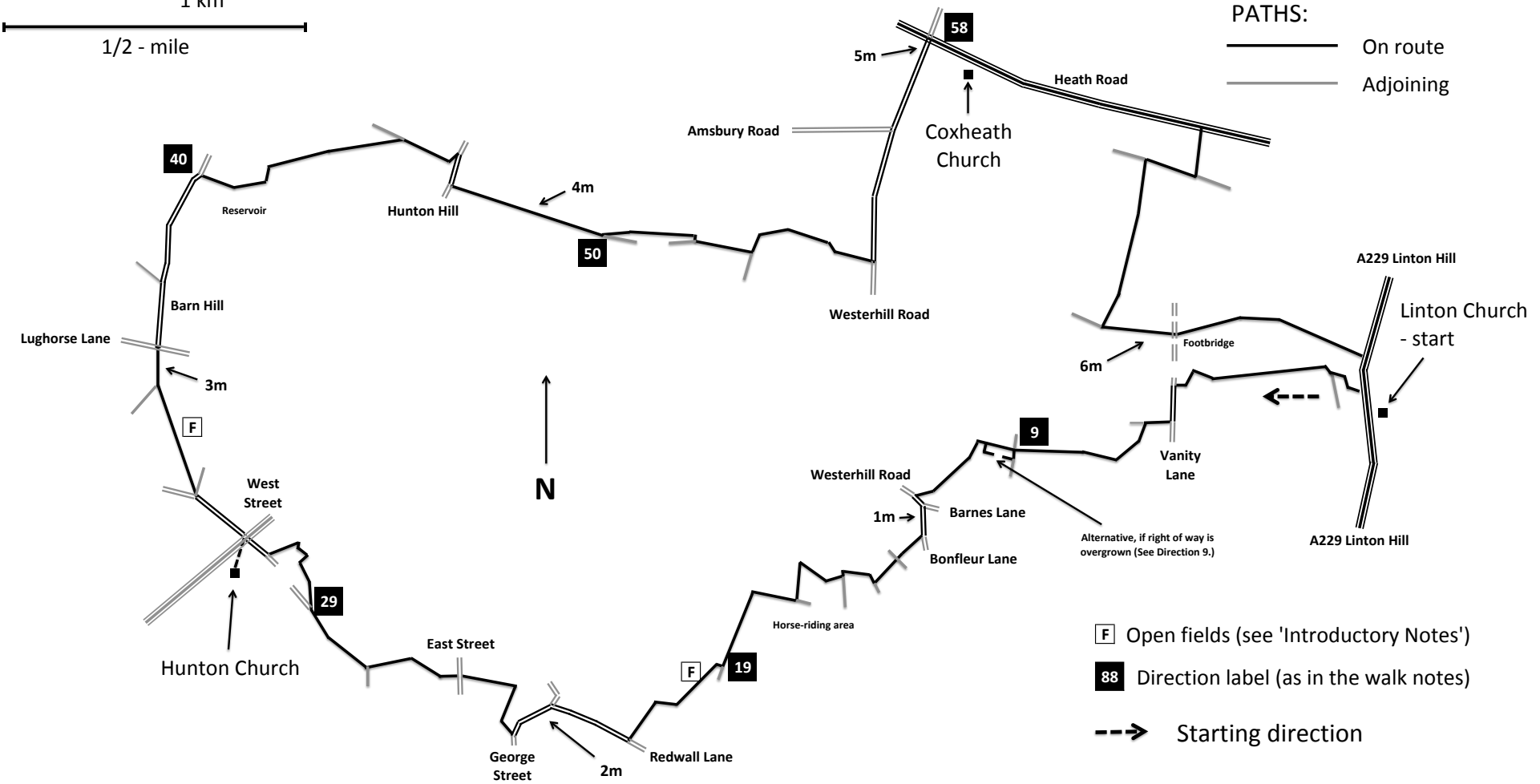


LOCAL CIRCUIT CX1: LINTON & COXHEATH



- ROADS:
- Significant roads
 - Others - on route
 - Others - adjoining
- PATHS:
- On route
 - Adjoining



LOCAL CIRCUIT CX1: LINTON & COXHEATH

Linked churches:

Linton (start and finish)

Hunton (Direction 34)

Coxheath (59)

Roads and hindrances:

The main road at Linton (start and finish) needs to be treated with normal main-road care (though, if starting from another point on the circuit and choosing not to visit Linton Church itself, it is not necessary to cross the road). In Coxheath the pavement alongside Heath Road is on the left-hand side, requiring you to cross over and back again (Directions 59 and 61), but this is not unduly difficult. There are several other brief encounters with roads, though none particularly busy.

If the undergrowth in Direction 9 is as dense as I found it, locating the track and footbridge will be a cause for congratulation; but the unofficial alternative the other side of the hedge is perfectly viable, with an easy fence-climb at the end to return to the route at Direction 10.

Notes taken: July 2016

The start and finish is at **Linton Church** (ME17 4AW).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the west end of <u>Linton Church</u> go down to the main road, cross, and turn right along the far pavement.	754 501	
2	1	Turn left along the far side of The Bull, along the roadway leading to its car park (signposted as a footpath). Keep fully over to your right, and then leave the car park near the far right-hand corner by way of a narrow footpath.		
3	2	Follow the path as it goes to the left down steep steps. Then immediately turn right to join a roadway, which then bends to the left alongside and below a house.	753 503	
4	7	Swing left and then right with the main roadway.		
5	8	Turn left into the road opposite Rose Hill.		
6	9	Immediately after a long red-brick building, turn right along a roadway, signposted as a footpath.		
7	10	After about 60 yds. cross the stile on the left, and continue ahead briefly, still in the same direction as the roadway. Then follow the right-hand field edge as it turns left, then right, with fruit trees on your left.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
8	11	Go straight ahead through a big metal gate; then slightly to the left to join the left-hand field edge, as it goes down, up and down, still accompanied by fruit trees (now on your right).		
9	16	[Map point] On reaching a crossing path at the bottom, go straight ahead. Currently this would appear to be an unbelievable direction, as there seems to be no way through the undergrowth. But there is indeed a way through, taking you, after about 15 yds., over a stream by way of a rudimentary but adequate footbridge. Then, beyond more undergrowth, emerge to walk up alongside a hedge on your left (still with fruit trees on your right.) <i>[If this route becomes, in time, completely impassable, the following, although incorrect, would seem a reasonable alternative: At the bottom turn briefly left, then up to the right alongside the hedge (in this case on your right). At the corner at the top climb over the fence on the right to rejoin the main route next to the stile in Direction 10.]</i>		
10	19	At the top, in the corner, cross a stile, and continue following the left-hand edge, as it goes left, then right, then left, then finally right towards a metal gate where the house garden meets Westerhill Road.		
11	22	Go through, turn left along the road, and then right at the fork, along Bonfleur Lane.	742 499	
12	23	After about 100 yds., leave the road, bearing right to cross a rough old stile and walk along a narrow enclosed path.		1.02
13	25	Continue along it, going ahead over a crossing path.		
14	27	Go through a MKG and turn right, then immediately left, now on a horse-riding track.		
15	28	After another 100 yds. or so, pass a redundant metal gate on the left and follow the horse-track as it turns left again, through a wide gap. But then immediately abandon it by turning right alongside a tall, thick hedge on your right, and head for trees about 40 yds. further ahead. Follow the track as it enters the dense woodland, and follow the track as it winds through it.		
16	30	Turn left with the waymarked path, to keep along, but just inside, the edge of the wood.		
17	31	Leave the wood and turn right to go along the right-hand edge of the field (a cross-country riding area).		
18	33	At the corner turn left along the far side of the same field, staying in the open and ignoring tracks into trees to the right.	738 497	
19	36	[Map point] About 50 yds. before the far corner, look for a narrow gap in the hedge on the right, and go through it and over the footbridge which it conceals. !!F!! Then turn a little to the left and cross the vast field beyond, heading in the direction of a distant pylon, and, more immediately, towards the right-hand corner of the group of trees.		
20	38	Reaching those trees keep them on your left and follow them as they bend leftwards along the field edge.		

* ***“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
21	40	Go through a gap in the hedge to join a road and turn right along it.	735 493	
22	43	At the junction turn left down George Street.		1.90
23	45	As the road swings to the left, leave it by turning right over a footbridge and through a MKG, and then follow the track as it turns further to the right.		
24	47	At the far corner of the field turn left to go along its far side.		
25	49	Go through a MKG beside a large gate, cross the road and continue along the footpath opposite, between the sides of gardens.		
26	50	Carry on along the left-hand edge of a small field which opens out to the right.		
27	51	At the corner at the end, go through the gap and the metal gate, and continue ahead along an enclosed path.		
28	53	At the T-junction at the end turn right along a broad gravel track.		
29	56	[Map point] Approaching the buildings, a few yards after passing a big metal gate, go over a stile on the right to continue along the grass in the same direction, but now on the right-hand side of the boundary wall.		
30	57	Turn right through a gate, as waymarked.		
31		After about 40 yds. turn left through another gate, again as waymarked. Keep along the left-hand edge to start with, but then cut across slightly to the right and over a rough footbridge, to find a stile.		
32	59	Cross the stile, and then turn half-left to walk diagonally across the field, cutting off the corner and heading for a gate in the railings at the roadway over to the left..		
33	60	Reach the gate and turn right along the roadway.		
34	61	Pass the entrance to Hunton Church . Then continue ahead towards the road junction.		2.66
35		At the junction, cross the road and continue ahead along the minor roadway along the field edge.	724 498	
36	63	[!!F!!] Pass beside a gate. Then immediately turn half-right across the field, aiming towards trees, slightly left of a light-coloured building with a sloping roof. (Bearing 320)		
37	66	On reaching the trees turn half-right into them, at a point where there is a narrow gap at the end of a fence leading away to your right.		
38	67	Cross Lughorse Lane, and go ahead up Barn Hill opposite.		
39	70	Ignore the footpath joining on the left.		
40	74	[Map point] Turn right on to the Greensand Way, along a gravel roadway which leads down towards Jennings Oast.		
41	75	After the roadway straightens at the bottom, keep to the right of the gateposts, and go ahead on the right-hand side of the hedge, past a bench, and along the left-hand (top) edge of a field which falls down towards a reservoir lake on the right.		
42	76	Follow the track as it turns left, uphill, along the right-hand edge of trees.		

* ***“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
43	77	At the top turn right, and continue up along the left-hand (upper) edge of fields.		3.47
44	83	After a long climb edging up to the left, reach a wooden gate at the top. Go through it and turn right to go alongside the right-hand hedge, in much the same direction as before.		
45	85	At the end swing left with the field-edge.		
46		After about 25 yds. look out for a gap on the right and go through it down to the road.		
47		Reach the road and turn right down it.		
48	87	In the middle of the road's right-hand bend, leave it by climbing a well-concealed flight of 20-plus steps on the left.		
49	88	Go ahead along the left-hand (top) edge of a large field of fruit trees, soon passing under power lines.		
50	92	[Map point] At the field-corner, level with oasthouses down to the right, follow the left fork up into trees. <i>This surprising turn along a much narrower track (presumably dictated by right-of-way issues) rather than carrying on ahead (which would be the more obvious way of reaching the junction at Direction 52) is the correct continuation of the Greensand Way, and is all the more surprising in that there is no sign or waymark.</i>		
51		At a fork in the woods, keep ahead.		
52	96	At the end turn right, then, at another junction a few yards later, turn left out of the trees.		4.27
53	98	After following the path to the end, turn left, uphill.	738 506	
54	99	Follow the track as it turns right, and continue along it, going as straight ahead as possible, passing Reason Hill Oast and Stockyard, and ignoring driveways on the left.		
55	100	After the houses, go ahead along a narrow passage, keeping to the left of the low hedge.		
56	102	Reach the road and turn left, uphill.		
57	107	Pass the end of Amsbury Road.		
58	110	[Map point] Reach the Coxheath crossroads and turn right along Heath Road.		5.02
59	112	Reach the pathway on the right leading to the west end of Coxheath Church . After visiting the church continue along Heath Road, crossing to make use of the pavement on the left-hand side.		
60	116	Cross the end of Parkway and continue ahead.		
61	119	About 40 yds. before the start of the '40' speed limit, cross back over the road and go through a small gap in the hedge at the roadside. Continue ahead, away from the road.		5.50
62	120	At the end turn right to go along the far side of the same field.		
63	122	Turn left on to a path just inside a wood, running parallel to its edge.		
64	123	Carry straight on, between tall hedges on both sides.		
65	124	Carry on as the path narrows, still between hedges.		
66	127	At the end, turn left at a junction at the corner of a fenced field and go along the edge of a new field with fruit trees on your right. (Now the Greensand Way, but not yet signed as such).	748 503	

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
67	129	In the corner at the end go through the remnants of a redundant MKG and onward to climb on to the footbridge over Vanity Lane.		
68	130	Coming down from the footbridge continue ahead with fruit trees about 20 yds. away to your left and a sloping field on your right.		6.04
69	132	Go ahead into a small wood.		
70	134	Emerge to cross a field of fruit trees, using the most prominent of the avenues across it, which leads to the main road ahead. This involves going very slightly left on leaving the wood.		
71	137	Go through the hedge to meet the road, go down a couple of steps and turn right along the pavement beside the road.		
72	138	On reaching the near side of The Bull: <u>either, to continue the circuit</u> (if not visiting, or finishing at, Linton Church), carry on from Direction 2, by turning right along the roadway;		6.43
** or 72A	138	<u>... or, to detour to, or finish at, Linton Church</u> , cross the road and continue along the far side		
72B	139	Reach the war memorial alongside <u>Linton Church</u> .	754 501	6.47
72C		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!

LOCAL CIRCUIT CX1	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 21-22, 47, 57-60, 71-72A	17
Quiet road \$\$	5, 11, 33-35, 38-40, 56	13
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock	17-18	3
Field (or edge) without livestock **	3a, 19-20, 26, 30, 32, 36, 41-45, 68	17
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	2, 3b-4, 6-10, 12-14, 23-25, 27-29, 31a, 37, 46, 48-49, 52-55, 61-62, 64-67, 70	41
Woods	15-16, 31b, 50-51, 63, 69	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 (5) – Details noted in July 2016, but **subject to frequent change**:

The stile in Direction 7 is wired down and has two rises of about 18 ins. each but there are currently huge holes alongside.

The one in Direction 10 is also wired down and tall, with rises of about 18 ins. and 2 ft.

The old stile in 12 has easy gaps, and the one in 29 has a dog gate.

The one in 32 is a double stile, with rises of about 18 ins., 6ins. and 18 ins.