

COXHEATH

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

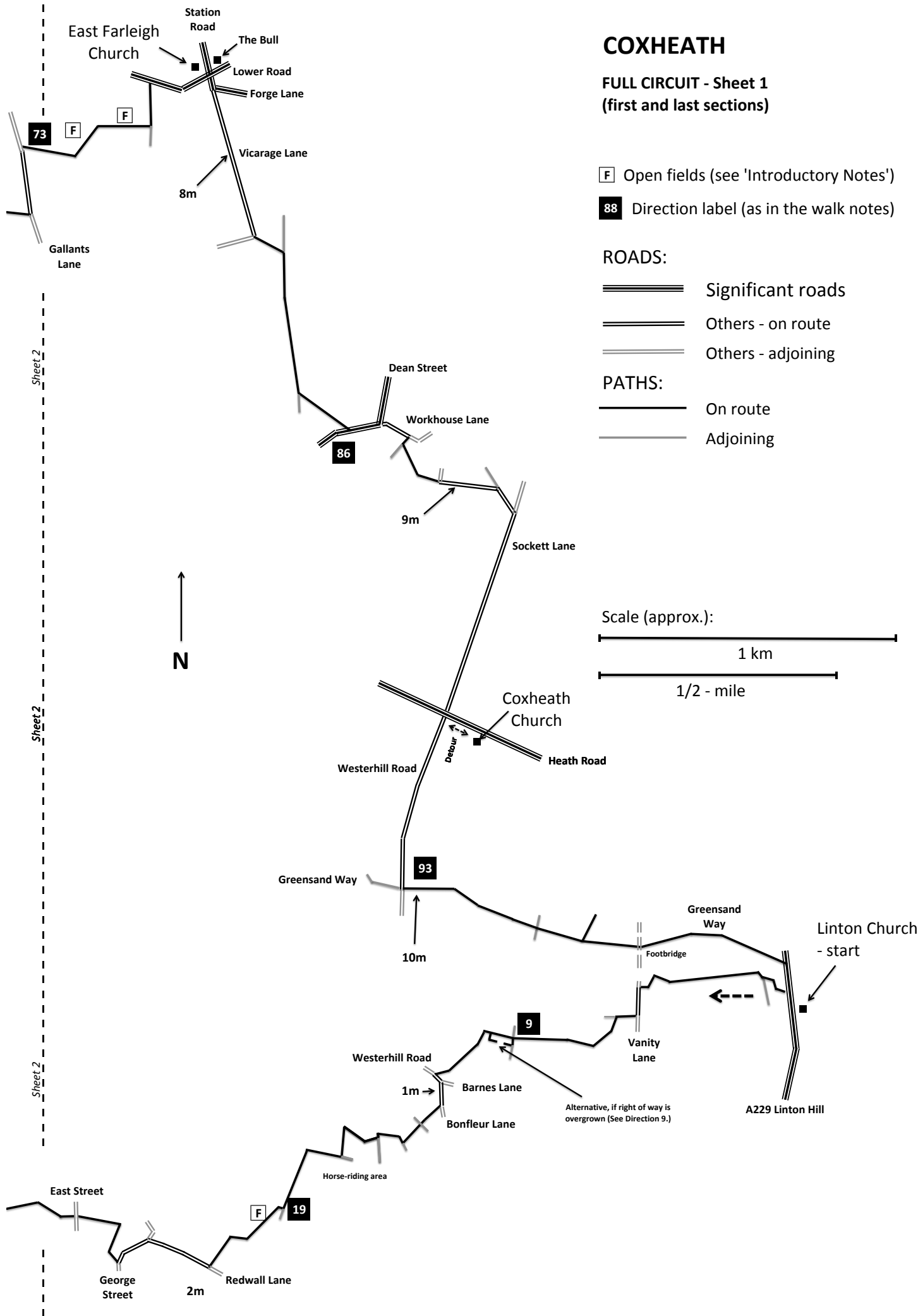
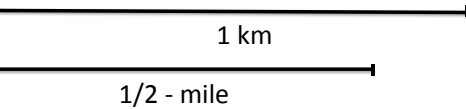
ROADS:

- Significant roads
- Others - on route
- Others - adjoining

PATHS:

- On route
- Adjoining

Scale (approx.):



COXHEATH

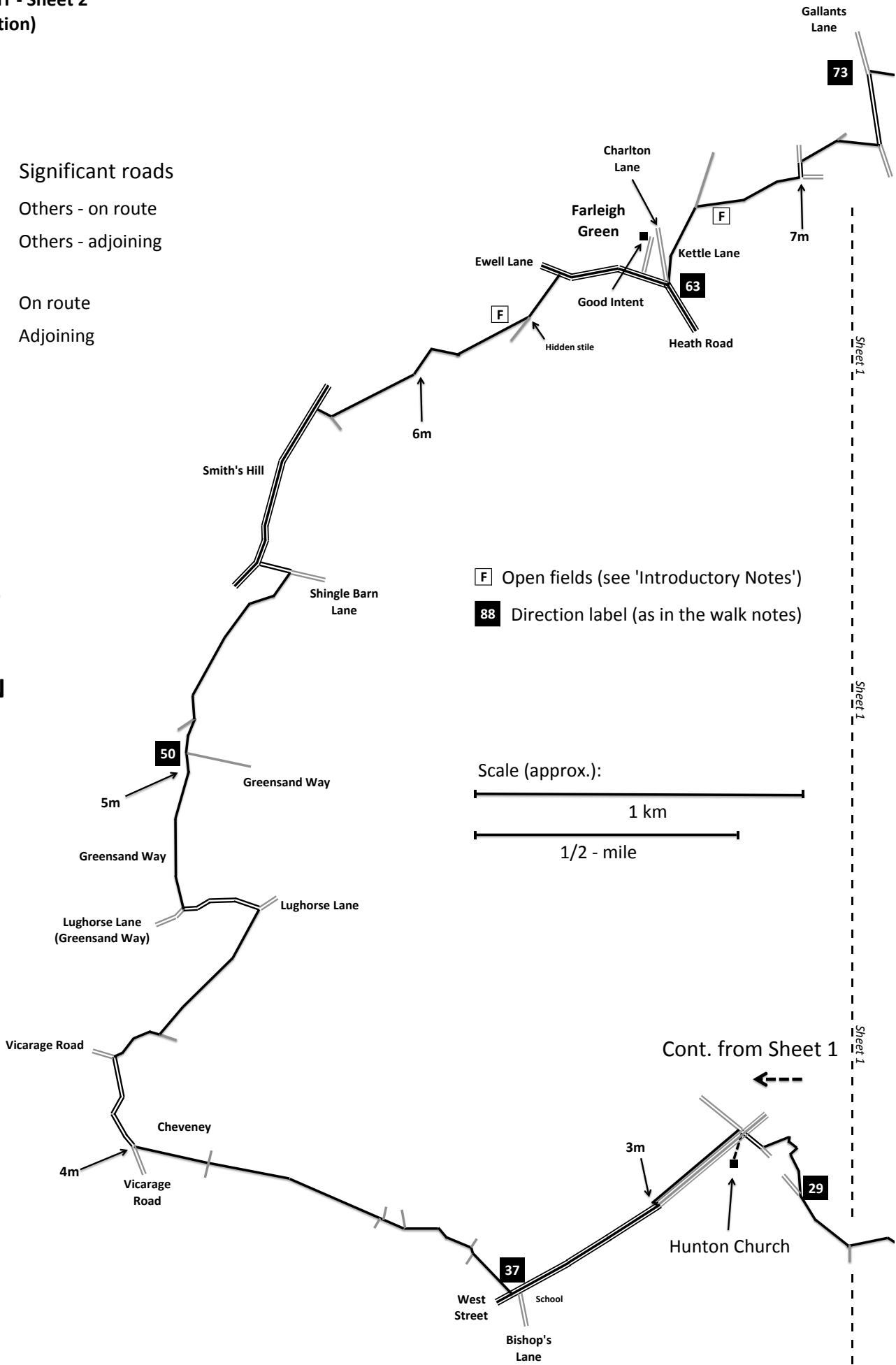
FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2
(middle section)

ROADS:

- Significant roads
- Others - on route
- Others - adjoining

PATHS:

- On route
- Adjoining



COXHEATH CIRCUIT

Churches in the full circuit:

Linton (start and finish)

Hunton (Direction 34)

East Farleigh (78)

Coxheath (Direction 91B: Detour - see Appendix)

Associated local circuits

- CX1: Linton – Hunton – Coxheath – Linton
- NY3: Hunton – Yalding
- NY2: East Farleigh – Barming – Teston

Full circuit: Much of the route is in countryside which is unremarkable but perfectly enjoyable. The return to the Greensand Way towards the end provides some pleasant views.

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). Other places where heightened care is called for are Vicarage Road (Directions 43-44), Smith's Hill (53) and Ewell Lane (61), and the crossing of Dean Street (86). And when joining the roads in Directions 61 and 72 the proximity of the roads might be an unwelcome surprise.

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.

FULL CIRCUIT

Linton – Hunton (– Cheveney) – East Farleigh – Coxheath – Linton

Notes taken: July 2016

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the west end of Linton Church 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.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
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.		
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 and then winds through the dense woodland.		
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	

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
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.		
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	62	Cross the main road, then immediately turn left over a little footbridge and carry on along the permissive path (parallel to ditch and the road, which is now your left).		
36	68	Cross another footbridge to go alongside the road itself, in the same direction. Stay on the right-hand side.		
37	72	[Map point] Just after the pavement comes to an end, and after the school and Bishops Lane opposite, turn right along Grove Lane.		

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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
38	74	A little after the gates to Grove Lodge on the left, swing left with the road.		
39	76	Go through a wooden kissing gate beside a locked gate, and continue ahead.		
40	77	Start along the right-hand edge of a field.		
41	78	At a staggered junction of paths go straight ahead under power lines.	713 495	
42	84	Go over a stile, cross the minor road beyond, and, after another stile, continue opposite across the middle of a rough field.		
43	87	Cross a stile and and turn right along the road.		4.00
44	86	Ignore the enclosed track leading off to the left.		
45	89	START OF THE SPINE SECTION Nearing the end of the road's swing to the left, turn sharp right along a minor roadway signposted as a footpath.		
46	91	After following the roadway through a right-hand bend, cross a stile on the left and walk along the left-hand edge of a field.		
47	95	As the field narrows to a point, continue ahead along a narrow passageway next to private gardens.		
48	97	At the end turn left on to Lughorse Lane.		
49	99	Turn off the road to the right (Greensand Way), at the end of a gentle descent and a left-hand bend in the road.		
50	107	[Map point] Continue ahead at the point where the Greensand Way turns off to the right. Keep on the main track all the way to the road at the top.		
51	117	Turn left along the road.	711 515	
52	118	Reach the major road and turn right, crossing to use the pavement on the other side, while it lasts.		5.52
53	119	After the pavement ends, spend a few careful minutes walking down along the road. The sightlines are adequate throughout, but you will want to cross a couple of times to achieve them.		
54	124	When the road starts to drop a little more steeply, turn right along a signposted footpath, and go through a gate, and ahead along the right-hand edge of a big grassy field.		
55	127	When the line of trees on your right swings away further to its right, abandon it by cutting leftwards down across the field towards the nearest corner of the woods in the middle distance.		
56	128	At that corner, just to the left of a big metal gate, cross a well-concealed old stile and continue ahead into the woods.		
57	130	At the bottom cross another stile and immediately turn right alongside a barn with a corrugated metal roof. Follow the path along, and then leftwards over (currently) a fallen tree, to a rusty old gate.		
58	133	[!!F!!] Go through the gate, and then diagonally to the right, up across a steep field, gradually edging towards its right-hand border. (You may find traces of a faint track.) You are aiming at a point which is still about 50 yds. to the left of that border, where there is a complex stile in an intervening fence.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
59	135	Cross the stile and continue converging on the right-hand hedge, to meet it at an old metal gate about 70 yds. along.		
60	137	Cross the hedge by means of a concealed, rickety stile immediately alongside the gate, and then turn left to go between the hedge (now on the left) and fruit trees on the right.		
61	139	In the corner go over a delapidated stile and turn right along the road. Once again you will want to walk along either side of the road, in turn, to achieve the reasonable sightlines available.	719 524	
62	142	Reaching Farleigh Green, continue alongside the road, but escape from the tarmac by walking along the edge of the green, opposite the Good Intent over to the left.		6.59
63	143	[Map point] At the end of the green, where the main road swings right, turn left, not along Charlton Lane but along Kettle Lane, a rough track just beyond it, between hedges.		
64	146	[!!F!!] Just after a big metal gate on the left, turn right (no sign or waymark) through a wooden kissing gate and set out across a field, under power lines. (Bearing 085.)		
65	148	At the end of the field carry on along the path, into woodland.		
66		<p>Emerge from the trees into an orchard and follow its transport tracks, which alternate between going ahead and to the right. First go ahead as directly as you can towards the nearest such track, and turn a little to the left to follow it.</p> <p><i>Directions in the orchard are not obvious. The turns and the approximate distances between them, as described here, are the current ones, and they give the impression of being pretty well permanent. But even if they do change over time, cling to the fact that to reach the road bend at Direction 69 (after which navigation become easier) you never stray very far from the line you originally followed across the field in Direction 64.</i></p>		
67	149	After about 60 yds. turn right.		
68	150	After a good 100 yds. turn left.		
69		Then, after about 40 yds. meet a roadway as it bends through a right-angle. Turn leftwards along it, in the direction of a gate.		
70	151	But just over halfway to the gate (about 30 yds. before it) turn half-right to go along the right-hand side of a fence, with fruit trees still on your right.	726 528	
71	153	About 20 yds. after a shed over on the left beyond the fence, look out for waymarks (easily missed) hiding in the vegetation in the left-hand hedge, and there turn right along one of the avenues between the fruit trees, angling away from the hedge.		
72	154	At the end go very slightly right along the hedge, then carefully down well-hidden steep steps through it to the road below, and turn left along it.		
73	157	[Map point] Soon after passing Parsonage Place on the left, turn right along a signposted footpath into woods.		
74	159	[!!F!!] Turn half-left, going through a wooden kissing gate, and cross the field ahead, making for the gap in the tall trees beyond. (Bearing 050.)		

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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
75	161	!!!F!!! At the gap turn a little further to the right to cross a similar field with more tall trees beyond. (Bearing 090.)		
76	163	At the end turn left along the far edge of the same field, heading towards a road, with the trees now on your right.		
77	165	Turn right along the road, crossing it to use the pavement along its left-hand side.		
78	167	Reach the path leading to <u>East Farleigh Church</u> at the corner, opposite The Bull. END OF THE SPINE SECTION To continue on this circuit, cross back over the road towards the bottom of Vicarage Lane.		7.81
79	168	Walk along the pavement up Vicarage Lane, passing near the top East Farleigh Primary School.		
80	176	As road swings to the right, instead turn sharp left just before a driveway proclaimed by a notice as private. Your path is confirmed as a public bridleway by a signpost a few yards further on.		
81	178	Merge rightwards up a concrete roadway.		
82	180	Ignore gates on both sides and continue ahead, directly under power lines.		
83	184	Once again ignore gates at the sides and follow the main path, slightly leftwards into trees (abandoning the direction of the power lines, which go straight on).		
84	185	Go ahead down an enclosed pathway between tall hedges.		
85	186	Pass Horseshoes Riding School on the left, and continue up along the driveway to the road at the end.		8.63
86	187	[Map point] Turn left along the road. It is fairly busy, but the sightlines are quite good. You will need to cross, and on balance it is probably better to do this early rather than late, to walk along the correct right-hand side and for the best sightline for crossing, even though there is a bit of a verge later on the left.		
87	188	Turn right along the quieter Workhouse Lane.		
88	189	After ignoring the turning into Pleasant Valley, turn right by a ground-level slab next to The Chestnuts; and then, after about 50 yds., left along a narrow track (marked by a currently fragmentary waymark) into trees.		
89	192	Go through a wooden kissing gate, and, rejoining Workhouse Lane at its bend, ahead up a short, steep rise, and on.		
90	196	Turn right alongside the grass triangle at the end, along the verge to start with, then crossing to the pavement once it starts.		
91	206	<i>[To visit <u>Coxheath Church</u>, now divert instead to the <u>Detour</u> in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Reach the Coxheath crossroads and go directly ahead over the main road (Heath Road). Sightlines are excellent, and if needed there are zebra crossings nearby to right and left. Continue ahead along Westerhill Road.		9.59
92	209	Pass the end of Amsbury Road on the right.		
93	214	[Map point] Turn left along the Greensand Way.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
94	220	Go straight across at the crosspaths.		
95	222	Continue ahead (or very slightly left) along the edge of a new field with fruit trees on your right.		
96	224	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.		
97	225	Coming down from the footbridge continue ahead with fruit trees about 20 yds. away to your left and a sloping field on your right.		
98	227	Go ahead into a small wood.		
99	229	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.		
100	231	Go through the hedge to meet the road, go down a couple of steps and turn right along the pavement beside the road.		
101	232	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;		
** or 101A	232	<u>... or, to detour to, or finish at, Linton Church</u> , cross the road and continue along the far side.		
101B	233	Reach the war memorial alongside <u>Linton Church</u> .	754 501	10.94
101C		If returning to the circuit having visited the church, resume from Direction 1.		

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APPENDIX to Full Circuit

Detour to Coxheath Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
91A	0	For the very short detour to <u>Coxheath Church</u> : Instead of Direction 91, after crossing Heath Road, turn left along its right-hand side, alongside the shops to start with.		0.00
91B	2	Reach the pathway on the right leading to the west end of the church. After visiting the church, retrace your steps to the crossroads.		0.09
91C	4	At the crossroads turn left along Westerhill Road and continue the main route from Direction 91. Add 4 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.20 miles to cumulative distances.		0.20

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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.

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!

COXHEATH - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 21-22, 36, 43-44, 52-53, 61, 72, 77-79a, 86-87, 89-91, 100-100A	23
Quiet road \$\$	5, 11, 33-34, 37-38, 45, 48, 51, 79b, 79d, 81, 85, 92	12
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock	17-18	2
Field (or edge) without livestock **	3a, 19-20, 26, 30, 32, 35, 40-42, 46, 54-55, 58-59, 62, 64, 74-76, 97	22
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	2, 3b-4, 6-10, 12-14, 23-25, 27-29, 31a, 39, 47, 49b-50, 60, 63, 66-71, 79c, 80, 82, 84, 88b, 93-96, 99	34
Woods	15-16, 31b, 49a, 56-57, 65, 73, 83, 88a, 98	7

** 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 the next page

STILES (14) – 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.

Most of the remaining stiles have easy gaps (the pair in 42, and those in 43, 46, 59, 60).

But the one in 56 is a double-stile, wired down, with rises of about 12, 6 and 18 ins.; the one in 57 (wired down double-stile, rises of about 12, 12 and 18 ins.) is a bit delapidated and might perhaps offer a dog some space to clamber through at the side; and the one in 61 (also delapidated) is wired down with rises of about 6 and 12 ins.