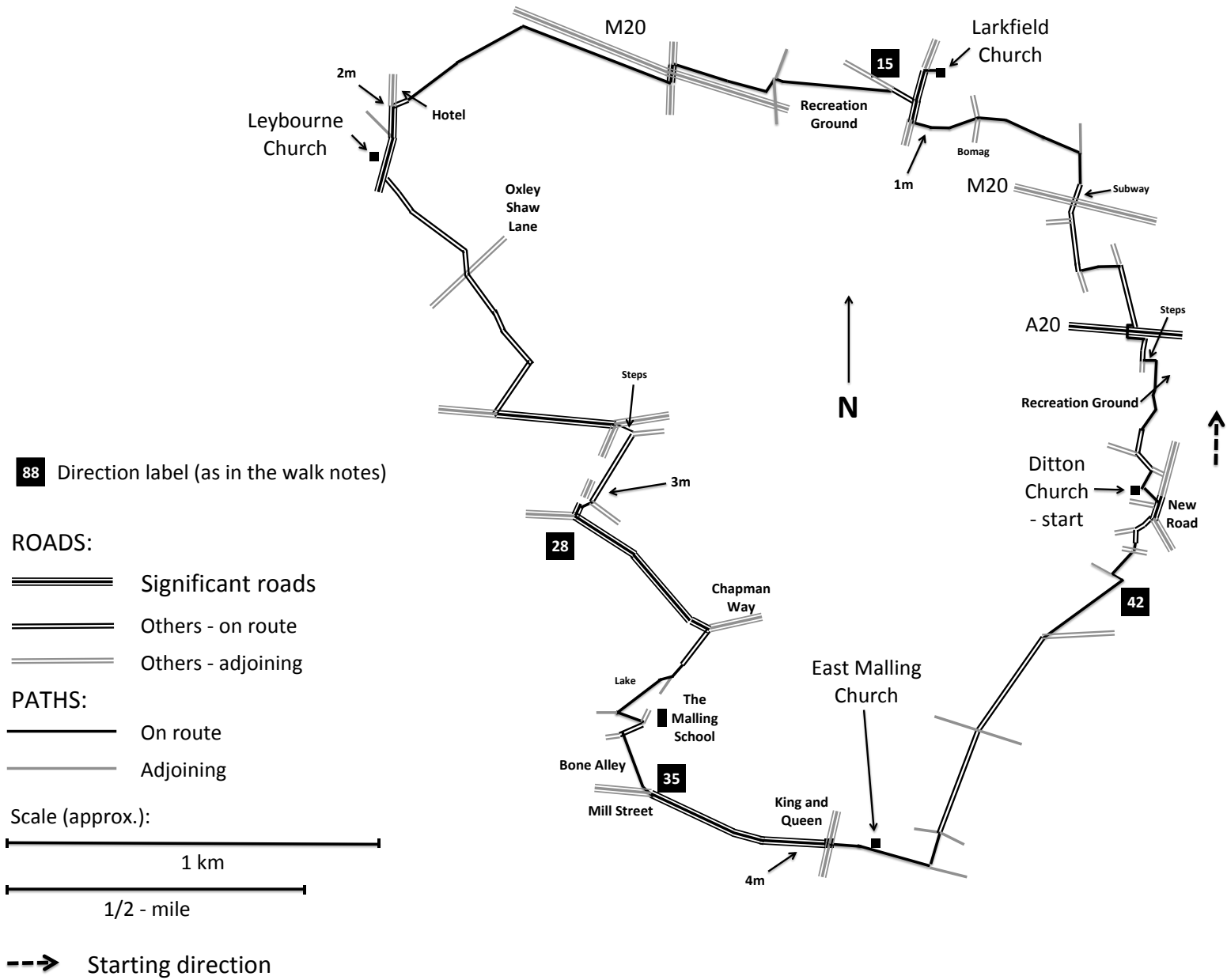


LOCAL CIRCUIT WA1: DITTON & LEYBOURNE



LOCAL CIRCUIT WA1: DITTON AND LEYBOURNE - 5.01 miles

Linked churches:

Ditton (start and finish)

Larkfield (Direction 14B: Detour - see Appendix)

Leybourne (Direction 22)

East Malling (Direction 37)

Roads and hindrances:

This is almost entirely a 'towny' walk, so some will find more roads here than is comfortable; but none are unduly dangerous or unpleasant. There are major roads to cross, all with good sightlines: the A20 (at 6, and again at 24, both times with central refuges); New Hythe Lane (14/14B); Lunsford Lane (17); and Castle Way (21 and 22, if actually visiting Leybourne Church). Between Larkfield and Leybourne there are ten minutes or so close to the M20.

Notes taken: November 2015. Checked December 2016.

The start and finish is at **Ditton Church** (ME20 6PH).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		Leaving the eastern end of the churchyard of <u>Ditton Church</u> turn left alongside the wall, with the grass on your right.	710 580	
2	1	Merge leftwards into the quiet road, and when it turns to the right follow it.		
3	2	At the end of the roadway continue ahead up an enclosed pathway.		
4	3	The path opens out to go alongside an open space, and at the end down steps swinging to the left.		
5	5	Turn right along the quiet road leading to the A20.		
6	6	Turn left alongside the A20. After about 40 yds. use the island to cross it and once across start out along Orchard Grove opposite.	710 585	
7	9	Just before the turning area at the end of Orchard Grove turn left along a footpath, narrow at first.		
8	10	At the end turn right into another quiet road.		
9	12	Swing slightly to the right through the subway under the motorway.		0.62
10	13	Continue straight on along what has now become a track.		
11	14	Turn left on a broad pathway between industrial units.		
12	18	After a short steep climb cross the Bomag approach road.		
13	20	After another short climb pass some houses and turn right alongside the main road (New Hythe Lane).		
14	21	[To visit <u>Larkfield Church</u> , now divert instead to the <u>Detour</u> in the Appendix.] Main route: Cross the road and set out along the right-angled extension to New Hythe Lane opposite.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
15	22	[Map point] Go slightly left through a gate in the railings on the left, on to the playing field, and head for the far left-hand corner, down over the ridge, aiming at a point in the distance next to a pair of litter bins.		
16	25	Pass to the right of the red dog-litter bin, into trees, and a few steps further on turn left at a wooden kissing gate, taking the path which goes alongside the brick wall on your right (not the one further left which leads to the footbridge). Follow this metallised footpath as it turns to the right, still alongside the wall, and then goes ahead, parallel to the motorway audible on your left.	700 591	
17	29	At the end turn left alongside the road, and cross the bridge over the motorway. Cross the road when convenient (footway on both sides and good sightlines).		
18	30	Immediately after the bridge turn down to the right along a footpath parallel to the motorway.		1.51
19	35	Follow the path as it turns half-left, away from the motorway, into woodland, and continue along the main path through the trees.		
20	39	Emerge from the trees and go ahead on the access road alongside the Premier Inn on your right.		
21	40	Turn left to go alongside the main road. If visiting the church, cross the road when convenient (footway on both sides and good sightlines): otherwise continue along the left-hand side.		
22	42	Reach Leybourne Church , on the right of the road. Turn left (crossing back over the main road if necessary) and go ahead along Rectory Lane North, opposite the church, using the pavement on its left-hand side.		
23	47	At the end go through the bollards and then slightly left between railings. Cross the road ahead and continue ahead opposite after more railings, using, to start with, the pavement on the left-hand side of Rectory Lane South.		
24	52	Turn left along the A20 towards the traffic lights. Use the long and broad refuge, or the lights themselves, to cross, and approach the crossroads on the right-hand side of the A20.		2.59
25	56	Cross Winterfield Lane and immediately go half-right up steps.		
26	57	At the top turn right again along the access road parallel to, and above, Winterfield Lane.		
27	59	As this roadway (Dickens Drive) swings to the left, instead go slightly right, down the pathway, to rejoin Winterfield Lane.		
28	60	[Map point] Turn left alongside the major road. Cross it when convenient once the pavement appears on the other side.		
29	65	Turn right into Blacklands.		3.33
30	67	At Waterfall House, continue straight ahead past the bollard which marks the end of the roadway.		
31		About 40 yds. further on, go through a gap on the right, next to a dog-litter bin, to walk alongside a little lake.		
32	69	At the far end look out for a footbridge over the stream to your right, but do not cross it. Instead turn left, away from the bridge, alongside a wooden fence.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
33	70	Turn right opposite The Malling School.		
34	71	Turn left up Bone Alley.		
35	73	[Map point] Merge leftwards into the road and walk along the pavement on its left-hand side.		
36	79	Reach the crossroads at the King and Queen and cross the road to go along the roadway leading to the church.		
37	80	Reach East Malling Church , and go slightly to the right to pass immediately along its south side.		4.11
38	81	At the end of the churchyard pass railings and carry on ahead.		
39	82	Turn left (next to the first pole after the churchyard).	705 570	
40	83	Go straight ahead along a broad, quiet roadway.		
41	90	Leave the roadway to go straight ahead between metal barriers, towards the houses in the middle distance.		
42	94	[Map point] On reaching those houses turn sharp left in front of them for a few yards, then at the first opportunity turn right through a gap between them, along a signposted walkway. Go ahead as straight as possible, crossing an estate road and continuing beyond it.		
43	95	Go straight on, between bollards.		
44	96	After turning right into another road (Brampton Field) swing left near its end alongside the wooden fence, and go on, with New Road converging from the right.		
45		Cross St Peter's Road and then head leftwards across the grass towards the churchyard entrance.		
46	97	Reach Ditton Church , the starting-point of the walk.	710 580	5.01

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

APPENDIX to Local Circuit WA1

Detour to Larkfield Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
14A	0	Instead of crossing the road, continue along the right-hand pavement for a short distance.		
14B	1	Ignore the ramp road leading to Larkfield School House, but go a few steps further and climb the steps up to the west end of Larkfield Church . To rejoin the main route, return by the steps down to the main road and turn left, crossing when convenient.		0.05
14C	2	Rejoin the main route by turning right along the right-angled extension to New Hythe Lane. Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.10 miles to cumulative distances.		0.10

* "*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 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 WA1	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	6a, 13, 17, 21, 24, 28, 35, 44-45	23
Quiet road \$\$	2, 5, 6b, 8-9, 14, 20, 22-23, 26, 29, 33, 36, 40, 42-43	35
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	1, 4a, 15	6
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	3, 4b, 7, 10-12, 16, 18, 25, 27, 30, 34, 37-39, 41	30
Woods	19, 31-32	6

** 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: There are currently no stiles on this walk.