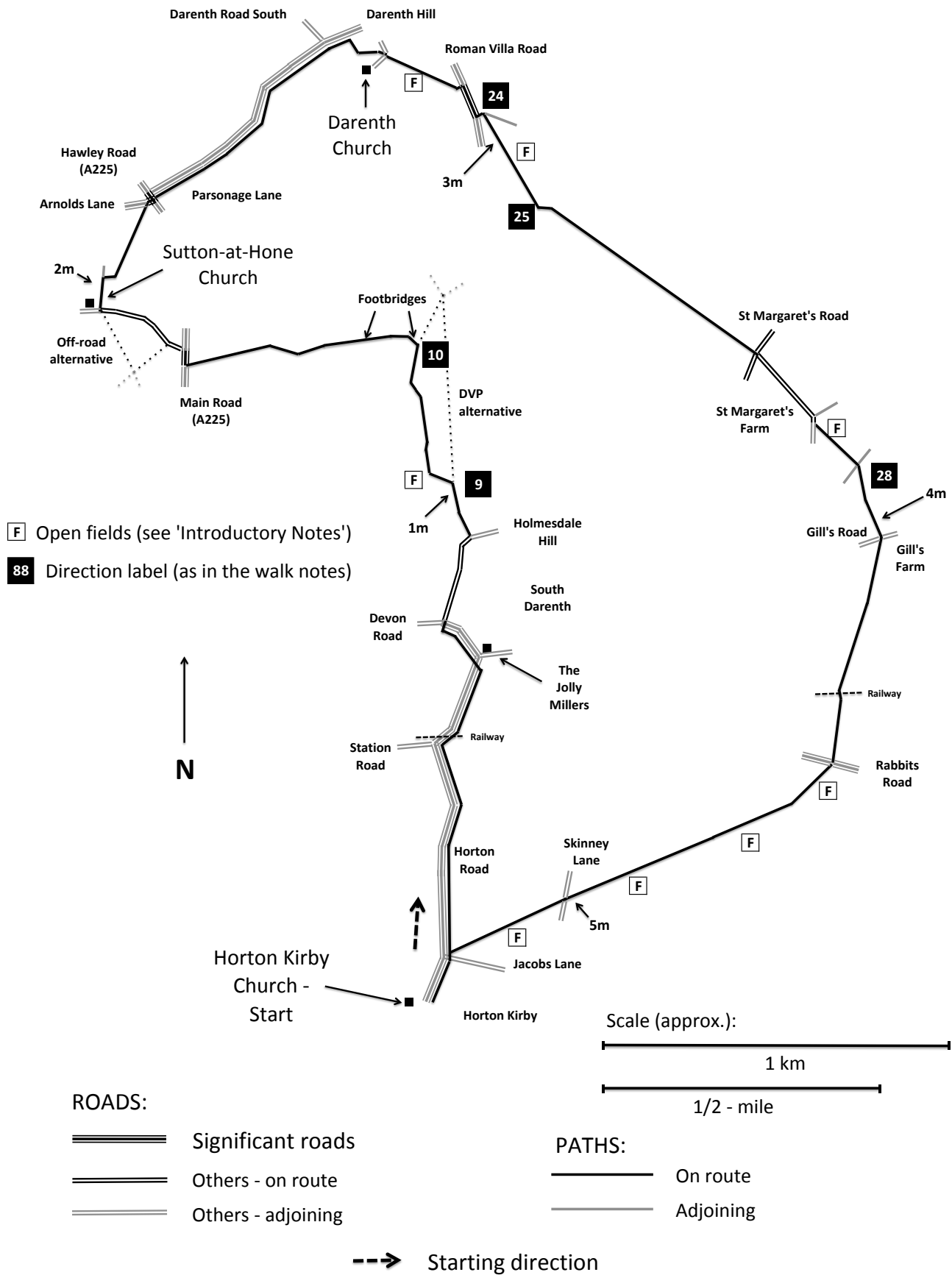


# LOCAL CIRCUIT HF1: HORTON KIRBY & SUTTON-AT-HONE



## LOCAL CIRCUIT HF1: HORTON KIRBY AND SUTTON-AT-HONE - 5.33 miles

### Linked churches:

Horton Kirby (start and finish)

Sutton-at-Hone (Direction 17)

Darenth (21)

### Roads and hindrances:

The crossing of the A225 (Direction 19) can lead to discomfort if you do it before crossing Arnolds Lane, as what appears to be a short stretch of pavement is not adequate, and you would have to take on the heavy traffic for a few seconds. Better to cross Arnolds Lane and walk on for a few yards before crossing the main road. The road sections of the walk itself are reasonably short and present no undue problems.

(The railings at 11 – noted as a problem in earlier versions – have now disappeared, and so has the difficult stile at 34 – replaced by new MKGs: thank you, Dartford and Gravesham Ramblers!)

Navigation at 24 needs a bit of thought.

Notes taken: January and March 2012; revised October 2014

The start and finish is at Horton Kirby Church (DA4 9BN).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From <b>Horton Kirby Church</b> turn left along Horton Road.	562 685	
2	<b>1</b>	After the junction with Jacobs Lane, continue down alongside Horton Road, using the separate footpath up to the right of it.		0.09
3	<b>6</b>	The footpath comes down to road level near the village hall, and continues as an ordinary pavement.		
4	<b>9</b>	Continue past The Bridges pub on the left, and under the railway bridge.		
5	<b>12</b>	After crossing to the left-hand side of the road (once the pavement there appears after you have passed New Road) swing leftwards with the road, opposite the Jolly Millers.		
6	<b>14</b>	Ignoring the bridge to your left, again continue along the major road as it swings to the right. Keep the stream to your left alongside.		
7	<b>16</b>	The road swings to the right again. Immediately afterwards turn left along the signposted path (Darent Valley Path).		
8	<b>17</b>	After a short path between hedges and fences, take a right fork, immediately after Garden House, over a small stile and along a narrow path (not towards the more obvious big gate ahead).		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
9	19	<p><b>[Map point] [!!F!!]</b> At the end of this path, as it opens out into a large field, ignore the waymark and instead turn left along the edge of the field.</p> <p><i>[This path is not recognised as a right of way on the OS map, but seems harmless enough. And I came across several people routinely walking it. To stay on marked rights of way, go straight ahead with the DVP waymark after all, then double back sharply left to reach the bridge mentioned below: but it seems an unnecessary diversion.]</i></p> <p>Follow the path along the left of the field, turning right with the field-edge, then swing back and forth, alongside the stream on your left.</p>		1.01
10	25	<p><b>[Map point]</b> Look out on the left for a waymarked path (easily missed) leading immediately to a footbridge. Cross over the bridge into trees and then follow the path as it winds around through them: the line is generally a little to the left relative to the original direction of the footbridge.</p>	562 704	
11	27	<p>Cross another footbridge and go through the MKG beyond. The route carries on straight ahead: strictly speaking it is along the narrow path between fences, though sometimes the farmer invites you to go the other side of the right-hand fence (temporarily, to avoid mud: he says he often does this).</p>		
12	29	<p>After a metal gate and a very brief right-left, go straight ahead on the main path, which then bends slightly to the right.</p>		
13	31	<p>You can choose between two bridges over the water.</p>		
14	33	<p>Go through a wooden kissing gate on to a driveway, and ahead towards the main road.</p>		
15	34	<p>Turn right along the road, cross at the lights and carry on; then left along Church Road.</p>		1.74
16	36	<p><i>[As the road swings right you can (at the cost of one additional minute) avoid tarmac by going straight on past the school. Then turn right at the cross-paths up across the field towards the church.]</i></p> <p>For the direct route to the church, follow the road as it goes uphill to the right.</p>		
17	39	<p>Alongside <b>Sutton-at-Hone Church</b>, turn right at the start of the turning circle (opposite the car park) and go along the footpath, at first alongside the right-hand (east) end of the church, then slightly rightwards to an old metal kissing gate.</p>	553 705	
18	40	<p>At the gate turn towards the right down a narrow path, with the churchyard wall on your right, to start with.</p>		
19	43	<p>You reach Arnolds Lane near its junction with the A225. Aim next to walk along the right-hand side of Parsonage Lane, across the other side of the A225 and a little to the left. (Safest to do this by crossing the bottom of Arnolds Lane and only then the main road.) Then set off along the right-hand side of Parsonage Lane.</p>		

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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
20	<b>51</b>	Carry on ahead (past the fruit distribution centre on the right).		
21	<b>52</b>	Soon after the road starts to climb, turn right towards <b>Darenth Church</b> (St Margaret's, signposted).	560 713	
22	<b>53</b>	In the churchyard, after about 60 yds. follow the waymark which directs you diagonally leftwards towards the far corner. There go out through the gate, and continue, keeping the same line, across a roadway and alongside a little green, over another roadway, and then, still in the same general direction, into a wide field <b>!!!F!!!</b> angling upwards across it. (If there is no marked path, aim at a point about 60 yds. to the left of the right-hand end of the line of trees up ahead. There is some yellow marking at this target point.)		
23	<b>58</b>	Go up some steps and turn right along Roman Villa Road at the top.		2.86
24	<b>59</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Turn off the road up steps to the left. <b>!!!F!!!</b> At the top follow the waymark which goes decisively to the right (i.e. to start with almost parallel to the road you have just left).  <i>If there is no marked path this can be a difficult direction to find. Try this: Having gone up the steps, turn to the right and survey the scene. Ahead across the skyline is a modest row of trees running from left to right. The crossing point of these trees is your next target. To your right is Roman Villa Road which you have just crossed. A little way down alongside the road is a pole, possibly slightly masked by a tree. Diagonally to your left and further away is another pole, which might be camouflaged against a cluster of trees. Imagine a line joining these two poles. You need to cross that line about three-quarters of the way from its left to its right. Following that direction you can persuade yourself that there is a bit of a gap in the distant row of trees - as indeed there is: immediately to the left of the one which is (allowing for its lower ground level) probably the tallest of them. Make for this gap, which is at 56606 70843.</i>		
25	<b>64</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Go between the trees. Follow the path beyond (essentially straight, though at first slightly left, then right, to reach the top of the little rise ahead) and pass the left-hand end of the line of tall trees coming in at right-angles ahead.	566 708	
26	<b>73</b>	Cross the road at St Margaret's Farm, and go ahead along the track opposite and through the farmyard at the end.		
27	<b>77</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Beyond the farmyard start out along the obvious track, but after about 20 yds., as the track goes a little to the right, follow instead a much lesser one (unsigned) diagonally to the left. You are aiming at a waymark post across the field, next to the last (right-hand) of a row of tall trees.		
28	<b>79</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Turn half-right at this post, along a clear path heading towards white buildings in the middle distance.		

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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
29	<b>82</b>	Cross a road and continue ahead through the farmyard and then along a track.		
30	<b>85</b>	After passing a barrier, continue straight ahead, ignoring the track which goes away to the right.		
31	<b>88</b>	Go slightly left over the railway bridge, then correct back slightly rightwards to the original direction.		
32	<b>90</b>	When you reach the road go straight across to the footpath opposite, through the MKG. <b>!!!F!!!</b> The path turns slightly to the right. The signpost has currently - January 2017 - been the subject of an improvised repair and its angle is imprecise. Head towards another MKG in the middle distance, a little over halfway down the row of trees on the right-hand side of the field. Think of a line roughly halfway between the two pylons visible in that general direction, and go slightly to the left of that.	574 692	4.45
33	<b>93</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Go through the MKG, and turn very slightly rightwards towards another one.		
34	<b>94</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Go through that MKG and two more gates beyond it. Follow an unchanged line down and up the large field ahead.		
35	<b>99</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> At the brow of the hill go through the MKG and onwards, still in the same direction, diagonally across the next field, in the direction of a pole and, gradually coming into view, a metal gate.		
36	<b>102</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Go through the MKG beside the pole and gate, cross the road, and continue down across the next field, still in much the same direction. You are aiming at the bottom left-hand corner, just to the right of a row of buildings and the very visible tower of the church.		
37**	<b>107</b>	At the corner, where, after a wooden kissing gate, you meet Jacobs Lane at its junction with Horton Road: <b>either, to continue the circuit</b> , (if not visiting the church) turn sharp right along Horton Road and follow Direction 2 and onwards;	563 686	5.24
** or 37A	<b>107</b>	<b>... or, to detour to, or finish at, Horton Kirby Church</b> , turn half-left along Horton Road towards the church;	563 686	5.24
37B	<b>109</b>	<b>Horton Kirby Church</b> is on the right.	562 685	5.33
37C		If returning to the circuit having visited the church, resume from Direction 1.		

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!!!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

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!

<b>LOCAL CIRCUIT HF1</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	15, 19-20, 23	12
Quiet road \$\$	1-6, 14, 16, 37B	21
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	9, 22b, 24-25, 27-28, 29b-36	48
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	7-8, 11-13, 17-18, 21-22a, 26, 29a	18
Woods	10	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.

**STILE (1):** The one in 8 is low, with rises of about 9 ins. and 9 ins.