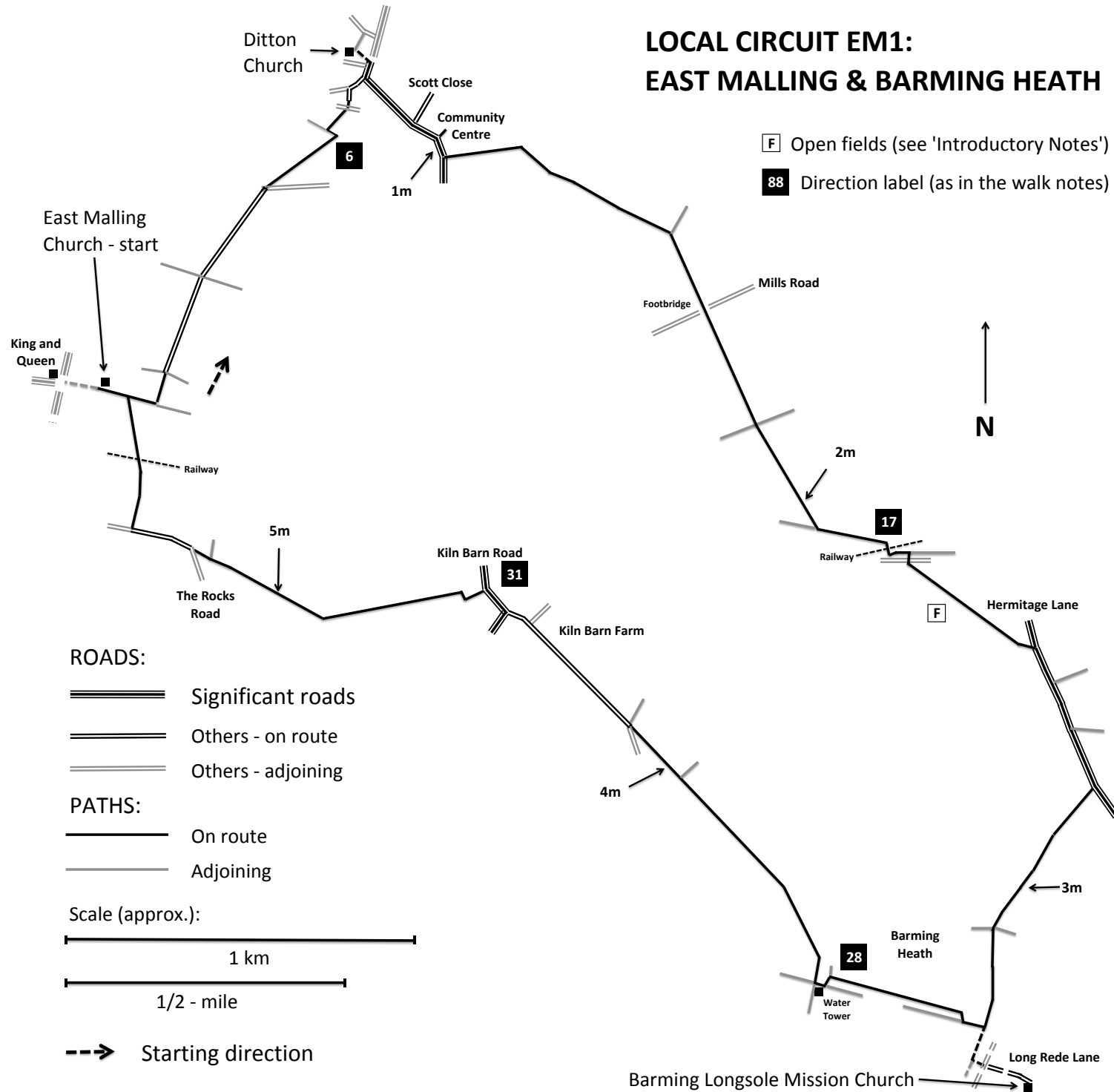


LOCAL CIRCUIT EM1: EAST MALLING & BARMING HEATH



LOCAL CIRCUIT EM1: EAST MALLING AND BARMING HEATH - 5.58 miles

Linked churches:

East Malling (start and finish)

Ditton (Direction 8B: Detour 1 – see Appendix)

Barming Longsole Mission (Direction 26D: Detour 2 – see Appendix)

Roads and hindrances:

Hermitage Lane (Directions 21-23) is busy, but safe enough if crossed and re-crossed as suggested.

Notes taken: December 2016

The start and finish is at East Malling Church (ME19 6AH).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the west door of <u>East Malling Church</u> , turn to the left to pass immediately along its south side.	703 571	
2	1	At the end of the churchyard pass railings and carry on ahead.		
3	2	Turn left (next to the first pole after the churchyard).	705 570	
4	3	Go straight ahead along a broad, quiet roadway.		
5	10	Leave the roadway to go straight ahead between metal barriers, towards the houses in the middle distance.		
6	14	[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.		
7	15	Go straight on, between bollards.		
8	16	<i>[To visit <u>Ditton Church</u>, now divert instead to <u>Detour 1</u> in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: After turning right into another road (Brampton Field) go ahead to the main road (New Road) and turn right, crossing it when convenient.		
9	17	Swing leftwards with the road as it becomes Kiln Barn Road.		
10	19	Pass the entrance to the Ditton Community Centre and continue ahead along the road. <i>Alternatively turn left to use the facilities - spacious (free) car park, and toilets, currently open in the daytime: if you do this you can rejoin the main route, at a negligible cost in terms of distance, by heading across the playing fields towards the far right-hand corner and resuming from Direction 12.</i>		
11	20	Turn left along a footpath (signposted opposite), as indicated for Ditton Bowls Car Park, and follow it all the way to a wooden barrier on the right, in the corner at the very end.		1.03
12	23	Go through the barrier and along the narrow footpath beyond.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
13	29	At a fork continue along the path which goes slightly to the right.		
14	31	Go ahead on a footbridge over a road, and straight on beyond.		
15	36	At a crosspaths go virtually straight ahead (slightly left).		
16	41	At the end turn left at the T-junction.		2.07
17	43	[Map point] Turn right to cross the railway on a footbridge.		
18		At the end of the bridge turn left. Then follow the path as it bends slightly to the right and, for a few yards, start along a long straight footpath in the open, with a fence on the left and a field beyond it.		
19	45	But a little way along go through a gap the hedge on the right, cross the road beyond, and, passing through the MKG opposite, !!F!! turn half-left to cross the large open field (Bearing about 130). A faint track is currently visible: the direction is towards a point a good 100 yds. to the left of the far right-hand corner and the farm buildings beyond it.	725 566	
20	50	At that point cross a small stile and beyond it walk to the right along a short winding track among trees.	729 563	
21	51	Reach the main road and turn right. For safety's sake cross to the pavement on the far side, though you will be crossing back again before long.		
22	52	Continue along the road ignoring the footpath to the left.		
23	54	Again, continue along the road ignoring the footpath to the left.		
24	56	Just before the road bends to the right, cross back and leave it on a broad footpath on the right (signposted but a little too late to be helpful).		2.79
25	63	At crosspaths go straight ahead, still along an enclosed path.		
26	67	<i>[To visit Barming Longsole Mission Church, now divert instead to Detour 2 in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Turn right along a footpath, and continue along it ignoring the roadway which appears on the left, the dead end of a cul-de-sac.	728 552	
27	68	Slip across through a gap on the right to continue in the same direction but with the hedge now on your left, walking along the left-hand edge of the expanse of Barming Heath.		
28	73	[Map point] In the far left-hand corner return to the track you left at the last Direction, turning right to rejoin it; and about 10 yds. further on, at signposted cross-paths, turn right along an enclosed track among trees.		3.60
29	79	Emerge from the trees, still between fences, but now with fine open views, particularly towards the North Downs over to the right. Continue ahead, ignoring side turnings.	721 557	
30	91	At the end, at a complicated junction of roads, go ahead along Kiln Barn Road.		4.54
31	92	[Map point] Just before the road bends to the right, instead turn left up an enclosed path between fences.		
32	93	Follow the path as it turns right and left, and continue ahead, between hedges for the most part, but with several gaps opening up views.		

* **"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
33	100	Go to the left of the bordering trees, for a stretch of open space, continuing in the same direction, parallel to the path.		
34	101	Return to the path on your right, and continue ahead.		
35	104	When The Rocks Road joins from the left, walk ahead along the pavement on its right-hand side.		
36	106	Turn right down a well concealed, narrow path.		
37	108	Cross the railway and continue ahead in the same direction.		
38**	111	At the end, by the railings at the corner of the churchyard: either, to continue the circuit (if not visiting, or finishing at, East Malling Church), carry on from Direction 2, by turning right;		
** or 38A	111	... or, to detour to, or finish at, East Malling Church , turn left.		
38B	112	Reach East Malling Church on the right.	703 571	5.58
38C		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.

APPENDIX to Local Circuit EM1

Detour to Ditton Church (Detour 1)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
8A		To reach Ditton Church , instead of Direction 8, swing left near the end of Brampton Field alongside the wooden fence, and go on, with New Road converging from the right.		0.00
8B	1	Cross St Peter's Road and then head leftwards across the grass towards the churchyard entrance.		
8C	2	After visiting the church, walk back towards New Road, cross it and turn right along the pavement on the far side.		
8D	3	Swing leftwards with the road as it becomes Kiln Barn Road (having now rejoined the main route from Direction 9). Add 3 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.16 miles to cumulative distances.		0.18

Detour to Barming Longsole Mission Church (Detour 2)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
26A		To reach Barming Longsole Mission Church, instead of turning right at Direction 26, go virtually straight ahead.		0.00
26B	1	Turn left next to the dog-litter bin.		
26C	2	Cross the road and continue along the roadway opposite.		
26D	3	Reach Barming Longsole Mission Church , tucked in behind the hedge on the right. After visiting the church, retrace your steps to the footpath junction at which you left the main route.		0.16
26E	7	At the junction continue the walk from Direction 26 by taking the sharper of the left-turns available. Add 7 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.32 miles to cumulative distances.		0.32

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 EM1	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	8-10, 21-23, 30	8
Quiet road \$\$	4, 6-7, 29b, 34-35	20
Open field with livestock	19	5
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	11, 27, 33	7
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1-3, 5, 12, 14a, 14c, 15b-18, 24b-26, 28-29a, 31-32, 36-38A	53
Woods	13, 14b, 15a, 20, 24a	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.

STILE (1) – Detail noted in December 2016, but **subject to frequent change:**

The stile in Direction **20** has easy gaps.