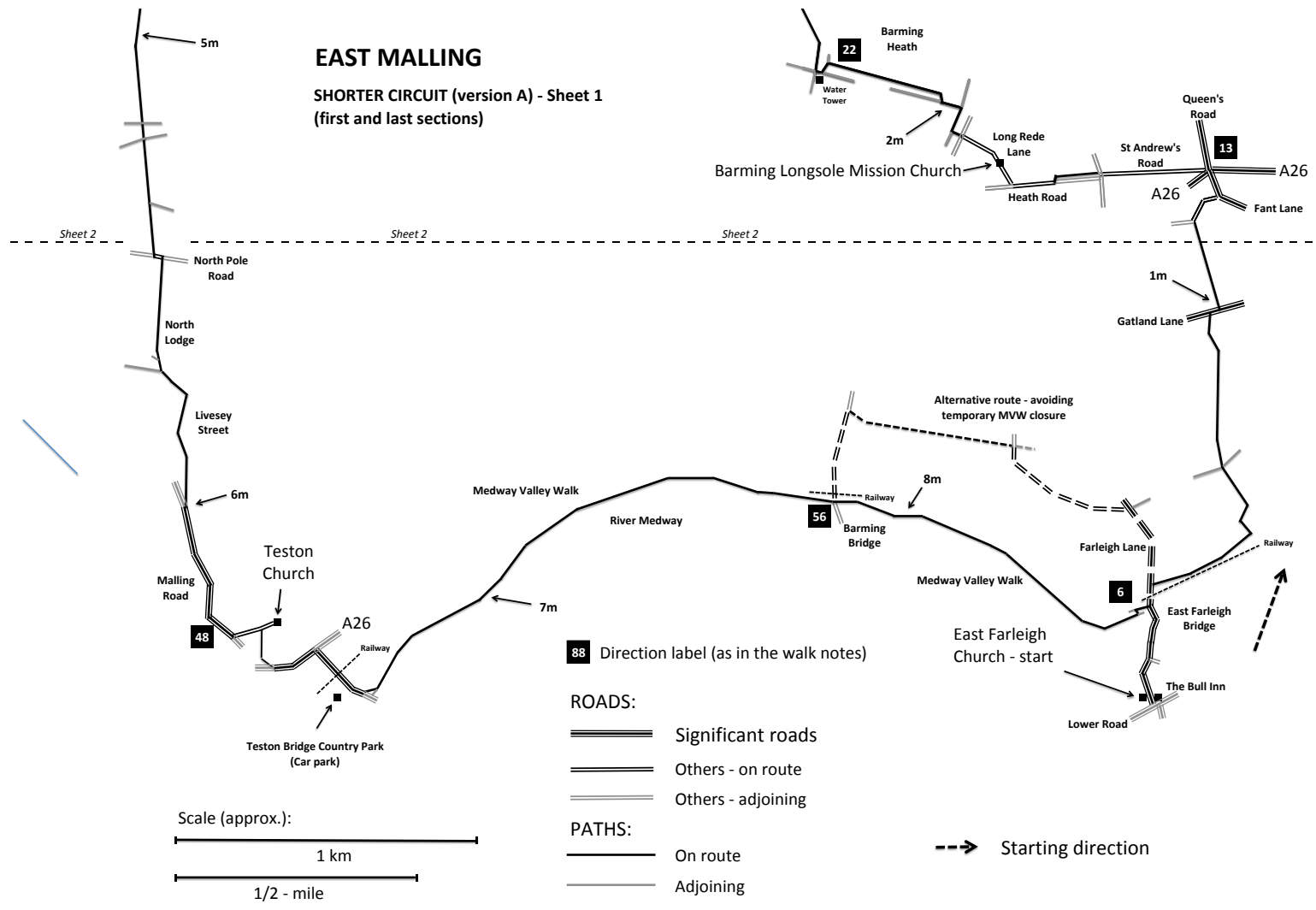


EAST MALLING

SHORTER CIRCUIT (version A) - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)

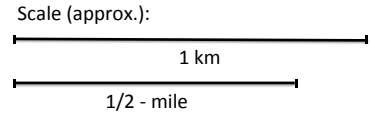


88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

- ROADS:**
- Significant roads
 - Others - on route
 - Others - adjoining

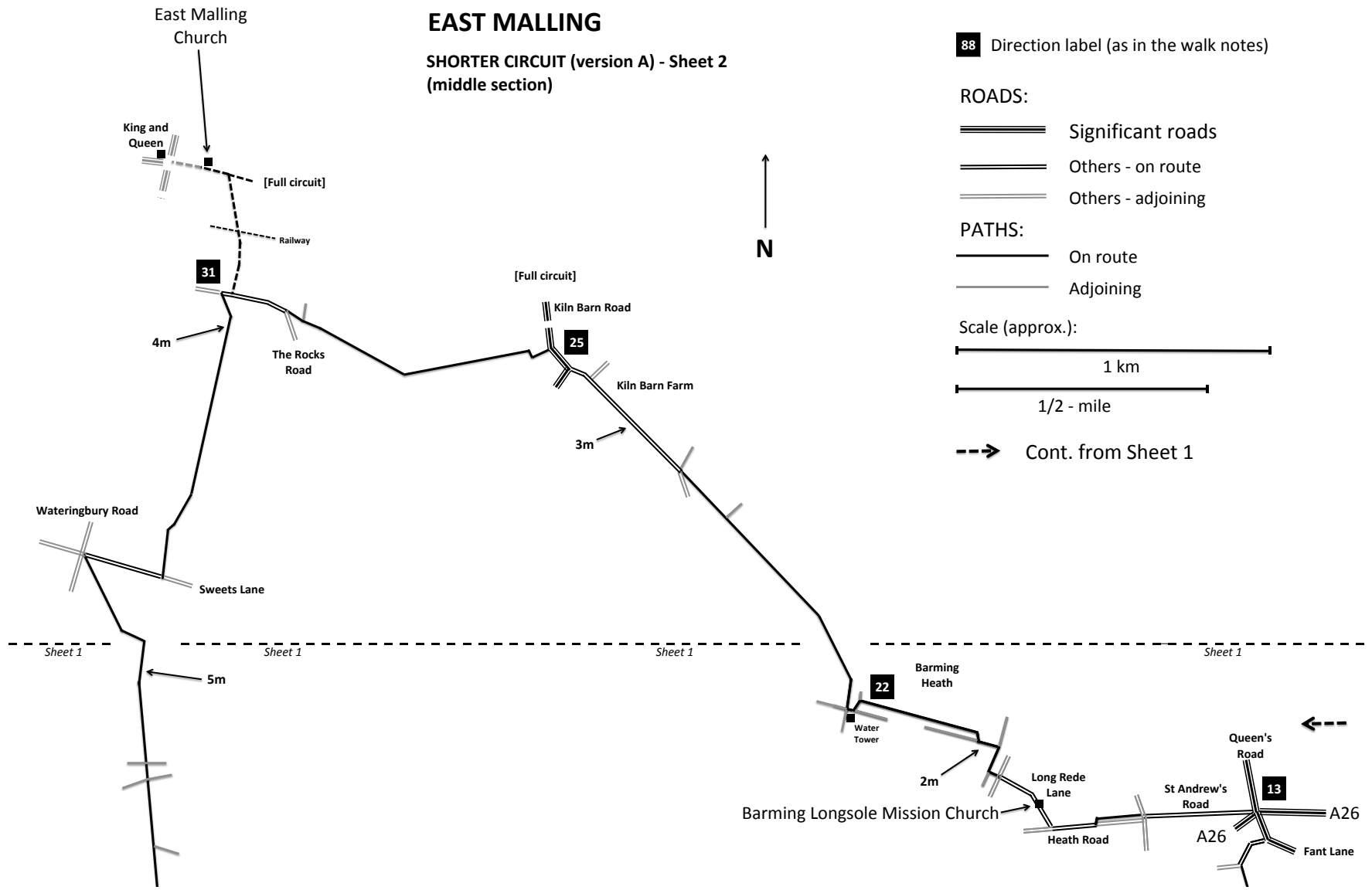
- PATHS:**
- On route
 - Adjoining

Starting direction



EAST MALLING

SHORTER CIRCUIT (version A) - Sheet 2
(middle section)



88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

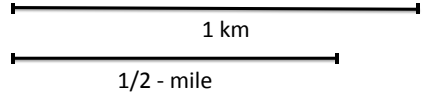
ROADS:

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

PATHS:

- On route
- Adjoining

Scale (approx.):



---> Cont. from Sheet 1

EAST MALLING CIRCUIT - in this version, 8.81 miles**

Churches in this version of the shorter circuit (version A):

East Farleigh (start and finish)

Barming Longsole Mission (Direction 17)

East Malling (30D - Detour - see Appendix)

Teston (49)

Associated local circuits

- EM1: East Malling - Ditton - Barming Heath - East Malling
- EM2: East Malling - Ditton - Aylesford - East Malling
- WA1: Ditton - Larkfield - Leybourne - East Malling - Ditton
- NY1: Watringbury - Nettlestead - Teston - Watringbury
- NY2: West Farleigh - East Farleigh - Barming - Teston - West Farleigh

Shorter circuit (A): The main features are between Barming and East Peckham some fine views over to the North Downs, and later, after a woodland interlude, a pleasant riverside section of the Medway Valley Walk.

Roads and hindrances:

The crossings of the narrow bridge in East Farleigh (Directions 2 and 58) are a significant problem. Great care required!

The only significant road crossings are of the A26 (Directions 13 and 51).

**** The Medway Valley Walk is (November 2016) temporarily closed while work is in progress (completion due March 2017).** There is an alternative, shown on the map. To follow it turn left away from the river, go under the railway bridge and up the road beyond, turn right along the signposted footpath near the top, and follow the easy mapped route from there. The additional distance is 0.27 miles (about 6 minutes).

SHORTER CIRCUIT (A)

East Farleigh - Barming Heath - East Malling - Teston - East Farleigh

Notes taken: November 2016

The start and finish is at East Farleigh Church (ME15 0JL).

	Mins.		OS	Miles
1		START OF THE SPINE SECTION Leave the south side of East Farleigh Church , turn left towards the crossroads at the Bull Inn, and there turn left down Station Road.	735 533	

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
2	4	At the bottom cross East Farleigh Bridge with great care and carry on ahead towards the level crossing.		
3	5	After crossing the railway and passing the entry road which leads into the car park, about 25 yds. further on turn right through a well concealed wooden gate and follow the enclosed path beyond, between hedges. After a while it goes along next to the railway on the right, before climbing a little way away from it.		
4	10	Follow the track as it bends to the left, gently uphill.		
5	12	As the track starts to bend to the right, turn left away from it to walk up a grassy rise, alongside a sturdy new wooden fence on your left.		
6	13	At a staggered junction of paths maintain the same direction, going first right, then left.		
7	16	Continue ahead as fields open out on both sides, beyond the hedges.		
8	21	Reach the road, cross it, and turn right along the pavement.	736 546	
9	22	After about 100 yds. turn left along the roadway leading to Gatland Lane Park, and follow it, with a school on your right, and, soon, a playing field on your left.		0.99
10	23	When the roadway bends to the right into a parking enclosure, instead continue straight ahead toward the left-hand edge of a children's playground.		
11	25	After passing the playground leave the field by the gap in its far right-hand corner, and turn right along the road beyond. Follow this as it bends to the right to reach a main road.		
12	27	At the junction turn left, crossing to the right-hand side when convenient for an easier crossing of the A26 up ahead.		
13	28	[Map point] Cross the main road, and turn left, not along it but along the quiet road beyond, keeping the stone wall of the Blackthorn Medical Centre on your right.		
14	33	At the crossroads at the Duke of Edinburgh continue ahead in the same direction, but take the opportunity to escape the road by going, while you can, to the right of the railings and using the parallel walkway along the edge of the open space.		
15	35	At the end of the walkway move left to rejoin the road.		
16	36	Take the second turning on the right, Long Rede Lane.	730 550	
17	38	Pass Barming Longsole Mission Church , tucked away behind the hedge on the left, and carry on, eventually along a pavement on the left.		1.79
18	39	Cross the road and continue in the same direction along a footpath between hedges and trees.		
19	40	Turn right at the T-junction of paths.		
20	41	Take the sharper of the left-turns available, and continue along this path, ignoring the roadway which appears on the left, the dead end of a cul-de-sac.		
21	42	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.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
22	47	[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.	724 554	2.25
23	53	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.		
24	65	At the end, at a complicated junction of roads, go ahead along Kiln Barn Road.		3.19
25	66	END OF THE SPINE SECTION [Map point] Just before the road bends to the right, instead turn left up an enclosed path between fences.		
26	67	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.		
27	74	Go to the left of the bordering trees, for a stretch of open space, continuing in the same direction, parallel to the path.		
28	75	Return to the path on your right, and continue ahead.		
29	78	When The Rocks Road joins from the left, walk ahead along the pavement on its right-hand side.		
30	80	[To visit <i>East Malling Church</i> , now divert instead to the <i>Detour in the Appendix.</i>] Main route: Continue ahead, ignoring the footpath going down to the right.	704 567	
31	81	[Map point] Turn left along a signposted footpath (marked 'Private Road').		
32		Go through a gate at the end, and slightly right at the junction next to it.		
33	82	Go straight ahead along what is now a long straight track leading gently uphill alongside large fields, first on the left, then on the right.		
34	90	At the top follow the line of the tall trees on your left as it swings right and then left.		
35	93	Reaching the road, turn right along it.		4.53
36	96	At the crossroads turn sharp left (half doubling back on yourself) along a signposted footpath in trees.	699 558	
37	100	Swing left along a path next to houses on the right.		
38	102	Follow the path as it turns right, next to the same group of houses.		
39	107	Continue ahead at the crosspaths.		
40	108	And again.		
41	111	Continue ahead, ignoring the left fork.		
42	113	Turn left along the road.		
43		After about 50 yds. turn right along a signposted footpath.	702 547	5.47
44	114	Continue ahead, ignoring the right fork.		
45	117	At a junction of paths go slightly left, uphill.		
46	124	Reach a main road, cross it for better safety, and turn left to follow it downhill.		
47	126	Cross back to the left-hand side, and continue along the road.		
48	129	[Map point] Turn left along Church Road.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
49	131	Teston Church is at the end on the right. But to continue the route, just before the church turn right at the end of the green along the near side of the churchyard, and outside it, keeping its railings on your left.		
50	132	Turn right along the road for a few yards, then left off it down a shady passageway.		
51	133	At the end use the rail to go safely down the path to the pavement of the main road, which might be uncomfortably close in slippery conditions; and turn left along it, crossing when convenient.		
52	135	Turn right along the road signposted for West Farleigh (B2163) and keep on the pavement along its right-hand side.	707 534	
53	136	Continue ahead over the level crossing.		
54	137	Pass the entrance of Teston Bridge Country Park.		6.66
55	138	Cross the road and join the Medway Valley Walk by crossing the stile (slightly higher than comfortable), then continue across the grass to merge with the riverside path, and go along it.		
56	160	[Map point] Pass Barming Bridge (footbridge) and continue straight on (still MVW) - but (winter 2016/17) see introductory note.		7.84
57	175	About 100 yds. short of the East Farleigh road bridge, look out for waymarks on the left directing you leftwards away from the river, up a brief zig-zagging passageway, which finally turns right towards the main road.	734 536	
58**	176	When you reach the main road: <u>either, to continue the circuit</u> (if not visiting, or finishing at, East Farleigh Church), carry on by turning left and continuing from Direction 3;		8.61
** or 58A	176	<u>... or, to detour to, or finish at, East Farleigh Church</u> , turn right to cross the bridge with great care.		8.61
58B	177	After the bridge, follow the road as it swings first to the right, then uphill to the left, using the pavement on the left-hand side of the road at the earliest opportunity.		
58C	179	Carry on uphill past the end of River Close.		
58D	181	At the junction at the top, at the Bull Inn, cross to the right, using the island separating the roads, and find, on the right, the lych-gate entrance to <u>East Farleigh Church</u> .	735 533	8.81
58E		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 Shorter Circuit (version A)

Detour to East Malling Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
30A	0	Instead of Direction 30, turn right down the well concealed, narrow path.		0.00
30B	2	Cross the railway and continue ahead in the same direction.		
30C	5	At the end turn left along the metalled pathway into the churchyard.		
30D	6	Having walked along the south side of East Malling Church , reach its main west door. To return to the main route retrace your steps along the south side of the church, and, by turning right at the end of the churchyard, back up the path and across the railway.		0.31
30E	13	At the top, rejoin the main route by turning right, and continue from Direction 30. Add 13 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.62 miles to cumulative distances.		0.62

* **"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!

EAST MALLING - SHORTER CIRCUIT (version A)	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-2, 8, 12, 15, 24, 46-47, 51-54, 58A-C	13
Quiet road \$\$	9a, 11, 13, 16-17, 23b, 28-32, 35, 42, 45, 57b	20
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock	55	13
Field (or edge) without livestock **	5, 9b-10, 14, 21, 27, 33-34, 48-49a, 56a, 56c	16
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	3-4, 6-7, 18-20, 22-23a, 25-26, 36a, 37, 43, 44b, 49b-50, 56b, 56d-57a	30
Woods	36b, 38-41, 44a	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 (1) - Detail noted in November 2016, but **subject to frequent change**:

The stile in Direction **55** has easy gaps.