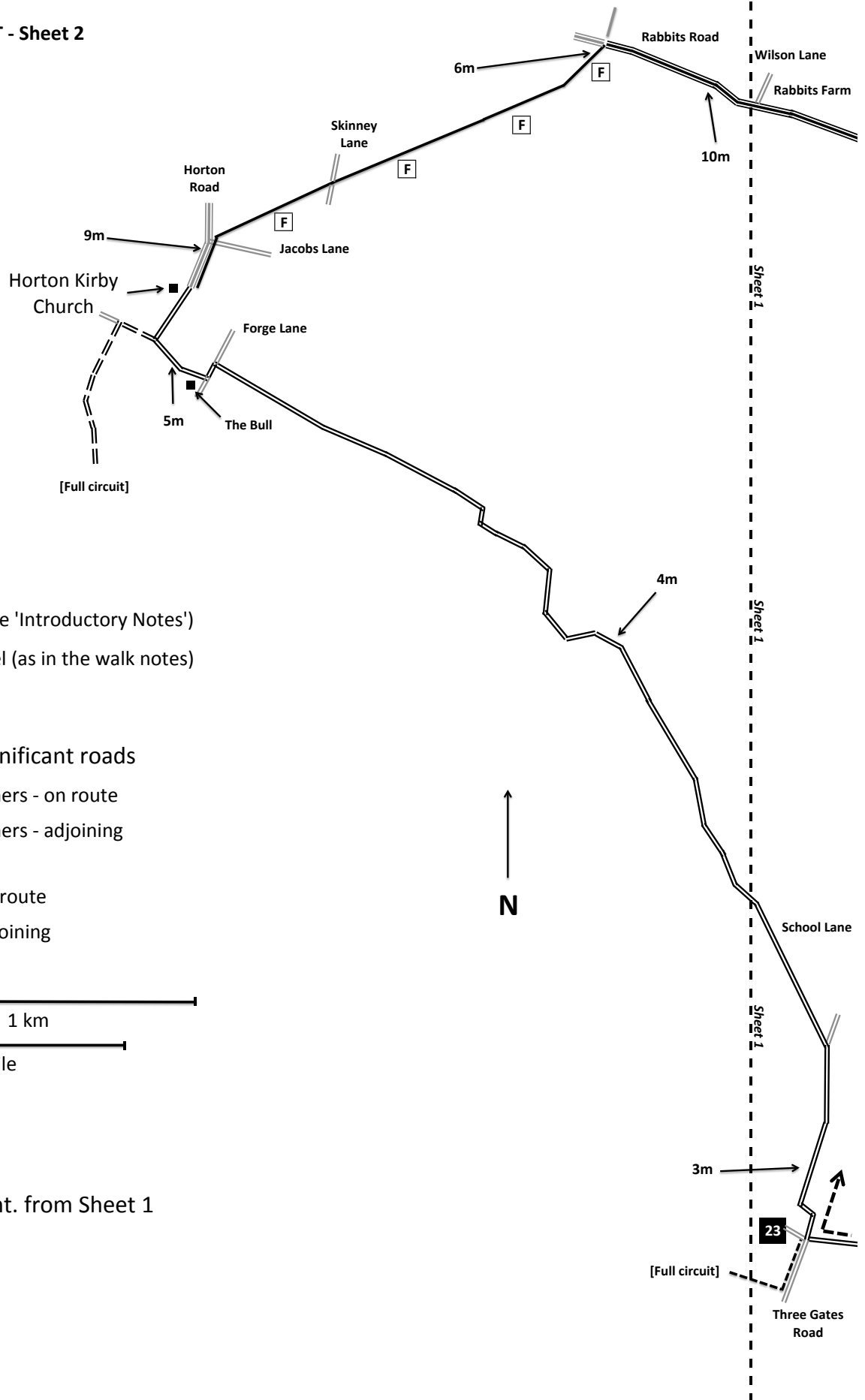


HORTON KIRBY & FAWKHAM

SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 2
(middle section)



[F] Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

[88] Direction label (as in the walk notes)

ROADS:

==== Significant roads

==== Others - on route

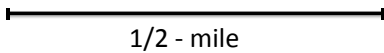
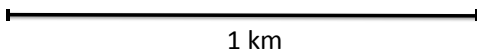
==== Others - adjoining

PATHS:

— On route

— Adjoining

Scale (approx.):



---> Cont. from Sheet 1

Sheet 1
Sheet 1
Sheet 1
Sheet 1
Sheet 1
Sheet 1

23

HORTON KIRBY & FAWKHAM CIRCUIT - shorter: 7.77 miles

Churches in the shorter circuit

Horton Kirby (28)

Fawkham (43)

Associated local circuits

- HF1: Horton Kirby - Sutton-at-Hone - Darent - Horton Kirby
- LH1: Hartley - Longfield - Fawkham - Hartley

Shorter circuit: Preserves some of the features of the full circuit, though sadly not the best bits.

Roads and hindrances:

There is a fair amount of road walking, but most of it is in pleasant countryside with little traffic.

I have reinstated the crossing of the field above Dean Bottom (36) as the dense hawthorn has now (January 2017) been cleared.

I found I had to think about the navigation through the golf course (11-13), and over the fields at 38-41.

The problem at 32 (mentioned in earlier versions) has been dealt with by the replacement of the offending stile by new gates: thank you, Dartford and Gravesham Ramblers!

SHORTER CIRCUIT - Fawkham - Horton Kirby - Fawkham

Notes taken: December 2011 / January 2012; revised October 2014 and updated January 2017

The start and finish is the road junction of Castle Hill and Steep Hill, not far from Fawkham Church (near DA3 8EQ).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		At the junction of Steep Hill and Castle Hill, go up the path opposite Steep Hill, to the right of the entrance to Talbot Lodge.	598 680	
2	1	Go to the left of the private entrance to Hillside Cottage, passing between fences on the narrow path.		
3	5	Through a pair of metal gates, and still straight ahead.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
4	10	[Map point] Fork right along the first significant path, following in theory a waymark for SD221 which in earlier versions I described as 'easily missed'. It is currently (January 2017) even more easily missed as the tree bearing it lies fallen on your left. To take this right fork you currently go under a half-fallen tree, and step over another fallen one. Very soon after this another waymark takes SD221 leftwards parallel to the original direction; but instead turn right at this point, down a path (unsignalled at first) through the trees. The path takes you down, and, as it emerges from the wood, through the Corinthian sports complex.		
5	14	Pass along through the car park with the main entrance to your left and the Billings Group offices on your right. Up ahead follow the roadway to the right.		
6	16	Follow the left fork in the road and go up the footpath which is just to the right of Pennis House.		
7	20	Emerge from the trees and turn left along the left-hand edge of a field, keeping the pylon to your right.		0.84
8	22	[Map point] Turn right along the other edge of the same field, to the far-left corner.	597 671	
9	26	After a passing through a small cluster of trees, and just before reaching the corner of Redlibbets golf course turn left down a grassy path.		
10	27	Pass the 11th tee on your right and the 13th tee on your left, and then another green.		
11	28	<p>Swing right with the path.</p> <p><i>Ultimately you will be passing next to the Redlibbets clubhouse, which (at least in winter) you can just make out straight ahead through the trees, and which could be reached by simply walking ahead. However, the mapped and waymarked right of way does not take this direct line, but goes down to the left across and up the other side of the valley; so this (two sides of an elongated triangle) is the route described.</i></p> <p>Staying on the high, straight path you soon pass two tall trees on the left, and see a lake coming into view down ahead and slightly to the left. [Map point] Soon after this look for a waymark post to the left a little way down the hill. This direction - perhaps about 40 degrees left of the line of the path you are leaving and the valley and fairways beyond - is the one to follow, down and up, for the next few minutes. Given average luck you will find it confirmed by occasional waymarks. (If not, there are no serious consequences so long as you a) avoid hindering golfers or enabling them to injure you, and b) finish up eventually at the increasingly visible clubhouse.)</p>		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
12	31	Following this 40-degree line, and having, with due care, crossed a fairway (about 60 yds. from the tee to the left) you reach the valley floor. Continue at the same angle (or very slightly more to the right), through some trees, now upwards. Cross another fairway (with its green about 100 yds. to your left) and then veer a little further to the right to go parallel to it, to meet at right-angles the buggy track coming down from the clubhouse on the right.	598 664	
13	35	Turn right along this track, past the 1st tee, the lake, and the (presumably 18th) green, and go up past the left-hand side of the clubhouse.		
14	37	In the car park follow the metalled driveway leftwards towards the exit.		1.68
15	39	Save a few yards by cutting across the grass, as waymarked (about 15 yds. to the left of a big tree).		
16	40	[Map point] At another waymark post, rejoin and go straight across the driveway, taking the narrow roadway which goes very slightly to your right - not the double (i.e. soon forking) buggy track further to the right, which heads towards the 9 th tee). Go ahead to the road beyond the golf-club grounds.		
17	41	Cross the road (at its junction with the Fawkham Hospital entrance drive) and continue opposite through an unusual red-brown metal gate, along a narrow enclosed path.		
18	43	A long, fairly narrow field opens out to the right. !!!F!!! At the end of the fence on the right, go diagonally across this field and head for the far right-hand corner.	591 660	
19	46	At the corner go slightly left, then (not immediately, but after about 10 yds.) turn right, down through trees.		
20	47	Emerge from the wood and follow the path as it goes leftwards along its edge, and then straight ahead into another bit of woodland, continuing downward and slightly to the right.		
21	49	Pass what was once a stile on your right to leave the trees. !!!F!!! Ignore the waymark pointing to the left. (You need SD225, not SD224.) In front of you is a field, very long from left to right, but narrow ahead. It is across this width, ahead and about 20-30 yds. to the left of straight, that the footpath goes, heading for a gap which is initially quite invisible. I also found (in winter) little indication on the ground of the correct line; but it is easy enough to find the gap as you approach the far side. When you have done so, go through, and down a steep slope (taking special care if wet) and go on between fences to a stile and, via some steps, to the main road beyond.	588 658	
22	52	Turn right along the road for a few yards, then left up Speedgate Hill, for a few minutes' road-walking, steeply uphill.		
23	61	[Map point] At the top you reach the junction with Three Gates Road. Turn right, along the road.	580 659	2.82
24	62	Follow the road as it swings left and then right.		

* *"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
25	68	About 150 yds. after the entrance to the stables on the left, turn left at the road junction. There is no sign, but this is School Lane, leading down into Horton Kirby. Though it is road-walking, the road is very quiet and perfectly pleasant. <i>(Ignore the misleadingly inviting metal gate which leads into the field on the left after a few minutes.)</i>		3.19
26	99	At the T-junction at the bottom turn left, then immediately, at The Bull, right.		4.91
27	101	Turn right along Horton Road.		
28	103	Horton Kirby Church is on the left.		
29	105	[!!F!!] Where Jacobs Lane goes off to the right, go up the footpath rightwards through a kissing gate, bisecting the angle between the roads (i.e. at about 45 degrees). Go up diagonally across this large sloping field in the direction of a large pylon in the distance.		
30	111	[!!F!!] Cross the road beside a pole, and continue ahead on the same diagonal line, through the MKG.	566 689	
31	114	[!!F!!] Through another MKG and onwards, down (to the right of a pylon), then uphill to a MKG about 30 yds. below (i.e. to the right of) the field's top right-hand corner.		
32	119	[!!F!!] Go through this MKG, and two more gates in quick succession, and continue in the same direction as before to another MKG across the field.		
33	121	[!!F!!] Go through it and turn slightly more towards the left to yet another MKG.		
34	123	START OF THE SPINE SECTION (from here to the end) Reaching this final gate, go through it and turn right on to Rabbits Road.	574 692	6.02
35	136	[Map point] After passing Wilson Lane and Rabbits Farm on the left, also ignore an anonymous turning on the right and continue ahead to a T-junction.		
36	138	[!!F!!] Here the major road turns left, but instead abandon it by turning right. Then, after a further 50 yds. or so, go through a gap on the left** leading to the corner of a field. Go diagonally across this, heading for the right-hand end of the wooden fence opposite, and on reaching that point go down a steep, narrow passageway alongside a house. <i>** Long-standing readers of these notes will recognise this as a return to the original descent to Dean Bottom, which I abandoned for a while because of the inhospitably dense hawthorn which made this field virtually impassable. But it is now (January 2017) entirely clear, if still rather rough underfoot. If the obstruction returns it is possible, instead of leaving the road at the gap, to continue along it and turn left at the crossroads ahead, rejoining the route where the steep passageway joins (see above). This detour would cost an additional 1 minute (0.07 miles).</i>		6.79

* "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
37	141	Turn left at the road at the bottom, but immediately swing right with it. When the road swings back to the left a rather hidden signpost offers two alternative footpaths. Take the one which goes straight on, leading uphill through some trees and then up the left-hand side of a field.	587 687	
38	144	You pass a long hedge which goes off at right-angles to the right. [!!F!!] Here tackle the gentle rise ahead by abandoning the left-hand hedge, and go slightly to the right of the original line towards a relatively small, solitary pylon.	588 686	
39	149	[!!F!!] Pass to right of the pylon, and straight on toward a pole which is slightly to the right of another pylon.	590 684	
40	155	At the pole merge slightly leftwards on to a wide track.	593 681	
41	156	[Map point] Leave the track as it swings away to the right. Instead go slightly to the left and then ahead, down the left-hand side of a field, with a wood on your left.		
42	158	In the corner at the end carry on ahead down the narrow path between fences.		
43	160	The footpath goes alongside a house, and comes out at the main road. Cross it, and go up the road which is opposite and slightly to the right (Castle Hill). On the left is <u>Fawkham Church</u> .	597 680	
44	162	At the junction with Steep Hill on the left, you arrive back at the starting point.	598 680	7.77

* *"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.*

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 (on the next page) 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!

HORTON KIRBY & FAWKHAM - SHORTER CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	22a	0.4
Quiet road \$\$	14, 16, 22b-28, 34-36a, 37a, 43	49
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	7-8, 21a, 29-33, 36b, 37c-41	23
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1-2, 4b-6, 9-13, 15, 17, 21b, 42	18
Woods	3-4a, 18-20, 37b	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 January 2017, but **subject to frequent change:**

The stile (in Direction **21**) has easy gaps.