




LOCAL CIRCUIT HF2: EYNSFORD



F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

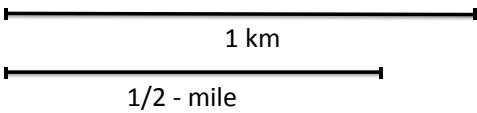
ROADS:

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

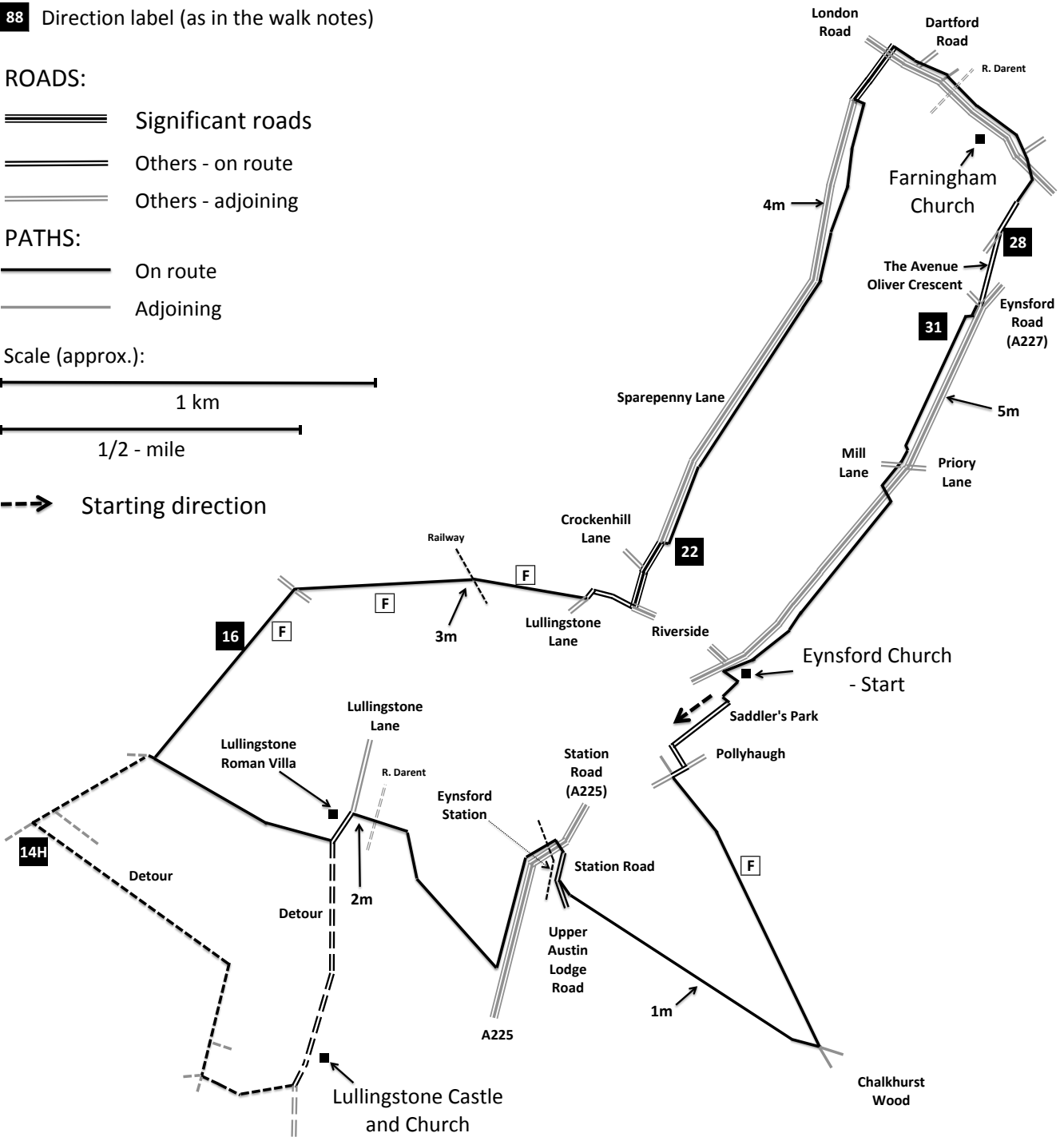
PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining

Scale (approx.):



 Starting direction



LOCAL CIRCUIT HF2: EYNSFORD - 5.59 miles

Linked churches:

Eynsford (start and finish)

Lullingstone (Direction 14B: Detour – see Appendix)

Farningham (26)

(The first section is a bit of an indulgence (up and down, and at least doubling the distance between Eynsford’s church and station) but well worth while, I think, to substitute picturesque countryside for the main road.)

Roads and hindrances:

No great problem with the roads: they are all quiet, except for the short section after Eynsford station, where there is an ample verge. Along the bulk of Sparepenny Lane and of the A225 north of Eynsford there are parallel footpaths which separate you from the roads.

There are no significant hindrances. The chain across the driveway into Lullingstone Castle is not what it seems (see 14B).

Notes taken: December 2011 / January 2012; updated January 2017

The start and finish is at Eynsford Church (DA4 0EH).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From Eynsford Church turn left along the main road, then immediately turn left up a tarmac pathway along the south side of the church grounds. Follow this path as it turns right, then left.	540 655	
2	2	It emerges at the dead end of a cul-de-sac. Turn right along this, and continue ahead along the left-hand side of a grassy strip.		
3	5	At the T-junction at the end turn left.		
4		At the T-junction at the top turn right.		
5	6	Turn left up the footpath, opposite Butchers Lane.	539 652	
6	7	Go ahead through a wooden kissing gate and up the left-hand side of a field.		
7	12	!!!F!!! And through another kissing gate, and straight ahead across a huge field. Head towards the trees, passing a pole.		
8	19	Immediately after entering the trees turn sharp right. After the trees continue straight on down the right-hand side of a field.		0.78
9	27	At the corner of the field go straight ahead into trees.		

* *“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
10	29	Turn right at the road, and go along it past Eynsford station to the main road.		
11	31	Cross the main road and turn left along it to go under the railway bridge, and continue up the right-hand side.		
12	37	Turn off the road to the right along a footpath which looks like a driveway (at 'No Right Turn' for vehicles). Follow the path through a gate and onwards as it swings right and left, towards, then between, farm buildings in the middle distance.		1.63
13	43	After crossing the river on a wooden bridge, turn left at the roundabout, passing Lullingstone Roman villa.		
14	44	<i>[To visit <u>Lullingstone Church</u>, now divert instead to the <u>Detour</u> in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Just after the villa turn right up a footpath with steps, joining the Darent Valley Path.		2.04
15	53	Just before the top there is a hedge striking out at right-angles to the right. Turn right alongside it, keeping it to your left, going along the top, left-hand side of the sloping field.	525 652	2.36
16	57	[Map point] [!!F!!] When the hedge wanders off to the left do not follow it but carry straight on across the field.		
17	61	[!!F!!] Cross the road by a couple of houses and continue along the path, which now heads down diagonally to the right, towards a gap in the hedge.		
18	62	[!!F!!] Go through the gap and continue along the same line towards the railway crossing, a little to the left of its spectacular bridge.		
19	67	[!!F!!] Cross the railway with due care, and continue in the same direction.		
20	72	Join the road after some little posts. Turn left along it, then swing right with it.	536 657	
21	73	Turn left along Sparepenny Lane.		3.27
22	76	[Map point] Go through a gate on the right, next to the entrance to Furlongs Farm, on to a field-edge path which runs parallel to Sparepenny Lane for most of the way to Farningham, going alongside several fields separated by wooden gates, and featuring a pleasant cluster of trees halfway along.		
23	93	Follow the path as it goes up to the left to rejoin Sparepenny Lane.		
24	96	Turn right into Farningham High Street.		
25	98	Pass the Lion Hotel on the left and go ahead over the bridge.	546 671	4.38
26	100	Farningham Church is on the right. Beyond it carry straight on along the High Street.		
27	102	Just after Farningham Oak, turn right down a narrow passage.		
28	103	[Map point] When this opens out into a road, go straight ahead, keeping to the right of the first small green.		

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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	105	But then turn half-left to go up the left-hand side of the large green.		
30	108	At the junction at the top turn half-right on to the walkway alongside the main road.		4.86
31	109	[Map point] Escape the road by turning through a wooden gate on to a parallel footpath (Millfield Trust).		
32	112	When this path comes to an end, rejoin the main-road walkway.		
33	113	At the road junction (Mill Lane and Priory Lane) go straight ahead towards the middle of Eynsford. (The walkway on the right will come to an end eventually, so cross the road when convenient.)		
34	122	On the left you reach the starting point at Eynsford Church .	540 655	5.59

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APPENDIX to Local Circuit HF2

Detour to Lullingstone Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
14A	0	Instead of turning right after the Roman villa, continue straight on along the tarmac road, parallel to the river.		0.00
14B	8	The castle is on your left. Go into its grounds through the main gate. <i>(The castle was closed to visitors when I was first there, with a chain across the entrance. However, it was still possible to get to the church: I was warmly encouraged to do so, crossing the chain, by a member of the castle staff.)</i> From the gate Lullingstone Church is over to the left, across the grass.		0.45
14C	9	After visiting the church retrace your steps to the castle gate. and turn left. <i>The rest of this detour is not marked as a right of way, but it is clearly a popular place to walk, and much of it is waymarked as part of one or other of the Lullingstone Country Park circuits.</i>		
14D	10	Go out of the gate and turn left; and very soon afterwards (by a private parking area) pass a barrier and turn right, up a broad path towards trees.		
14E	13	The path bends gently to the right, past the edge of those trees.		
14F	14	Pass next to a gate and turn right, gently downhill at first, now following the Lullingstone Country Park Blue Route.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
14G	19	After following this path down and up, swing left with it (still on the Blue Route).		0.91
14H	28	[Map point] At a T-junction of paths turn right, slightly uphill, joining now the Lullingstone Loop.		
14I	33	Go ahead into a little strip of trees, and beyond them swing right to join the broad downhill path.		
14J	34	Rejoin the main route at Direction 15, by turning left just beyond the hedge coming in from the left (so that you are going alongside it, with it to your left, and walking along the top, left-hand side of the sloping field). Add 25 minutes to subsequent total times and 1.22 miles to cumulative distances.		1.54

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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!

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LOCAL CIRCUIT HF2	Direction numbers	of walk
Busy road	11, 24-26, 30, 32-33	19
Quiet road \$\$	2-4, 10, 12-13, 20-21, 23, 28-29	22
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	6-7, 8b, 14b-19, 22a, 22c, 31	41
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1, 5, 27	3
Woods	8a, 9, 14a, 22b	5

LOCAL CIRCUIT HF2 - INCLUDING DETOUR (APPENDIX)	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	11, 24-26, 30, 32-33	16
Quiet road \$\$	2-4, 10, 12-13, 14A, 20-21, 23, 28-29	24
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	6-7, 8b, 14D-19, 22a, 22c, 31	54
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1, 5, 14B-C, 27	3
Woods	8a, 9, 22b	3

** 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 (3) - Details noted in January 2017, but **subject to frequent change**:

The only stiles are the three guarding the level crossing on either side (Direction 19), all with easy gaps.