




EAST MALLING



FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)

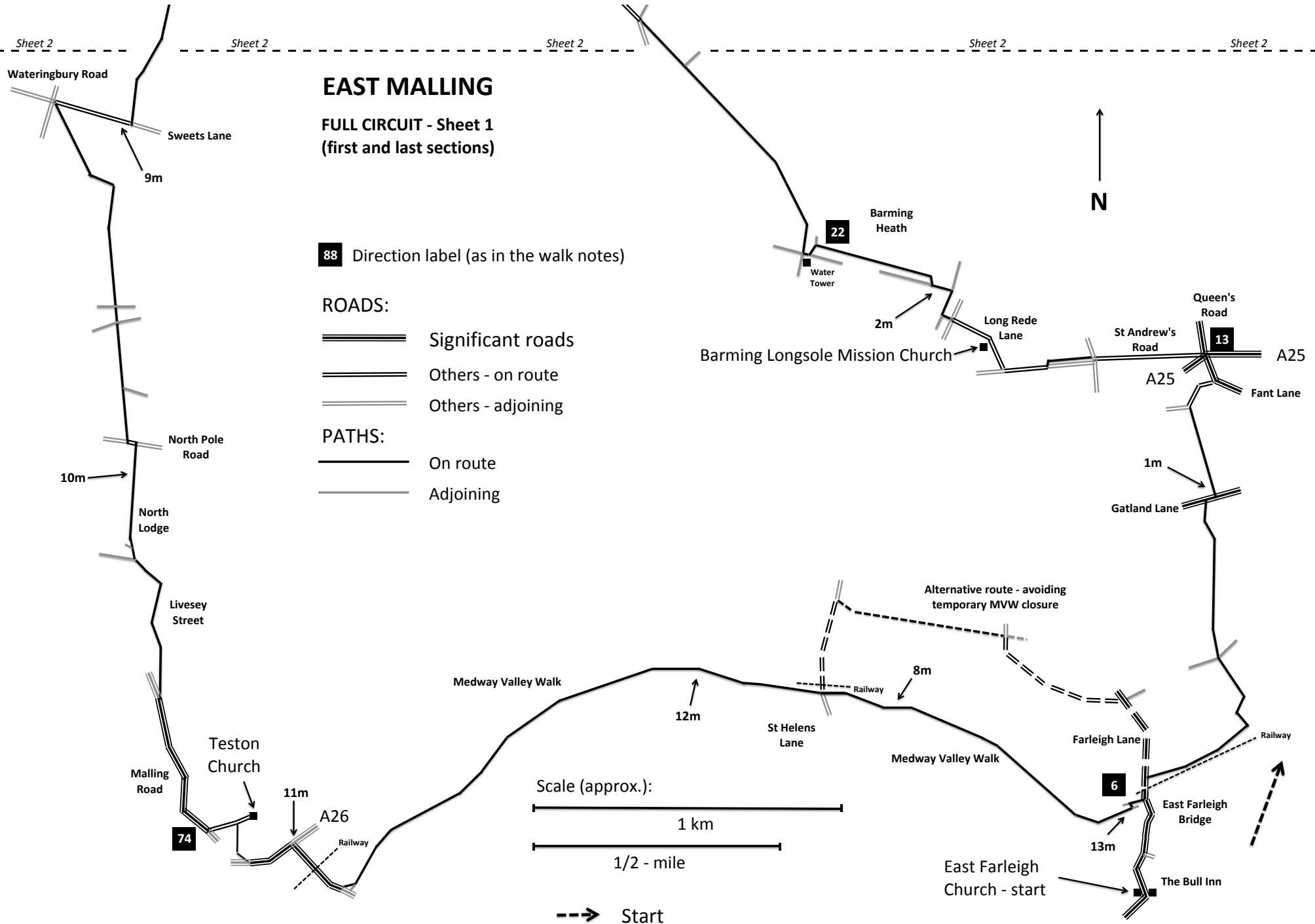
88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

ROADS:

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

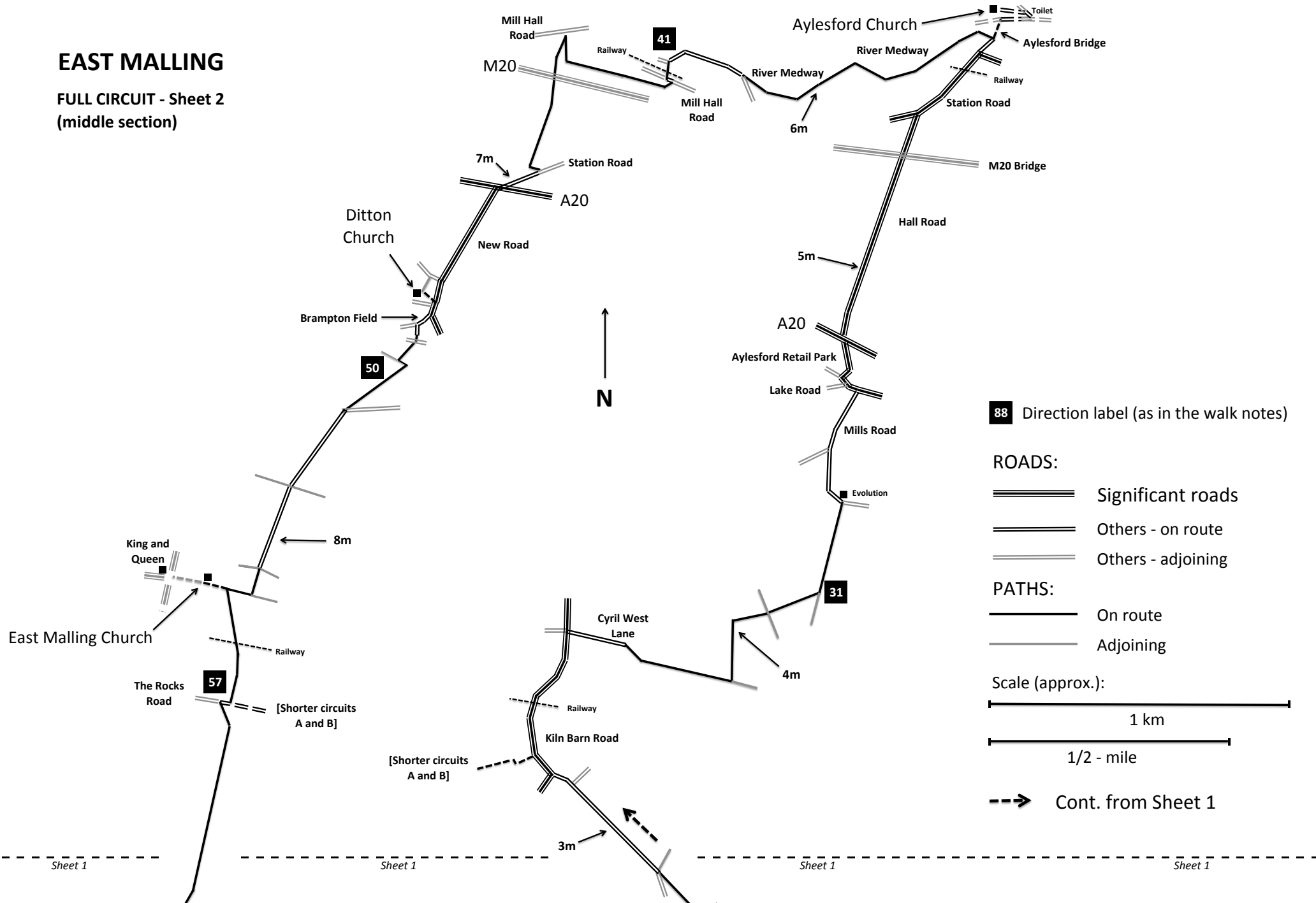
PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining



EAST MALLING

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2
(middle section)



EAST MALLING CIRCUIT - 13.27 miles**

Churches in the full circuit:

East Farleigh (start and finish)

Barming Longsole Mission (Direction 17)

Aylesford (38D: Detour 1 - see Appendix)

Ditton (48)

East Malling (54B: Detour 2 - see Appendix)

Teston (75)

Associated local circuits

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

Full circuit: A varied route, perhaps with a little more of road and suburb than some would like. But there are woods, some pleasant views and two visits to the River Medway.

Roads and hindrances:

The crossings of the narrow bridge in East Farleigh (Directions 2 and 84A) are a significant problem. Great care required!

The crossings of main roads (A26 twice, A20 twice and Station Road in Aylesford) are all perfectly manageable, with the help of good sightlines, lights, or both.

**** The Medway Valley Walk is (November 2016) temporarily closed at Direction 82 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).

FULL CIRCUIT

East Farleigh - Barming Heath - Aylesford - Ditton - 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	
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.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
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.		
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	Follow the road as it bends to the right, ignoring the path which goes up to the left (where Shorter Circuit 'A' diverges and Shorter Circuit 'B' joins).	714 565	
26	68	Go under the railway bridge and continue ahead.		
27	71	At a crossroads turn right along Cyril West Lane.		
28	78	Turn left along a narrow footpath.		
29	81	Follow the path as it turns to the right.		
30	83	At the crosspaths go ahead, alongside the fence immediately on your left.		4.10
31	85	[Map point] At the T-junction turn left.		
32	89	Turn left, opposite the Evolution Strength and Fitness building, to join an access road, and follow it as it swings gently rightwards down to a junction with a larger road.		
33	90	At the junction cross the road and turn right along the pavement beyond.		
34	94	At the roundabout at the end follow it around leftwards (clockwise) and exit to continue down along the left-hand side of the main road, with a car park down to your left, and the main shops of the Aylesford Retail Park over beyond it.	724 577	
35	97	Reach the A20 and cross it at the lights a few yards to the left, at the bus stop. Then go down Hall Road opposite, crossing to its right-hand side at the first zebra crossing.		4.86
36	106	After walking down the length of Hall Road swing right at the junction at the end, soon after the motorway bridge.		
37	107	At the lights, cross to the left of the road; and after the level crossing part company with the major road as it swings to the right, and continue ahead towards Aylesford Bridge.		
38	111	<i>[To visit Aylesford Church, now divert instead to Detour 1 in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Reaching the start of the bridge, do not cross it, but turn left through the gate to go alongside the river.		5.57
39	123	Go ahead as a green space opens out briefly on the left, with a merging road beyond it.		
40		Continue ahead by joining the road as it merges.		
41	126	[Map point] As the road swings to the right, go ahead to cross the railway bridge instead.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
42	127	At the end of the bridge follow the road to the left for about 20 yds. and then go across and turn right to walk along a wide footpath between a fenced-off area on the right and the motorway running parallel on the left.		
43	132	At the far end, faced by an embankment ahead, swing to the right towards a minor road. But immediately before the road double back to the left to go up along the embankment.	715 588	6.57
44	134	END OF THE SPINE SECTION (After the Spine Section turns away along a path to the right ...) reach the bridge over the motorway and cross it.		
45	135	After the bridge go ahead past a rough area and then along a narrow enclosed path alongside a sports field.		
46	138	After the path bends to the left, reach a road and turn right along its right-hand pavement.		
47	140	Reach the A20, cross it (using the lights slightly to the right), and continue ahead along the right-hand side of New Road.		
48	146	Pass Ditton Church over to your right.		
49	147	After crossing St Peter's Road, fork right into Brampton Field. Then after about 40 yds. turn left along an estate road (alongside house number 1) and continue straight ahead over another road, along a footpath and across a garage court.		
50	149	[Map point] At the end turn left and after another 25 yds. sharp right along an enclosed footpath.		7.50
51	154	Go between metal barriers and straight on ahead.		
52	160	Cross the road and continue up the footpath opposite.		
53	161	Turn right and follow the path towards the church.		
54	162	[To visit <i>East Malling Church</i> , now divert instead to <i>Detour 2</i> in the Appendix.] At the start of the churchyard turn left.		
55	165	Cross the railway and continue ahead in the same direction.		8.26
56	168	On reaching the road at the top, turn right along it.		
57	169	[Map point] Turn left along a signposted footpath (marked 'Private Road').		
58		Go through a gate at the end, and slightly right at the junction next to it.		
59	170	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.		
60	178	At the top follow the line of the tall trees on your left as it swings right and then left.		
61	181	Reaching the road, turn right along it.		8.99
62	184	At the crossroads turn sharp left (half doubling back on yourself) along a signposted footpath in trees.	699 558	
63	188	Swing left along a path next to houses on the right.		
64	190	Follow the path as it turns right, next to the same group of houses.		
65	195	Continue ahead at the crosspaths.		
66	196	And again.		
67	199	Continue ahead, ignoring the left fork.		
68	201	Turn left along the road.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
69	(201)	After about 50 yds. turn right along a signposted footpath.	702 547	9.93
70	202	Continue ahead, ignoring the right fork.		
71	205	At a junction of paths go slightly left, uphill.		
72	212	Reach a main road, cross it for better safety, and turn left to follow it downhill.		
73	214	Cross back to the left-hand side, and continue along the road.		
74	217	[Map point] Turn left along Church Road.		
75	219	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.		
76	220	Turn right along the road for a few yards, then left off it down a shady passageway.		
77	221	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.		
78	223	Turn right along the road signposted for West Farleigh (B2163) and keep on the pavement along its right-hand side.	707 534	
79	224	Continue ahead over the level crossing.		
80	225	Pass the entrance of Teston Bridge Country Park.		11.12
81	226	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.		
82	248	[Map point] Pass Barming Bridge (footbridge) and continue straight on (still MVW) - but (winter 2016/17) see introductory note.		12.30
83	263	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	
84**	264	When you reach the main road: either, to continue the circuit (if not visiting, or finishing at, East Farleigh Church), carry on by turning left to cross the railway and and continue from Direction 3;		13.07
** or 84A	264	... or, to detour to, or finish at, East Farleigh Church, turn right to cross the bridge with great care.		13.07
84B	265	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.		
84C	267	Carry on uphill past the end of River Close.		
84D	269	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 East Farleigh Church.	735 533	13.27
84E		If returning to the circuit having visited the church, resume from Direction 1.		

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APPENDIX to Full Circuit

Detour to Aylesford Church (Detour 1)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
38A	0	Instead of Direction 38, carry on straight ahead to the traffic-free Aylesford Bridge.		
38B	1	At the T-junction beyond, turn right along High Street, then after about 80 yds. (at the toilets - currently open) sharp left, uphill, along Church Walk.		
38C	2	About 50 yds. up, turn left along a road marked as a footpath.		
38D	4	Reach the south door of Aylesford Church . After visiting the church retrace your steps to Church Walk and High Street and back over the bridge.	729 590	0.18
38E	7	Rejoin the main route at the far end of the bridge, turning right to go through the gate at Direction 38; and resume from there. Add 7 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.36 miles to cumulative distances.		0.36

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Detour to East Malling Church (Detour 2)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
54A	0	Instead of turning left at Direction 54, go straight on through the churchyard.		
54B	2	Reach East Malling Church , on the right. After visiting the church retrace your steps through the churchyard.	703 571	
54C	3	At the railings at the end of the churchyard turn right to resume the main route from Direction 54. Add 3 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.14 miles to cumulative distances.		0.14

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

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!

EAST MALLING - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-2, 8, 12, 15, 24-26, 33-37a, 46-48, 72-73, 77-80, 84A-C	23
Quiet road \$\$	9a, 11, 13, 16-17, 23b, 27a, 32, 37b, 40, 42a, 49, 51, 56-58, 61, 68, 71, 83b	17
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock	81	9
Field (or edge) without livestock **	5, 9b-10, 14, 21, 39, 45a, 59-60, 74-75a, 82a, 82c	11
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	3-4, 6-7, 18-20, 22-23a, 27b-31, 38a, 38c, 41, 42b-44, 45b, 50, 52-55, 62a, 63, 69, 70b, 75b-76	34
Woods	38b, 62b, 64-67, 70a, 82b, 82d-83a	7

** 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 **81** has easy gaps.