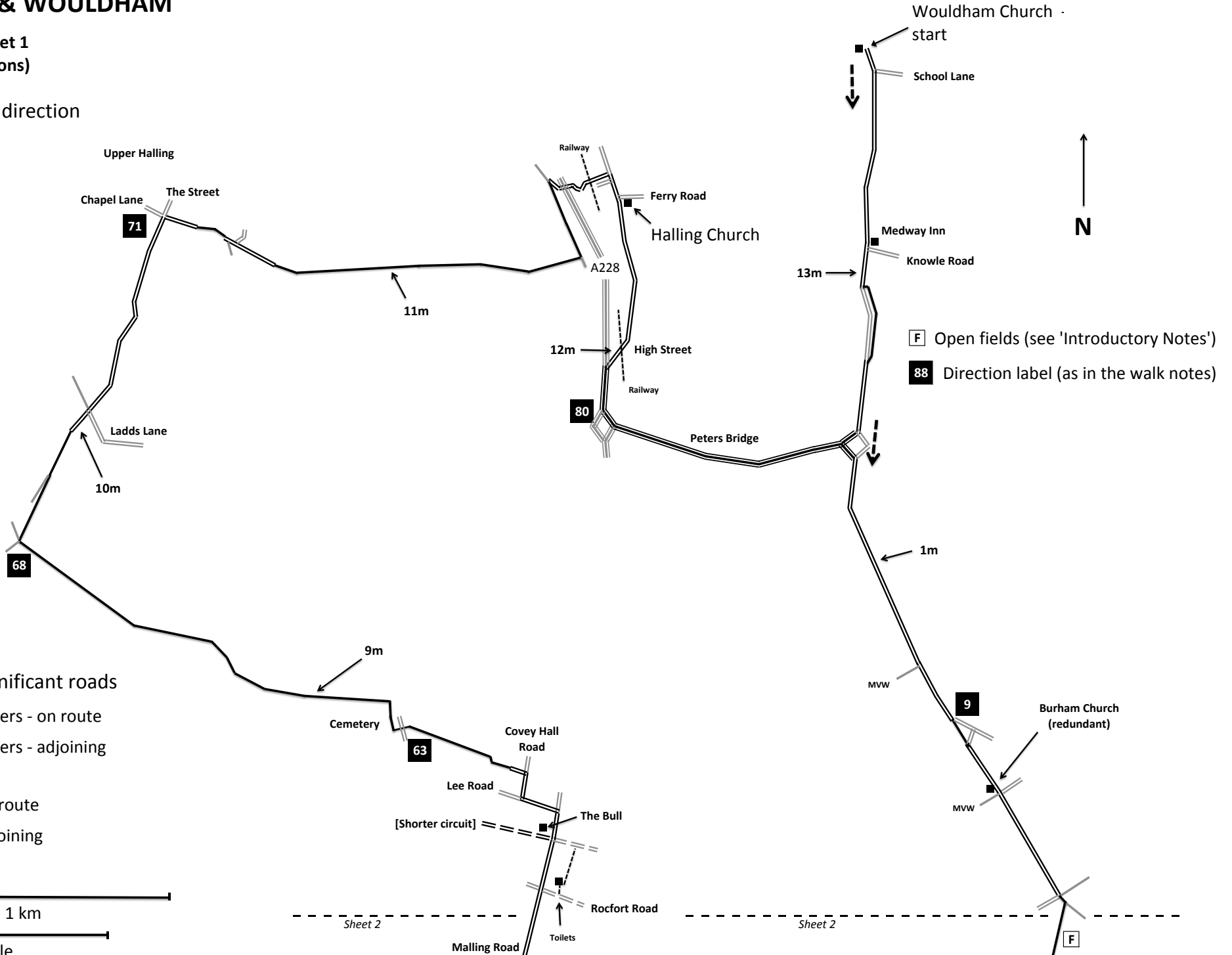



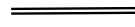

SNODLAND & WOULDHAM

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)



--> Starting direction



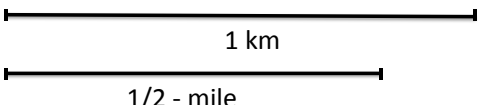
ROADS:

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

PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining

Scale (approx.):






SNODLAND & WOULDHAM

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2 (middle section)



F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

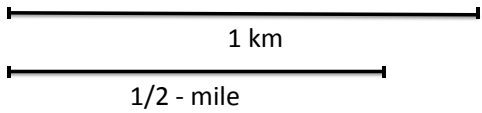
ROADS:


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

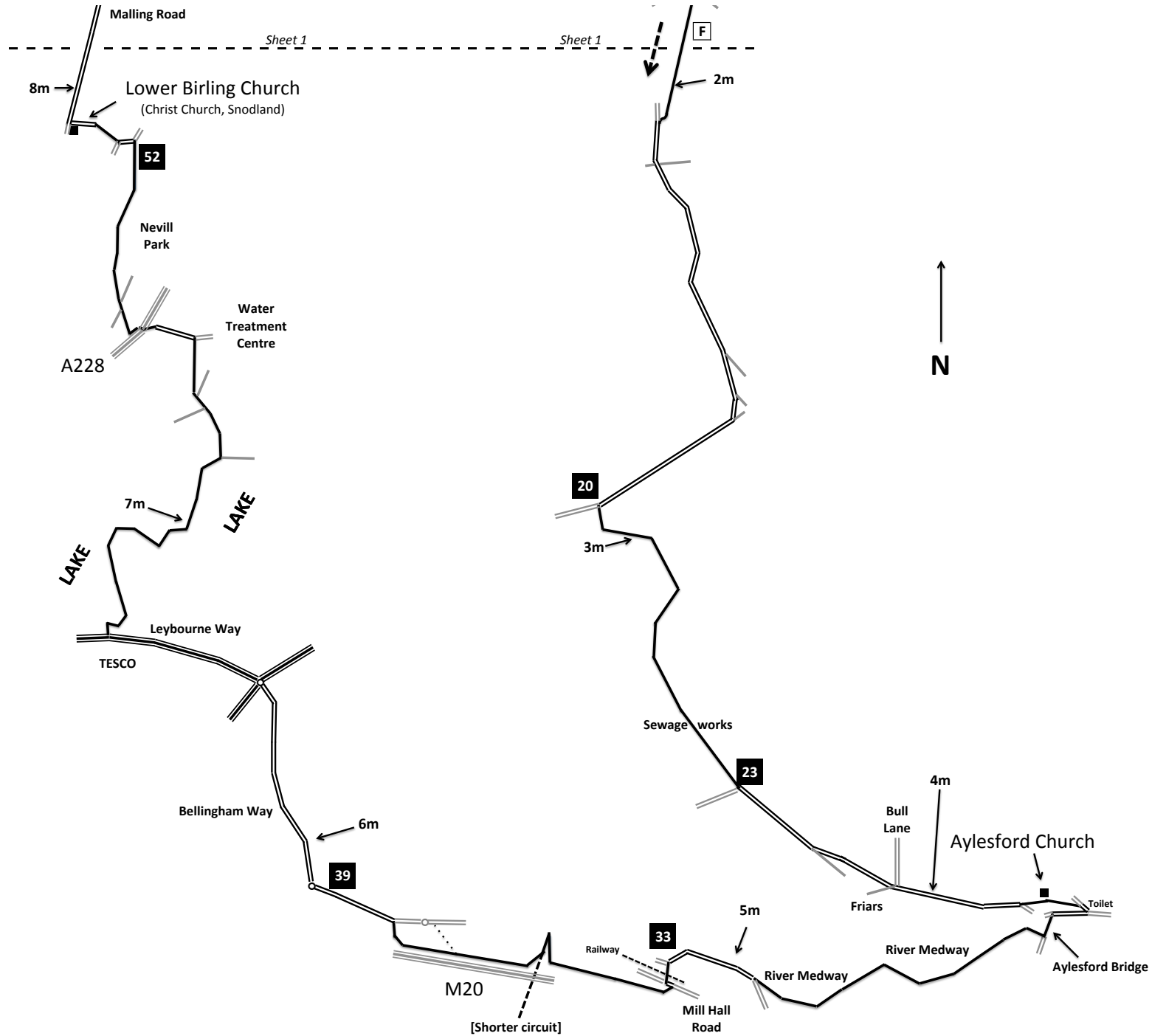
PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining

Scale (approx.):



 Cont. from Sheet 1



SNODLAND & WOULDHAM CIRCUIT - 13.44 miles

Churches in the full circuit:

Wouldham (start and finish)

Aylesford (Direction 26)

Lower Birling ('Christ Church, Snodland' - 54)

Halling (78)

Associated local circuits

- SW2: Borstal - Wouldham - Borstal
- EM2: East Malling - Ditton - Aylesford - East Malling
- SW1: Snodland - Halling - Lower Birling - Snodland

Full circuit: Enabled by the new Peters Bridge, this walk embraces both sides of the Medway, and a variety of terrain, some beautiful, some not: new housing still expanding, sewage works (not unpleasant), a riverside, lovely lakes, Snodland town, fine view of Halling and the river and a gentle descent towards them.

Roads and hindrances:

Much of the walk is in the company of roads, all unthreatening. Both crossings of the A228 are safely on bridges. The only hindrance is the vegetation in Direction 36, but if it comes to it there is an alternative (as noted).

FULL CIRCUIT

Wouldham - Aylesford - Leybourne Lakes - Snodland - Upper Halling - Halling - Wouldham

Notes taken: March and April 2017

The start and finish is at Wouldham Church (near ME1 3TT).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the lych-gate at the east side of Wouldham Church , turn right, southwards, along the road.	713 644	
2	1	Continue ahead at the junction with School Lane.		
3	8	At the end of High Street, where the major road turns left along Knowle Road, instead go straight on along Hall Road.		
4	9	Use the metalled cycle/pedestrian path on the left, parallel to the road.		
5	12	Rejoin the pavement beside the road itself.		
6	15	After crossing the road at the pedestrian lights, and then (at the roundabout) crossing the one which joins from the bridge on the right, carry straight on beyond, along Village Road.		0.77

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
7	21	Continue ahead (now 'New Court Road') ignoring the bridle way on the right.		
8	24	Ignore the footpath on the right – though potentially a pleasant Medway Valley Walk diversion.		
9	26	[Map point] Stay on the footway, as the road departs away to the left.		
10	27	Pass the wooden barrier and go ahead along the rough roadway towards the church.		
11	30	Pass Burham Church (redundant) and continue ahead.	717 620	
12	35	As the road (Old Church Road) circles rightwards, cut off the corner by first turning left along the signposted bridleway, but then !!!F!!! after just a few yards turning right to cross the field, heading towards a pole in the middle distance.		1.80
13	39	On the far side continue straight ahead into the trees. Then very soon follow the track to the right towards Old Church Road, now nearby again.		
14		Turn left along the roadway.		
15	42	At the end of the trees, continue ahead, ignoring turnings on both sides.		
16	48	Continue along the main concrete roadway up towards a green barrier ahead.		
17	49	Pass the barrier and carry on ahead.		2.57
18	50	Swing rightwards, still on the concrete roadway.		
19	51	Ignore the waymark post on the left and continue ahead.		
20	57	[Map point] Immediately after electricity premises at a convergence of power lines, turn left alongside the perimeter fence. Continue along the track as it opens out into woodland and winds from side to side.	717 602	
21	66	Go between bollards and continue ahead between fences.		
22	68	Pass a barrier and continue ahead along a metalled pathway between fences, through the sewage works.		3.48
23	70	[Map point] After passing cottages on the left, go out through the open gates and straight ahead along the quiet roadway.		
24	77	Reaching the main road, ignore the double driveway on the right leading into Aylesford Friars and continue straight on along the road into Aylesford, keeping to the walkway on the left.		
25	81	Ignore the road as it descends to the right, and stay on the level footway above it, leading to the church.		
26	82	Pass the south door of <u>Aylesford Church</u> .		4.21
27	83	Turn right at the end.		
28		Turn right next to the toilets (currently open) into High Street.		
29	84	Turn left to cross the traffic-free Aylesford Bridge.		
30	85	Immediately after the bridge turn sharp right through a gate to go alongside the river.		
31	97	Go ahead as a green space opens out briefly on the left, with a merging road beyond it.		
32	98	Continue ahead by joining the road as it merges.		

* **"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	101	[Map point] As the road swings to the right, go ahead to cross the railway bridge instead.		
34	102	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.		5.16
35	106	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	
36	107	START OF THE SPINE SECTION Fork right down towards the motorway, and turn right at the bottom to go alongside it. <i>This path alongside the motorway is currently seriously overgrown in places, so much so that it would be entirely reasonable instead to cross the rough ground on the right and edge across to the parallel road, which leads directly to the roundabout mentioned in Direction 38.</i>		
37	112	Fork down to the right, and after about 40 yds. bend rightwards once again, keeping the chain-link fence alongside on your left.		
38	114	Turn left along the roadway which leads away from the nearby roundabout.		5.76
39	118	[Map point] Turn right along Bellingham Way, crossing when convenient.		
40	124	At the roundabout at the end, go directly across and continue alongside Leybourne Way, crossing when convenient.	707 596	
41	130	Turn right along a signposted footpath through a squeeze gate just before the pedestrian crossing lights by the 'Tesco' sign.		6.61
42		Turn right to go alongside the lake, then very soon swing left following its edge.		
43	136	Swing left to keep next to the lake.		
44	138	Go ahead along a causeway, now between lakes on both sides.		
45	140	After a bend to the right and a '1.5 km' marker, go with the main path left (not straight on past the gate).		
46	141	Again follow the main path, slightly leftwards, as it enters a picnic area, and then leaves it, a little to the right, at the green litter bin.		
47	143	Follow the signpost for Nevill Park, over a footbridge and then immediately right to follow a stream on the left .	705 605	
48	145	After passing through a squeeze gate, turn left along a roadway leading away from the Water Treatment Centre.		7.36
49	146	Follow the walkway leftwards, at first following the line of the adjacent road, but then, by way of a spiral climb, reach the footbridge to cross it.		
50	149	Descending by way of the corresponding spiral, at the barrier at the bottom turn right immediately, and then right again to go alongside a children's playground.		
51	150	Continue straight ahead at the fork in the paths, converge on the left-hand edge of the open space, and walk the length of it.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
52	155	[Map point] Immediately after a squeeze gate in the far left-hand corner, turn left along a short walkway. Then go straight ahead up a footpath alongside the side-fences of houses on the left, ignoring the sign for 1-37 Saltings Road.		
53	156	Continue ahead, now along a quiet roadway.		
54	157	Lower Birling Church ('Christ Church, Snodland') is on the left at the top. But to continue on the route, turn right along the road.		7.94
55	162	Continue ahead, across Rocfort Road. <i>Or, for toilets (currently open), turn right along it, and soon go left into the car park with the toilets beyond. Then continue along the driveway and turn left at the end to rejoin the main route from Direction 56, by turning right. This would add 2 minutes to the walking time and 0.10 miles to the distance.</i>		
56	164	END OF THE SPINE SECTION At the crossroads at The Bull (now closed down) continue ahead a little further.		
57	165	Turn left into Lee Road and cross to its right-hand side.		
58	166	Turn right into Covey Hall Road.		
59	167	Opposite the driveway to numbers 62-71, turn left into a garage-access roadway.		
60	168	At the end go ahead along an enclosed path.		
61		Go straight on alongside an open space on the left.		
62	170	At the far right-hand corner go ahead (very slightly right-left) through a gap and along a fenced footpath, with half-concealed lakes beyond the fences.		
63	174	[Map point] Go straight across the estate road, next to traffic lights.		
64		Bend a little to the right, keeping the cemetery on your left. (The sign seems to indicate that the path will come to an end, but this applies only to its byway status: it is fully available for pedestrians.)		8.82
65	175	Turn left with the track.	697 623	
66	181	Continue ahead, ignoring the gate on the left.		
67	183	Emerge from the trees and follow the track as it turns from side to side, sometimes between hedges, sometimes alongside fields.		
68	195	[Map point] Reaching a junction of paths, turn right, following the direction of the power lines above.		9.74
69	198	Pass a barrier and continue ahead, gently downhill.		
70	201	Join a road at its corner, going straight ahead, still downhill to start with, but then continuing on it as it climbs more steeply.		
71	209	[Map point] Turn right at the crossroads, along Meadow Crescent.		
72	211	Go straight on at the open space.		10.53
73	212	Join the dead end of a cul-de-sac, and go straight ahead (ignoring the footpath signposted on the right after the first few yards).		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
74	213	As the main roadway bends to the left, instead go straight on along Barn Meadow (signposted as a footpath). Follow this path, first up, then all the way down to the valley.	692 638	
75	228	At the bottom, within sight and sound of the A228, turn left parallel to it, separated from it by a hedge.		11.33
76	231	Turn right to go over the bridge, and follow the roadway as it winds its way down, by way of the bridge over the railway, towards Halling's High Street.	703 640	
77	234	Turn right into High Street, crossing to its left-hand side when convenient.		
78	235	Pass the entrance to Halling Church .		11.68
79	242	After crossing the railway bridge, follow the walkway round to the left to go alongside the A228.		
80	244	[Map point] At the roundabout, turn left towards the Peters Bridge, and cross the bridge, staying on the left-hand pavement.		12.19
81**	254	At the roundabout at the other end: either, to continue the circuit (if not visiting, or finishing at, Wouldham Church), carry on from Direction 6, by crossing the road and turning right along Village Road, the roundabout's first exit road;	712 632	12.68
** or 81A	254	... or, to detour to, or finish at, Wouldham Church , follow the pavement round to the left.	712 632	12.68
81B	255	Cross the road at the pedestrian lights.		
81C	257	Use the metalled cycle/pedestrian path on the right, parallel to the road.		
81D	260	Rejoin the pavement beside the road itself.		
81E	261	Cross the major road at the Medway Inn, and go ahead along High Street.		
81F	268	Continue ahead at the junction with School Lane.		
81G	269	Reach Wouldham Church , on the left.	713 644	13.44
81H		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.

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!

SNODLAND & WOULDHAM - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-2, 6-8, 24, 29, 38-40, 54-56, 77-80, 81E-F	30
Quiet road \$\$	3, 5, 10-11, 23, 27-28, 32, 34a, 48, 53, 57-59, 69-71, 73-74a, 76, 81A-B, 81D	19
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	12, 15-16, 31, 46, 50-52, 61, 67a, 67c, 67e, 72	11
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	4, 9, 19B-20a, 21-22, 25-26, 30a, 30c, 33, 34b-37, 41-45, 47, 49, 60, 62-66, 67b, 68, 74b-75, 81C	32
Woods	13-14, 17-19a, 20b30b, 67d	9

** 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: There are currently no stiles on this walk.