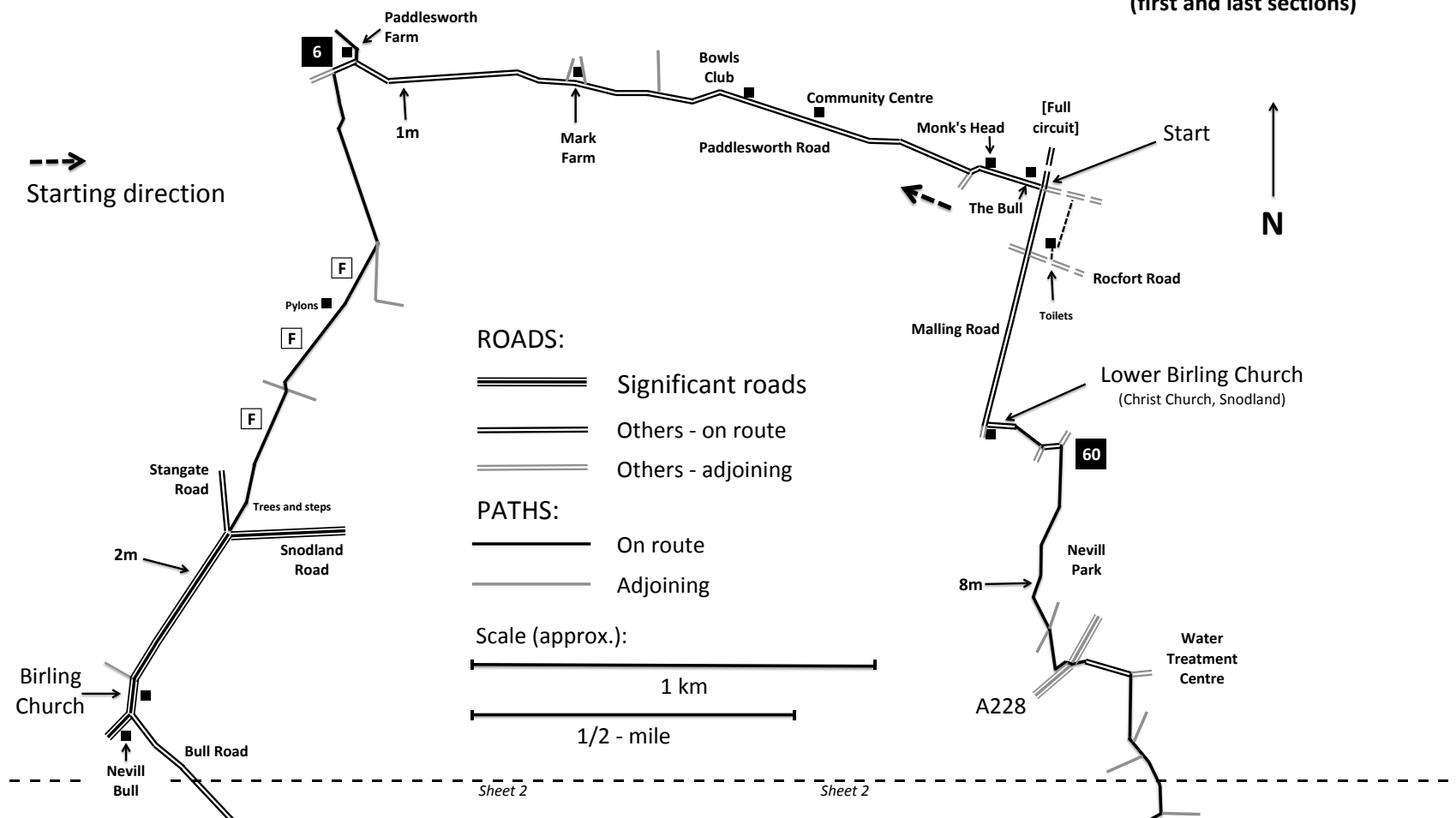


F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

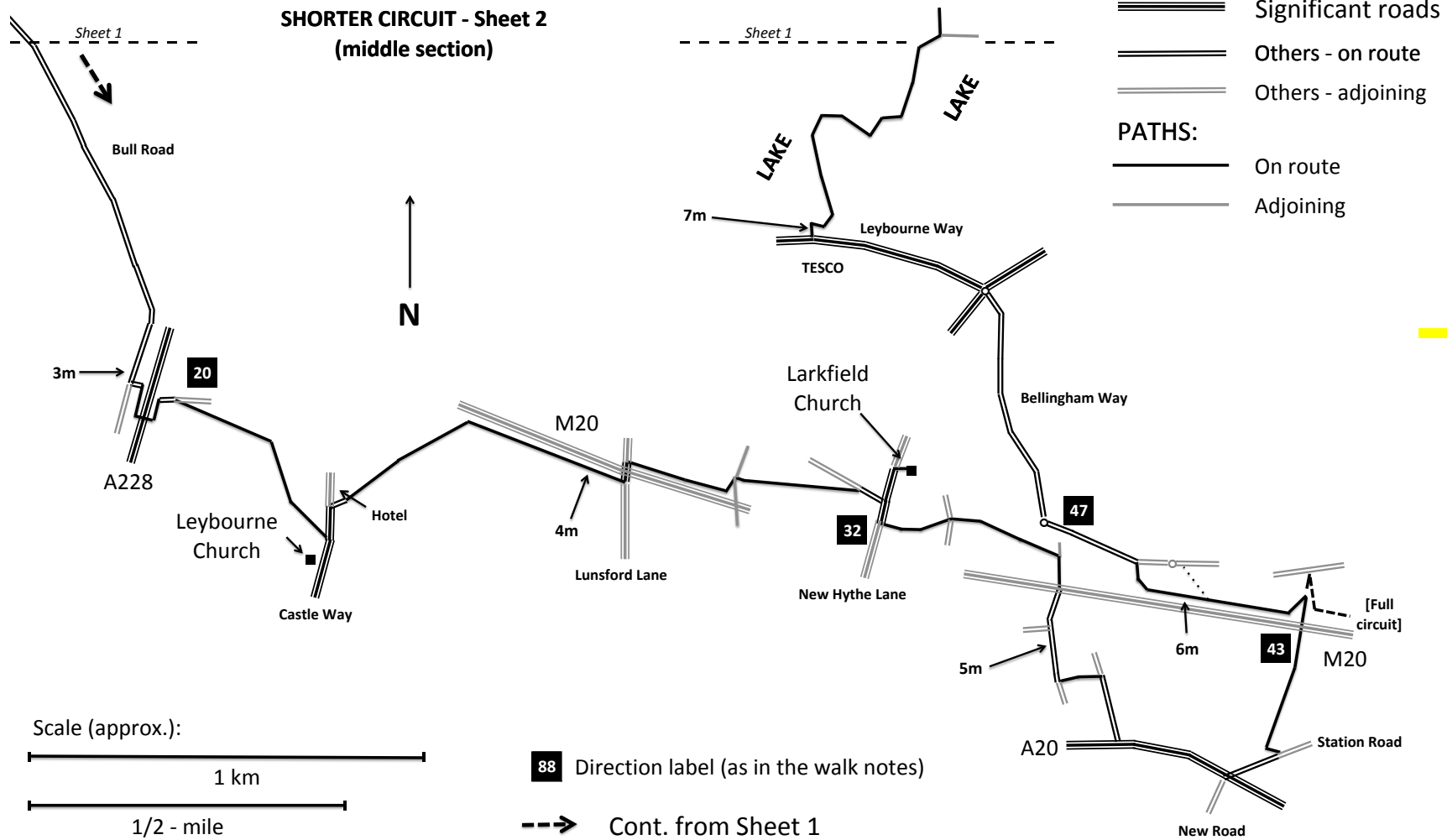
SNODLAND & WOULDHAM

SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)



SNODLAND & WOULDHAM

SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 2 (middle section)



SNODLAND & WOULDHAM CIRCUIT - shorter: 8.70 miles

Churches in the shorter circuit:

[Wouldham itself is not covered in this shorter walk, but features in the full circuit and in Local Walk SW2]

Birling (Direction 15)

Leybourne (22B: Detour 1 - see Appendix)

Larkfield (31B: Detour 2 - see Appendix)

Lower Birling ('Christ Church, Snodland' - 62)

Associated local circuits

- SW1: Snodland - Halling - Lower Birling - Snodland
- AV1: Trottiscliffe - Birling - Trottiscliffe
- WA1: Ditton - Larkfield - Leybourne - East Malling - Ditton
- EM2: East Malling - Ditton - Aylesford - East Malling

Shorter circuit: More than half of this route is on or alongside roads, so it will not suit everybody. But, though in the footnote for dog-walking purposes I classify 45% of its length as 'busy road', the roads are perfectly pleasant and, for humans, unthreatening. And the Leybourne Lakes towards the end are a pleasant reward. The map reveals that, by turning left at Direction 35 instead of right, you can shorten the route (by 1.35 miles), cutting out a section which is not particularly scenic; but this would leave a gap in the continuity of the spine walk.

Roads and hindrances:

As above, the road sections, though extensive, are not particularly worrying. The Paddlesworth Road has no pavement from Direction 4, but is not very busy: it should present no difficulty beyond the need to cross to the left-hand side occasionally for sightlines. Taking on the A228 near Leybourne (Direction 18) is simplified by the lights.

SHORTER CIRCUIT

Snodland 'Bull' - Paddlesworth - Birling - Leybourne - Larkfield - Millhall - Lower Birling - Snodland 'Bull'

Notes taken: April 2017

The start and finish is at the 'Bull' crossroads in Snodland (ME6 5DQ)

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------|--|
| | | | OS | |
| 1 | | At the crossroads at The Bull (now closed down - soon to be Co-op?) set out westwards along Constitution Hill. | 703 618 | |

| | Mins.* | | OS | Miles |
|----|-----------|--|---------|-------|
| 2 | 2 | When the main road swings to the left at the Monk's Head, instead continue ahead up Constitution Hill. Stay on the left-hand side, where there is a continuous pavement. | | |
| 3 | 7 | Pass the Snodland Community Centre (parking currently available 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.). | | |
| 4 | 9 | Follow the road past the bowls club and onwards as it winds. | | |
| 5 | 21 | Continue ahead a little further as a track joins from the right, near the buildings of Paddlesworth Farm. | | |
| 6 | 22 | [Map point] After a few yards, leave the road by turning left over a stile. | | 1.12 |
| 7 | 24 | Go ahead at the MKG, and along the right-hand side of a large field. | | |
| 8 | 26 | Cross the stream, to follow its right-hand side. | | |
| 9 | 29 | [!!F!!] Where the stream (now on the left) comes to an end, fork surprisingly up to right, about 30 degrees away from the main path (bearing 212), towards a pair of pylons and a house. | 686 617 | |
| 10 | 31 | [!!F!!] Pass to the left of the pylons, and go on towards the house. | | |
| 11 | 34 | Swing left to go briefly along the side fence of the house, towards a wooden gate. | | |
| 12 | | [!!F!!] Go through the gate and beyond it turn slightly to the right, heading towards a MKG in the middle distance across the field. The line passes to the left of four gnarled trees (bearing 210). | | |
| 13 | 38 | Go through the MKG, and after about 25 yds. turn slightly left to go down an enclosed avenue between trees. | 683 611 | |
| 14 | 41 | After going down some steps reach a road junction and follow the road which goes more or less straight ahead. | | 1.92 |
| 15 | 46 | After the road swings leftwards, pass the entrance to Birling Church . | | |
| 16 | 47 | Follow the road to the right, and then turn left along Bull Road next to the Nevill Bull. Continue as it becomes Birling Road. | | |
| 17 | 59 | Go over the motorway bridge, and on. | | 2.88 |
| 18 | 62 | Swing left, cross the minor road and go ahead to the roundabout, going anti-clockwise round it with the help of the pedestrian lights. | | |
| 19 | 64 | After crossing both carriageways of the A228, turn right along the next minor road (Park Road, but not indicated). | | |
| 20 | 67 | [Map point] About 30 yds. after the Park Road bus stop, leave the road by forking off to the right, gently uphill. | | |
| 21 | 70 | Just after the crown of the hill, as the fence goes away to the right, carry straight on down to the MKG in the bottom right-hand corner of the field. | | |
| 22 | 71 | <i>[To visit Leybourne Church, now divert instead to Detour 1 in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: At the MKG turn left along the main road and cross it with the help of the traffic island. | | |
| 23 | 72 | Turn right along the entrance driveway to the Premier Inn, and keep along its right-hand pavement. | | |

* "**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 |
|----|------------|--|---------|-------|
| 24 | 73 | When the road bends to the left, instead go straight ahead into the wood. | | 3.63 |
| 25 | 77 | Follow the track as it bends to the right to go alongside the motorway. | | |
| 26 | 82 | Turn left to join the road as it crosses the bridge, crossing when convenient. | | |
| 27 | 83 | Immediately after the bridge turn right to walk parallel to the motorway, with a mound on your right and a brick wall on your left. | | |
| 28 | 86 | At the end of the last section of brick wall, after a little rise, turn left. | | |
| 29 | | After about 30 yds., turn right through the wooden kissing gate and set off directly across the big playing field, diagonally leftward, aiming slightly to the right of Larkfield Church, visible in the distance. | 700 592 | |
| 30 | 89 | Surmounting a ridge, continue to converge on the road on the left. On reaching it, join it at a metal gate, and go ahead to the main road. | | |
| 31 | 92 | <i>[To visit Larkfield Church, now divert instead to Detour 2 in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Turn right along the road, and cross it as soon as convenient. | | 4.51 |
| 32 | 93 | [Map point] Just before house no. 204, turn left along the metalled footpath. | | |
| 33 | 94 | After going down a slope, go ahead across the Bomag approach road. | | |
| 34 | 97 | Down another slope, and cross another service road. | | |
| 35 | 98 | At the end, turn right and head towards the motorway subway. | | |
| 36 | 99 | Go through the subway, and ahead along the roadway. | | |
| 37 | 102 | Turn left along the footpath just after house no. 66. | | |
| 38 | 103 | Turn right into the quiet road at the end. | | |
| 39 | 106 | Turn left alongside the A20, without crossing it. | | |
| 40 | 109 | Just after the lights, turn left along Station Road. | | 5.43 |
| 41 | 111 | Immediately after crossing the sports club's wide driveway, turn left along a narrow, unsignposted alley between fences, which soon bends to the right to go alongside the sports field. | | |
| 42 | 114 | Continue ahead as the path passes a rough open area on the way towards the footbridge over the motorway. | | |
| 43 | 115 | [Map point] Carry on over the footbridge. | | |
| 44 | 116 | START OF THE SPINE SECTION (from here to the end) After crossing the bridge, turn sharp left down the signposted footpath, back 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 46.</i> | | |

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

| | Mins.* | | OS | Miles |
|----|------------|--|---------|-------|
| 45 | 121 | Fork down to the right, and after about 40 yds. bend rightwards once again, keeping the chain-link fence alongside on your left. | | |
| 46 | 123 | Turn left along the roadway which leads away from the nearby roundabout. | | |
| 47 | 127 | [Map point] Turn right along Bellingham Way, crossing when convenient. | | 6.29 |
| 48 | 133 | At the roundabout at the end, go directly across and continue alongside Leybourne Way, crossing when convenient. | 707 596 | |
| 49 | 139 | Turn right along a signposted footpath through a squeeze gate just before the pedestrian crossing lights by the 'Tesco' sign. | | 6.99 |
| 50 | | Turn right to go alongside the lake, then very soon swing left following its edge. | | |
| 51 | 145 | Swing left to keep next to the lake. | | |
| 52 | 147 | Go ahead along a causeway, now between lakes on both sides. | | |
| 53 | 149 | After a bend to the right and a '1.5 km' marker, go with the main path left (not straight on past the gate). | | |
| 54 | 150 | 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. | | |
| 55 | 152 | Follow the signpost for Nevill Park, over a footbridge and then immediately right to follow a stream on the left . | 705 605 | |
| 56 | 154 | After passing through a squeeze gate, turn left along a roadway leading away from the Water Treatment Centre. | | 7.74 |
| 57 | 155 | 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. | | |
| 58 | 158 | 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. | | |
| 59 | 159 | 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. | | |
| 60 | 164 | [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. | | |
| 61 | 165 | Continue ahead, now along a quiet roadway. | | |
| 62 | 166 | Lower Birling Church ('Christ Church, Snodland') is on the left at the top. But to continue on the route, turn right along the road. | | |
| 63 | 171 | 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 reach the Bull crossroads. This would add 2 minutes to the walking time and 0.10 miles to the distance.</i> | | |
| 64 | 173 | Reach the Bull crossroads, the starting point of the walk. | 703 618 | 8.70 |

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

Detour to Leybourne Church (Detour 1)

| | Mins.* | | OS | Miles |
|-----|----------|---|----|-------|
| 22A | | To reach Leybourne Church, turn right instead of left at the MKG in Direction 22. | | 0.00 |
| 22B | 1 | Reach Leybourne Church on the right. Then retrace your steps to the MKG where you started the detour. | | 0.04 |
| 22C | 2 | Rejoin the main route at the MKG and continue along the road, as from Direction 22, crossing at the traffic island. Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.08 miles to cumulative distances. | | 0.08 |

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

Detour to Larkfield Church (Detour 2)

| | Mins.* | | OS | Miles |
|-----|----------|---|----|-------|
| 31A | | In Direction 31, to reach Larkfield Church, turn left at the main road instead of right, and cross it. | | 0.00 |
| 31B | 1 | Ignore the ramp road leading to Larkfield School House, but go a few steps further and climb the steps up to the west end of Larkfield Church . To rejoin the main route, turn back along the main road. | | 0.05 |
| 31C | 3 | Turn left along the metalled footpath just before house no. 204, continuing on the main route from Direction 32). Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.10 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!

| SNODLAND & WOULDHAM - SHORTER CIRCUIT | Direction numbers | % of walk |
|--|--|----------------------|
| Busy road | 1-4, 14-18, 22, 26, 31, 39-40, 46-48, 62-63 | 45 |
| Quiet road \$\$ | 5, 19, 23, 30b, 35b-36, 56, 61 | 8 |
| Open field with livestock | 21, 38 | 1 |
| Edge of field with livestock | 20 | 1 |
| Field (or edge) without livestock ** | 6-10, 12, 29-30a, 42, 54, 58-60 | 17 |
| Path (hedged, or otherwise forced) | 11, 25, 27-28, 32-35a, 37, 41, 43-45, 49-53, 55, 57 | 25 |
| Woods | 13, 24 | 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.

STILE (1) – Detail noted in April 2017, but subject to frequent change:

The stile in Direction 6 has a dog gate.