

Sheet 2

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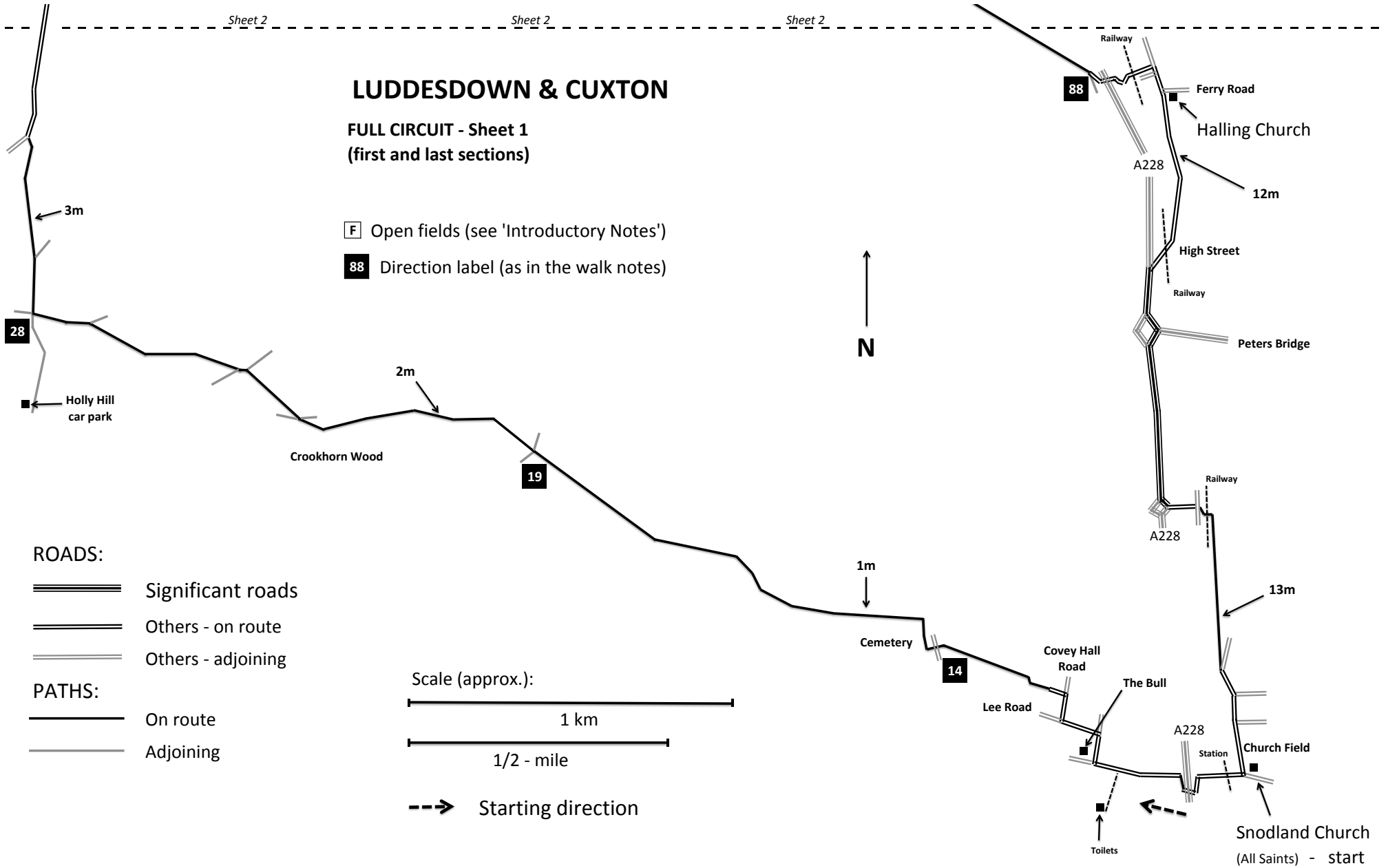
Sheet 2

LUDESDOWN & CUXTON

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1 (first and last sections)

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)



ROADS:

==== Significant roads

==== Others - on route

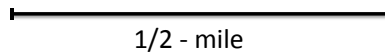
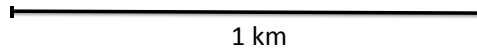
==== Others - adjoining

PATHS:

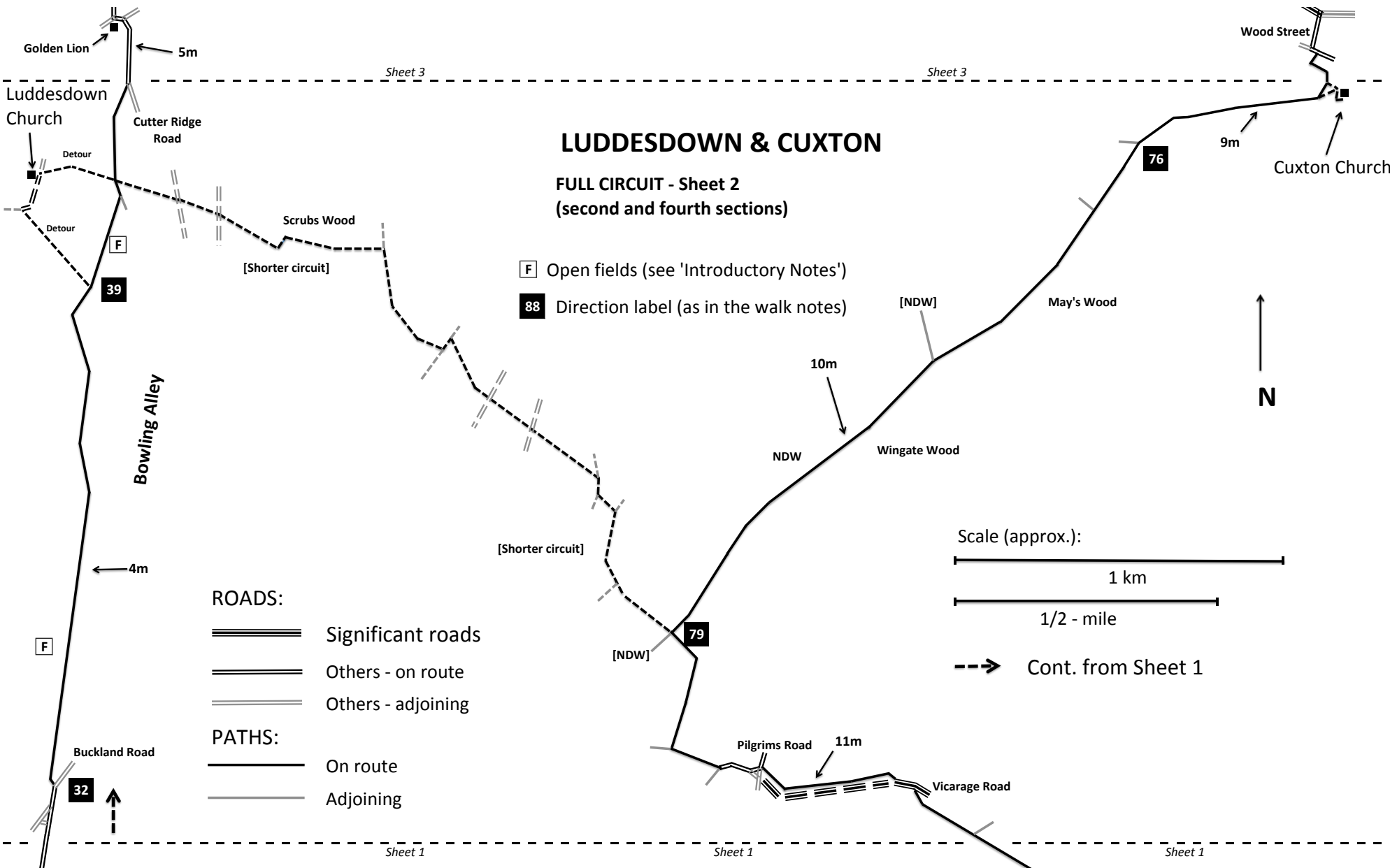
— On route

— Adjoining

Scale (approx.):



---> Starting direction



LUDESDOWN & CUXTON

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2
(second and fourth sections)

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.):

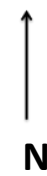


1 km



1/2 - mile




Cont. from Sheet 1





LUDESLOW & CUXTON

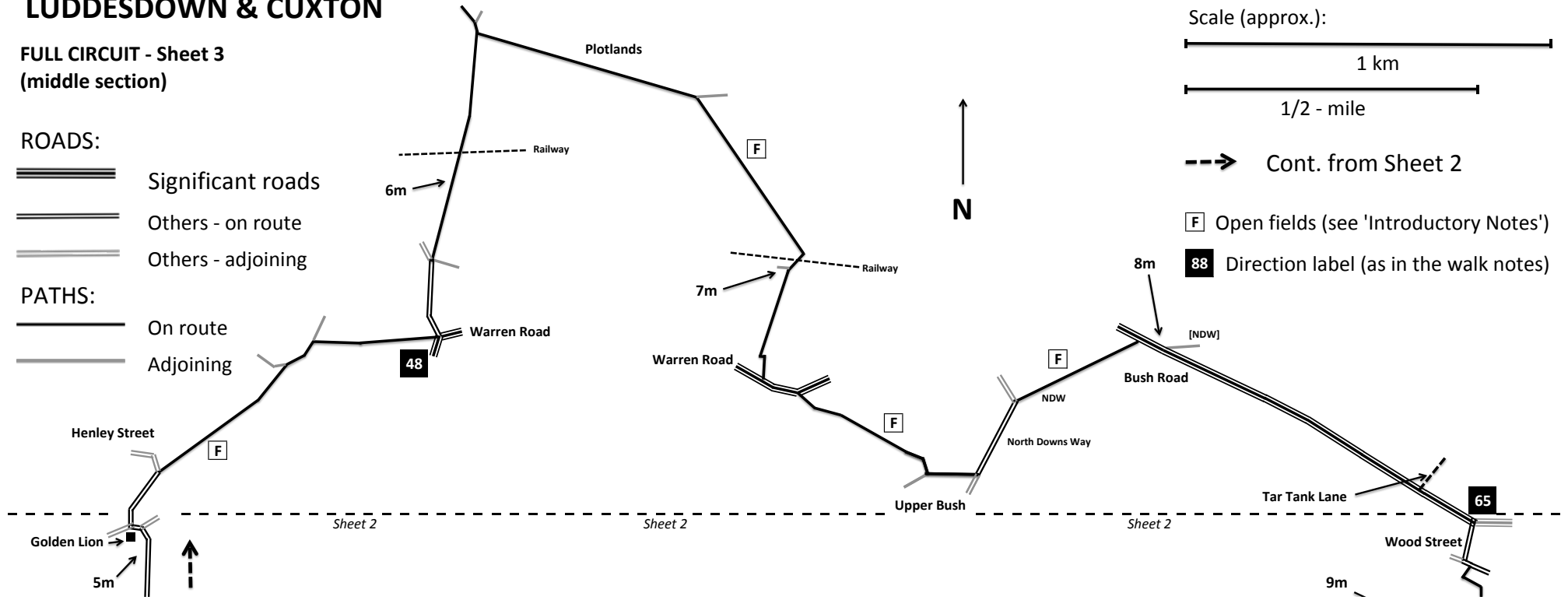
FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 3
(middle section)

ROADS:

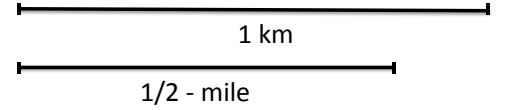
-  Significant roads
-  Others - on route
-  Others - adjoining

PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining



Scale (approx.):



---> Cont. from Sheet 2

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

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

LUDDESDOWN & CUXTON CIRCUIT - 13.28 miles

Churches in the full circuit:

Snodland ('All Saints, Snodland' - start and finish)

Luddesdown (Direction 39E: Detour 1 - see Appendix)

Cuxton (Direction 70C: Detour 2 - see Appendix)

Halling (Direction 90)

Associated local circuits

- SW1: Snodland - Halling - Lower Birling - Snodland
- LC1: Cobham - Cuxton - Cobham
- LC2: Strood - Cuxton - Strood

Full circuit: There are some climbs, some steep, others sustained (15-19, 23-24, 32 and 66-69), but also some fine views. In particular, turn round at the path-junction at 19 to look at the sweep of the Medway. Most of the walk is in beautiful countryside.

[To anyone attempting the continuity of the spine route: If the extra distance is acceptable, it would make sense to use 'Detour 1', taking in the church at Luddesdown, which will make unnecessary an awkward loop in the next circuit, which will continue along the northward Wealdway.]

Roads and hindrances:

The roads in Snodland, Cuxton and Halling require just ordinary care. The few other roads are generally quiet. The passage of Crookhorn Wood (21-22) can be hard work, as can the steep climb which follows; but these hardly constitute hindrances.

FULL CIRCUIT

Snodland - Luddesdown - Cuxton - Halling - Snodland

Notes taken: April and May 2017

The start and finish is at **All Saints Church, Snodland** (ME6 5AT) near Snodland station.

| | Mins.* | | OS | Miles |
|---|----------|--|---------|-------|
| 1 | | From the south end of Snodland Church ('All Saints, Snodland') turn right, along the road, past the junction with Church Field and towards and over the level crossing. | 708 618 | |
| 2 | 1 | Follow the road as it bends to the left. | | |
| 3 | 2 | Turn right over the bridge. | | |
| 4 | 3 | Immediately after the bridge turn right, down a metalled footpath parallel to the A228 which you have just crossed. | | |
| 5 | 4 | Turn left into 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 |
|----|-----------|--|----------------|-------|
| 6 | 6 | After passing the open space over to the left, go ahead across its driveway (or use it to detour to the toilets, currently open, at its far end). | | |
| 7 | 7 | START OF THE SPINE SECTION At the crossroads at The Bull (now closed down – soon to be Co-op?) turn right along Holborough Road. | | |
| 8 | 8 | Turn left into Lee Road and cross to its right-hand side. | | |
| 9 | 9 | Turn right into Covey Hall Road. | | |
| 10 | 10 | Opposite the driveway to numbers 62-71, turn left into a garage-access roadway. | | |
| 11 | 11 | At the end go ahead along an enclosed path. | | |
| 12 | | Go straight on alongside an open space on the left. | | |
| 13 | 13 | 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. | | |
| 14 | 17 | [Map point] Go straight across the estate road, next to traffic lights. | | |
| 15 | | 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.) | 697 622 | |
| 16 | 18 | Turn left with the track. | | 0.91 |
| 17 | 24 | Continue ahead, ignoring the gate on the left. | | |
| 18 | 26 | Emerge from the trees and follow the track as it turns from side to side, sometimes between hedges, sometimes alongside fields. | | |
| 19 | 38 | [Map point] Reaching a junction of paths, take the narrowest one which leads more or less straight on up into the trees, crossing a stile and upwards, initially keeping a little to the right. | | 1.79 |
| 20 | 39 | Continue ahead, crossing the driveway. | | |
| 21 | 41 | At the top, ignore the big gate up on the left, but continue ahead, with the fence still alongside on the right to start with. | | |
| 22 | 50 | After several windings, which take the path gradually down to the right, it reaches what amounts to an angled crosspaths. Here go over the crossing track and onwards on the other side, along a path which swings gently from side to side. | 67811 62925 | |
| 23 | 53 | Approaching another junction, cross a stile next to a gate, and turn left for about 30 yds. along the crossing path, then right, away from it, through a metal gate and steeply upwards. | | |
| 24 | 62 | Emerging from the trees, cross an uncomfortably tall stile, then turn left for about 10 yds., and then to the right, uphill, to go straight up along the left-hand side of a row of trees and the edge of a field on your left. | | 2.60 |
| 25 | 66 | Go straight ahead, ignoring the path joining from the right. | | |
| 26 | 67 | Pass a gate and a MKG. | | |
| 27 | | Continue ahead over a driveway. | | |
| 28 | 68 | [Map point] Reaching the crosspaths, turn right along the North Downs Way. | | |

* *“Mins.” is very approximate! See ‘Introductory Notes’ for an explanation of how this column is used.*

| | Mins.* | | OS | Miles |
|----|--------|---|---------|-------|
| 29 | 70 | Ignore the NDW as it veers off on the right, but continue ahead, quite steeply downhill. | 670 634 | |
| 30 | 75 | At the T-junction at the bottom, turn right along a rough roadway. | | |
| 31 | 83 | Carry straight on at the road junction. | | 3.51 |
| 32 | | [Map point] Go down through a gap on the left (signposted 'Wealdway', which you have now joined). !!!F!!! Then cross a stile and turn about 60 degrees to the right to start on a long and gentle climb, diagonally up and across the large field. There is usually a marked track, but if the direction is unclear head initially for a metal gate, just about visible, about 200 yds. to the right of the field corner (bearing about 005). | | |
| 33 | 91 | !!!F!!! Go through that gate and continue in the same direction, going under power lines and converging on a rather scanty line of trees up on the left, towards another gate. | 671 650 | |
| 34 | 94 | !!!F!!! Go through the fence at that gate and slightly further to the right, so that you are almost parallel to it. Head for the next gate, about 20 yds. to the left of this field's bottom right-hand corner. | | |
| 35 | 95 | !!!F!!! After the gate, continue in the same general direction, cutting across the next field, slightly down then slightly up, towards the end of a thick row of trees ahead. | | |
| 36 | 97 | Reaching those trees, the waymark would have you walking along inside them, but that line is currently so overgrown that the only realistic course is to go along to the right of them, following the field-edge. | | |
| 37 | 101 | After a gentle descent, cross a stile, then climb gently ahead towards another stile. | | |
| 38 | 103 | Cross the stile, then turn right, towards another one in the right-hand hedge, about 30 yds. to the left of the corner. | | 4.46 |
| 39 | 104 | END OF THE SPINE SECTION [Map point] <i>[To visit <u>Luddesdown Church</u>, now divert instead to <u>Detour 1</u> in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: !!!F!!! Cross this stile and continue in the same direction, down across the field towards a screen of trees. (Bearing about 020: avoid getting drawn downwards to either right or left.) | 671 659 | |
| 40 | 108 | Go through the screen and beyond it turn left along the edge of a field. | | |
| 41 | 109 | At the gap where a track (NS 214 - from the church) appears from the left, continue ahead along the field-edge (as the shorter circuit instead turns right, across the field). | | |
| 42 | 111 | When the trees on the left come to an end, continue ahead over a small open area towards the left-hand edge of more trees ahead, and on reaching them go ahead alongside them. | | |
| 43 | 112 | Just before the field begins to drop more steeply, go through a gap on the right to join the road, and follow it downhill. | | |

* "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 |
|----|------------|--|---------|-------|
| 44 | 115 | At the bottom turn left, then after about 60 yds., at the Golden Lion, sharp right along Henley Street. | | |
| 45 | 118 | !!!F!!! At the start of the road's leftward bend, leave it through a gap on the right, and strike out over the field, passing about 20 yds. to the left of a pylon. | | |
| 46 | 124 | Meet the left-hand edge at a stile and cross it. Then turn right, downhill, immediately under power lines. | 676 671 | 5.46 |
| 47 | 126 | At a junction of paths, turn right, as waymarked. | | |
| 48 | 130 | [Map point] Passing beside a gate, emerge at a junction of roads, and follow the one which turns to the left. | | |
| 49 | 132 | As the road bends left, leave it on a path forking right (bearing 015 - not the one turning sharp right) | | |
| 50 | 136 | Continue ahead under the railway bridge. | | 6.04 |
| 51 | 141 | Turn right, past the remains of a MKG, on to a broad track, next to a 'Plotlands' information board. | 682 680 | |
| 52 | 146 | Ignore the path on the left. | | |
| 53 | 149 | At the top of a rise, look for a gap on the right. Go through it, and soon afterwards through a metal gate. !!!F!!! Then turn half-left, down across a vast field, heading towards a railway bridge at the distant bottom left-hand corner. | | |
| 54 | 155 | Go through the bridge and swing right with the track. | | |
| 55 | 156 | Turn left beside a metal gate, and walk along the bottom left-hand edge of a sloping field. | | 7.00 |
| 56 | 159 | Near the end, look out for a metal gate in the fence on the left, go through it and turn right alongside the fence. Then go ahead over grass to reach a road. | | |
| 57 | 160 | Turn left along the road and follow it uphill. | | |
| 58 | 161 | !!!F!!! Maintain more or less the same direction to follow a footpath on the right (leaving the road as it bends to the left). The line more or less contours to start with, staying above the steeper drop on its right, then drops gently towards a gate in the distant bottom-left corner, reached by passing about 25 yds. to the left of a pole - the fifth one counting across from the left. | | |
| 59 | 167 | At the bottom keep the gate on your left, and turn steeply uphill into the trees. | | |
| 60 | 168 | At a T-junction of paths at the top turn left along a rough roadway between farm buildings. | | |
| 61 | 171 | Turn left at the 'Upper Bush' sign, joining the North Downs Way. | | |
| 62 | 173 | !!!F!!! When the road bends to the left, leave it by instead taking the track which forks to the right across the field (signposted NDW, bearing 060) . | | 7.75 |
| 63 | 178 | Reaching the road (Bush Road), turn right along it. | | |
| 64 | | Stay with the road, ignoring the path which takes the NDW up to the left. | | |
| 65 | 189 | [Map point] Turn right into Wood Street. | | |
| 66 | 191 | At the T-junction at the top (Woodhurst Close) go to the left for just a few yards, but then climb the rough alleyway, more or less straight ahead from Wood Street, towards Six Acre Wood. | | 8.70 |

* **"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 |
|----|------------|---|---------|-------|
| 67 | | Follow the path as it turns left. | | |
| 68 | 192 | When the railings come to an end, continue ahead. | | |
| 69 | 193 | Follow the path as it turns right, up steps. | | |
| 70 | 194 | [To visit <i>Cuxton Church</i> , now divert instead to <i>Detour 2</i> in the Appendix.] Main route: Where tracks divide at the top, go straight on. | | |
| 71 | | Continue ahead as the path from the church joins on the left. | | |
| 72 | | Go right and left through a wooden kissing gate, and ahead up the right-hand edge of a field. | | |
| 73 | 198 | At the top corner go through a MKG, and ahead along a track among trees. | | |
| 74 | 201 | After a brief open interlude go ahead into woodland by way of a MKG. Then immediately, at the crosspaths, go ahead (or very slightly to the left). | | |
| 75 | 203 | Straight ahead at the crosspaths. | | |
| 76 | 207 | [Map point] And straight ahead again, ignoring the path on the right. | | |
| 77 | 216 | Go straight ahead a minor crosspaths, as the (westbound) NDW joins from down on the right. | | 9.77 |
| 78 | 226 | Go on, between small yellow posts and then under power lines. | | |
| 79 | 231 | [Map point] At a crosspaths turn left (now leaving the North Downs Way, and rejoining the shorter circuit), down a sunken lane. | 689 648 | 10.51 |
| 80 | 236 | At the junction at the bottom, turn left. | | |
| 81 | 237 | Pass a barrier, and go along a broad path between fences. | | |
| 82 | 238 | At the end turn left, and then immediately right down the roadway. | | |
| 83 | 239 | At the grass triangle at the bottom turn left to go along Pilgrims Road. | | |
| 84 | | After a few yards, immediately after the end of a garden fence, turn right along an unsigned path, which soon leads into woodland. | 692 644 | |
| 85 | 244 | Follow the path as it bends to the right, to join the road next to a bench. Turn left to follow the road, along its left-hand pavement. | | 11.11 |
| 86 | 246 | Where the pavement comes to an end, cross the road, and leave it by turning right along an enclosed pathway between fences. | | |
| 87 | 249 | Stay on the main path, alongside the fence on the right. | | |
| 88 | 255 | [Map point] Turn left to cross the bridge over the A228, and follow the roadway as it winds its way down, by way of the bridge over the railway, towards Halling's High Street. | | 11.68 |
| 89 | 258 | Turn right into High Street, crossing to its left-hand side when convenient. | | |
| 90 | 259 | Pass the entrance to Halling Church . | | |
| 91 | 266 | After crossing the railway bridge, follow the walkway round to the left to go alongside the A228. | | |
| 92 | 268 | Go leftwards (clockwise) around the roundabout and continue ahead. | | 12.38 |
| 93 | 275 | At the next roundabout turn left along the approach road to Vantage Point. | | |

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

| | Mins.* | | OS | Miles |
|----|------------|--|---------|-------|
| 94 | 276 | At the T-junction at the end, go ahead over the crossing road and, by short right-left turns, go under the railway. Then turn right along a fenced-off path which goes alongside fields on the left, and, at the far end, some houses. | | |
| 95 | 283 | Pass the bollards at the end and continue ahead along the road. | | |
| 96 | 286 | Reach Snodland Church ('All Saints, Snodland') on the left, the starting point of the walk. | 708 618 | 13.28 |

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

APPENDIX to Full Circuit

Detour to Luddesdown Church (Detour 1)

| | Mins.* | | OS | Miles |
|-----|-----------|--|---------|-------|
| 39A | 0 | To visit Luddesdown Church: Instead of Direction 39, ignore the stile, but go steeply down the grassy field along the hedge on your right. | 671 659 | 0.00 |
| 39B | 3 | Just after the lowest point, go through a wooden kissing gate, and on up ahead. | | |
| 39C | 4 | Go through another gate and turn right along the cobbled roadway, following it as it swings gradually to the left. | | |
| 39D | 5 | Continue along the roadway, ignoring the turning area on the left. | | |
| 39E | 6 | At the wooden gates, the left-turn leads into the churchyard of Luddesdown Church . But to continue, instead turn right along a narrow footpath. | 670 662 | 0.22 |
| 39F | 7 | Go through a wooden kissing gate, and then ahead along and up the edge of a huge sloping field. | | |
| 39G | 9 | Reaching a wooden kissing gate go through (or round) it and ahead, steeply up, into trees. | | |
| 39H | 10 | Emerge at the edge of a large field, rejoining the main route at Direction 41, by turning left along the field-edge. Add 5 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.20 miles to cumulative distances. | | 0.41 |

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

Detour to Cuxton Church (Detour 2)

| | Mins.* | | OS | Miles |
|-----|----------|--|----|-------|
| 70A | 0 | For the very short detour to Cuxton Church: Instead of going straight ahead where the tracks divide at Direction 70, turn left. | | 0.00 |
| 70B | | Go through the gate into the churchyard, and turn right, keeping near the wall on the right, to go anti-clockwise around the church. | | |

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

| | Mins.* | | OS | Miles |
|-----|--------|---|----|-------|
| 70C | 1 | Reach the south door of <u>Cuxton Church</u> . Then retrace your steps to the churchyard gate. | | 0.05 |
| 70D | 2 | Go through the gate and immediately turn left up along the path which angles slightly away from the churchyard wall, now on the left. | | |
| 70E | 3 | Rejoin the main route, as it joins from the right at the path junction referred to in Direction 71. Add 3 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.10 miles to cumulative distances. | | 0.12 |

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

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!

| LUDESDOWN & CUXTON - FULL CIRCUIT | Direction numbers | % of walk |
|--|---|----------------------|
| Busy road | 1-3, 7, 48, 57, 63-64, 85, 89-92 | 15 |
| Quiet road \$\$ | 5-6, 8-10, 28, 30-31, 43-44, 60-61, 65, 82b-83, 88, 93, 95 | 14 |
| Open field with livestock | 34, 38 | 1 |
| Edge of field with livestock | | 0 |
| Field (or edge) without livestock ** | 12, 18a, 18c, 18e, 24-25, 32-33, 35-37, 39-42, 45, 49, 53, 55, 58, 62, 72, 73b | 25 |
| Path (hedged, or otherwise forced) | 4, 11, 13-17, 18b, 19-21a, 26-27, 50-51, 54, 56, 59, 66-67, 73a, 79-82a, 84a, 86-87, 94 | 22 |
| Woods | 18d, 21b-23, 29, 46-47, 52, 68-71, 74-78, 84b | 23 |

** 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 (8) - Details noted in May 2017, but **subject to frequent change:**

The stiles in Directions **19, 24** and **38** have easy gaps.

The one in **23** has rises of 2ft. and 2ft.

Those in **32** and **39** have dog gates

The stile in **37** is tall with rises of about 1 ft. and 2 ft., but there is gap of about 1 ft. to the side at ground level.

The one in **46** is still taller, with rises of about 18 ins. and 2 ft., but there is currently a huge gap underneath.