

Sheet 2

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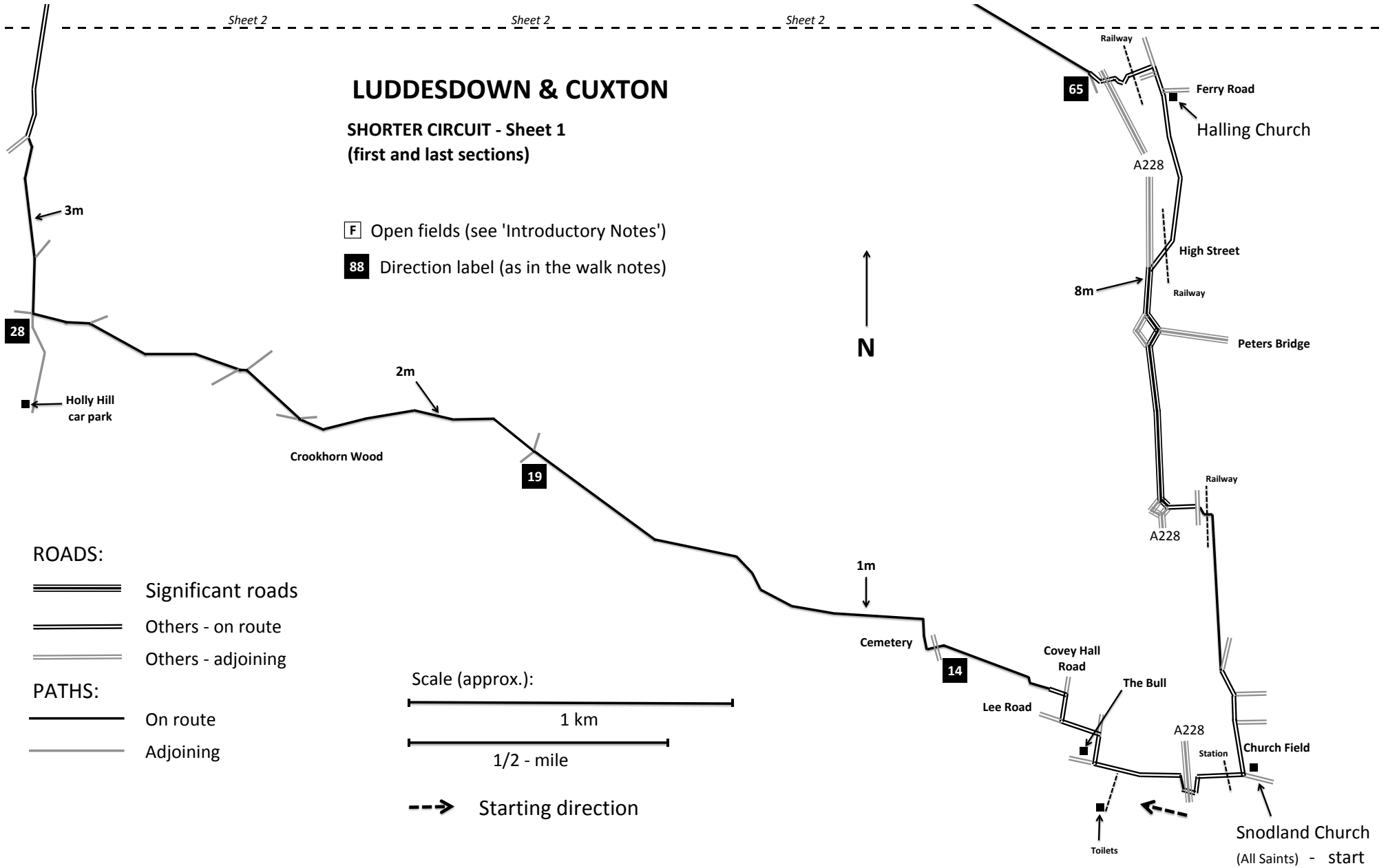
Sheet 2

LUDESDOWN & CUXTON

SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 1 (first and last sections)

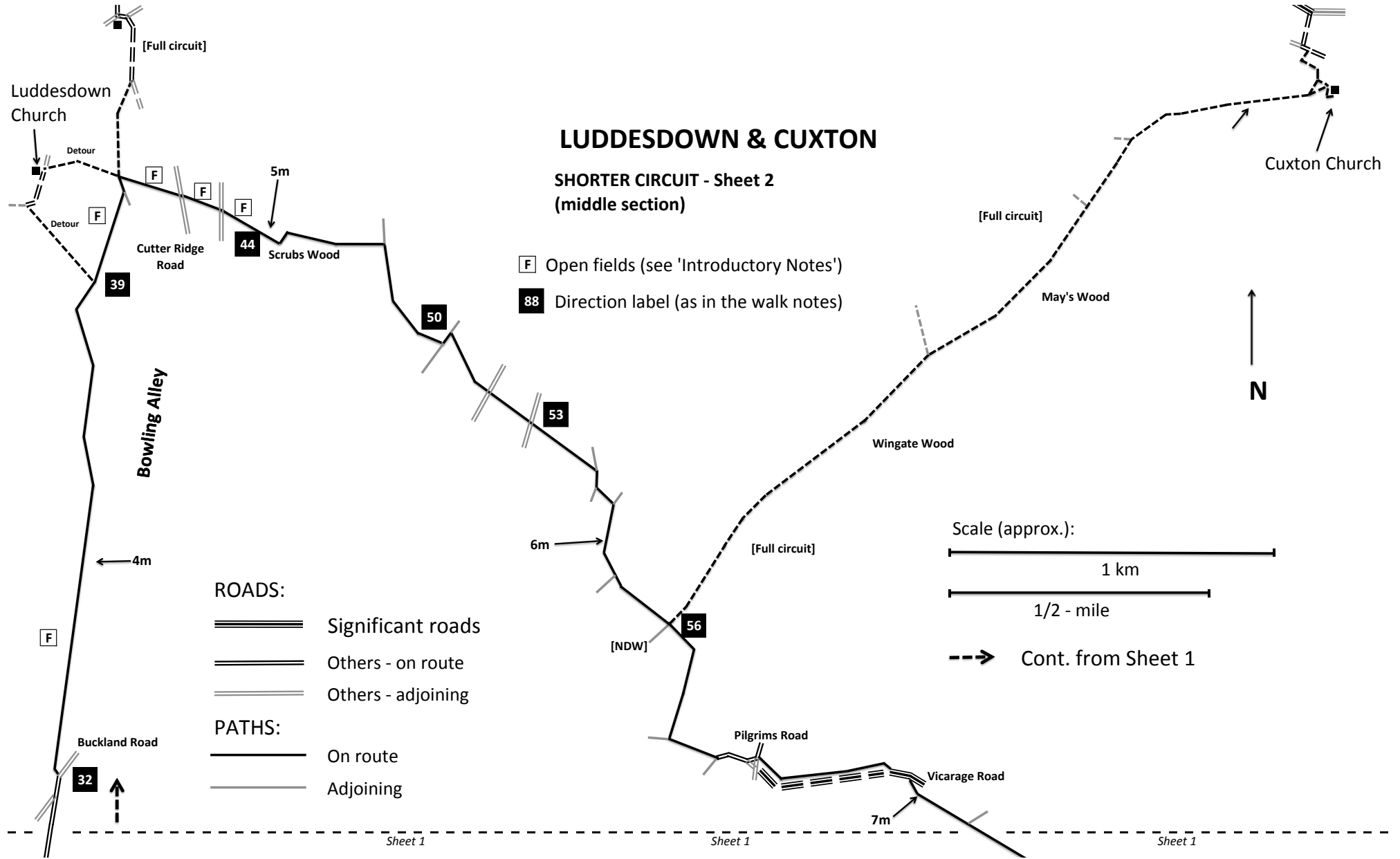
F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)



LUDESLOW & CUXTON

SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 2 (middle section)



LUDDESDOWN & CUXTON CIRCUIT - shorter: 9.02 miles

Churches in the shorter circuit:

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

Luddesdown (Direction 39E: Detour - see Appendix)

Halling (Direction 67)

Associated local circuits

- SW1: Snodland – Halling – Lower Birling - Snodland

Shorter circuit: The route keeps most of the substantial climbs of the full circuit (15-19, 23-24 and 32), and most of its fine views; and adds its own (climbs in 43 and 53). In particular, turn round at the path-junction at 19 to look at the sweep of the Medway, and at 44 to look back at Luddesdown. Most of the walk is in beautiful countryside or woodland.

[To anyone attempting the continuity of the spine route: If the extra distance is acceptable, it would make sense to use the detour (39A-H) 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 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.

SHORTER CIRCUIT

Snodland - Luddesdown - 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 the <u>Detour</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	!!F!! Opposite the gap where a track (NS 214 - from the church) appears from the left, part from the full circuit by turning right to cross the field (bearing about 100).		
42	111	!!F!! Cross the road and continue directly ahead opposite.		
43	114	!!F!! And cross the next road, by way of steps before and after, and a stile, and continue up the hill in the same direction, passing about 50 yds. to the right of a mast and heading up towards the trees.		4.91

* "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	119	[Map point] At the top of the field pass a bench on the right and go ahead into the trees.		
45	121	Go straight across at the crosspaths.		
46	123	Turn right at the T-junction, as waymarked.		
47	126	Swing left over the top of a little rise.		
48	127	As waymarked, go ahead, keeping over to the path at the right-hand edge of a slightly more open area.		
49	128	Go ahead across the traces of another path.		
50	129	[Map point] In another slightly more open area, swing left. The OS map does not recognise this bend, but misleadingly suggests you go straight ahead. The bend is just beyond a waymark (on the right) pointing you to the left, in the company of a circular walk.	68222 65711	
51		After about 30 yds. turn right, down a narrow path among the trees, and follow it as it winds downwards, right and left.	68249 65723	
52	133	Cross a much wider levelled forest roadway, and continue downhill opposite.		
53	135	[Map point] At the bottom cross another wide roadway, and begin the climb opposite.		
54	141	Reach the top of the steep climb and turn right, choosing the middle one of the three possible paths, now more gently uphill.		5.88
55	147	Keep straight on, ignoring the wide grassy track on the right.		
56	151	[Map point] At a crosspaths, rejoining the full circuit, go straight ahead (crossing the North Downs Way), and on down a sunken lane.	689 648	
57	156	At the junction at the bottom, turn left.		
58	157	Pass a barrier, and go along a broad path between fences.		
59	158	At the end turn left, and then immediately right down the roadway.		
60	159	At the grass triangle at the bottom turn left to go along Pilgrims Road.		
61		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	
62	164	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.		6.85
63	166	Where the pavement comes to an end, cross the road, and leave it by turning right along an enclosed pathway between fences.		
64	169	Stay on the main path, alongside the fence on the right.		
65	175	[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.		7.42
66	178	Turn right into High Street, crossing to its left-hand side when convenient.		
67	179	Pass the entrance to Halling Church .		
68	186	After crossing the railway bridge, follow the walkway round to the left to go alongside the A228.		
69	188	Go leftwards (clockwise) around the roundabout and continue ahead.		8.12

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
70	195	At the next roundabout turn left along the approach road to Vantage Point.		
71	196	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.		
72	203	Pass the bollards at the end and continue ahead along the road.		
73	206	Reach Snodland Church ('All Saints, Snodland') on the left, the starting point of the walk.	708 618	9.02

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

APPENDIX to Shorter Circuit

Detour to Luddesdown Church

	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.

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!

LUDESDOWN & CUXTON - SHORTER CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-3, 7, 62, 66-69	13
Quiet road \$\$	5-6, 8-10, 28, 30-31, 59b-60, 65, 70, 72	15
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, 39-43	21
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	4, 11, 13-17, 18b, 19-21a, 26-27, 56-59a, 61a, 63-64, 71	25
Woods	18d, 21b-23, 29, 44-55, 61b	27

** 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, 38** and **43** 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.