

# LOCAL CIRCUIT LC2: STROOD & CUXTON

**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

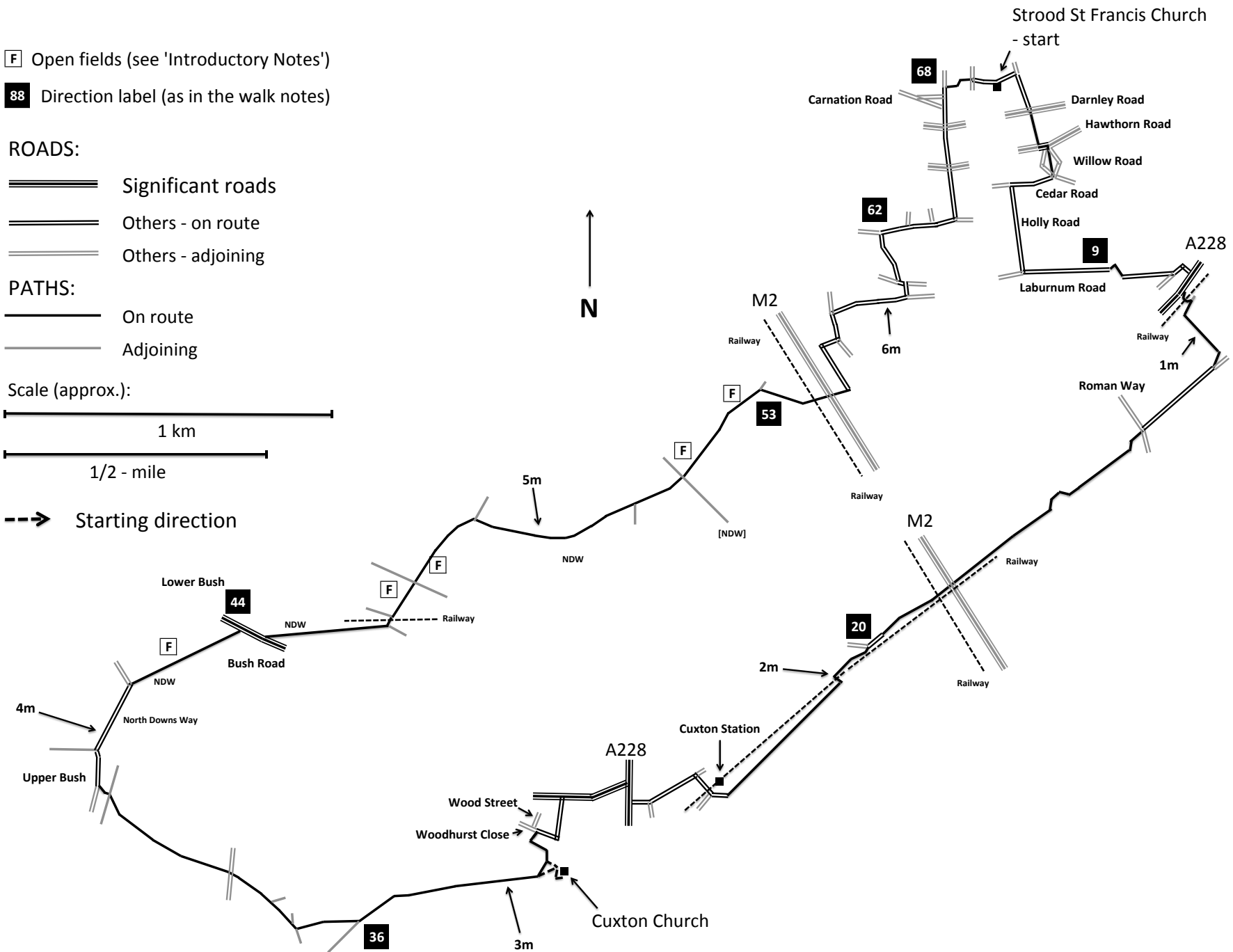
— Adjoining

Scale (approx.):

1 km

1/2 - mile

---> Starting direction



## LOCAL CIRCUIT LC2: STROOD & CUXTON - 6.68 miles

### Linked churches:

Strood St Francis (start and finish)

Cuxton (Direction 31C: Detour – see Appendix)

### Roads and hindrances:

The safe crossing of the A228 at Direction 12 is made possible by the nearby traffic island at a point where the bend in the road enables adequate sightlines in both directions. (Re-crossing at 24 you have the benefit of pedestrian lights.)

Early on there are unpleasantly overgrown and generally unloved stretches at present (14, 16 and 20-21), and the perversely awkward stiles in 18 and 19 detract from an otherwise pleasant interlude in this section. But things then improve!

Notes taken: May and June 2017

The start and finish is at Strood St Francis Church, Galahad Avenue (ME2 2YR).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the steps leading up from the north entrance of <b>Strood St Francis Church</b> , turn right, along Galahad Avenue.	723 689	
2	<b>1</b>	At the T-junction at the end, faced by the gates of Elaine Primary Academy, turn right, downhill.		
3	<b>2</b>	Go ahead over the crossing road at the bottom, up a metalled footpath directly opposite.		
4	<b>4</b>	At the top, after some steps, turn left along the road.		
5		After a few yards an open space opens out on the right, embraced on both sides by Willow Road. Walk along its length on the grass.		
6	<b>6</b>	At the far end turn right into Cedar Road.		
7	<b>7</b>	Turn left into Holly Road.		
8	<b>10</b>	Use the raised walkway to turn left into Laburnum Road.		
9	<b>13</b>	[Map point] At the end pass between the bollards, and go through the gap by green railings a little to the left to start along a little alleyway. Follow the passage as it turns right, then left.		
10	<b>14</b>	Join the dead-end of a cul-de-sac and go ahead.		
11	<b>16</b>	At the T-junction turn left, then follow Poplar Road as it bends to the right.		
12		To cross the main road safely, first go a few yards to the left along it, to use the island. Once across, turn right (re-passing, opposite, the end of Poplar Road).		0.84
13	<b>17</b>	Very soon, after the last house, go over towards the railway footbridge on the left, and cross it.		
14	<b>19</b>	Coming down from the bridge, immediately turn sharp right along a narrow and currently overgrown track, following it as it bends to the left, and, eventually, to the right to join a road.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
15	<b>22</b>	Merge with the road, and walk up alongside it.		
16	<b>26</b>	At the end go over the crossing road (Roman Way) and ahead along an enclosed footpath. Continue along it through its turns from side to side.	728 678	
17	<b>33</b>	Cross a stile and go ahead to walk along the left-hand edge of a field which slopes up to the right. Go under the motorway and railway bridges and on.		1.70
18	<b>35</b>	Surmount a tricky climb-over stile (consisting of cross-poles only, directly above each other, and no platforms), and continue ahead, alongside the railway on your left.		
19	<b>37</b>	And cross another similar stile, followed immediately by a MKG, and go ahead past the side of a house along an access drive.		
20	<b>38</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> As this roadway bends to the right, instead go straight ahead through a metal swing-gate and down the start of an unlikely-looking path.		
21	<b>40</b>	Follow the path leftwards under the railway bridge, then right again beyond it.		
22	<b>47</b>	At the end of the path emerge next to a redundant stile, at the end of the driveway to the marina. Then immediately turn right, go over the level crossing, and continue ahead.		
23	<b>48</b>	Follow the road as it bends to the left, and then to the right towards the main road and its pedestrian lights.		
24	<b>51</b>	Reach the main road and use the lights to cross it, then go right for a few yards.		
25		Turn left along Bush Road.		2.57
26	<b>53</b>	Turn left up May Street, and follow its right turn at the end (Woodhurst Close).		
27	<b>56</b>	Just before Wood Street joins, coming up from the right, turn left to climb the rough alleyway towards Six Acre Wood.		
28		Follow the path as it turns left.		
29	<b>57</b>	When the railings come to an end, continue ahead.		
30	<b>58</b>	Follow the path as it turns right, up steps.		
31	<b>59</b>	<i>[To visit <b>Cuxton Church</b>, now divert instead to the <b>Detour</b> in the Appendix.]</i> <b>Main route:</b> Where tracks divide at the top, go straight on.		
32	<b>60</b>	Continue ahead as the path from the church joins on the left.		
33		Go right and left through a wooden kissing gate, and ahead up the right-hand edge of a field.		
34	<b>64</b>	At the top corner go through a MKG, and ahead along a track among trees.		
35	<b>67</b>	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).	705 664	
36	<b>69</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Then, at the next crosspaths, turn right, along a woodland path, gently downhill to start with.		
37	<b>72</b>	At a T-junction, turn right, gently downhill again. Almost immediately, where the path forks, take the left alternative.		
38	<b>73</b>	At a junction of paths go slightly left, down an enclosed track.		
39	<b>75</b>	Walk straight on over a crossing roadway, and uphill opposite.		3.59

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
40	<b>81</b>	After a descent into another valley, go over a broad crossing track and up a narrower path which bends to the right, uphill.	696 667	
41	<b>82</b>	Merge with a driveway (and the North Downs Way) joining from the left.		
42	<b>84</b>	At the 'Upper Bush' sign, continue ahead.		
43	<b>86</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> 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) .		
44	<b>91</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Reaching the road (Bush Road again), turn right along it.		
45		Very soon, about 20 yds. after the '30' speed-limit sign, turn left away from the road, up an enclosed path to the left of 'Plovers' and a garage numbered '202' (still NDW).		4.38
46	<b>98</b>	At the top, after passing a bench, turn left over the railway bridge, following the NDW waymark.		
47		At the end of the bridge immediately fork right (still NDW). <b>!!!F!!!</b> Then drop down to the bottom of the magnificent valley which opens out ahead of you.		
48	<b>100</b>	At the crosspaths at the bottom go straight across (still NDW), and follow the huge uphill sweep round to the right.	705 674	
49	<b>109</b>	Continue along the NDW as it goes slightly to the left.		
50	<b>113</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Cross the roadway and follow the track straight ahead (now abandoning the NDW as it turns away to the right).	713 677	5.30
51	<b>115</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> The track bends slightly to the right, heading now down to a point about 10 yds. to the left of the right-hand edge of the screen of tall trees ahead, which separates you from the railway and motorway visible beyond.		
52	<b>117</b>	At that point start to climb again, slightly to the right.		
53	<b>118</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Take the fork down to the right.		
54	<b>119</b>	Go straight ahead, over the crossing path.		
55	<b>120</b>	Continue ahead to negotiate the crossings of railway and motorway: under railway, over slip road, under motorway, over slip road.		
56	<b>121</b>	At the end of this process, turn left with the footway, alongside the slip road down on the left.		
57	<b>123</b>	Go through a squeeze gate, turn right, cross the road and go ahead, in Elgin Gardens, alongside some houses on the right (nos. 11 to 1).	718 681	
58	<b>124</b>	At the end turn left.		
59	<b>125</b>	Turn right into Hillshaw Crescent.		5.89
60	<b>128</b>	Opposite no.21, turn left.		
61	<b>129</b>	Turn left, then very soon right, up Glamford Road.		
62	<b>130</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> At the T-junction at the end, turn right.		
63	<b>131</b>	At the junction at the end, swing right (Lilac Road, not Lilac Crescent).		
64	<b>132</b>	Carry straight on, ignoring now also the other end of Lilac Crescent.		
65	<b>133</b>	Turn left into Chestnut Road.		

\* **"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
66	<b>135</b>	Go over the crossing road and down the enclosed metalled footpath beyond, down steps and passing barriers.		
67	<b>137</b>	At the bottom cross another road, and continue straight on, up the road opposite (Columbine Road).		
68	<b>139</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> The two arms of Carnation Road join from the left, either side of a green. Just beyond the second of these arms, turn right along an enclosed alleyway opposite.		
69	<b>140</b>	After the barriers at the end, cross Lancelot Close and continue down Galahad Avenue.		
70	<b>141</b>	Reach the steps leading to the north entrance of <b><u>Strood St Francis Church</u></b> , the starting point of the walk.	723 689	6.68

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## **APPENDIX to Local Circuit LC2**

### **Detour to Cuxton Church**

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
31A	<b>0</b>	For the very short detour to Cuxton Church: Instead of going straight ahead where the tracks divide at Direction 31, turn left.		0.00
31B		Go through the gate into the churchyard, and turn right, keeping near the wall on the right, to go anti-clockwise around the church.		
31C	<b>1</b>	Reach the south door of <b><u>Cuxton Church</u></b> . Then retrace your steps to the churchyard gate.		0.05
31D	<b>2</b>	Go through the gate and immediately turn left up along the path which angles slightly away from the churchyard wall, now on the left.		
31E	<b>3</b>	Rejoin the main route, as it joins from the right at the path junction referred to in Direction 32.  <b>Add 3 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.10 miles to cumulative distances.</b>		0.12

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## **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!

LOCAL CIRCUIT LC1	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	4, 6-8, 10-12, 15, 24-25, 44	15
Quiet road \$\$	1-2, 19, 22-23, 26, 41-42, 57-65, 67, 69	21
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	5, 17-18, 33, 34b, 43, 47-48a, 49b-51	21
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	3, 9, 13-14, 16, 20-21, 27-28, 34a, 38, 40b, 45-46, 49a, 54-56, 66, 68	31
Woods	29-32, 35-37, 39-40a, 48b, 52-53	13

\*\* 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 (3) - Details noted in June 2017, but subject to frequent change:**

The stile in Direction **17** is wired down with rises of about 18 ins. and 2 ft.

Those in **18** and **19** (difficult for humans!) are double stiles, wired down, with all rises amounting to about 12 ins.