






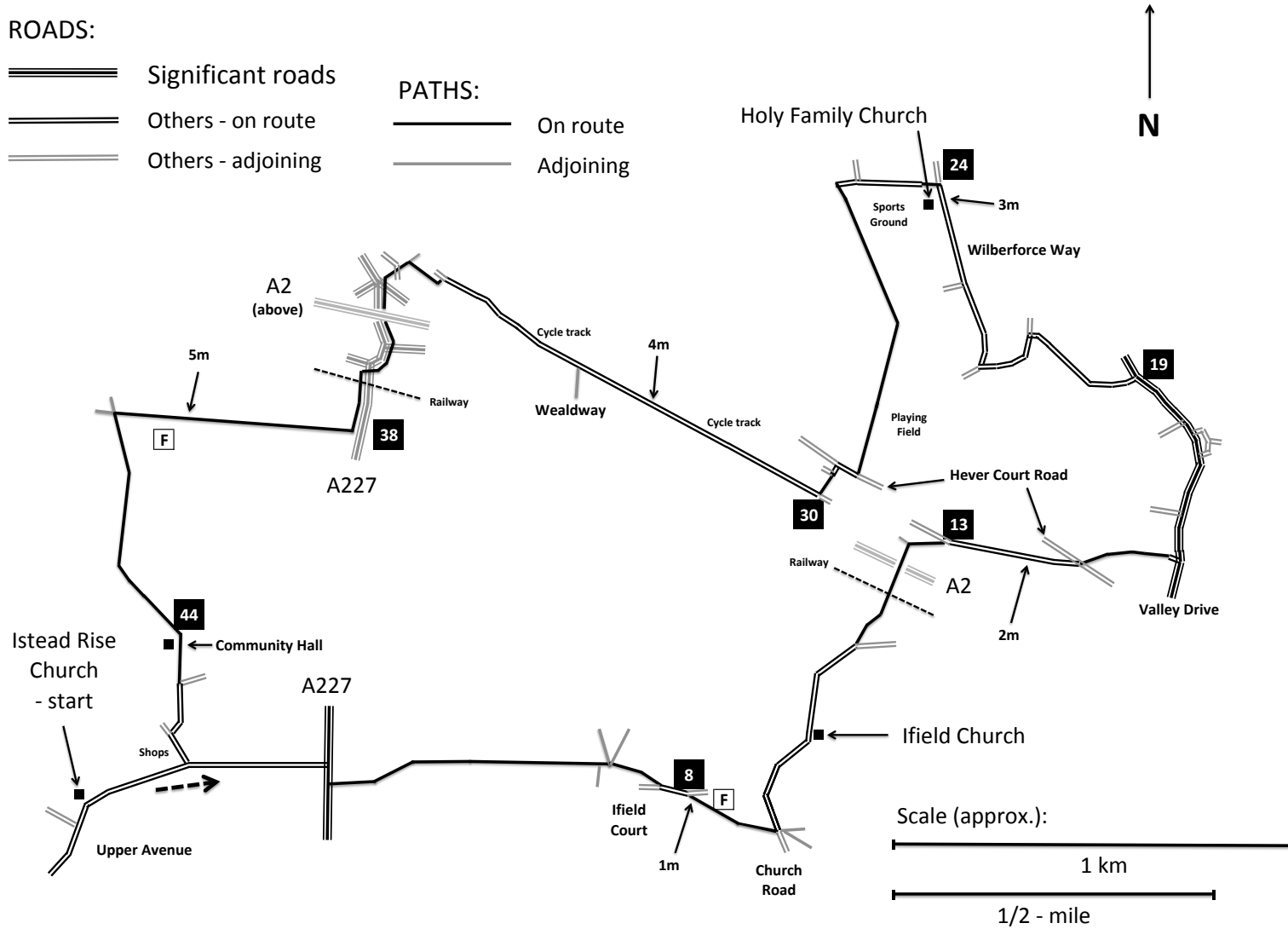
LOCAL CIRCUIT IF1: SOUTH GRAVESEND

ROADS:

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

PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining



F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

38 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

 Starting direction

LOCAL CIRCUIT IF1: SOUTH GRAVESEND - 5.86 miles

Linked churches:

Istead Rise (start and finish)

Ifield (Direction 10)

Gravesend Holy Family (23)

Roads and hindrances:

There is the A227 near the start; and near the end there is a series of busy crossings at the Tollgate interchange (where the A227 meets the A2 – Directions 36 and 37). The Tollgate crossings might at times demand a little patience, but are not especially dangerous: given that the last stage features a traffic island, they consist of four legs, all with traffic coming only from left or right, not both. There are a good few roads at other points, but none is very busy, except for Valley Drive (16-18), which the route goes alongside without crossing.

The barrier at Direction 5 is unkind, and should not extend across the whole width of the path as it does.

Notes taken: November 2017

The start and finish is at Istead Rise Church (DA13 9DA).

| | Mins.* | | OS | Miles |
|----|-----------|---|---------|-------|
| 1 | | With your back to Istead Rise Church , turn left, uphill, along the road. | 634 699 | |
| 2 | 2 | Continue ahead along the right-hand pavement, passing the shops over on the left. | | |
| 3 | 7 | After following the road down and up, reach and cross the main road (A227), and turn briefly right along its far side. | | |
| 4 | 8 | After a few yards, turn left along a roadway (signposted as a footpath). | | |
| 5 | 9 | Go ahead, passing, as best you can, an obstructing barrier which (currently) culpably takes up the whole width. | | |
| 6 | 17 | Go straight ahead, ignoring the junctions with the Wealdway (first on the right, then on the left). | | 0.84 |
| 7 | 19 | At the end of the railings merge leftwards into the estate road, keeping to the left of the big corrugated metal building. | | |
| 8 | 20 | [Map point] !!!F!!! Just after this building follow a waymark (NU32 - easy to miss) which takes you slightly right through a gate into a scrappy piece of land. Go ahead, keeping just to the right of the buildings, to another similar gate, then slightly to the right into some small trees. | 649 700 | |
| 9 | 23 | After going through the trees you reach a road. Turn left along it. | | |
| 10 | 26 | Pass the entrance to Ifield Church on the right. | | |

* **“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 |
|----|-----------|--|---------|-------|
| 11 | 30 | After a gentle rightward bend, leave the road by turning left along the footpath between fences, and follow this as it curves right, then left, and then crosses the bridges over the railway and then the A2. | | |
| 12 | 33 | At the end of the A2 bridge, turn right, down the path which merges gradually with the cycleway down on your left. | | |
| 13 | 35 | [Map point] Reach the cycleway and turn right along it. | 656 706 | |
| 14 | 38 | Reach the barriers at the end of the cycleway, cross the road, and continue along the cycleway opposite. | | 1.90 |
| 15 | 41 | Go through the gate and briefly down the roadway towards the major road. | | |
| 16 | 42 | Turn left along the main road, staying on the footpath on its left-hand side, down the hill. | | |
| 17 | 45 | Continue ahead, as the footpath become a grass verge. | | |
| 18 | 46 | Cross Ifield Way and continue ahead. | | |
| 19 | 48 | [Map point] Turn left up Scott Road. | | |
| 20 | 52 | Use the steps on the left to cut the corner, and at the top turn left again. Follow the footway round as it circles to the right. | | |
| 21 | 55 | Turn right at the T-junction and go along the left-hand side of Wilberforce Way. | | |
| 22 | 57 | Cross Codrington Crescent and continue ahead. | | 2.83 |
| 23 | 59 | Pass Holy Family Church on the left. | | |
| 24 | 60 | [Map point] Immediately after the '20' speed-limit sign, turn left up an enclosed concrete path. | | |
| 25 | 61 | At the top of the steps, reach the dead end of a cul-de-sac, and go ahead along it, continuing ahead at the road junction (with the entrance to the sports ground on your left) and going straight on to the very end of the road. | | |
| 26 | 63 | There turn left along the enclosed metalled footpath. | 653 715 | |
| 27 | 69 | Go through the squeeze gate at the start of the playing field. | | |
| 28 | 70 | Carry on past the gap in the fence on the left leading from the field. | | |
| 29 | 72 | Go through a squeeze gate and ahead towards the road. | | |
| 30 | | [Map point] Briefly turn right along it. | | |
| 31 | 73 | Turn left, initially into Epsom Close for a few yards, but when the roadway swings to the right, instead go straight ahead. | | |
| 32 | 74 | Reaching the cycle track, turn right along it. | | 3.69 |
| 33 | 82 | Continue ahead, as the Wealdway joins from the left. | | |
| 34 | 87 | Slip slightly across to the left to avoid the garage forecourt, still in the same general direction, passing between barriers. | 643 713 | |
| 35 | 88 | Turn left, as signposted for Istead Rise. | | 4.43 |
| 36 | 93 | Cross the entry slip road from the A227 to the A2 | | |
| 37 | 94 | ... And the exit slip road from the A2 to the A227. Then cross the A227 immediately with the help of the island, and turn left to go along the footway on its right-hand side, under the railway bridge, and on, gently uphill. | | |
| 38 | 97 | [Map point] Leave the road by turning right along the signposted footpath, through a heavy metal gate and down and up along the right-hand side of a field. | | |

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

| | Mins.* | | OS | Miles |
|--------------|------------|---|---------|-------|
| 39 | 102 | At the end go through a similar gate, and ahead across the field beyond. !!F!! There may be a faint track on the ground, but if not the line is virtually the same as before. (Bearing about 275.) | | |
| 40 | 105 | Turn left along a much more distinct path (which leads away from a concrete shelter over to the right, and towards a pylon). | 635 709 | 5.12 |
| 41 | 110 | Follow the path ahead into the trees. | | |
| 42 | 111 | Fork left, and continue to edge across to the left until the playing field comes into view through the trees. | | |
| 43 | | Break out of the trees into the playing field, and start out across it toward the right, aiming at the car park next to the Community Hall. | 636 705 | |
| 44 | 113 | [Map point] Reach the car park, and walk ahead out of it, along the access road at the other end. | | |
| 45 | 114 | Continue ahead, joining the road which comes in from the left. | | |
| 46 | 116 | At the end of Worcester Close turn left into the major road. | | |
| 47** | 117 | At the T-junction at the end: either, to continue the circuit (if not visiting, or finishing at, Istead Rise Church), carry on from Direction 2, by turning left along the main road; | | |
| ** or 47A | 117 | ... or, to detour to, or finish at, Istead Rise Church , turn right along the main road. | | |
| 47B | 120 | Reach Istead Rise Church on the right. | 634 699 | 5.86 |
| 47C | | 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.

!!F!! : **Field crossing might be unmarked.** See 'Open Fields' in 'Introductory Notes' for some thoughts about dealing with this.

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 IF1 | Direction numbers | % of walk |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Busy road | 2-3, 9-10, 16-18, 30, 36-37 | 23 |
| Quiet road \$\$ | 1, 7, 15, 19-23, 25, 31a, 32-33, 44b-47A | 32 |
| Open field with livestock | | 0 |
| Edge of field with livestock | 38 | 4 |
| Field (or edge) without livestock ** | 6, 8a, 12b-13, 39-40, 43 | 14 |
| Path (hedged, or otherwise forced) | 4-5, 11-12a, 14, 24, 26-29, 31b, 34-35, 44a | 26 |
| Woods | 8b, 41-42 | 2 |

** 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.