

Sheet 2 A2

SOUTHFLEET

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1 (first section)

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

Southfleet Church

Dale Road

Red Street

Southfleet Pond

Downs Road

Community Hall

Biddenden Way

Shops

Istead Rise Church
- start

Scale (approx.):

1 km

1/2 - mile

Starting direction

N

Sheet 3

[Shorter circuit]

F

85

12m

[Shorter circuit]

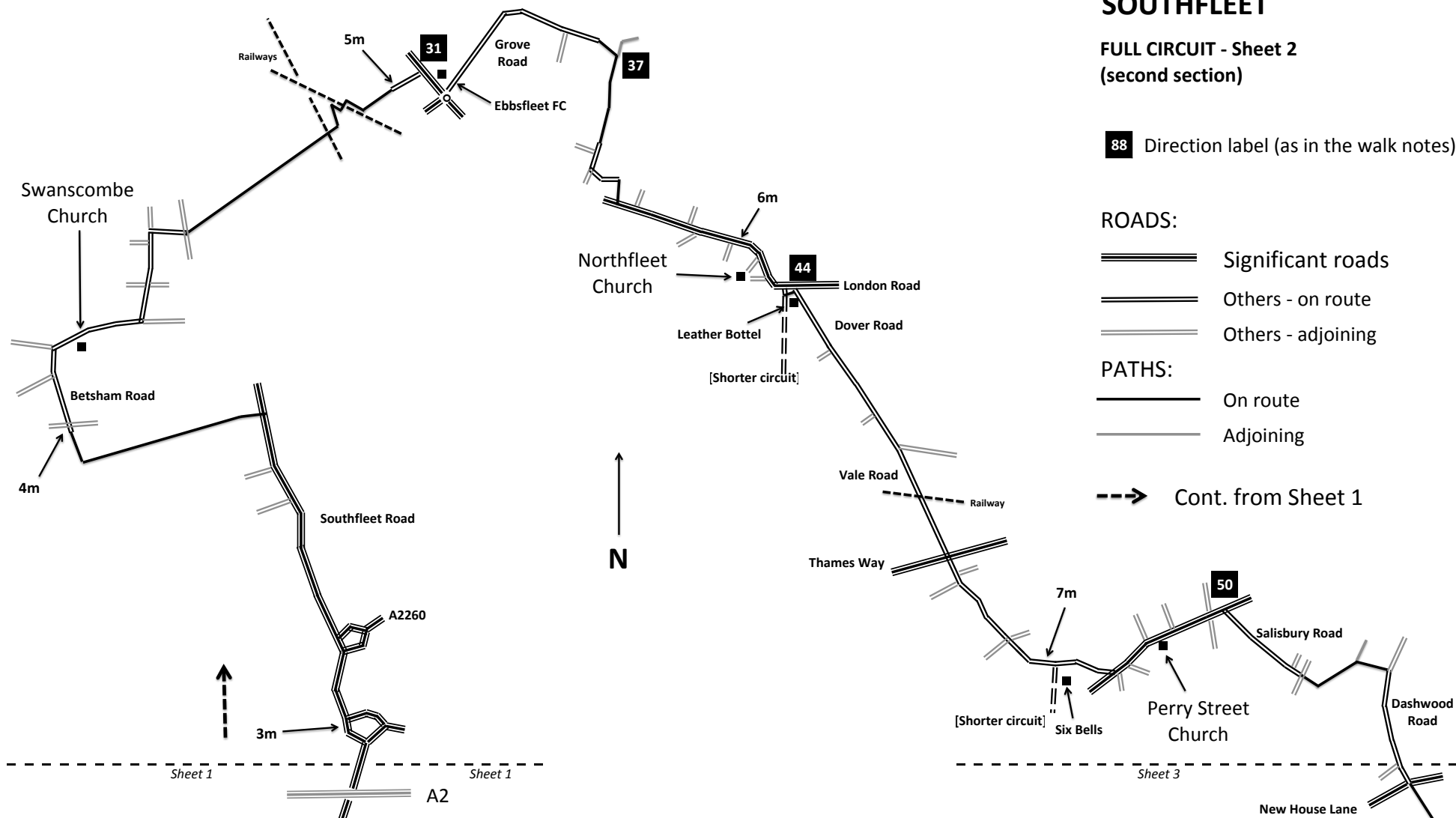
Railway

2m

The Ship

1m

F



Sheet 2

New House Lane

A227

Sheet 2

SOUTHFLEET

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 3
(last section)

ROADS:

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

PATHS:

- On route
- Adjoining

8m

St Mary's Church

Singlewell Road

59

Kings Drive

Ash Road

9m

61

64

Palmer Avenue

Holy Family Church

Codrington Crescent

67

Cycle track

Wealdway

Cycle track

Gap

Hever Court Road

10m

71

A2
(above)

11m

Railway

A227

79

[Shorter circuit]

F

85

Community Hall

Biddenden Way

Shops

12m

Istead Rise Church - start

N

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

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

Scale (approx.):

1 km

1/2 - mile

---> Cont. from Sheet 2

SOUTHFLEET CIRCUIT - 12.09 miles

Churches in the full circuit:

Istead Rise (start and finish)

Southfleet (Direction 10A: Detour - see Appendix)

Swanscombe (23)

Northfleet (43)

Perry Street – All Saints (49)

Gravesend St Mary (56)

Gravesend Holy Family (66)

Associated local circuits

- SO1: Longfield – Southfleet – New Ifield – Longfield
- GD1: Gravesend – Perry Street – Northfleet – Rosherville – Gravesend (not yet published – April 2018)
- IF1: Istead Rise – Ifield – Gravesend (South) – Istead Rise

Full circuit: The spine route now leads the circuits to take a distinctly suburban and urban turn. Some parts of Swanscombe, Northfleet and Gravesend are more pleasant than others, but this walk will not be a favourite of the country-lover or dog-walker!

The section covered by Directions 57-70 is duplicated in the Ifield Full Circuit.

Roads and hindrances:

Crops in the field can make Direction 5 a bit of a challenge. (The alternative is to stay with the roads – two sides of a triangle – but it should not be necessary.)

There are main roads to cross (7, 16, 31, 42, 46, 48, 57, 77, 78) but none of them particularly hazardous for the careful pedestrian.

FULL CIRCUIT

Istead Rise – Southfleet – Swanscombe – Northfleet – Gravesend (South) – Istead Rise

Notes taken: Summer 2017 and Spring 2018

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		With your back to Istead Rise Church , briefly turn right, downhill, along the road.	634 699	
2		START OF THE SPINE SECTION Turn right along Biddenden Way.		
3	4	At the T-junction at the end, turn left.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
4	7	At the bottom, turn right at the T-junction and cross to the left-hand side of the road when convenient (for a wider verge and better sightlines) before a series of bends, initially to the left.		
5	16	Before a further left-hand bend, look out for a footpath sign on the right. !!F!! Re-cross the road at this point go between the trees, and then turn toward the left to set out across the field beyond. At the start it is currently (summer 2017) full of a tall but not quite impassable crop. The line is almost parallel to the field-edge on the left and the road you have left, but slightly to the right of it. After about 100 yds. the cultivated area ends, and from here there is a clear path to the far left-hand corner of the field.	624 704	
6	21	At the end, after passing through the remains of a gate, turn right alongside the main road, staying for the moment on its right-hand side.		0.98
7	22	Cross to use the pavement when it starts on the other side.		
8	23	Turn left at the little grass triangle to set out along Red Street.		
9	30	[Map point] Continue to follow the road as it turns right (ignoring the footpath which goes straight ahead).		
10	34	Reach a complex road junction, next to The Ship. <i>[To visit <u>Southfleet Church</u>, now divert instead to the <u>Detour</u> in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Turn slightly right to go down along Dale Road.		1.69
11	41	After Dale Mount keep on the left-hand side of the road, for a good verge and better sightlines at the road crossing ahead.		
12	44	END OF THE SPINE SECTION Cross the road and continue along Foxhounds Lane, which is more or less opposite.		
13	50	At the end, turn right along Park Corner Road.		
14	52	Continue ahead (at 'No Entry' for traffic).		2.62
15	53	Turn right at the main road, and continue along the footway on its right-hand side, as it swings leftwards under the A2 bridges and towards the roundabouts.		
16	58	Just before the first roundabout, use the light-controlled pedestrian crossing to go over to the left-hand side, and continue, clockwise, around the roundabout. Then take the exit signposted 'A2260 Gravesend West, Northfleet, etc.'		
17	64	At the next roundabout, take its exit on the left, abandoning the A2260 and following the sign for Swanscombe and Castle Hill. The footway varies between one side of the road and the other.		
18	71	At the bottom of a dip, cross the road on the left, then immediately swing left to go along a tree-lined avenue parallel to it.	610 738	3.56
19	78	After a short rise, turn right to cross a metal stile and go ahead, with fences on both sides.		
20	80	Over another stile, and ahead along a brief roadway to a junction. There continue ahead along Betsham Road.		
21	82	Turn right down Swanscombe Street.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
22	83	Turn right again (still Swanscombe Street).		
23	84	Pass the entrance to Swanscombe Church on the right.		
24	86	After crossing the road when convenient, turn left along Church Road.		
25	89	Turn right along Herbert Road.		4.42
26	90	At the end cross the road and directly opposite go ahead along the joint-use cycleway (walkers entitled to the right-hand lane).		
27	95	Continue to follow it as it takes you ahead over the railway bridge; then left; then, doubling back, sharp right.		
28	97	About 50 yds. after this switchback, turn left under a railway arch.		
29	98	Immediately after passing under the arch (without going as far as the roadway visible ahead), turn right along a metalled pathway, then follow it as it bends to the left.	612 747	
30	100	Go between bollards and straight ahead.		
31	101	[Map point] Reach the main road at Ebbsfleet FC, cross it immediately with the help of a traffic island, then turn right briefly towards the roundabout.		
32	102	At the roundabout turn left along Grove Road.		5.10
33	104	Follow the road as it bends to the right, ignoring plant entrances to left and right.		
34	107	Keep straight on at the road junction.		
35	108	Go ahead past a barrier.		
36	109	Swing right, but then keep left along the short, narrow track which starts to the left of the big metal gate.		
37	110	[Map point] At the end, after a squeeze gate, turn right, away from the river, along a narrow, enclosed track.		
38	113	Emerge at the dead end of a cul-de-sac (with a parking area on the right), and continue ahead up towards the main road.		
39	114	About 100 yds. short of the main road, turn left into an access road.		
40	116	Faced by gates, turn right up a passageway towards the main road.		
41		Turn left along the pavement on the left-hand side of the main road.		
42	122	As the road bends to the right, use the long traffic island to cross to the right-hand side.		
43	123	Pass the access roadway to Northfleet Church on the right.		6.12
44	124	[Map point] At the start of Springhead Road, cross the road, pass around the Leather Bottel, and, keeping it on your right, set off along Dover Road.		
45	129	When the major road swings left, instead go straight ahead along Vale Road.		
46	134	Reaching the main road at the bottom (Thames Way), use the crossing on the left, but on the other side return to the original line to go up the continuation of Vale Road.		
47	142	Having walked the length of Vale Road, merge left into Earl Road, which soon becomes Perry Street.		7.10
48	143	Use the crossing (opposite the Shrubbery Veterinary Centre) to go over to the right-hand side.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
49	144	Pass the entrance to Perry Street (All Saints') Church .		
50	146	[Map point] Turn right up Salisbury Road.		
51	149	Continue ahead past the end of Cecil Road.		
52	150	At the end cross Austin Road / Bedford Road, and go ahead along the alley opposite. Then follow it as it bends half-left.		
53	152	Reaching the Dashwood Road Open Space, turn half-right to go along its right-hand edge.		
54	154	After passing beside a gate, turn right along Dashwood Road.		
55	158	At the end go across to start along the enclosed alleyway directly opposite, navigating round the railings either to right or to left (and avoiding the private property on the left!).	643 727	
56	160	Swing left with the school railings, and at the bottom cross the end of the cul-de-sac and continue up the alleyway opposite. The side entrance to St Mary's Church is on its left.		
57	162	At the top, start along Hillingdon Road (almost opposite, but having first used the light-controlled crossing on the right).		8.04
58	165	Cross the main road and continue along Lingfield Road opposite, still keeping on the right.		
59	167	[Map point] At the T-junction at the end turn right, gently uphill.		
60	174	Cross Kings Drive and continue ahead.		
61	176	[Map point] At the intersection at the top, go more or less straight ahead.		
62	177	Turn left along Ash Road.		8.84
63	180	Turn right along Christianfields Avenue.		
64		[Map point] Turn left along Warrior Avenue and continue to the T-junction at the end.		
65	182	At that junction turn right along Palmer Avenue.		
66	187	Pass Holy Family Church on the right and continue ahead.		
67	190	[Map point] Turn right along Codrington Crescent, and follow it as it bends round to the left.		
68	193	At the end go straight ahead over the open space, and edge rightwards towards a gap in the right-hand fence about two-thirds of the way along.		
69	195	Go through the gap to join the bordering pathway and continue ahead alongside the rest of the open space.	654 709	
70	196	Go through a squeeze gate and ahead towards the road.		9.79
71	197	[Map point] Turn right along Hever Court Road.		
72	198	Turn left, initially into Epsom Close for a few yards, but when the roadway swings to the right, instead go straight ahead.		
73	199	Reaching the cycle track, turn right along it.		
74	207	Continue ahead, as the Wealdway joins from the left.		
75	212	Slip slightly across to the left to avoid the garage forecourt, still in the same general direction, passing between barriers.	643 713	
76	213	Turn left, as signposted for Istead Rise.		
77	218	Cross the entry slip road from the A227 to the A2		10.72
78	219	... 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.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
79	222	[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.		
80	227	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.)		
81	230	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	
82	235	Follow the path ahead into the trees.		11.58
83	236	Fork left, and continue to edge across to the left until the playing field comes into view through the trees.		
84		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	
85	238	[Map point] Reach the car park, and walk ahead out of it, along the access road at the other end.		
86	239	Continue ahead, joining the road which comes in from the left.		
87	241	At the end of Worcester Close turn left into the major road.		
88	242	At the T-junction at the end (having passed the row of shops on the right) turn right.		
89	245	Reach Istead Rise Church on the right, the starting point of the walk.	634 699	12.09

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

APPENDIX to Full Circuit

Detour to Southfleet Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
10A		To reach Southfleet Church , at the junction at Direction 10 turn half-left up Church Street, with Sedley’s Primary School on your left.		0.00
10B	1	After visiting the church retrace your steps to the junction where you started the detour.		0.05
10C	2	At the junction rejoin the main route at Direction 10 by turning sharp left along Dale Road. Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.10 miles to cumulative distances.		0.10

* ***“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!

SOUTHFLEET - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	4, 6-7, 10-12, 15-17, 21-23, 31-33, 41-49, 54, 71, 77-78	39
Quiet road \$\$	1-3, 8-9, 13-14, 20, 24-25, 30, 34, 38-39, 50-51, 57-67, 72a, 73-74, 85b-88	38
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock	79	2
Field (or edge) without livestock **	5, 53, 68, 80-81, 84	7
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	19, 26-29, 35-37, 40, 52, 55-56, 69-70, 72b, 75-76, 85a	11
Woods	18, 82-83	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.

STILES (2) – Details noted in September 2017, but subject to frequent change:

Both stiles (in Directions **19** and **20**) have easy gaps.