






SOUTHFLEET

SHORTER CIRCUIT

ROADS:

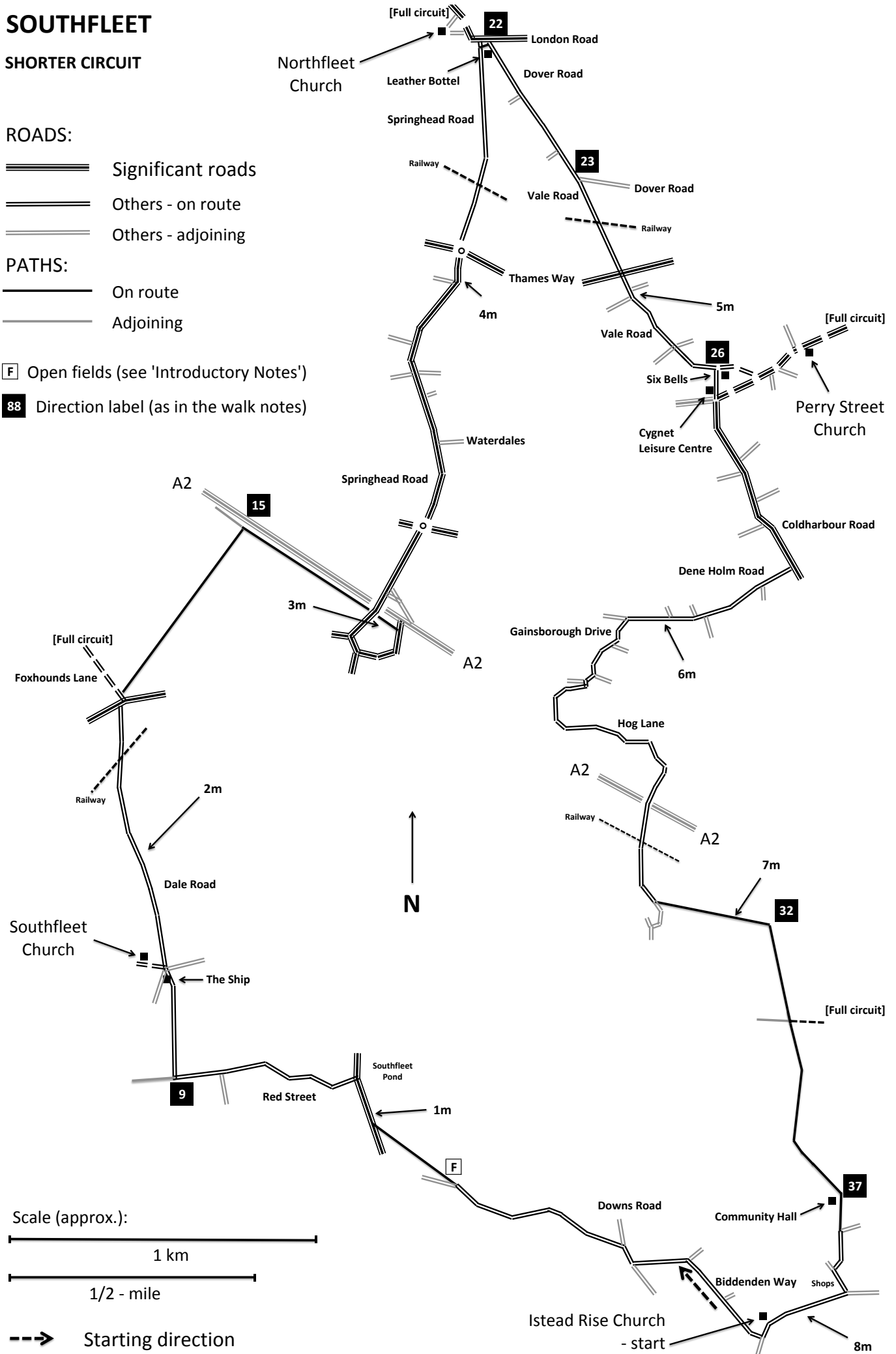
-  Significant roads
-  Others - on route
-  Others - adjoining

PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)



SOUTHFLEET CIRCUIT - 8.07 miles

Churches in the shorter circuit:

Istead Rise (start and finish)

Southfleet (Direction 10A: Detour 1 - see Appendix)

Northfleet (Direction 22A: Detour 2 - see Appendix)

Perry Street – All Saints (Direction 25D: Detour 3 - see Appendix)

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

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

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, 19, 20, 21, 24, 27) but none of them particularly hazardous for the careful pedestrian.

SHORTER CIRCUIT

Istead Rise – Southfleet – 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.		
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.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
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 Southfleet Church, now divert instead to Detour 1 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 main road (Station Road), and also, over to the right, the end of Foxhounds Lane. Then start along the broad path which bisects the angle between these two roads and leads towards the busy A2, clearly visible ahead.	613 720	
13	48	Pass under power lines which connect with a pylon on the right. Carry straight on ahead, towards the left-hand side of another pylon.		
14	50	Continue ahead, ignoring the main path which veers off to the right.		
15	53	[Map point] At the boundary of the A2, turn right along the metalled footway.		2.67
16	59	Go under the road bridge.		
17	60	Start to swing right, staying alongside the slip road without crossing it, and embarking on the clockwise three-quarter circle which will lead to the road above.		
18	62	Keep right at the roundabout to complete the turn and continue over the bridge, along the right-hand side of the road.		
19	65	Start the crossing of the two slip roads which feed the eastbound A2, keeping as straight ahead as possible.	622 723	
20	68	At the next roundabout go straight ahead. Achieve this by using the light-controlled crossing over to the right, then returning leftwards to regain the 'straight-ahead' line down Springhead Road.		3.47

* **"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
21	79	At the roundabout at the bottom of the hill, again 'go straight on' by way of the light-controlled crossing over to the right. As you go up the hill, cross to the left-hand side when convenient, for a more comfortable crossing of the railway bridge ahead.		
22	88	[Map point] <i>[To visit Northfleet Church, now divert instead to Detour 2 in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Immediately before reaching the road junction at the end, cross back over Springhead Road, and, passing around the Leather Bottel turn right to set off along Dover Road.		4.45
23	93	[Map point] When the major road swings left, instead go straight ahead along Vale Road.		
24	98	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.		
25	102	<i>[To visit Perry Street (All Saints') Church, now divert instead to Detour 3 in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Just after the Colyer Road/Park Avenue junction, use the zebra crossing to go over to the right-hand side of Vale Road, and continue ahead.	631 731	
26	104	[Map point] Turn right along Old Perry Street, staying on its right-hand side.		5.25
27	106	Reaching the Hall Road junction, go straight across, using the crossing to your right. Then continue ahead up Coldharbour Road.		
28	113	Turn right down Dene Holm Road.		
29	120	Turn left along Gainsborough Drive.		
30	122	As the main road swings left, instead turn right (now Landseer Avenue), then after about 60 yds. take the left fork down a narrow roadway, and follow it (Hog Lane) through its broad swings, first to the left, then to the right to go over the A2 and then the railway. After the bridges, follow the road a little further as it bends left ...	629 721	6.18
31	134	... but before it swings back to the right, leave it by turning up to the left, through gates, along an earth path (not the gravel one a few yards before it). This then leads out to follow the left-hand edge of a large field.		
32	141	[Map point] About 50 yds. before this straight field-edge comes to an end, turn right across the field towards a pair of pylons, to pass a concrete workers' hut, which is now on your left.		7.12
33	145	Continue ahead as the Full Circuit joins from the left on a narrow track at a cross-paths.	635 709	
34	150	Follow the path ahead into the trees.		
35	151	Fork left, and continue to edge across to the left until the playing field comes into view through the trees.		
36		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.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
37	153	[Map point] Reach the car park, and walk ahead out of it, along the access road at the other end.		
38	154	Continue ahead, joining the road which comes in from the left.		
39	156	At the end of Worcester Close turn left into the major road.		
40	157	At the T-junction at the end (having passed the row of shops on the right) turn right.		
41	160	Reach Istead Rise Church on the right, the starting point of the walk.	634 699	8.07

* **“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.

APPENDIX to Shorter Circuit

Detour to Southfleet Church (Detour 1)

	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.

Detour to Northfleet Church (Detour 2)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
22A		To reach Northfleet Church , instead of doubling back immediately to Dover Road at Direction 22, continue ahead along the left-hand pavement at the end of Springhead Road. The church is on the left (past the Roman Catholic church with the huge tower just before it).		0.00
22B	2	After visiting the church retrace your steps and at the start of Springhead Road cross over to the Leather Bottel.		0.08
22C	3	Turn to the right around the Leather Bottel, and, keeping it on your right, set off along Dover Road. Add 3 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.16 miles to cumulative distances.		0.16

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

Detour to Perry Street (All Saints') Church (Detour 3)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
25A	0	For the detour to <u>Perry Street (All Saints') Church</u> : Instead of crossing the road at the zebra crossing at Direction 25, continue along the left-hand side of Vale Road.		0.00
25B	4	At the end of Vale Road, merge left into Earl Road, which soon becomes Perry Street.		0.22
25C	5	Use the crossing (opposite the Shrubbery Veterinary Centre) to go over to the right-hand side.		
25D	6	Reach the entrance to <u>Perry Street (All Saints') Church</u> . After visiting the church, retrace your steps to the veterinary centre, but do not cross the main road there: instead continue along the left-hand side of Earl Road.		0.32
25E	11	Reaching the junction at the traffic lights, first use them as a convenient place to cross Coldharbour Road, then rejoin the main route at Direction 27 by turning left to start walking up its right-hand side. Add 6 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.30 miles to cumulative distances.		0.57

* **"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!

SOUTHFLEET - SHORTER CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	4, 6-7, 10-11, 17-29	52
Quiet road \$\$	1-3, 8-9, 30, 37b-40	24
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	5, 12-14, 31-33, 36	19
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	15-16, 37a	5
Woods	34-35	1

** 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.