

## CHALK

### FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1 (first and last sections)

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

#### ROADS:

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

#### PATHS:

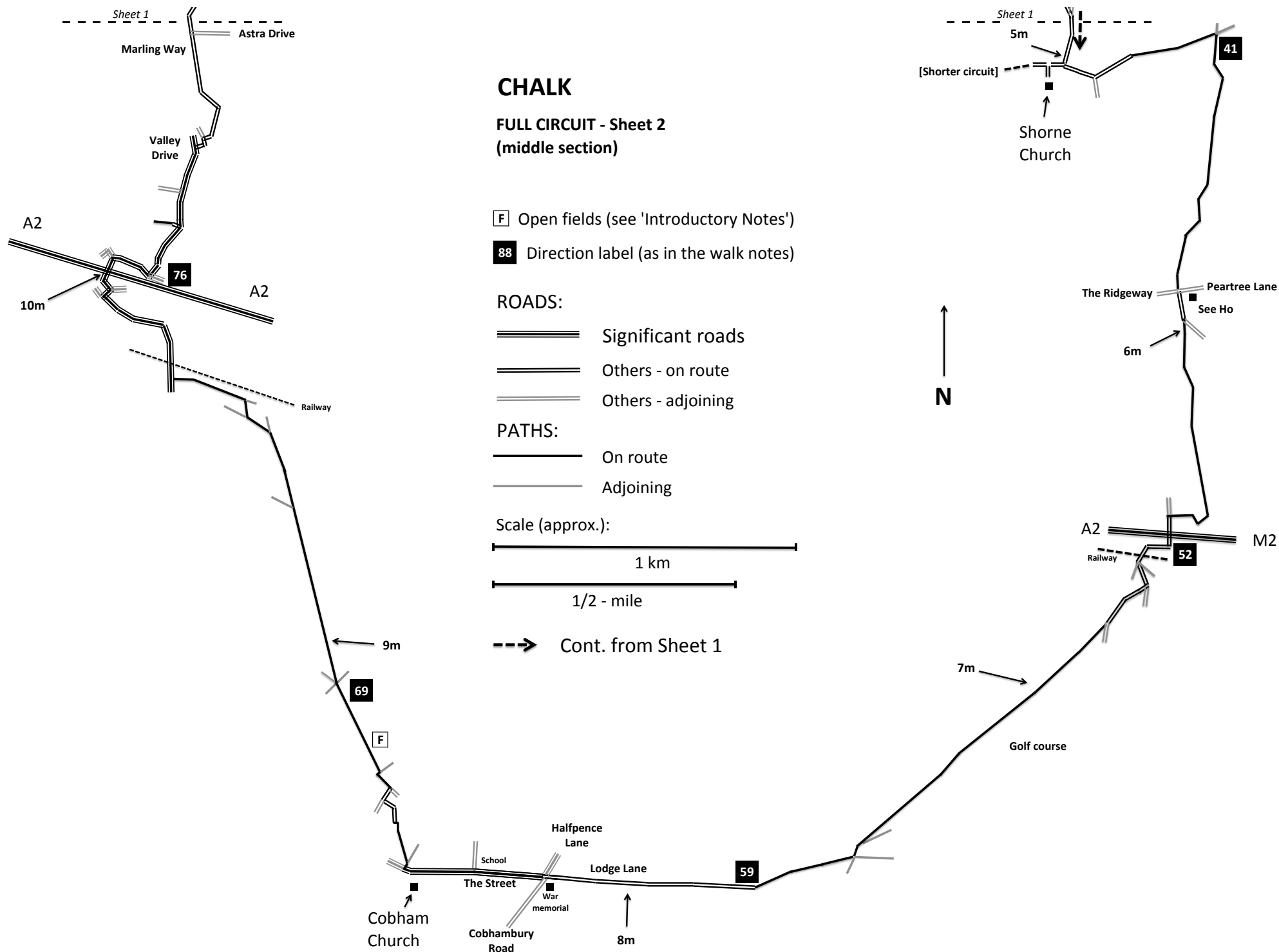
- On route
- Adjoining

Scale (approx.):

1 km

1/2 - mile

Starting direction



## **CHALK CIRCUIT - 11.82 miles**

### **Churches in the full circuit:**

Gravesend St Aidan (start and finish)

Milton St Peter and St Paul (Direction 14)

Chalk (26)

Shorne (37A – Detour – see Appendix)

Cobham (62)

### **Associated local circuits**

- CH1: St Aidan's – Milton – Chalk – Riverview – St Aidan's
- SN1 (From Summer 2019): St Aidan's – Chalk – Shorne – Riverview – St Aidan's
- NG1: Christ Church – Perry Street – Northfleet – Gravesend – Christ Church
- SN2 (From Summer 2019): Shorne – Lower Higham – Higham – Shorne
- LC1: Cobham – Cuxton – Cobham
- LH3: Cobham – Nurstead – Ifield – Cobham
- IF1: Gravesend (South) – Istead Rise – Ifield – Gravesend (South)

**Full circuit:** Quite a range: town and villages, marshland, open fields, a golf course and a country park.

### **Roads and hindrances:**

Quite a lot of the walk is on urban/suburban roads, which demand the usual reasonable care.

It is sensible in Direction 13 to make the slight detour to use the light-controlled crossing.

Negotiating the A2 slip roads (75-76) merits particular alertness and awareness of the traffic's direction of travel.

The trees in 44 and 45 currently demand a little ingenuity, but are manageable.

Keep an eye open for golf balls in 56-57.

### **FULL CIRCUIT**

**Gravesend – Chalk – Shorne – Cobham – Gravesend**

Notes taken: Winter 2018/19

The start and finish is at the car park adjacent to **St Aidan's Church, Gravesend** (DA12 4ES).

			OS	Miles
1		At the exit from the car park of <b><u>St Aidan's Church</u></b> , turn left on to Hampton Crescent.	661 726	

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
2	1	Turn left down St Benedict's Avenue, and go straight on down at the roundabout walking down the right-hand side towards Valley Drive below.		
3	3	Turn right into Valley Drive. Use the lights to cross the road, then almost immediately turn left along Hillside Avenue.		
4	4	Turn right, up The Curlews, which swings left, then right, then left again.		
5	7	At the end cross The Sandpipers and go up the steps ahead.		
6	8	At the top turn right along the roadway.		
7	9	Turn left down past houses 25, 26 and so on, following the roadway as it winds right, then left.		
8	10	Meet the main road and turn left. Cross when convenient.		
9	12	About 20 yds. after crossing the end of Pine Avenue, turn right down a metalled alleyway.		
10	13	Continue ahead along a short stretch of road.		
11	14	<b>START OF THE SPINE SECTION</b> [Map point] When the road bends left, instead cross it and turn about 60 degrees to the right to go along a narrow enclosed path.		
12	18	Pass the barrier and continue ahead, with a school on the right and sports fields on the left.		0.96
13	22	At the end turn left to use the lights to cross the main road. After the crossing turn back to the right along the left-hand pavement.		
14	23	Turn left along Raphael Road, passing to the left of <b>St Peter and St Paul's Church</b> .		
15	24	After keeping to the left of The Monkey and the Buddha, and going through the short tunnel, turn right on the other side.		
16	25	Reaching a busier road, cross it and turn right along its left-hand side (mostly on a pavement).		
17	32	Follow the road's left-hand bend, now crossing to its right-hand side.		1.65
18	33	[Map point] Turn right along a roadway (signs for the Thameside Campus of the National Maritime Training Centre).		
19	42	Go through or beside a big metal gateway, and straight on ahead.		
20	46	Go through a squeeze gate next to a metal barrier. (Ignore the bridge over the canal on the right.)		2.41
21	54	<b>END OF THE SPINE SECTION</b> Just after a signal for the railway on the right, turn right, up some steps, to cross a second footbridge over the canal, and go ahead to cross the railway on a level crossing, protected on both sides by stiles.	682 739	
22	55	Once across, walk away from the railway, to start, after about 100 yds., along a clear path, heading in the direction of the highest point of the hills in the distance (and about 20 degrees to the right of the direction of Chalk Church ahead).		
23	62	After a gentle leftward bend, cross a stile at the left of a gate, and continue ahead between hedges.		
24	64	Turn left along the road at Filborough Farm.		3.26

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
25	<b>66</b>	Just after the last house (number 4) turn right at the road junction.		
26	<b>75</b>	At the top turn left through the wooden gate leading to the west door of <b>Chalk Church</b> . Then go up the steps leading diagonally to the right. Continue along this diagonal line all the way through the graveyard: past the floral tribute area, through a gap in the wall on the right-hand side, and on to another gap leading down to a roadway.		3.76
27	<b>76</b>	Turn right up the roadway.		
28	<b>78</b>	At the end turn left alongside the main road, keeping for now on its left.	683 723	
29	<b>80</b>	Continue ahead, crossing the access road to the crematorium.		
30	<b>83</b>	[Map point] Turn right by crossing the road and leaving it, starting out along the footpath opposite.		
31	<b>86</b>	Bend left with the path, up towards the top of a little rise.		
32	<b>88</b>	A few yards before the top, follow the path as it bends right to go under the power lines.		4.44
33	<b>93</b>	At a junction of paths, turn half-left.	688 715	
34	<b>96</b>	After passing a redundant MKG, turn right on to a metalled pathway.		
35	<b>97</b>	Pass a barrier (next to the surgery driveway) and continue ahead.		
36	<b>98</b>	Begin the right-turn into The Street (using the little corner-cut).		
37	<b>100</b>	[To visit <b>Shorne Church</b> , now divert instead to the <b>Detour</b> in the Appendix.]  <b>Main route:</b> At the T-junction at the end of The Street, turn left down the hill past the Rose and Crown.		5.01
38	<b>101</b>	When the main road swings right, instead leave it on the left to go along Swillers Lane.		
39	<b>103</b>	At the end, go straight ahead along a broad footpath.		
40	<b>105</b>	Go ahead through the woods. (Or go parallel on the right if the field edge is preferred to woodland.)		
41	<b>107</b>	[Map point] At the end of the wood, as a field opens out ahead, do not go into it, but turn right, down a steep path, still in the wood.		
42	<b>108</b>	At the bottom turn very briefly left (unless you chose the field edge in Direction 40). Then, in either case, turn right, to go along the right-hand edge of a large field.		
43	<b>112</b>	In the corner at the end, go slightly right into trees, then bend left to go along a narrow path, between hedges to start with. (Be sure not to stray to the right of the right-hand hedge.)		
44	<b>117</b>	At the bottom of a dip, negotiate a way past an inconveniently angled tree, and continue alongside the semblance of a stream.		
45	<b>118</b>	Another inconvenient tree!		
46		A few yards further on go through a wooden kissing gate, and carry on alongside a sloping field, staying close to the right-hand edge (especially at the end when the field narrows alongside a fence).		5.79
47	<b>121</b>	Go through the metal gate and, almost opposite, ahead along Bowesden Lane, alongside the See Ho.	695 703	

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
48	<b>122</b>	Where the road bends to the left, instead cross a stile to go straight ahead, down among trees, with a fence on the right at first.		
49	<b>125</b>	Emerge from the trees, and walk along the right-hand side of another big field, gently uphill at first, then down once the trees on the right come to an end. Then finally, at the bottom, pass along the right-hand side of the industrial enclosure.		
50	<b>130</b>	Approaching the main road, go through a metal gate, then take the sharper of the available right-turns, which is a metalled footpath, angling up and away from the busy traffic.		
51	<b>132</b>	At the top, turn left and carry on over the bridge.		
52	<b>133</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Immediately after the bridge swing right with the road, staying on left of it for a better sightline and verge.		
53	<b>134</b>	At the bottom turn left under the railway bridge. Then continue to swing left with the road, ignoring the 'footpath' signposts on both sides.		6.57
54	<b>136</b>	After the road has swung to the right, keep right at the fork, heading into woodland and passing a gate.		
55	<b>138</b>	Leave the roadway, forking right along a woodland path.		
56	<b>140</b>	Emerge from the trees on to the golf course. Continue more or less straight ahead across the whole of its expanse, always guided by the yellow-topped marker posts, and remaining alert to golf-ball hazards (in some, but surprisingly few, places).	691 692	
57	<b>147</b>	The line bends slightly rightwards after a clump of trees. Still follow the marker posts.		
58	<b>153</b>	At the end, joined by another track at a fine angle from the left, go straight ahead into trees.		
59	<b>154</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Cross a footbridge and, after a MKG, turn right along a broad path.		7.50
60	<b>158</b>	At the start of the farm buildings, go ahead through a MKG beside a big gate, and along the roadway.		
61	<b>167</b>	Reaching the main road next to the war memorial, cross Cobhambury Road and go ahead along the left-hand side of The Street.		8.14
62	<b>172</b>	Pass <b>Cobham Church</b> on the left.		
63		Turn right before the traffic constriction, and just after the houses, and then, after a few yards, half-left through a wooden kissing gate, aiming across the rough field to its far corner.		
64	<b>174</b>	At the corner turn half-right into an alleyway, and follow it left, right and left.		
65	<b>175</b>	Emerge among houses at the dead end of a cul-de-sac, and follow the roadway as it bends right and left.		
66	<b>176</b>	At the T-junction at the end of Sarsens Close, turn right.		
67	<b>177</b>	Then, when the road turns right, instead turn left up a broad, rough path.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
68	<b>178</b>	At the end swing right with the path, then immediately turn off it through a wooden kissing gate on the left, into the first part of Jeskyns Community Woodland. <b>!!F!!</b> Head across the field in the direction of a bench and then a pole.	669 688	
69	<b>181</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> About 150 yds. after the pole, reach a complicated junction of paths. Leave it in a virtually unchanged direction, taking the right fork (NS177, not NS177A) to go along a gravel track, up at first between two tall wooden figures.		8.94
70	<b>188</b>	When the track bends away to the left, instead carry straight on along a grassy path.		
71	<b>190</b>	When the path divides, take the leftward alternative.		
72	<b>192</b>	When you see green-topped posts over to the right, go across towards and past them, leaving the somewhat more obvious grassy path (so slightly right rather than straight on).		
73	<b>194</b>	Follow round to the left to go parallel to the railway, which is beyond the trees on your right.	665 699	
74	<b>196</b>	At the end go through the wooden kissing gate and turn right, staying on the pavement on the right-hand side of the road as it swings leftwards across two side roads and then up to the signposted roundabout.	662 701	9.68
75	<b>201</b>	Go anti-clockwise round that first roundabout, crossing the slip road from the A2, then going ahead across the bridge over it, keeping on the right-hand pavement. Stay on this pavement as it swings to the right past the rim of another roundabout, and walk all the way down towards another one.		
76	<b>204</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Go past this third roundabout, then turn left to cross the slip road (which leads traffic away from it on to the A2). Be aware that the traffic will be coming from your left!		
77	<b>205</b>	Cross the approach road leading to Nell's, and carry on down the right-hand side of the road.		
78	<b>209</b>	At the bottom, as the main road goes away to the left, go straight ahead alongside the little green. Then follow the side road to the right (Marling Way - you will be following Marling Way uphill along its right-hand side through its many turns, mostly to the right.)		10.41
79	<b>210</b>	After about 80 yds. turn left, uphill, with the road (ignoring the right-turn to Davy's Place).		
80	<b>212</b>	At the top of the steep climb follow the road leftwards.		
81	<b>215</b>	Ignore Astra Drive on the right.		
82	<b>220</b>	Just before Frobisher Way, use the zebra crossing to go over to the left-hand side.		
83	<b>221</b>	At the T-junction, opposite the Gravesend Boat, turn left.		
84	<b>222</b>	At the crossroads turn left along St Francis Avenue, and follow it as it winds left and right alongside a school and then goes straight ahead.		11.02
85	<b>228</b>	Reach the major road (St Hilda's Way) at the bottom and turn right along it, crossing when convenient.		
86	<b>236</b>	At the T-junction at the end, turn left (St Gregory's Crescent).		

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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
87		Go ahead, crossing St Aidan's Way, which leads to <b><u>St Aidan's Church</u></b> building.		
88	<b>237</b>	Reach the car park on the left, the starting point of the walk.	661 726	11.82

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## **APPENDIX to Full Circuit**

### **Detour to Shorne Church**

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
37A		At the T-junction in Direction 37, where the main road swings down to the left, instead turn right. Look out on the left for the short roadway leading to <b><u>Shorne Church</u></b> .		
37B	<b>1</b>	After visiting the church retrace your steps, turning right at the end of the church roadway, and rejoining the main route by going straight ahead at the road junction (where there would have been a left-turn at Direction 37).  <b>Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.09 miles to cumulative distances.</b>		

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## **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!



<b>CHALK - FULL CIRCUIT</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	3, 8, 13, 16, 24, 28-29, 36-37, 51-53, 61-62, 74-80	23
Quiet road \$\$	1-2, 4, 6-7, 10, 12, 14, 15b, 17-19, 25, 35, 38, 47, 50a, 60, 65-66, 81-87	32
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock	46	1
Field (or edge) without livestock **	5, 22, 30-32, 42, 49, 59b, 63b, 68-73	19
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	9, 11, 15a, 20-21, 23, 26-27, 33-34. 39a, 43b, 50b, 56-57, 59a, 63a, 64, 67	18
Woods	39b-41, 43a, 43c-45, 48, 54-55, 58	6

\*\* 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 (4)** – Details noted in winter 2018/19, but **subject to frequent change**:

All the stiles (the two in Direction **21**, and those in **23** and **48**) have easy gaps.