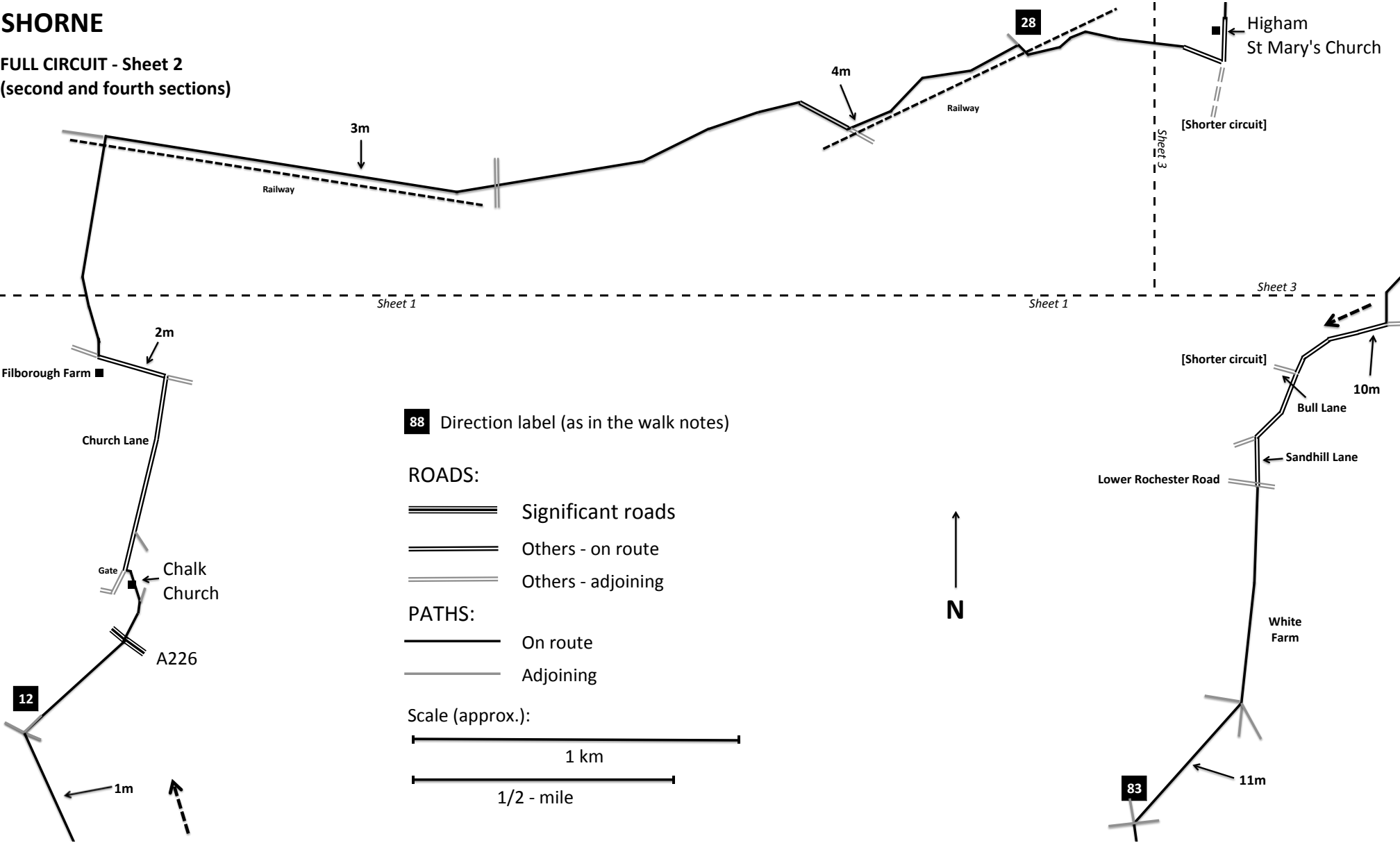


SHORNE

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2
(second and fourth sections)



SHORNE

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 3 (middle section)

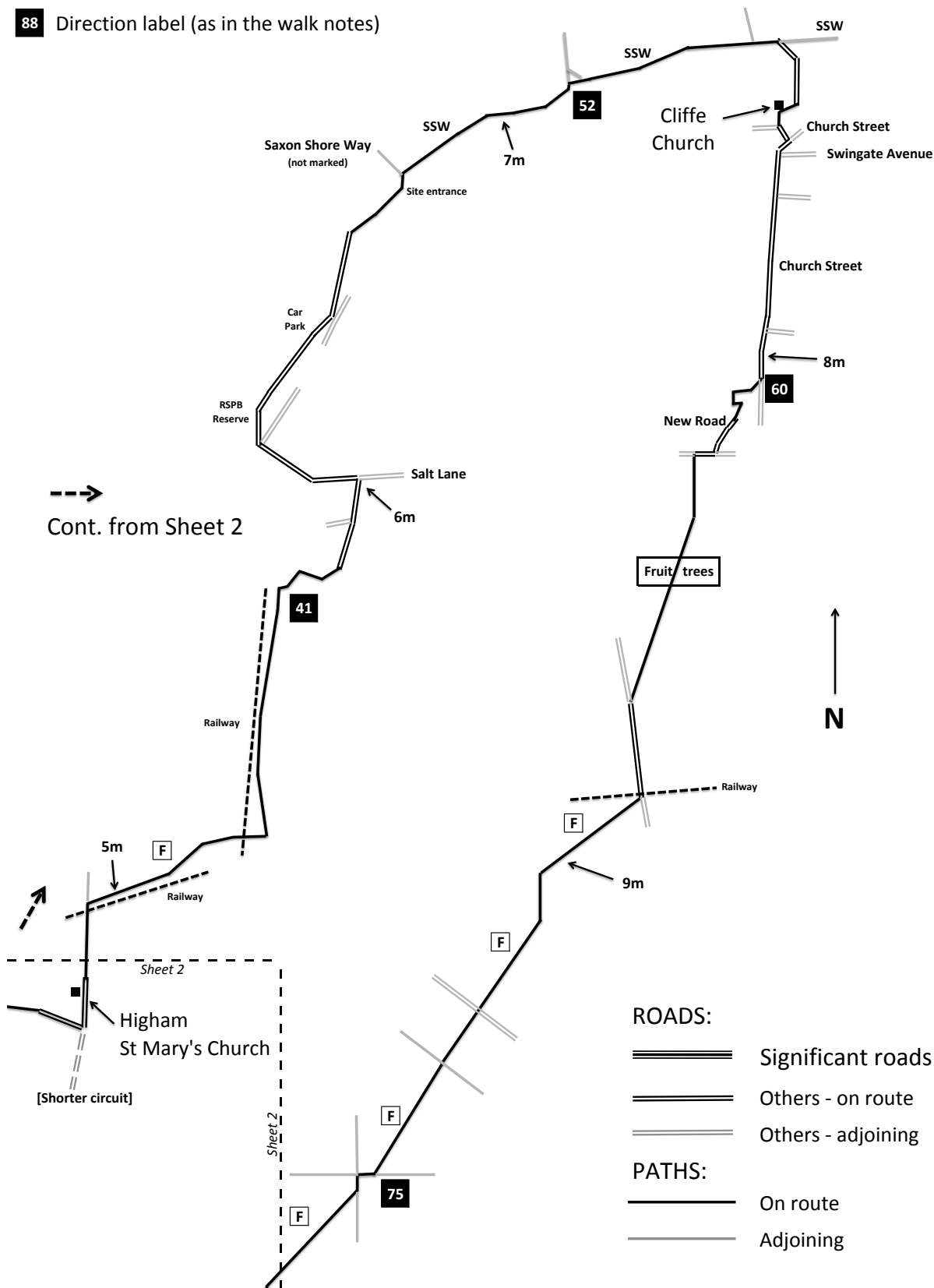
Scale (approx.):

1 km

1/2 - mile

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)



SHORNE CIRCUIT - 13.06 miles

Churches in the full circuit:

Shorne (start and finish)

Chalk (Direction 15)

Higham St Mary (32)

Cliffe (56)

Higham St John (85)

Associated local circuits

- CH2: Gravesend – Filborough – Chalk – Shorne - Gravesend
- CH1: Gravesend – Milton – Chalk – Riverview - Gravesend
- SN1: Shorne – Lower Higham – Higham - Shorne

Full circuit: Not a spectacular walk, but pleasant enough for the most part, and relatively flat and easy. The spine section takes the overall walk to the threshold of the Hoo peninsula. Rare prospect of close-hand engagement with slow-moving industrial trains.

Roads and hindrances:

Roads are not particularly a problem. The stretch from Filborough to Canal Road (Directions 21-23) is a splendid cycle route, but it seems very lightly used – certainly not enough to be unduly hazardous to those walking with due attention. Similarly, the railway crossings are well marked and protected, and easy to negotiate with ordinary care.

The narrow, partly woodland, stretch after the Beckley Hill site (25-26) is sometimes rather too overgrown for comfort, but perfectly passable.

The numerous stiles in 35-44 are somewhat tiresome, especially the one in 36 which demands a little ingenuity.

See the note in 66 about crossing the orchard: the need to think about navigation and ankles will slow you down a bit.

Similarly the field-crossing in 76 is unclear and uninviting and can be difficult underfoot.

FULL CIRCUIT

Shorne – Chalk – Canal Road – Church Street – Cliffe – Higham – Shorne

Notes taken: Spring 2019

The start and finish is at **Shorne Church** (DA12 3EG).

			OS	
1		At the end of the short approach roadway from the north side of <u>Shorne Church</u> , turn left, up the road.	691 711	

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
2	1	The road becomes a metalled footpath.		
3	2	Continue ahead, between houses.		
4	3	At the end turn left along the road. Ignore the footpath which is soon signposted on the left.		
5	7	Follow the road through its right-angle bend to the right, again ignoring the signposted footpath on the left.		
6	11	After the road starts to climb, and at the point where it bends to the left, next to the gates of Ifield Place (not Ifield Farm, which you pass earlier), turn right on to an enclosed narrow footpath.	684 710	
7	12	Emerge to walk along the right-hand edge of a field.		
8	13	Continue ahead, now along the left-hand side of a big field, keeping a high embankment on your left.		
9	15	Slip across slightly to the left, to continue ahead along the top of a little embankment.		
10	20	Continue ahead under power lines near the bottom of the dip.	682 716	0.85
11	22	Go up a short, steep bank; and on, slightly left, along the left-hand side of a field, with trees on your left.		
12	25	[Map point] Turn right along the crossing path, to go along the left-hand edge of the same field, with small trees on the left.		
13	30	Reach the main road and cross it to go along the narrow roadway (blocked off to traffic) which is more or less opposite.		
14	31	Leave the path by way of the second set of steps on the left (opposite a lych-gate), and go diagonally across the graveyard, heading towards a gap in the right-hand wall, about 30 yds. along.		
15	32	Go through the gap and continue in a similar diagonal direction, passing to the left of the floral tribute area, and going down steps to the left of Chalk Church , and on to the gate.		
16	33	At the gate turn right, down the roadway.		1.59
17	42	At the T-junction at the bottom, turn left.	684 732	
18	44	After the last of the buildings, at Filborough Farm, turn right along a rough footpath.		
19	46	Cross a stile and continue ahead towards the railway in the middle distance.		
20	53	Cross the railway on a level crossing, protected on both sides by stiles. Then go ahead on the footbridge over the canal.		
21	54	START OF THE SPINE SECTION Turn right along the cycle path.		2.52
22	69	Go through a squeeze barrier just after the junction with Queen's Farm Road, and continue ahead along the cycle path.		3.28
23	80	Go through the squeeze barrier at the end, and go, slightly rightwards, across the open area beyond, leading to the dead end of Canal Road.		
24	81	Start out along Canal Road.	704 740	
25	83	Just before the railway bridge turn left along a narrow path between the entrance to Beckley Hill Works on the left and the railway on the right.		3.98
26	85	Follow the path up a few steps on the right, and onwards keeping as close as possible to the railway's fence on the right.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
27	89	Continue ahead over a stile.		
28	92	[Map point] At a sign-board ('Shorne Marshes Circular Walks'), turn right to cross the railway, which is protected by stiles before and after. Then follow the path as it winds from side to side over a footbridge and raised walkways.		
29	98	Continue along the path as it leads into a more open area.		
30	99	Pass beside a gate and continue ahead along the roadway.		
31	101	END OF THE SPINE SECTION At the end keep left at the triangle and merge into the road coming from the right.		4.76
32		Pass the gateway to <u>Higham St Mary's Church</u> on the left.		
33	102	At the end of the roadway go straight ahead through the gate, and ahead along the right-hand side of a field towards the railway crossing visible in the middle distance.		
34	105	Go through the wooden kissing gate and over the railway and through the gate beyond. Then fork right (not through the gate directly ahead), towards a stile next to another gate.		
35	106	Go through the gate or cross the stile, and then take the right-hand option to go alongside the line of the railway on the right.		
36	109	[!!F!!] Go ahead across a footbridge which is about 50 yds. to the left of the field edge. It is one of those with tricky vertical planks (stiles, in effect) at each end. Then go under the main power lines, and on, almost parallel to a smaller pair of lines on the left (in fact edging slightly towards them) looking out for a metal gate in the field-edge ahead – by now about 50 yds. to the right of the latter power lines.		
37	113	Go through the gate and cross the railway. Then go through another gate very slightly on the left, and briefly on alongside a ditch on the left.	721 746	
38	114	Use the left-turn in the path to cross the ditch, and continue ahead in this new direction, edging back towards the railway over to your left, and then alongside it..		5.30
39	117	Cross a rather awkwardly placed stile and then a footbridge, still alongside the railway.		
40	120	Cross another stile, and continue along the field edge.		
41	123	[Map point] The next stile is about 10 yds. to the right of the corner. Cross it and head to the right over the small field towards the next one – in the right-hand edge, about 40 yds. along.		
42	124	Another stile into another small field.		
43	125	And over another stile near the corner (and next to the corner of a brick-walled enclosure). Then on along a broad path.		
44	127	After a swing to the left cross another stile.		
45	128	Go through a big gate on the roadway out of the farm.	724 754	
46	129	Carry straight on, passing the 'West Court Farm' sign, and merging with a road coming in from the left.		
47	131	At the T-junction at the end turn left.		6.01
48	135	At the end, take the less sharp of the two right turns, leading, with a swing to the right at the gates, into the RSPB Reserve.		

* *"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
49	138	Where the parking area opens out on the left, go straight on passing the notice board at the far end, and then joining the metalled road..		
50	140	Go through the squeeze gate, and on.		
51	144	Keep left away from the site gates, then a few seconds later take the right fork (now briefly Saxon Shore Way, though not yet marked as such).		6.73
52	151	[Map point] Pass a barrier and swing left, then immediately, by a distinctive wooden seat, take a narrow path on the right, into trees.		
53	152	Merge right into broad, rough road.		
54	159	Take the second of the swings to the right to go up the roadway, passing Church Close on the left.		
55	161	Go straight ahead, briefly, at the Black Bull.		
56		Turn right at Stockers Gatehouse and go through using the permissive path which passes the south side of Cliffe Church .		7.53
57	162	Reaching the gate at the end, just beyond the south-west corner of the church, go through it and along the roadway, with the car park over to your right.	736 766	
58	163	At the junction by the Six Bells turn right along the major road, walking along the left-hand side.		
59	169	Continue ahead, ignoring Millcroft Road on your left.		
60	171	[Map point] Next to the sign for Cliffe Bowls Club cross to the right-hand side and go diagonally across the field, cutting off the corner on the left, and heading towards the corner at the far end of the chain-link fence on the left.		
61	172	At that corner follow the fence round to the left, then very soon, at the end, go left and right along an enclosed alleyway.		
62	173	Reach the dead end of a cul-de-sac and start along it.		
63	174	At the road junction, turn right.		
64	175	Immediately after house number 29 turn left along the signposted enclosed path.		8.23
65	177	Emerge to go along the left-hand side of an orchard.		
66	178	<p>At the first corner go to the right for about 30 yds., then left at the corner of another orchard.</p> <p><i>The next section of the route involves navigating an unsignposted diagonal path among the fruit trees. This leads 'against the grain' of the straight lines formed by the trees themselves. The trick is to look out for gaps between the trees and their supporting posts: for the most part they are closely spaced, but your path crosses each line at a point where the gap is significantly bigger. (Go by the tree-posts and ignore sporadic undergrowth growing up in your gaps. And generally be a little wary of the undergrowth and the potentially ankle-twisting unevenness it conceals.)</i></p> <p>After another 25 yds. or so find the first of those bigger gaps on the right and go through it at an angle about 20 degrees to the right of the line of the trees.</p>		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
67	181	Reaching the end of this diagonal, walk on parallel to the lines (currently alongside a wire fence) for about 30 yds. to move ahead through a gap (slightly to the right) into a new field. There first move one row across to the right. Then go ahead and again look for the first bigger gap on the right, about 15 yds. along, to start you off on a diagonal much like the previous one. The gaps are now a little narrower and less easy to spot.		
68	184	Reach the far edge and go left along it for about 25 yds. to a stile in the corner.	732 750	
69		Cross the stile and go leftwards along Buckland Road.		
70	188	!!!F!!! Immediately after the bridge over the railway, turn to the right, as signposted, and go diagonally across a large field, passing eventually under power lines, aiming at a point about 30 yds. to the left of the first of the pylons which are set back in the trees on the far side.		
71	192	Reaching that point on the edge of the trees, look for a narrow gap where there is a footbridge. Cross it and go ahead along a winding track among trees.		9.05
72	194	!!!F!!! Emerge from the trees and go a little to the right across the next field, passing about 20 yds. to the left of the nearest pole.		
73	198	Continue straight ahead across a rough road, going down the right-hand edge of a field alongside a fence.		
74	201	!!!F!!! At the bottom go straight across another roadway and up into the next field, with the help of a wooden rail at first.		
75	207	[Map point] Merge right into a first crossing path, and about 40 yds. further on turn left at another one. Then go ahead about 90 yds. to another junction, where a broad track leads off to the right.		
76	208	!!!F!!! This is not the track to follow, but by some means your right of way needs to bisect the angle between it and the path by which you have approached, going diagonally across the large field (so, neither straight on nor right, but between the two: bearing 227). The exact line is currently not visible on the ground, but, walking across, aim at a point, beyond a strip of undergrowth, about 100 yds. to the right of the left-hand end of the trees on the far side. Halfway across there comes into view (currently) a blue water butt in the undergrowth: the line goes about 30 yds. to the left of it.	724 737	
77	215	Having mastered the undergrowth and gone all the way across to the row of trees (and, if really lucky, reached a reassuring waymark post!) turn left alongside them, and on towards a barrier at a road.		9.91
78	216	Reaching the road turn right along it.	722 733	
79	222	Pass Bull Lane on the right and continue ahead.		
80	224	After a right-hand bend, and just before a second one, turn left along Sandhill Lane.		

* ***"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
81	226	Cross a main road and continue ahead (along a road marked 'Private' for vehicles).		
82	236	After the last of the buildings of White House Farm, take the middle of the three possible forward tracks – the one which goes about 40 degrees to the right, the line aiming a little to the right of the church visible in the distance.		10.84
83	243	[Map point] At the end turn left to go along the right-hand edge of the field, with a hedge on the right, eventually uphill.		
84	247	At the T-junction at the top, turn right along the road.	715 714	
85	249	Pass the steps leading down to the churchyard of Higham St John's Church on the right, and continue ahead along the road.		
86	250	At the first road junction ignore the road on the right and swing slightly left towards the Gardeners Arms.		
87	251	At the Gardeners Arms go straight ahead keeping it on your left, and start along Villa Road.		11.56
88	253	Turn right along Norah Lane.		
89	255	When the road ends continue ahead along the rough footpath between the drives to various houses.		
90	257	Opposite house number 60 (at the 'No Through Road' sign) turn left along the road.		
91	263	At the end follow the rough roadway round to the left, then to the right to join the A226.		
92	264	Walk along the right-hand pavement alongside the road.		
93	267	Cross the road at the second island and, on the other side, go through the unlikely-looking gap in the trees about 40 yds. further on. After a few seconds this opens up on the right to the start of a path leading gently upwards across a large field.		12.32
94	274	Go straight ahead into the trees (ignoring a variety of waymarks).		
95	278	Emerge at the dead-end of a cul-de-sac. and go ahead along it.		
96	280	Turn right along the major road at the end.		
97	281	At the road junction just above and beyond the Rose and Crown, where the major road swings right, instead continue straight ahead.		
98	282	Reach the approach roadway to Shorne Church on the left, the starting point of the walk.	691 711	13.06

* ***"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!

SHORNE - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	17, 47, 55, 57-59, 69, 78-79, 85-87, 92, 96	13
Quiet road \$\$	1, 4-5, 16, 24, 30-32, 44-46, 48-50a, 53-54, 62-63, 80-81a, 84, 88, 90-91, 95, 97	25
Open field with livestock	41-43	1
Edge of field with livestock	40	1
Field (or edge) without livestock **	7-12a, 19, 27, 29a, 33-36, 38-39, 60-61a, 70, 72-77, 81b-83, 93	32
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	2-3, 6, 12b-15, 18, 20-23, 25, 28a, 29b, 37, 50b-51, 56, 61b, 64-68, 89, 94b	24
Woods	26, 28b, 52, 71, 94a	5

** 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 (16) – Details noted in Spring 2019, but **subject to frequent change**:

Of the many stiles on this walk, most have easy gaps (the one in Direction **19**, both those in **20**, the first one in **28**, the one in **35**, both those in **36**, and those in **39**, **40** and **69**).

The stile in **27** is wired down, with rises of about 18 ins. and 30 ins., but has big holes.

The second one in **28** is wired down only at the bottom – rises of about 6 ins. and 18 ins.

Those in **41** and **43** are wired down with rises of about 12 ins. and 24 ins.

The stile in **42** is similar, but its upper rise is very big (about 36 ins.).

The one in **44** is a double one, wired down with rises of about 12 ins., 12 ins. and 18 ins.