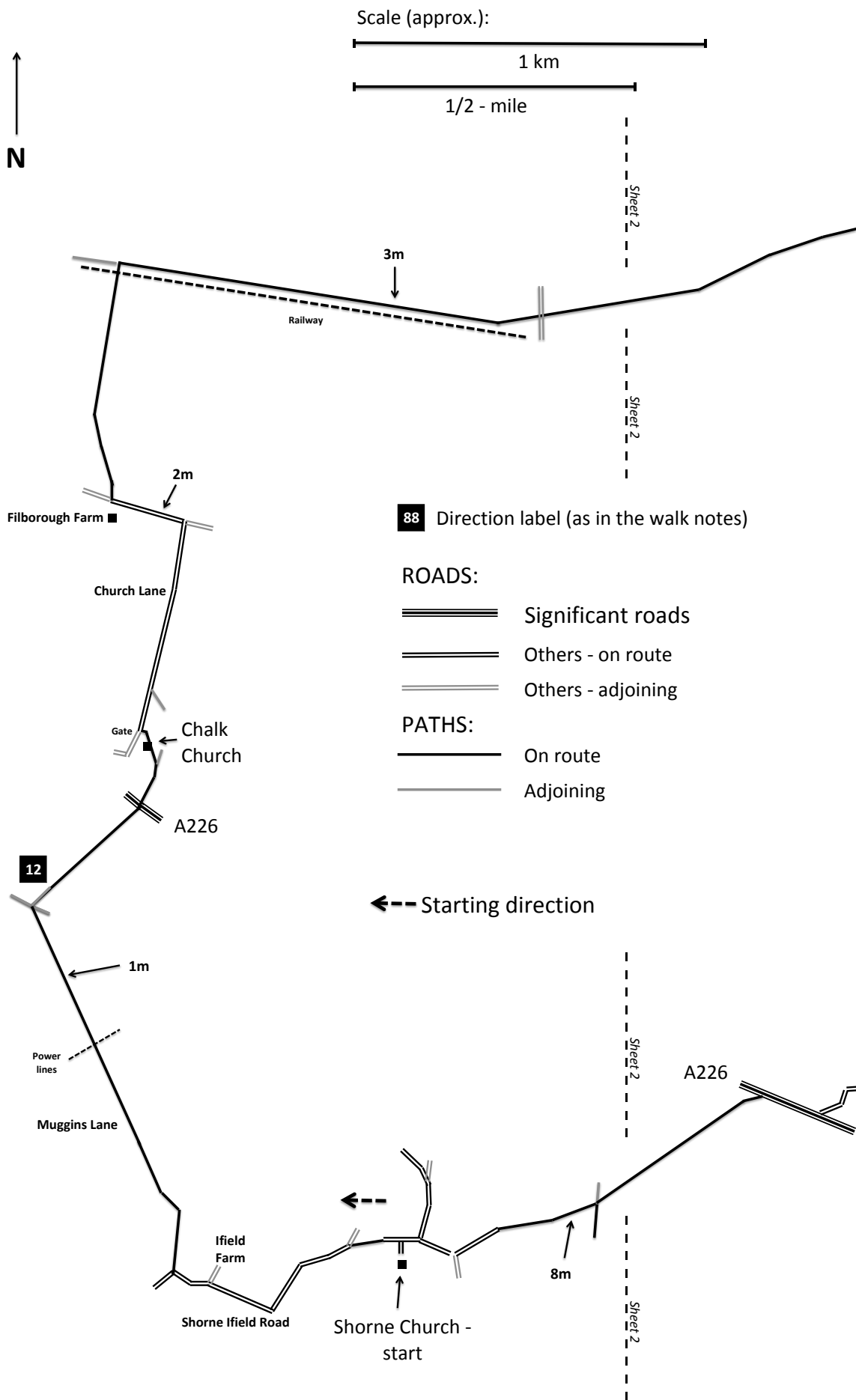


SHORNE

SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 1
(first and last sections)

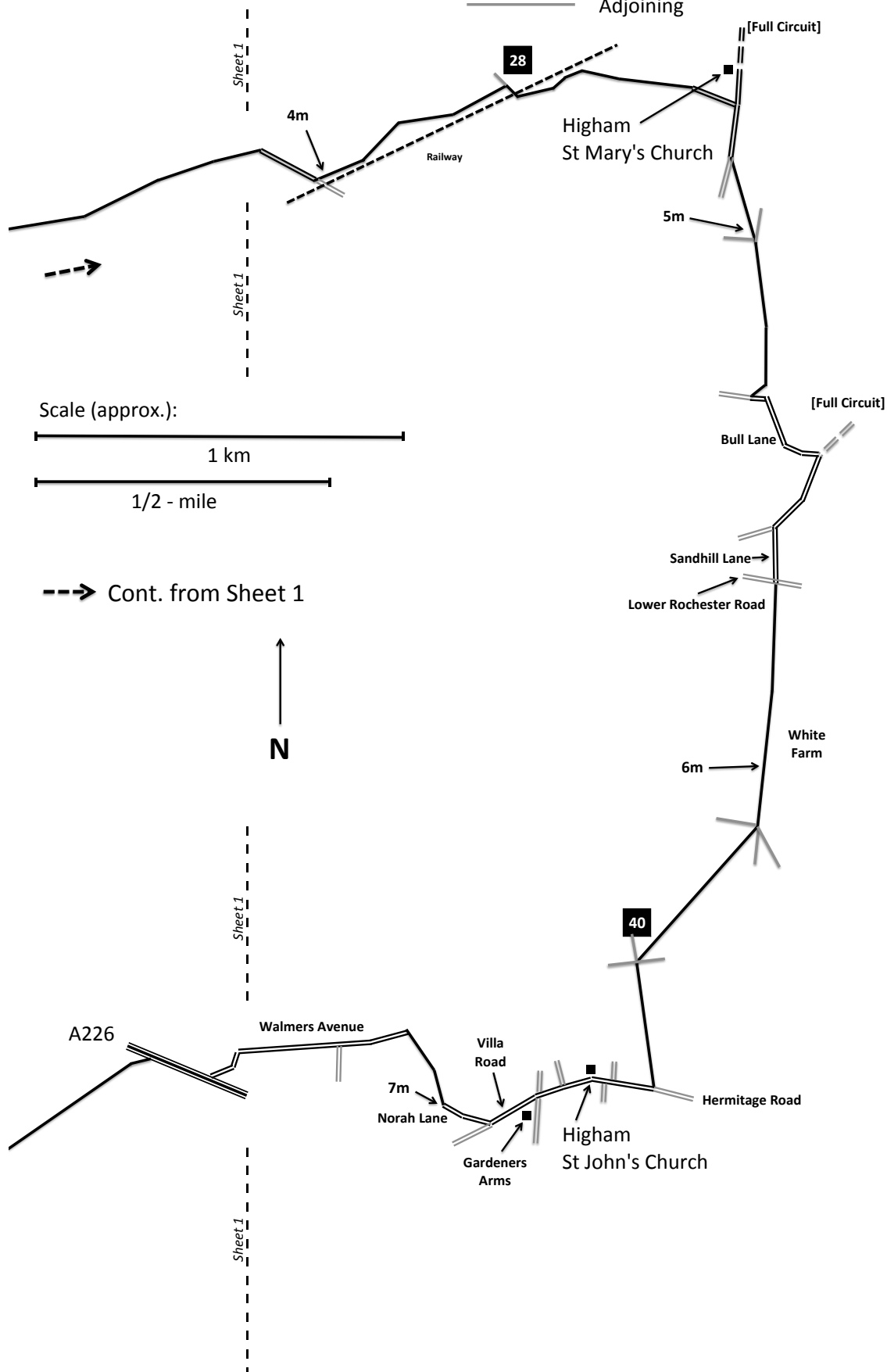


SHORTER CIRCUIT - Sheet 2 (middle section)

ROADS:

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

 On route
 Adjoining



SHORNE CIRCUIT - shorter: 8.32 miles

Churches in the shorter circuit:

Shorne (start and finish)

Chalk (Direction 15)

Higham St Mary (32)

Higham St John (42)

Associated local circuits

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

Shorter circuit: Like its full-circuit counterpart, 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.

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.

SHORTER CIRCUIT

Shorne – Chalk – Canal Road – Lower Higham – Higham – Shorne

Notes taken: Spring 2019

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
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	
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.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
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.		
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.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
30	99	Pass beside a gate and continue ahead along the roadway.		
31	101	END OF THE SPINE SECTION At the triangle at the end, the entrance to Higham St Mary's Church is a few yards along to the left. But to continue on the route instead turn right.		4.76
32	102	Fork left away from the road on the signposted footpath across the field.	717 740	
33	105	Go straight ahead over an angled crossing path.		
34	108	Continue ahead, with a hedge now on the right.		
35	111	After a slight bend to the right, reach a road and turn left along it, following it through bends left and right.		
36	114	At the T-junction at the end turn right.		5.45
37	116	After a right-hand bend, and just before a second one, turn left along Sandhill Lane.		
38	118	Cross a main road and continue ahead (along a road marked 'Private' for vehicles).		
39	128	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.		6.10
40	135	[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.		
41	139	At the T-junction at the top, turn right along the road.	715 714	
42	141	Pass the steps leading down to the churchyard of Higham St John's Church on the right, and continue ahead along the road.		
43	142	At the first road junction ignore the road on the right and swing slightly left towards the Gardeners Arms.		
44	143	At the Gardeners Arms go straight ahead keeping it on your left, and start along Villa Road.		6.82
45	145	Turn right along Norah Lane.		
46	147	When the road ends continue ahead along the rough footpath between the drives to various houses.		
47	149	Opposite house number 60 (at the 'No Through Road' sign) turn left along the road.		
48	155	At the end follow the rough roadway round to the left, then to the right to join the A226.		
49	156	Walk along the right-hand pavement alongside the road.		
50	159	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.		7.58
51	166	Go straight ahead into the trees (ignoring a variety of waymarks).		
52	170	Emerge at the dead-end of a cul-de-sac. and go ahead along it.		
53	172	Turn right along the major road at the end.		
54	173	At the road junction just above and beyond the Rose and Crown, where the major road swings right, instead continue straight ahead.		
55	174	Reach the approach roadway to Shorne Church on the left, the starting point of the walk.	691 711	8.32

* "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 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 - SHORTER CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	17, 36, 42-44, 49, 53	7
Quiet road \$\$	1, 4-5, 16, 24, 30-31, 35, 37-38a, 41, 45, 47-48, 52, 54	28
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	7-12a, 19, 27, 29a, 32-34, 38b-40, 50	33
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	2-3, 6, 12b-15, 18, 20-23, 25, 28a, 29b, 46, 51b	26
Woods	26, 28b, 51a	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 (6) – Details noted in Spring 2019, but subject to frequent change:

The stile in Direction **19**, both those in **20**, and the first one in **28** have easy gaps.

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.