

LOCAL CIRCUIT SN1: CHALK & HIGHAM

- [F] Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')
- 88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

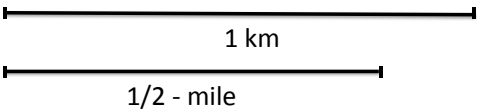
ROADS:

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

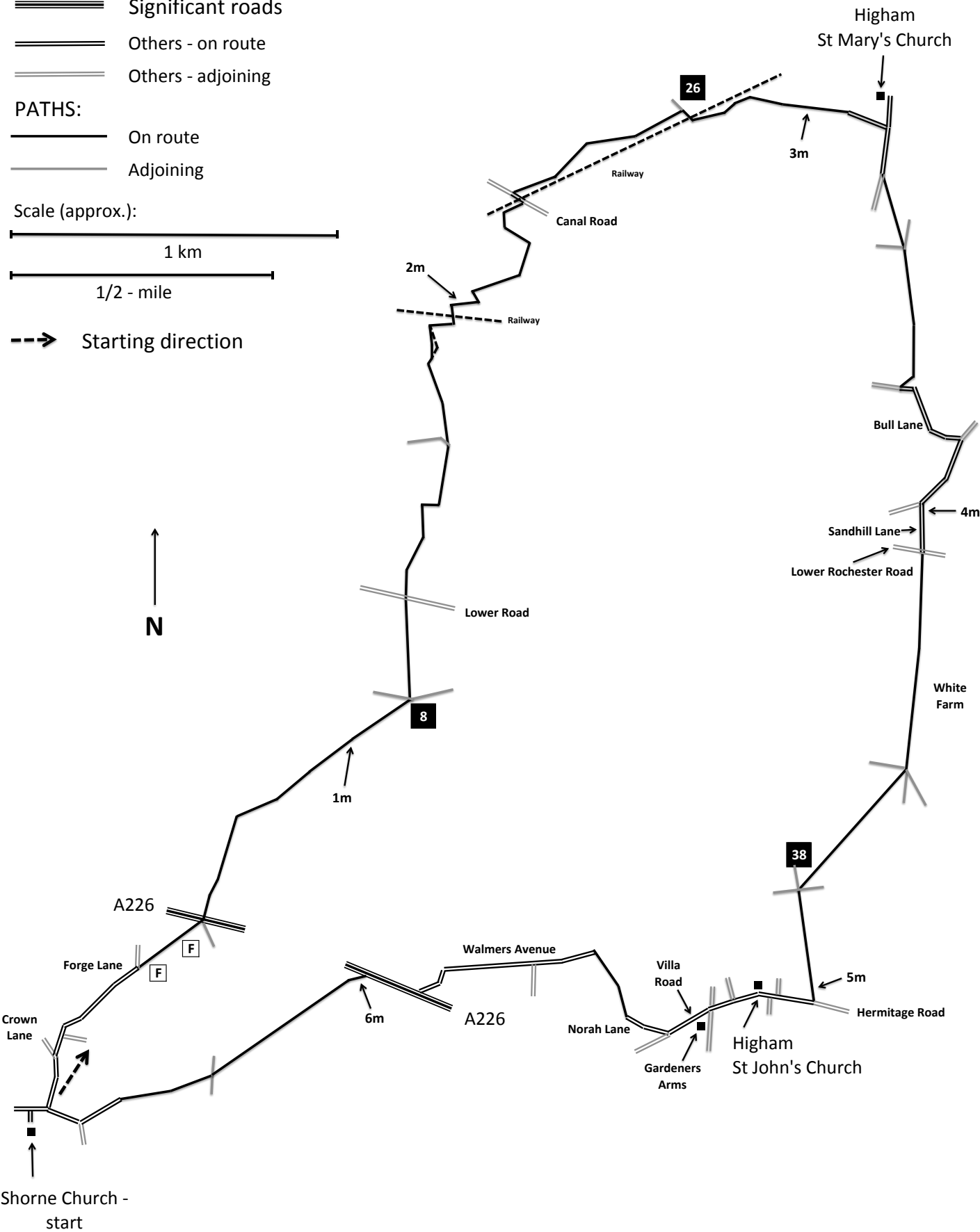
PATHS:

- On route
- Adjoining

Scale (approx.):



--> Starting direction



## LOCAL CIRCUIT SN1: CHALK AND HIGHAM - 6.72 miles

### Linked churches:

Shorne (start and finish)

Higham St Mary (Direction 29)

Higham St John (40)

### Roads and hindrances:

Roads are not particularly a problem.

The 'official' route at Direction 15 (see the note) might prove too overgrown (even if you spot the turn-off!). The worst bit is at the start, so if it looks too uninviting the alternative (incorrect, strictly speaking, and involving a step over a fence) will serve well instead.

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 (23-24) is sometimes rather too overgrown for comfort, but perfectly passable.

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 <b><u>Shorne Church</u></b> , turn right, down the road, then, keeping on the left-hand pavement, very soon swing left along the main road at the junction and pass the Village Hall on your left.	691 711	
2	2	Continue ahead down Forge Lane (as Crown Lane goes away to the left).		
3	6	As the road swings to the left after the last of the houses, leave it by way of a MKG up on the right. <b>[!!F!!]</b> After the gate, cross the field diagonally leftwards, heading towards another MKG about halfway along the far edge.		
4	9	<b>[!!F!!]</b> Go through that MKG and continue ahead in the same direction.		
5	10	Go through a gap, about 40 yds. to the left of a pole, to reach and cross the A226. Then continue directly opposite along the right-hand side of the fence.		
6	12	Continue along the left-hand edge as a huge field opens up on the right.		
7	15	Bend to the right with the track, closely following the course of the power lines above, up a gentle rise and down beyond.		0.73
8	23	<b>[Map point]</b> Where the power lines fork, follow the left-hand branch, turning left along a small embankment.		
9	27	As the field-edge bends to the right, leave it by going straight ahead down a little drop to meet a road.		

\* ***"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
10		Cross the road and continue along the broad track opposite.	702 727	
11	<b>28</b>	Continue ahead as large fields open out.		
12	<b>31</b>	Follow the track as it goes right and left, passing to the right of a dilapidated brick structure.		1.51
13	<b>34</b>	Continue ahead, ignoring a right-fork up a grassy bank.		
14	<b>35</b>	Go slightly left, as waymarked, to follow the left-hand field-edge, passing underneath power lines.		
15	<b>39</b>	<p><i>For the next few minutes the way ahead described is currently (January 2019) very overgrown, though, unlike on an earlier visit, just about passable. If deterred by this there is the alternative – incorrect but entirely reasonable under the circumstances – of ignoring the waymarked drop to the stile and instead continuing along the field edge. If you do this you will need eventually to climb over the fence on the left to join the correct path: you will see after a while where conditions on the left have become reasonable, which happens a fair distance before the final right-turn corner of the field-edge. (If you cross the fence before that corner it will not present much of a problem: afterwards it becomes a bit more challenging.)</i></p> <p>A little way after a slight right-hand bend in the field-edge – there is a waymark, but currently it is partly concealed, and needs looking out for! – the right of way goes down to the left through a gap, and over a stile about 20 yds. later.</p>		
16	<b>41</b>	After the overgrown section the path turns right between fences (parallel to the corner of the field-edge).		
17	<b>42</b>	Cross the railway tracks, by going left, first, through a wooden kissing gate, then through a MKG over the main tracks, and beyond through a white swing-gate and turning right.		
18	<b>43</b>	Turn left and go through or past a couple of MKGs at a further minor rail track, and continue ahead along a grassy path between fences.		
19	<b>44</b>	Turn right with the path.		
20	<b>47</b>	Follow the path as it starts to bend to the left.		
21	<b>50</b>	Again turn right with the path.		
22	<b>51</b>	At the end turn left along the road.	706 739	
23		Immediately after the railway bridge turn right along a narrow path between the entrance to Beckley Hill Works on the left and the railway on the right.		2.38
24	<b>53</b>	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.		
25	<b>57</b>	Continue ahead over a stile.		
26	<b>60</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> 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.		
27	<b>66</b>	Continue along the path as it leads into a more open area.		
28	<b>67</b>	Pass beside a gate and continue ahead along the roadway.		
29	<b>69</b>	At the triangle at the end, the entrance to <b>Higham St Mary's Church</b> is a few yards along to the left. But to continue on the route instead turn right.		3.16

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
30	<b>70</b>	Fork left away from the road on the signposted footpath across the field.	717 740	
31	<b>73</b>	Go straight ahead over an angled crossing path.		
32	<b>76</b>	Continue ahead, with a hedge now on the right.		
33	<b>79</b>	After a slight bend to the right, reach a road and turn left along it, following through bends left and right.		
34	<b>82</b>	At the T-junction at the end turn right.		3.85
35	<b>84</b>	After a right-hand bend, and just before a second one, turn left along Sandhill Lane.		
36	<b>86</b>	Cross a main road and continue ahead (along a road marked 'Private' for vehicles).		
37	<b>96</b>	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.		4.50
38	<b>103</b>	[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.		
39	<b>107</b>	At the T-junction at the top, turn right along the road.	715 714	
40	<b>109</b>	Pass the steps leading down to the churchyard of <b>Higham St John's Church</b> on the right, and continue ahead along the road.		
41	<b>110</b>	At the first road junction ignore the road on the right and swing slightly left towards the Gardeners Arms.		
42	<b>111</b>	At the Gardeners Arms go straight ahead keeping it on your left, and start along Villa Road.		5.22
43	<b>113</b>	Turn right along Norah Lane.		
44	<b>115</b>	When the road ends continue ahead along the rough footpath between the drives to various houses.		
45	<b>117</b>	Opposite house number 60 (at the 'No Through Road' sign) turn left along the road.		
46	<b>123</b>	At the end follow the rough roadway round to the left, then to the right to join the A226.		
47	<b>124</b>	Walk along the right-hand pavement alongside the road.		
48	<b>127</b>	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.		5.98
49	<b>134</b>	Go straight ahead into the trees (ignoring a variety of waymarks).		
50	<b>138</b>	Emerge at the dead-end of a cul-de-sac. and go ahead along it.		
51	<b>140</b>	Turn right along the major road at the end.		
52**	<b>141</b>	At the road junction just above and beyond the Rose and Crown, where the major road swings right: <b><u>either, to continue the circuit</u></b> (if not visiting, or finishing at, Shorne Church), carry on from the middle of Direction 1, by following the right-turn and passing the Village Hall on your left;		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
** or 52A	<b>141</b>	<b>... or, to detour to, or finish at, Shorne Church,</b> continue straight ahead.		
52B	<b>142</b>	Reach the approach roadway to <b>Shorne Church</b> on the left.		6.72
52C		If returning to the circuit having visited the church, resume from Direction 1.	691 711	

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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>LOCAL CIRCUIT SN1</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	1b-2, 34, 40-42, 47, 51	12
Quiet road \$\$	1a, 22, 28-29, 33, 35-36a, 39, 43, 45-46, 50, 52A	22
Open field with livestock	3	1
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	4-8, 11-14, 25, 27a, 30-32, 36b-38, 48	42
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	9-10, 15-21, 23, 26a, 27b, 44, 49b	14
Woods	24, 26b, 49a	8

\*\* 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 Spring 2019, but **subject to frequent change**:

The stile in **15** (if you are taking on the 'official' route) is not in good condition. In principle it has an easy gap at the bottom, but that is currently blocked by the undergrowth. But there remains an easy gap above the first rise (about 18 ins.)

The stile in **25** is wired down, with rises of about 18 ins. and 30 ins., but has big holes.

The first one in **26** has easy gaps.

The second one is wired down, but only at the bottom. Its rises are about 6 ins. and 18 ins.