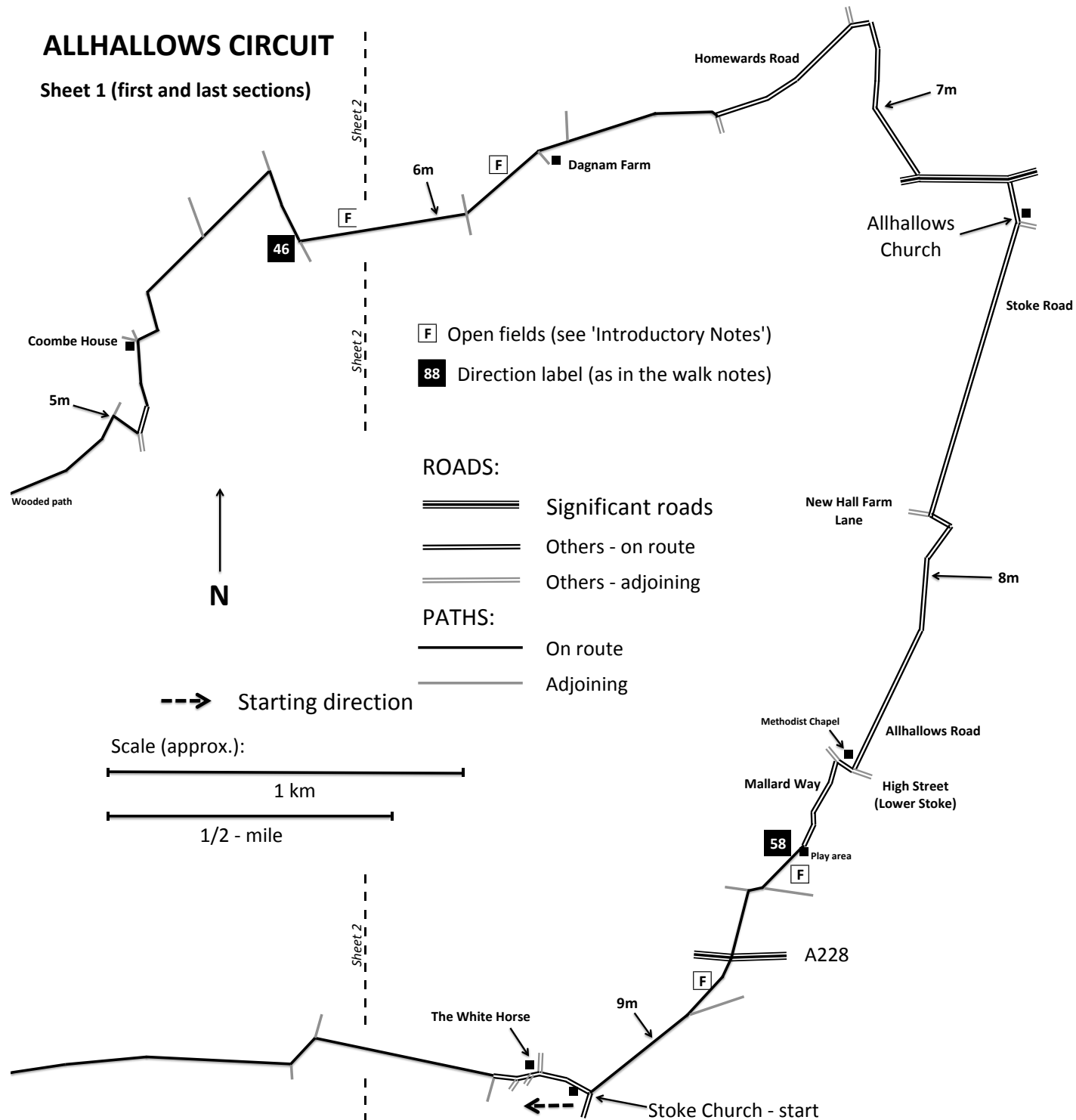


ALLHALLOWS CIRCUIT

Sheet 1 (first and last sections)



ALLHALLOWS CIRCUIT

Sheet 2 (middle section)

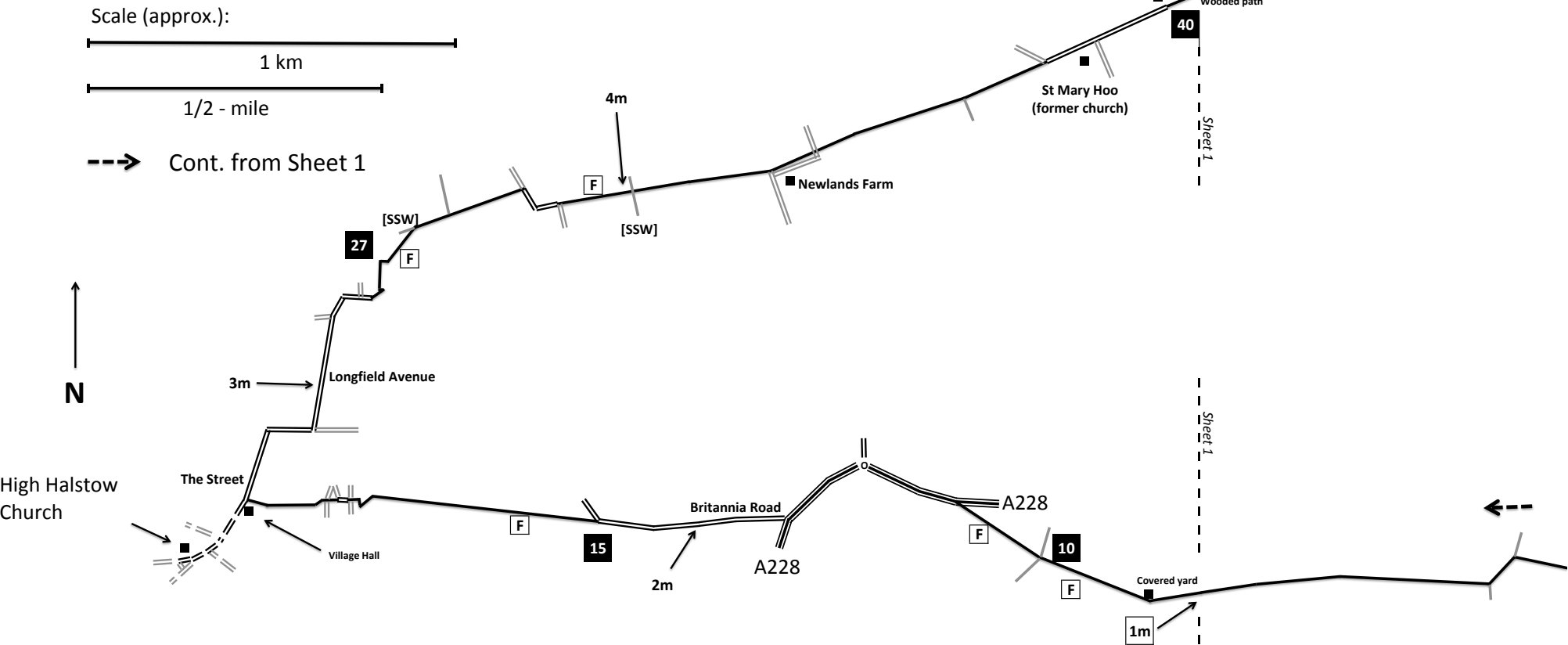
ROADS:

- 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)



ALLHALLOWS CIRCUIT - 9.19 miles

Churches in the circuit:

Stoke (start and finish)

High Halstow (Direction 22B: Detour – see Appendix)

Allhallows (54)

Walks on the Hoo Peninsula

Because of the greater distances between the churches I have adopted a compromise approach to developing the walks on the peninsula. In each of the five circuits (Cliffe, High Halstow and Hoo, Allhallows, Stoke and Grain, Kingsnorth) there is just one walk – not a ‘full’ or ‘shorter’ circuit, but mostly of a length in between (‘Stoke and Grain’ being a flexible exception!) – and there are also no ‘local’ circuits.

The continuity of the spine route nevertheless remains unbroken throughout.

This circuit:

This walk consists for the most part of quietly beautiful countryside, particularly in the section from High Halstow to Allhallows. The view across the estuary down to the left of the approach to Allhallows is in its own way quite special.

Roads and hindrances:

The A228 needs crossing twice (Directions 11 and 61). It is moderately busy, but the sightlines are good enough and there should not be any special difficulty. Traffic on the short approach to Allhallows (52) can be quite brisk, but is manageable. All the other roads are usually quiet.

There have been, as mentioned in the notes, minor hindrances in Directions 40 (nettles – perhaps now gone?) and 41 (barred gate – avoidable). Neither is grievous.

ALLHALLOWS CIRCUIT

Stoke – High Halstow – St Mary Hoo – Allhallows – Stoke

Notes taken: Summer 2018

The start and finish is at Stoke Church, The Street, Upper Stoke (near ME3 9SA).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		At the lych-gate of Stoke Church , in Upper Stoke, turn left and walk along the road.	824 751	
2	1	Continue straight ahead, along Vicarage Lane, passing the White Horse on the right. Keep straight on at the first fork.		
3	2	Just after Bluebell Cottage, ignore Vicarage Close on the left, but continue ahead between houses, including The Cottage on your left.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
4	3	After The Cottage, go ahead on to the field path.		
5	10	Turn left with the track at a waymark post, keeping a line of three trees on your left..		
6	11	After the trees turn right along a broad track.		
7	18	Continue straight ahead along a grassy passageway, keeping to the right of the gated enclosure above.		0.86
8	23	Go ahead keeping as close as possible to the covered yard on the right.		
9	24	!!!F!!! At the far end of the covered yard, set out across the large field ahead. The direction is almost exactly toward the distant black-on-white roundabout signpost on the road over on the right. Follow this line unerringly, ignoring any angled crossing tracks. (Bearing 300.)		
10	28	[Map point] !!!F!!! Continue ahead over a crossing path. The direction can now be seen more exactly to be slightly to the right of the roundabout signpost, directly towards the red-edged 'roundabout ahead' sign at the roadside.		
11	32	Emerge carefully at the roadside: there is a concealed dip in the undergrowth a step or two before you reach the road. Cross the road and turn left along the pavement on its far side.	801 754	
12	35	Go anti-clockwise round the roundabout, following the main road in its left turn, after crossing the two arms of the Ratcliffe Highway. Then, approaching the right-turn which is not far ahead, the verge on this right-hand side of the main road is currently just about adequate: there is a good pavement on the other side if you need it.		
13	39	Turn right along Britannia Road.		1.83
14	40	Stay on the road, as the Saxon Shore Way turns away on the right.		
15	45	[Map point] !!!F!!! As the road bends to the right, go straight ahead on a well-concealed path, marked by a yellow-topped post. This crosses a rough open field in the direction of the right-hand end of those houses on the other side which are visible at this point (though many more will soon come into sight).		
16	52	On reaching the houses, continue straight ahead along a grassy avenue between their back fences.		
17	53	Continue in much the same direction, though bending left and right to deal with a footbridge.		
18	54	Continue ahead along Ruggles Close, using the footway on the left, above the grass.		
19	55	But now cross the end of Ruggles Close and continue ahead along the metalled footpath opposite.		
20	56	Emerge to walk along the right-hand side of a big playing field.	783 754	
21	57	Keep right to walk ahead towards the 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
22	58	<i>[To visit High Halstow Church, now divert instead to the Detour in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: START OF THE SPINE SECTION Turn right along The Street, eventually following it as it swings to the right.		2.74
23	61	Turn left along Longfield Avenue.		
24	65	Swing right with the road, and continue to very end (ignoring Marsh Crescent).		
25	66	Then go half-left, next to house number 56, along the alleyway.		
26	67	Follow the alley as it turns left. Then go through a MKG on the left, and on for a few yards after it, before turning right to go along the right-hand edge of a field.		
27	68	[Map point] Turn right to go through a waymarked gap among trees, passing a redundant stile.		
28		!!!F!! Emerge from the trees and turn half-left towards a waymark post in the middle distance. (Bearing 040.)		
29	70	At that post, turn half-right, now joining the Saxon Shore Way, going gently uphill along the left-hand edge of a huge field.		
30	72	Continue ahead, as the hedge on the left comes to an end.		
31	74	Turn right along the road and immediately follow it through its left-hand bend.		
32	75	!!!F!! As the road bends to the right, instead continue straight ahead (along a footpath which is currently very overgrown!). (Bearing 080.)		
33	78	At the crosspaths go straight ahead along a broad path between huge fields (parting from the SSW as it goes away to the right).		3.74
34	83	At the end turn very slightly left into a garden (through which the right of way passes). There is a bench, which I understand walkers are welcome to use ('so long as they leave no litter' - obviously!). Continue ahead down steps to join a rough driveway.	796 763	
35	84	After a few yards, when that driveway bends left, instead go straight on along a grassy path along the right-hand edge of yet another huge field.		
36	92	Join The Street, virtually straight ahead.		
37	93	Pass St Mary's Church (no longer a church!).		
38	94	At the junction at Pudding Cottage, just after the old school house, go straight ahead along Moat Farm Road.		4.55
39	97	Go slightly left into the farmyard of Moat Farm, then, after the pond on the left, reaching an open area on the right, edge across the grass to a small wooded opening in the far right-hand corner.		
40	98	[Map point] Go through the opening, visible only at the last moment, and ahead along a wooded path, at present thoroughly unpleasant with nettles (but just passable)!		

* **"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
41	105	<p>Escape through a gap on the right, to a corner of a fenced-off field. The simplest, and currently recommended, way from here is, having effectively turned right, to go along a narrow path between, on your left, the (electric) fence along the field's right-hand side and, on your right, a hedge, walking towards the roadway ahead.</p> <p><i>It ought to be possible to go over the rough stile (with easy gaps) and on, diagonally across the field on the direct line towards the buildings at the far corner (reached between Directions 42 and 43 of the recommended route). But that would involve opening a gate in the crossing fence which is currently tied shut in an exceptionally unhelpful way. It is not worth taking the time to deal with it, hence the very slightly longer route recommended.</i></p>	810 770	
42	106	Turn left along the roadway (ignoring the signpost opposite).		
43	109	At a T-junction after the buildings, turn right, and follow the main path as it bends gently left then right. (Ignore the left-turning waymark.)		
44	114	When the main path swings decisively leftwards, instead go straight ahead, initially between trees and bushes.		
45	117	Go through a MKG and across a rough parking area, and then turn right along the crossing track.		5.61
46	121	[Map point] !!!F!! After a slight right-hand bend, look out for a path on the left (RS7, easy to miss), and, after a step up through a gap in the thick hedge, go ahead across the field. (Bearing 075.)		
47	128	!!!F!! At a crossing with a larger path, at a finger-post, go slightly left to keep to the left of Dagnam Farm.		
48	131	Pass the corner of the farm property, then continue to walk alongside its brick wall on your right, with a field on your left.		
49	133	Continue ahead when the wall comes to an end.		
50	138	After a slight right-curve at the end, turn left along the road.		6.54
51	143	At a junction, follow the main roadway, which will take you in stages up and to the right.		
52	150	Turn left into the main road.	833 777	
53	153	At the junction swing right with the major road (Stoke Road).		
54	155	Pass the entrance to Allhallows Church on the left, and continue ahead down Stoke Road.		7.37
55	165	END OF THE SPINE SECTION Follow the main road as it bends to the left at a junction, then right.		
56	175	Reach the junction next to the Lower Stoke Methodist chapel. Cross the road ahead and turn briefly right along it.		8.40
57		Turn left up Mallard Way, and follow it, through brief swings, left, then right.		
58	179	[Map point] At the end, faced by an enclosed play area, go up to the right of it and through the MKG. !!!F!! Then turn about 40 degrees to the right and set out across the field, heading roughly in the direction of the middle of the Upper Stoke settlement, visible in the distance. (Bearing 220.)		

* **"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
59	181	Turn right at an angled T-junction.		
60	182	Turn left along another track.		
61	184	Reach the main road, cross it, and !!F!! continue opposite by way of a footbridge and then steps up to the level of the next field. The direction is then towards a waymark post on the other side of the field, and very slightly to the right of the angle at which you approached the main road.		
62	186	Reaching the post at an angled T-junction, turn right.		
63	192	At the very end, after crossing a rough open area, turn right along the road.		
64	193	Reach the entrance to <u>Stoke Church</u> , the starting point of the walk.	824 751	9.19

* ***“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

Detour to High Halstow Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
22A		Reaching The Street at Direction 22, turn left along it instead of right, passing Forge Lane and then the Red Dog on the right.		0.00
22B	3	Reach <u>High Halstow Church</u> on the right a little further along. After visiting the church, retrace your steps, turning left along the road at the lych-gate, and passing the Red Dog and Forge Lane on the left. Cross the road when convenient.		0.17
22C	6	At the end of the frontage of the Village Hall on the right, continue ahead, rejoining the main route which joins on the path from the right. Add 6 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.34 miles to cumulative distances.		0.34

* ***“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!

ALLHALLOWS CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	11-14, 22, 54-55	20
Quiet road \$\$	1-3, 18, 23-24, 31, 34b, 36-38, 42, 50-53, 56-57, 63	21
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	4-6, 7b-10, 15, 20, 26, 28-30, 32-33, 35, 43b, 44b-45a, 46-49, 58-62	49
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	7a, 16-17, 19, 21, 25, 34a, 39-41, 43a, 44a, 45b	10
Woods	27	0.1

** 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: Other than the one (with easy gaps) mentioned in the footnote to Direction 41, there are currently no stiles on this walk.