

KINGSNORTH CIRCUIT

Sheet 1 (first and last sections)

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

ROADS:

Significant roads

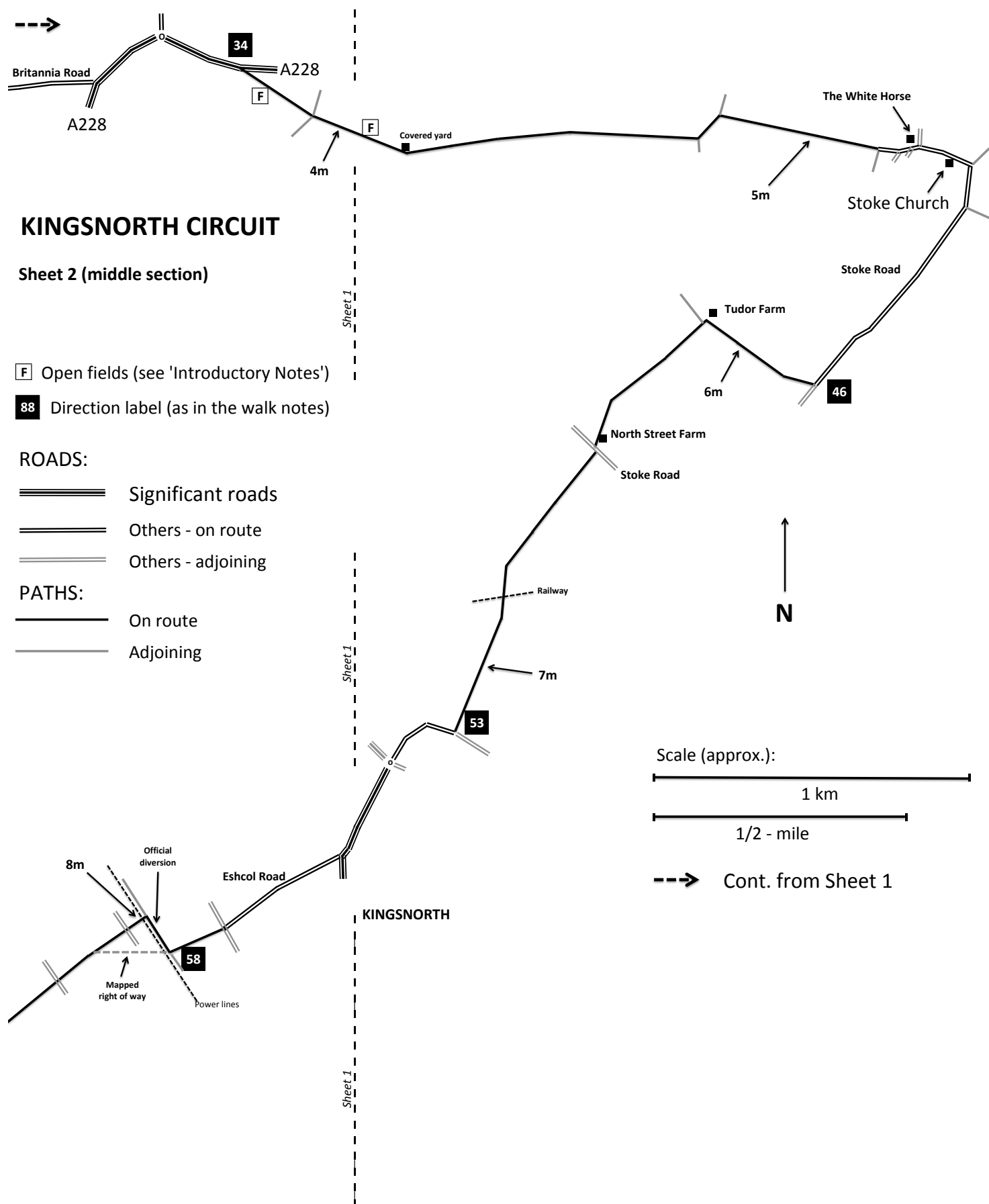
Others - on route

Others - adjoining

PATHS:

On route

Adjoining



KINGSNORTH CIRCUIT - 9.26 miles

Churches in the circuit:

High Halstow (Direction 22C: Detour - see Appendix)

Stoke (44)

Hoo St Werburgh (66)

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:

Pleasant but unremarkable countryside for the most part, though also featuring the sequence (albeit relatively brief) of industrial estate, power station and, currently, major construction work.

Roads and hindrances:

Around the industrial area (Directions 53-55) traffic can be quite brisk, but there are good pavements where they are necessary: the traffic is not unduly troublesome.

The A228 is crossed twice (10 and 34): the crossings are not a particular problem (dual carriageway and good sightlines respectively).

There is currently major work in progress between Kingsnorth and Hoo (58 to 62): somewhat unsightly, and forcing a minor diversion in the path (clearly signalled). The resulting crossing points for site traffic are also clearly marked and require no more than sensible attention.

KINGSNORTH CIRCUIT

Hoo St Werburgh – High Halstow – Stoke – Kingsnorth – Hoo St Werburgh

Notes taken: Summer 2018

The start and finish is at the Five Bells pub, at the main crossroads at the centre of Hoo St Werburgh ME3 9BE).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the Five Bells, go up Bells Lane (northwards).	783 721	
2	3	Cross Peal Close.		
3	6	Turn right into Kingsnorth Close and cross to the left-hand corner of the car park.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
4		There start along a narrow passageway (RS98), and on, through a squeeze gate.		
5	7	At the end go straight ahead, passing a children's playground on your right, crossing a road, and reaching a MKG at the end.		
6	9	Go through the MKG and over a footbridge, and immediately turn left along the field-edge.		
7	10	Turn right along a clear path between fields.		
8	15	[Map point] Turn left at the end for about 40 yds., then right along a metalled roadway between fields.		
9	20	Reach the main road, Ropers Lane, and turn left alongside it, without crossing.		0.98
10	28	Go clockwise round the roundabout at the top, using the island to cross the dual carriageway. Continue the clockwise circuit until you reach the slip-road at the 'Ratcliffe Highway' sign.		
11	29	[Map point] Here turn left away from the main road, and follow, on the right, the signposted footpath alongside a big field on your right. (The direction is now virtually the same as the one on which you first approached the roundabout on Ropers Lane.)		
12	31	At the end of this field continue straight ahead alongside the next one.		
13	32	At a junction of paths turn slightly right, now between fields.		
14	36	At a junction with a broader path turn right on to it.	783 743	
15	38	At the end turn left towards a farmyard, and then go diagonally to the right across it.		1.88
16	39	At the far right-hand corner turn right and go ahead to cross a railway bridge, and carry on up the right-hand edge of a rising field.		
17	41	[Map point] [!!F!!] At a waymark post, leave the edge and turn about 45 degrees to the left, cutting across the field, still uphill. After a minute or so you will see a solitary tree, which turns out to have a waymark post next to it. (I understand from the landowner that the tree was left when others were removed, precisely to serve as a navigation aid for walkers.) Aim directly for the tree.		
18	45	[!!F!!] From the tree continue along much the same line towards the houses at the top of the hill.		
19	48	Reach the top near a signpost, and turn left alongside the back-garden fences of the houses.	784 750	
20	49	At the end, faced by a gate, turn right along a walkway between houses.		
21	50	Turn left along the road (Christmas Lane).		
22	52	[Map point] [To visit High Halstow Church , now divert instead to the Detour in the Appendix.] Main route: At the bus stop on the right-hand side, turn right along a passage alongside the cricket field on your right.		

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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
23	53	Where the large space opens out at the end of the cricket field, cross it diagonally to the right towards its far corner.		
24	55	At the corner turn half-right along the narrow tarmac passageway between fences.	783 754	
25	56	Reaching a road, cross it and go directly ahead along the path, with the small patch of grass on your left.		
26	57	At the end of Ruggles Close cross the road and go straight ahead along a rough track to the right of a house, and follow it as it winds right and left to deal with a footbridge and then goes along a grassy avenue between the back fences of houses.		
27	58	Continue ahead between hedges on both sides.		2.78
28	59	And still ahead, as a field opens up on both sides.		
29	61	!!!F!!! After passing a small line of trees on your left, the onward direction, still straight ahead, becomes plain to see. Aim for a white post by a hedge in the middle distance which marks the side of a road: it is just to the left of the line of the furthest-left of the wind turbines in the distance.		
30	65	At the post step carefully down through the gap in the hedge to join the road (Britannia Road), and turn right along it.	791 754	
31	70	Continue ahead along the road as the Saxon Shore Way joins from the left.		
32	72	At the end of Britannia Road, turn left along the main road. The verge along its left-hand side is currently adequate, but there is a good pavement on the other side if you need it. (After the coming roundabout, though, you would need to cross again for a short stretch, as the verge on the right is not safe there.)		
33	75	Negotiate the roundabout, effectively turning right to stay with the main A228. Continue along (or go across on to) the pavement on its left-hand side for a short while.		3.61
34	79	[Map point] !!!F!!! In the course of a gentle left-hand bend in the road, look out for a footpath signpost on the other side, just after a '40' speed limit reminder disc. Cross over to the signpost. Next to it beware of a concealed dip in the undergrowth a step or two after the road. The signpost shows two directions: follow the further left of the two, across the field and aiming directly at the right-hand side of the large structure in the distance. Follow this line unerringly, ignoring any angled crossing tracks. (Bearing 120.)		
35	83	!!!F!!! Continue ahead over a crossing path, still on the same line.		
36	87	Reaching the structure (a covered yard), walk alongside it as close to its right-hand edge as possible.	805 752	
37	88	At the far end continue ahead with a field on your right and young trees on your left.		
38	90	After bending very slightly left, keep to the left of the fenced-off enclosure, and go ahead along a grassy passageway.		
39	93	Emerging at the end, go straight ahead along a broad track between fields.		4.43

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
40	100	Approaching three trees on the left, the track turns to the right, but instead turn left to go alongside the trees, keeping them on your right.		
41	101	About 100 yds. beyond the last of the trees, turn right with the path at a waymark post.	816 753	
42	108	At the end go ahead along a rough roadway between houses.		
43	110	At the end of this meet the road (next to the White Horse on the left) and go straight ahead along it towards the church on the right.		
44	111	START OF THE SPINE SECTION Pass the lych-gate of <u>Stoke Church</u> .	823 751	5.29
45	112	Follow the road as it swings to the right.		
46	123	[Map point] Turn right along the approach roadway to Tudor Farm. ('Tudor Farm' is indicated at this junction on a sign facing 'the wrong way' from our direction.)		
47	127	Pass the big yard area of Tudor Farm on the right, and go ahead; but then avoid going into the private garden by bending to the left.		
48	128	At the path junction soon ahead, continue in this new direction (having in effect made a left turn), down a broad track going gently down, then gently up, eventually passing the buildings of North Street Farm.		6.12
49	135	Cross the road and continue along the bridleway which is almost directly ahead (offset slightly to the left).		
50	138	Continue straight ahead, ignoring the precise detail of the OS map and the waymarks.	811 740	
51	143	After gentle swings right and left, cross the railway at the level crossing, and carry on ahead along a path between hedges.		6.81
52	149	Continue ahead alongside an enclosure on the right.		
53	150	[Map point] Reaching the road, cross it and turn right along it.		
54	153	Reaching the roundabout, stay on the pavement and turn left: follow the road sign 'Kingsnorth Industrial Estate Entrance C'.		
55	155	But at that entrance itself, ignore it, and continue straight on.		
56	157	As the main road swings left into the Kingsnorth power station, instead go straight ahead along the minor road.		
57	163	At the T-junction at the end, go straight ahead along a rough track.		7.77
58	166	[Map point] [Official diversion] Turn right, parallel to the power lines.		
59	167	Turn left next to a pylon to go under power lines, along a temporary path between fences.		
60	168	Cross an access road, with gates before and after.		
61	169	Continue in the same direction as a large field opens up on the right.		
62	172	Again embark on the crossing of a wide site road, protected by gates before and after, then continue ahead with a big field on your left.		
63	178	[Map point] Next to a house, reach the junction with the Saxon Shore Way, and cross it, turning slightly left on a signposted path across the field ahead, cutting off its left-hand corner.		8.45

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
64	181	At the far side of the field, turn right along the metalled roadway (now rejoining the SSW) and follow it to the end.	791 721	
65	190	At the T-junction, turn left along the major road, and then, when convenient, cross the road to go along the right-hand pavement.		
66	191	END OF THE SPINE SECTION Turn right, across a parking area, towards the churchyard, and follow the path, which leads to the north door of <u>Hoo St Werburgh Church</u> .		
67	193	At the church door, turn right through the gate, and go along the road ahead.		
68	196	Reach the crossroads at the Five Bells, the starting point of the walk.	783 721	9.26

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APPENDIX

Detour to High Halstow Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
22A	0	For the detour to High Halstow Church: Instead of leaving the road at Direction 22, continue ahead along it.		0.00
22B	1	Turn left at the T-junction opposite the Red Dog.		
22C	2	Reach the lych-gate of <u>High Halstow Church</u> on the right. After visiting the church, retrace your steps to the Red Dog junction.		0.11
22D	3	Continue straight on past the Red Dog on the left ignoring Christmas Lane over on the right.		
22E	5	Use the zebra crossing and then cut the corner of the car park opposite to pass between the black barriers and then along the left side of the Village Hall to join the path along the left-hand side of the large playing field.		
22F	7	At its far end rejoin the main route (Direction 24) by continuing ahead along the narrow tarmac passageway between fences. Add 4 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.20 miles to cumulative distances.		0.36

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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!

KINGSNORTH CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-2, 9, 21, 30-33, 53-55, 65	20
Quiet road \$\$	5a, 8, 10, 25, 42-46, 56, 67	18
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	5b-7, 11-14, 17-19, 23, 27-29, 34-37, 39-41, 48-50, 57-58, 61, 62b-64	49
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	3-4, 15-16, 20, 22, 24, 26, 38, 47, 51-52, 59-60, 62a, 66	13
Woods		0

** 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: There are currently no stiles on this walk.