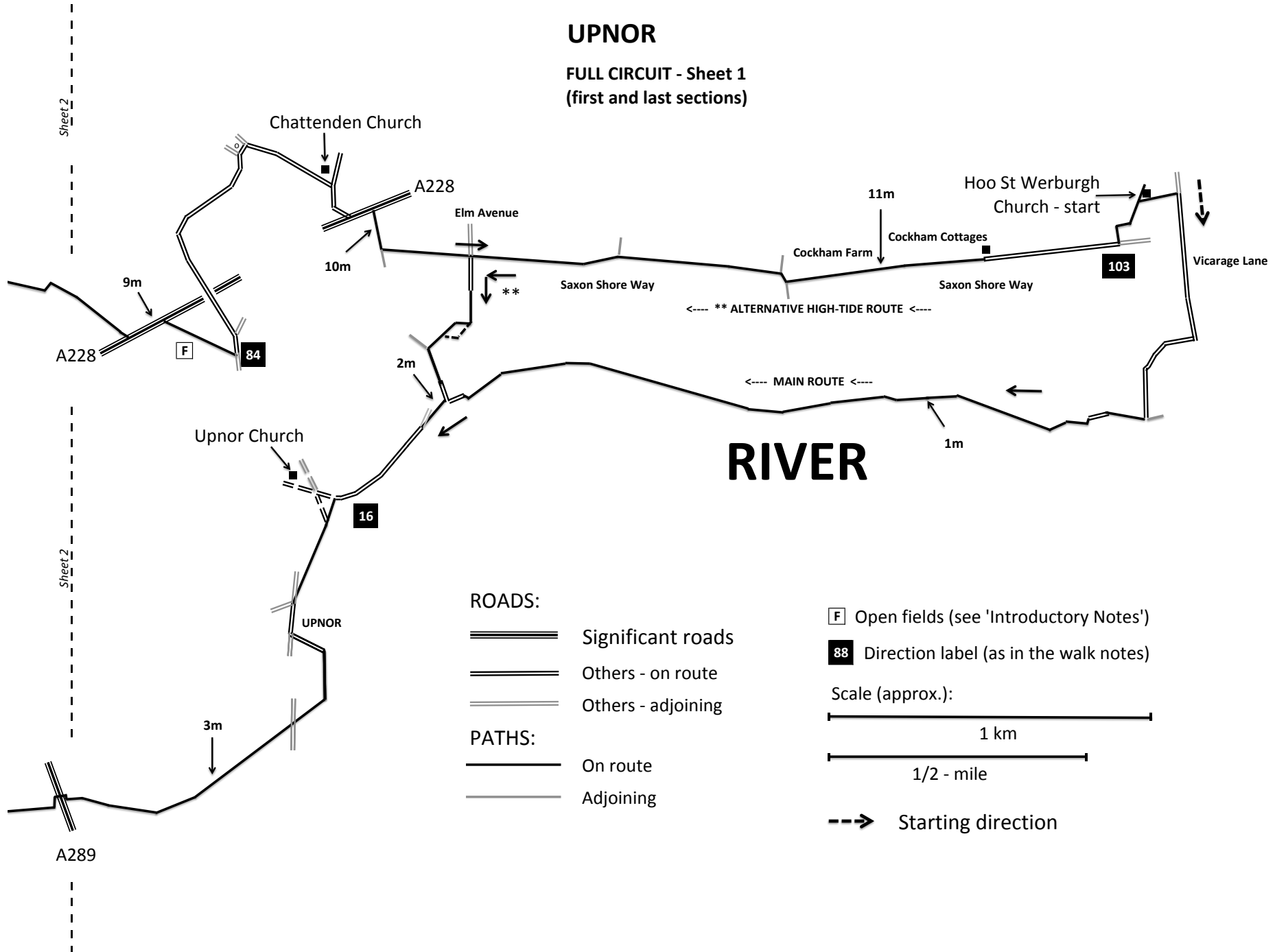


# UPNOR

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1  
(first and last sections)



# UPNOR

## FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2 (middle section)

**F** Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

**88** Direction label (as in the walk notes)

### ROADS:

Significant roads

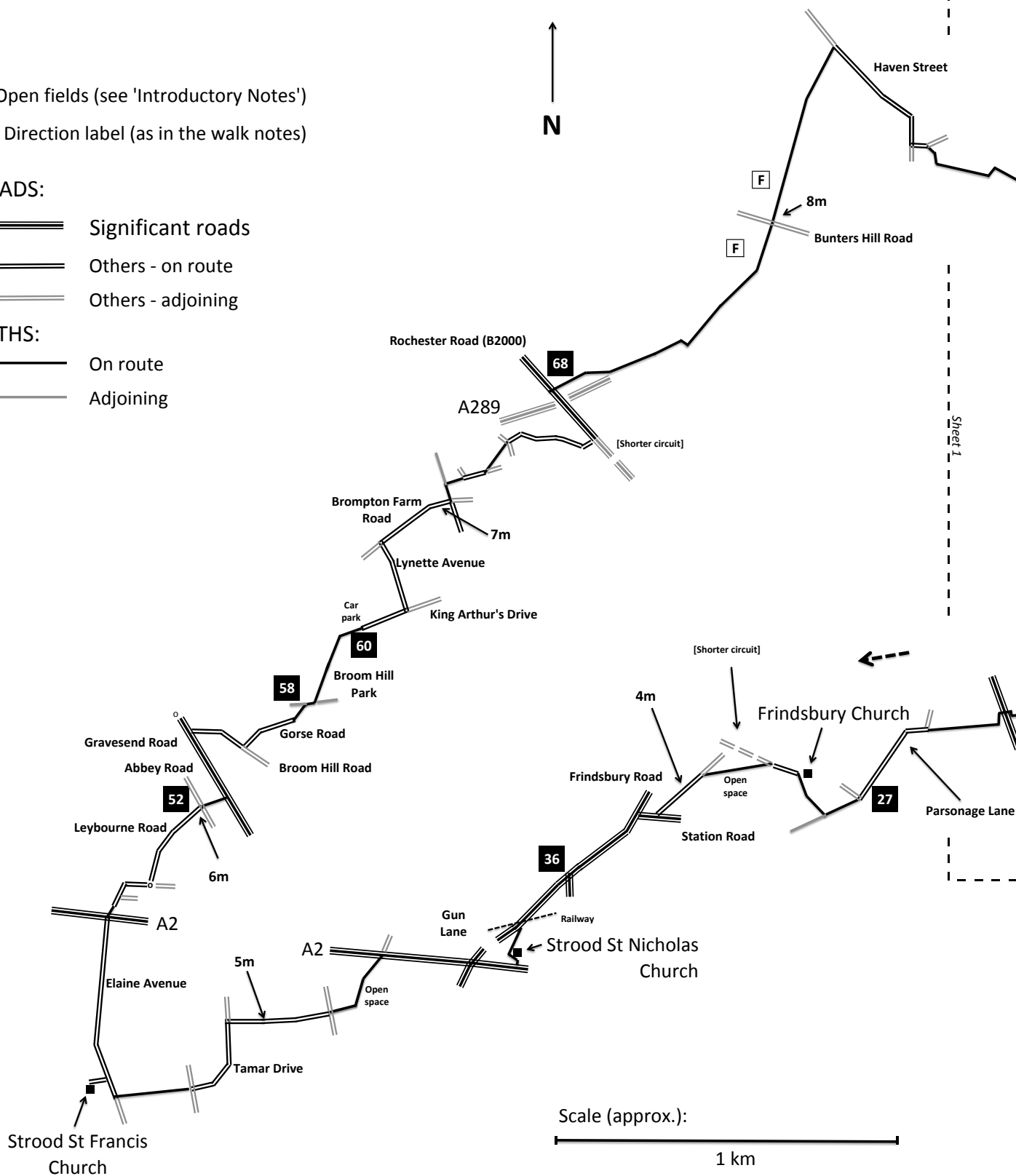
Others - on route

Others - adjoining

### PATHS:

On route

Adjoining



Scale (approx.):

1 km

1/2 - mile

---> Cont. from Sheet 1

## **UPNOR CIRCUIT - 11.61 miles**

### **Churches in the full circuit:**

Hoo St Werburgh (start and finish)

Upnor (Direction 17C: Detour 2 - see Appendix)

Frindsbury (29)

Strood St Nicholas (37)

Strood St Francis (47)

Chattenden (89)

### **Associated local circuits**

- UP1: Upnor – Frindsbury – Broom Hill – Wainscott – Upnor
- LC2: Strood – Cuxton – Upper Bush – Ranscombe – Strood

**Full circuit:** A somewhat unusual route, with alternations of various terrains: urban, suburban and pleasantly rural, with a fine park thrown in and, if at low tide, a river-shore walk.

### **Roads and hindrances:**

The first section goes (at Directions 9 to 11) along the Medway shore. Official descriptions say this stretch is 'only accessible at low tide': a cautiously vague statement. Whenever I have walked this section I have checked the tide tables and aimed at the lower half of the tide cycle, and got through with ease, but that is just a statement of fact, not a guarantee! Your safety is of course the prime consideration (and your comfort the second!). You must make your own judgement.

Detour 1 in the Appendix gives an alternative avoiding the shore. It is entirely pleasant: the only downside is that for more than a mile it is simply the reverse of the final return to Hoo. Not necessarily a bad thing, but perhaps frustrating to some.

There are some busy roads to cross. Island or lights, as described, protect the crossings in Directions 24, 40, 48 and 92, and can also be called into play with minimum diversion in 34 and 39. At 53, 62 and 67 there are reasonable sightlines relative to the moderate levels of traffic. The main challenge is in 82, where great care is needed - and perhaps patience too, for a gap in fast traffic to present itself: if all else fails a rather tedious alternative is given in Detour 3 in the Appendix. Other roads are manageable with normal care.

The stile in 80 is currently in a poor state, but usable.

### **FULL CIRCUIT**

**Hoo St Werburgh – Upnor – Frindsbury – Strood – Chattenden – Hoo St Werburgh**

Notes taken: Spring and Summer 2019

The start and finish is Hoo St Werburgh Church, near ME3 9BF.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		With your back to the north door of <b>Hoo St Werburgh Church</b> , turn right and follow the metalled path through the graveyard.	783 719	
2	<b>1</b>	<b>START OF THE SPINE SECTION</b> Meeting the road at the end, after the car park, turn right along it, staying on its right-hand pavement.		
3	<b>6</b>	Swing right with the road into Hoo Marina Park.		
4	<b>8</b>	Turn left into Cedar Road.		
5	<b>10</b>	At the end turn right.		
6	<b>11</b>	Meeting a road as it turns a corner, go straight ahead along it.		
7	<b>12</b>	At the end continue ahead along the enclosed footpath, and through a gate, a little to the left, as waymarked.	782 712	
8	<b>14</b>	Go through another gate and ahead, alongside a chain-link fence on the right.		0.80
9	<b>18</b>	After the end of the marina go past the tide-warning notice and ahead along a rough footpath above the shingle on the left.		
10	<b>20</b>	Keep the red brickwork on your right as you follow the obvious line, slightly left then slightly right, now on the shingle.		
11	<b>26</b>	Continue along the top of the shingle. (It is not worth venturing up on to the concrete platform at this point.) Take care in negotiating the potentially slippery slipways.		
12	<b>35</b>	Now, just before the Medway Yacht Club, do step up on to the concrete alongside the chain-link fence on the right.		1.77
13	<b>39</b>	Edge across, past a barrier, on to a concrete roadway.		
14	<b>40</b>	The two branches of the Saxon Shore Way now reunite, with the upper route (carrying the high-tide variant) coming down to join from the right. Go ahead, still parallel to the river, past benches.	762 712	
15	<b>41</b>	Merge with the road coming alongside from the right.		
16	<b>44</b>	[Map point] Follow the road as it swings right and gently uphill.		
17		[To visit <b>Upnor Church</b> , now divert instead to <b>Detour 2</b> in the Appendix.]  <b>Main route:</b> Soon follow the footpath signposted on the left at the end of the brick wall (still Saxon Shore Way), up steep steps – 54 in all! – and continue ahead at the top, still alongside the brick wall on the left.		
18	<b>49</b>	At the end of the path, merge with the road and continue straight ahead.	757 706	
19	<b>50</b>	At the road junction, continue ahead, ignoring the right turn.		
20	<b>51</b>	Immediately before the King's Arms, turn left down the cobbled High Street, towards the river.		2.53
21	<b>52</b>	At the end, step down and turn right to go through a parking area, and then ahead alongside the river.		
22	<b>55</b>	Bend slightly right, away from the river, to avoid the industrial area (which soon becomes fenced off on the left).		
23	<b>57</b>	Cross the access road, and carry on opposite, bending leftwards to continue along the right of the chain-link fence. Keep on the main path, ignoring, further on, minor footpaths on the right.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
24	<b>67</b>	Reach the main A289 Medway Tunnel access road, and cross it. The direction on the other side is up through a gap directly opposite your original line of approach, but to get there use the pair of light-controlled crossings over on the right.		
25	<b>70</b>	Go through a MKG and ahead along the roadway.	748 700	3.43
26	<b>71</b>	Follow the roadway as it swings upwards to the left.		
27	<b>74</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> As the roadway swings away to the right, instead continue ahead up the metalled footpath.		
28	<b>76</b>	<b>END OF THE SPINE SECTION</b> Follow the Strood Community Trail, turning right and leaving the Saxon Shore Way.		
29	<b>77</b>	Go through the gate into the churchyard of <b>Frindsbury Church</b> and head across it, slightly to the right, to pass the church itself.		
30	<b>78</b>	Beyond the church building reach another gate, go through it, and head down the long, straight road beyond.		
31	<b>80</b>	Beyond a children's playground, an open space extends away down to the left. Turn half-left to cross it, aiming at a gap about 50 yds. short of the bottom of the railings over on the right-hand side.	743 699	
32	<b>82</b>	Go through the gap, and carry on down the road, crossing to its right-hand side straight away.		
33	<b>85</b>	At the junction at the bottom, follow the walkway round to the right, and continue along up to the major T-junction ahead.		
34	<b>86</b>	The crossing road is the A228, and your aim is to get across it and then turn left to walk down its right-hand side. This is probably best achieved by crossing it at the lights a few yards up.		
35	<b>89</b>	Now walking down towards the centre of Strood, cross the end of Cliffe Road on the right, and continue ahead.		4.28
36	<b>90</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> When the main roads fork, keep straight ahead, ignoring the left fork.		
37	<b>92</b>	Just after the railway bridge, cross the road and go through the gap on the left, leading down into the grounds of <b>St Nicholas Church</b> . Stay on the path leading around the right-hand (west) end of the church, and then go round to the left to the church's south door.	735 694	
38	<b>94</b>	Reach the main road by going down the steps from the south door. At the road, turn right.		
39	<b>95</b>	At the first junction, go straight on, across the end of Gun Lane. (If traffic is troublesome, given the limited visibility, it might be safest to detour a little to the right along Gun Lane, to use the crossing and then return to the junction.		
40	<b>97</b>	Use the light-controlled crossing next to St Nicholas School to cross the road, and continue up its left-hand side.		
41	<b>98</b>	Opposite Castle View Road, turn left up a short passage, then go ahead along the right-hand side of an open space.		
42	<b>101</b>	About 100 yds. before the end, turn right up an enclosed metalled pathway.		
43	<b>102</b>	At the top at the end go over the crossing road and continue ahead along Witham Way.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
44	<b>105</b>	At the very end, turn left at the T-junction, and follow this road (Tamar Road) as it swings to the right.		5.05
45	<b>108</b>	At the T-junction at the end, go straight ahead along a broad, rough track.	726 689	
46	<b>111</b>	Reaching a crossing road (Elaine Avenue) at the end, turn right along it.		
47	<b>112</b>	<b>St Francis Church</b> is a very short distance away on the left, reached via Galahad Avenue on the other side of the road. But to continue on the route carry straight on along the right-hand side of Elaine Avenue.		
48	<b>118</b>	Reach the main A2, and cross it by means of the traffic island. Then go straight ahead opposite up a rough path.		
49	<b>119</b>	Continuing ahead as the path becomes a metalled roadway, ignore the first possible right turn.		
50	<b>120</b>	But then follow the roadway round to the right and go ahead to a little roundabout.		
51	<b>121</b>	At the roundabout turn left along Leybourne Road, following it down and gently round to the right.		5.84
52	<b>124</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> At the T-junction at the bottom, cross the road and continue ahead opposite, up a concrete path (Strood Community Trail).		
53	<b>125</b>	Turn left alongside the main road and cross when convenient.		
54	<b>128</b>	Turn right immediately before the petrol station, along Broom Hill Road.	726 699	
55	<b>130</b>	Turn left up Gorse Road.		
56	<b>131</b>	Ignore Westergate Road on the left, and continue uphill ('No through road for traffic').		
57	<b>133</b>	At the top turn left along the path (marked 'Broom Hill Park'), directly alongside the railings.		
58	<b>134</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> At the end swing briefly right to an open area where there is a human sundial. Here turn left (following the sundial's '2' ) to go along the path leading down the left-hand side of the grass.		
59	<b>136</b>	Reach a parking area on the left, and continue ahead.		
60	<b>137</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> After the parking area, continue ahead, from the start of a long, straight road.		
61	<b>139</b>	Turn first-left (Lynette Avenue).		6.73
62	<b>142</b>	Reaching the main road at the end, turn right along it, and cross when convenient.		
63	<b>145</b>	Turn left down Stonehorse Lane (closed to vehicles).	734 706	
64	<b>146</b>	Go through the gap on the right, next to a dog-litter bin.		
65		Emerge at the dead end of a cul-de-sac. Start along it, but soon go slightly leftwards across an open space once it opens out.		
66	<b>149</b>	At the far end pass another dog-bin, and go over the crossing roadway, then along the one opposite, between the two 'no.1' houses. This (Hawkenbury Rise) winds from side to side before emerging at a T-junction with the main road.	735 708	
67	<b>152</b>	Turn left along the main road, crossing it as soon as possible, and go ahead along its right-hand side, over the A289 bridge.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
68	<b>154</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Immediately after the bridge, turn right along the signposted path.		7.45
69	<b>155</b>	Pass a barrier and continue ahead.		
70	<b>160</b>	Follow the path as it bends right and left, between fences.		
71	<b>161</b>	Continue ahead along an avenue between fruit trees.		
72	<b>163</b>	The path becomes a quiet roadway.		
73	<b>165</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Reach a road, cross it, and continue on the signposted footpath opposite.	743 714	
74	<b>168</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Go up a few steps, through a gap in the hedge, and on over the next field.		8.10
75	<b>171</b>	Continue ahead up the left-hand edge of a field, with a substantial hedge on the left.		
76	<b>173</b>	Reach another road and turn right along it.	745 719	
77	<b>177</b>	Follow the road as it bends to the right.		
78	<b>178</b>	Turn left at the road junction.		
79	<b>179</b>	Look out for a modest footbridge on the right, cross it, and go ahead to a nearby stile		
80		Cross the stile to walk along the left-hand side of the field.		
81	<b>182</b>	Slip across to the other side of the left-hand fence by going through the gate. (If it is locked, use the adjacent stile instead.)	749 716	
82	<b>187</b>	Reach the busy main road (A228) and turn left along it. Cross as soon as sightlines and traffic allow.  <i>If absolutely necessary because discouraged from crossing by the volume and speed of the traffic, there would of course be the tiresome possibility of simply continuing up the left-hand side of the road (written up as Detour 3 in the Appendix).</i>		8.94
83	<b>189</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Look out for a signposted gap on the right and go through it. Then turn half-left to go diagonally up across the field, cutting off its left-hand corner, and heading towards a gap in the hedge up on the left.	753 715	
84	<b>193</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Go through the gap and turn sharp left along the road, ignoring the waymark.		
85	<b>194</b>	Continue ahead, ignoring the road on the right, and go ahead towards the bridge.		
86	<b>195</b>	Cross the bridge over the A228.		
87	<b>203</b>	Turn right at the roundabout (along Kitchener Road) and then cross to the left-hand side when convenient.		9.62
88	<b>206</b>	Use the footpath angling gently away to the left to reach the church.		
89	<b>207</b>	From <b>Chattenden Church</b> , edge up over the grass, by way of the walkway and three steps a short distance away, to merge with the nearby road on the left at its junction with Kitchener Road, rejoining from the right.		
90	<b>208</b>	Cross both prongs of Kitchener Road and head up to the main A228 road ahead.		
91	<b>209</b>	Turn left alongside the main road.		
92		Use the lights to cross the A228, then turn left to go briefly along its right-hand side.		

\* **“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
93	<b>210</b>	Immediately after the garage turn right along the very narrow footpath, indicated by a ground-level slab.		
94	<b>212</b>	Turn left along the waymarked footpath, between fences.	760 717	
95	<b>215</b>	Cross a road and continue ahead, between fences, now on the (upper) Saxon Shore Way.		10.23
96	<b>216</b>	Cross a roadway serving new houses on the right, and continue ahead, still between fences.		
97	<b>219</b>	And cross another entrance-way and carry on.		
98	<b>220</b>	Pass beside a large gate, still going ahead, now on a metalled roadway along the left-hand side of a large field.		
99	<b>221</b>	Now between big fields, bend slightly to the right at a waymark post, ignoring the path to the left.		
100	<b>228</b>	Reaching the farm buildings, keep going in the same general direction, though to do so involves little right-left bends.		
101	<b>230</b>	Find a way around or under an inconveniently placed barrier.		10.93
102	<b>235</b>	Pass a more helpful gate and carry on past the houses on the left.		
103	<b>240</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Immediately before further houses, turn left on the footpath along their border hedge.		
104	<b>241</b>	At the end of the hedge turn right through the gap.		
105	<b>242</b>	Enter the churchyard and turn half-left to go diagonally across it on the metalled path.		
106	<b>243</b>	Reach the north door of <b>Hoo St Werburgh Church</b> , the starting point of the walk.	783 719	11.61

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

## **APPENDIX to Full Circuit**

### **Detour 1: Hoo to Lower Upnor – the high-tide variant** (see 'Roads and hindrances' on first page)

*To maintain the continuity of the spine walk, following on from the Kingsnorth Circuit, it may be necessary additionally to cover the 2-minute link from the churchyard car park (off Vicarage Lane) to the church door (Kingsnorth Circuit, Direction 66) – though the chances are you will already have done so in completing that earlier circuit!*

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
I	<b>0</b>	Pass, on your left, the north door of <b>Hoo St Werburgh Church</b> , and beyond it turn half-left along the diagonal path across the churchyard.		0.00
II	<b>1</b>	At the corner, turn half-right, along a short passageway.		
III	<b>2</b>	At the end, faced by a field, turn left.		
IV		Very soon turn right along a broad roadway.		
V	<b>8</b>	Soon after Cockham Cottage go beside a gate, and on ahead.		
VI	<b>13</b>	A little before the farm buildings, pass another barrier (uncomfortably straddling the road, though most will have little difficulty passing either under or, somehow, around).		

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



	Mins.*		OS	Miles
VII	15	Continue effectively in the same direction, by turning right, then, immediately at the pole, left.		0.77
VIII	22	Bend left, with the main path.		
IX	24	Pass another gate, and carry on ahead along an enclosed passageway.		
X	25	As the roadway turns right, instead continue ahead along a narrow path.		
XI	26	Cross an access roadway and go ahead along a narrow path between fences.		
XII	28	Reaching a road, turn left along it, now joining the (upper) Saxon Shore Way.	Qr	1.38
XIII	29	When the road ends, continue ahead along the path.	c/w	
XIV	31	At the path junction turn right (marginally better, perhaps than following the waymark ahead – it makes little difference as the paths soon rejoin).	W	
XV	33	At a further waymark swing gently left, downhill, with the main path.	W	
XVI	35	Now among houses, carry straight on, keeping to the right of the Arethusa Venture Centre.	Qr	
XVII	36	Reaching the end turn right between the bollards, to join the lower branch of the Saxon Shore Way (and the main route, at Direction 14) and go parallel to the river between memorial stones, and on, past benches.  <b>Deduct 4 minutes from subsequent total times and 0.22 miles from cumulative distances.</b>		1.74

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

## Detour 2 to Upnor Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
17A	0	Instead of turning left at Direction 17, continue uphill on the right-hand pavement.		0.00
17B	1	At a junction near the top, continue ahead over the crossing road.		
17C	2	Reach <b>Upnor Church</b> on the right. After visiting the church, retrace your steps back towards the crossroads, but now crossing the road when convenient.		0.11
17D	3	At the crossroads, take the right turn, which then swings further right. When the road has straightened, use the better verge on its left-hand side which soon appears.		
17E	6	There comes a point at which it is possible to slip through a gap on the left to go along a parallel path, if that is preferred to road-walking. Otherwise simply continue along the road.		
17F	8	The parallel path on the left comes to an end and joins the road. Now continue on the main route from Direction 18.  <b>Add 3 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.13 miles to cumulative distances.</b>		0.37

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

### Detour 3 - to avoid the crossing of the A228 on the return to Chattenden

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
82A	<b>0</b>	Instead of crossing the road at Direction 82, continue up along its left-hand side.		0.00
82B	<b>11</b>	At the junction at the top the main route joins from the left (from Chattenden Lane) at Direction 91. Continue ahead to the crossing at the lights at Direction 92.  <b>Deduct 11 minutes from subsequent total times and 0.52 miles from cumulative distances.</b>		0.45
(82C)		<i>Within this detour, a visit to <u>Chattenden Church</u> would involve instead turning left at the Chattenden Lane junction and then returning to it – <b>an extra 4 minutes (0.22 miles) there and back.</b></i>		(0.67)

\* “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 (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>UPNOR - FULL CIRCUIT</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	2, 16, 18, 24a, 32-36, 38-40, 53b, 62, 67, 82, 84-87, 91-92	18
Quiet road \$\$	3-4, 6, 13, 15, 19-20, 25-26, 30, 43-44, 46-47, 49-51, 54-56, 60-61, 65a, 66, 72, 76-78, 90, 102	27
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock	80	1
Field (or edge) without livestock **	14, 31, 37a, 41b, 52b-53a, 58a, 65b, 73-75, 81, 83, 88-89, 98-101, 103	19
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1, 5, 7-12, 17, 21-23, 27-29, 37b, 41a, 42, 45, 48, 52a, 57, 59, 63-64, 69-71, 79, 93-95, 97, 104-105	33
Woods	24b, 58b, 68, 96	2

\*\* 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 (2)** – Details noted in Summer 2019, but **subject to frequent change**:

The stile in Direction **80** is wired down and has rises of about 18 ins. and 12 ins.

The one in **81** should not need to be used, but if it is it has two rises of about 12 ins..