

LOCAL CIRCUIT UP1: UPNOR - 5.22 miles

Linked churches:

Upnor (start and finish)

Frindsbury (Direction 15)

Strood St Nicholas (23)

Roads and hindrances:

The crossing of the major road in Direction 10 is protected, and the safest crossing in 20, also with lights, requires only a minimal diversion. Other roads are manageable with normal care.

Notes taken: Spring and Summer 2019

The start and finish is at Upnor Church (near ME2 4GZ).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the southern exit from <u>Upnor Church</u> , go down to turn left along Upnor Road heading towards the nearby crossroads and crossing the road when convenient	757 710	
2	1	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.		
3	4	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.		
4	6	The parallel path on the left comes to an end and joins the road.	757 706	
5	7	At the road junction, continue ahead, ignoring the right turn.		
6	8	Immediately before the King's Arms, turn left down the cobbled High Street, towards the river.		
7	9	At the end, step down and turn right to go through a parking area, and then ahead alongside the river.		
8	12	Bend slightly right, away from the river, to avoid the industrial area (which soon becomes fenced off on the left).		
9	14	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.		0.57
10	24	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.		
11	27	Go through a MKG and ahead along the roadway.	748 700	
12	28	Follow the roadway as it swings upwards to the left.		1.26
13	31	[Map point] As the roadway swings away to the right, instead continue ahead up the metalled footpath.		
14	33	Follow the Strood Community Trail, turning right and leaving the Saxon Shore Way.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
15	34	Go through the gate into the churchyard of Frindsbury Church and head across it, slightly to the right, to pass the church itself.		
16	35	Beyond the church building reach another gate, go through it, and head down the long, straight road beyond.		
17	37	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	
18	39	Go through the gap, and carry on down the road, crossing to its right-hand side straight away.		
19	42	At the junction at the bottom, follow the walkway round to the right, and continue along up to the major T-junction ahead.		1.87
20	43	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.		
21	46	Now walking down towards the centre of Strood, cross the end of Cliffe Road on the right, and continue ahead.		
22	47	[Map point] When the main roads fork, keep straight ahead, ignoring the left fork.		
23	49	Just after the railway bridge, cross the road and go through the gap on the left, leading down into the grounds of St Nicholas Church . 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	
24	51	Reach the main road by going down the steps from the south door. At the road, turn right.		
25	52	At the first junction, turn right (Gun Lane, A228).		
26	53	After crossing Gun Lane, turn left along Bryant Road.		
27	57	Cross Weston Road and continue uphill.		2.56
28	58	At the T-junction at the top turn right.		
29	59	Then first left.		
30	60	At the end, where the road bends right, instead go straight ahead on the footpath, up between the barriers.		
31	61	After passing the school grounds, turn right along the road.		
32	64	At the end turn left along a metalled footpath, and continue along it, ignoring joining paths on either side.	733 699	
33	67	Carry on, now along the right-hand edge of Broom Hill Park.		
34	69	And on, through the barriers.		
35	70	[Map point] After a final barrier, turn right, and walk down a long, straight road, from its start.		
36	72	Use the light-controlled crossing to go over the road and continue more or less straight ahead (not along the sharper turn signposted to go further right). This leads very soon to the dead end of Windmill Street. Follow it to start with.		3.34
37	73	But when Windmill Street swings away to the right, instead carry straight on along the metalled path, beside the allotments on the left to start with, and, later, playing fields.		
38	80	At the end turn briefly left into Cooling Road.	740 704	
39	81	And then right into Iden Road.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
40	83	At the T-junction at the end, turn right.		
41	86	Opposite house no.3, turn left along Frittenden Road.		4.06
42	92	[Map point] At the end, slip across rightwards into the parallel main road (Wainscott Road).		
43	94	After passing the school and a couple of houses after it, turn right along the footpath (RS125).	748 710	
44	96	Use the footbridge to cross the A228.		
45	99	Coming off the bridge go ahead on the tarmac path between fields.		4.74
46	102	Turn left along the road.		
47	103	[Map point] Swing left with the road, keeping the open grass area on your right.		
48	104	Continue ahead, following the road through its gentle bends.		
49	110	Reach Upnor Church on the left, the starting point of the walk.	757 710	5.22

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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!

LOCAL CIRCUIT UP1	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-4, 10a, 18-22, 24-25, 38, 42, 46, 48	24
Quiet road \$\$	5-6, 11-12, 16, 26-29, 31, 35, 36b, 39-41, 43a	34
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	17, 23a, 33-34, 45, 47	10
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	7-9, 13-15, 23b, 30, 32, 36a, 37, 43b-44	30
Woods	10b	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: There are currently no stiles on this walk.