

ROCHESTER SOUTH

SHORTER CIRCUIT

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

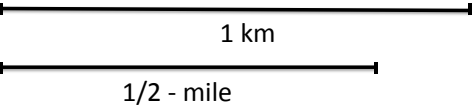
ROADS:

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

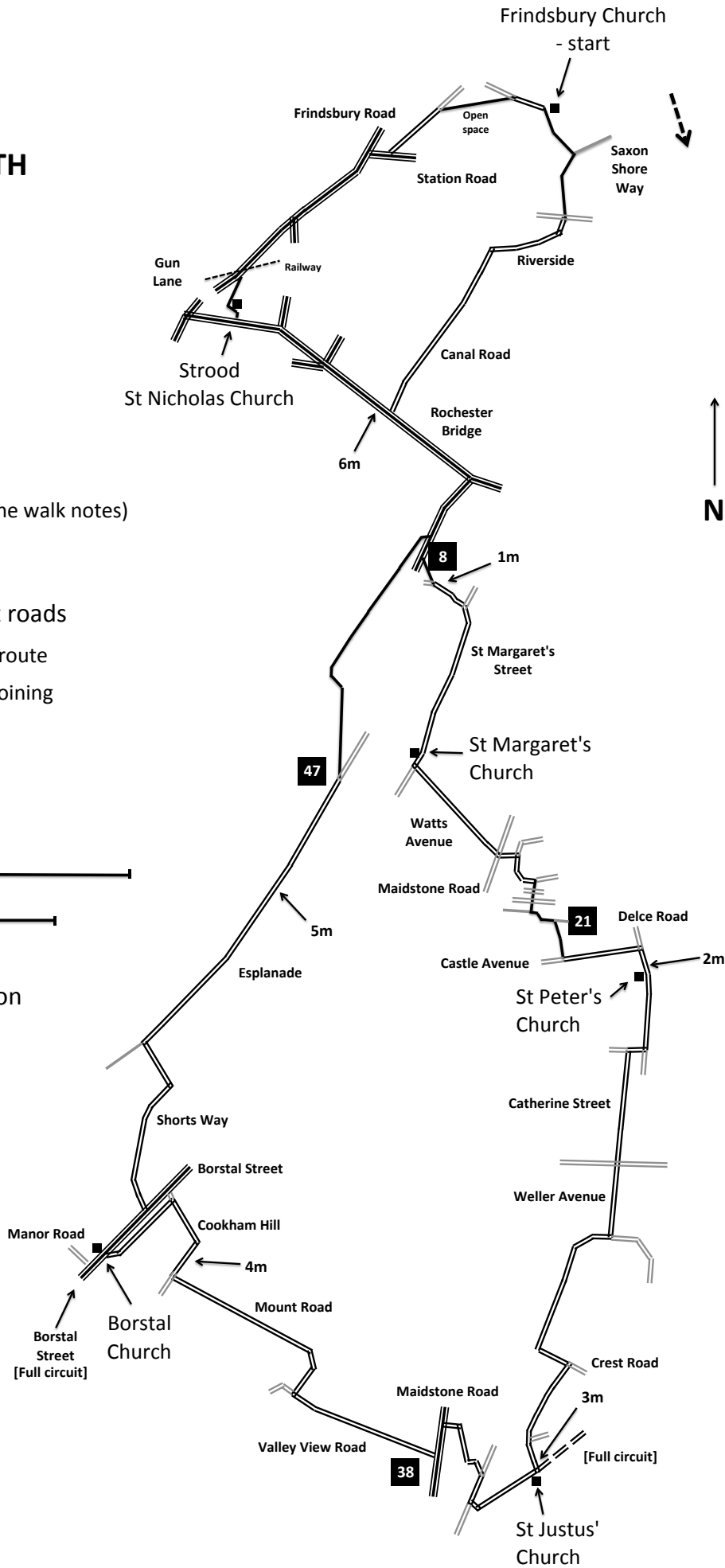
PATHS:

- On route
- Adjoining

Scale (approx.):



--> Starting direction



ROCHESTER SOUTH CIRCUIT - shorter: 7.01 miles

Churches in the shorter circuit:

Frindsbury (start and finish)

Rochester St Margaret (Direction 13)

Rochester St Peter (24)

Rochester St Justus (34)

Borstal (44)

Strood St Nicholas (54)

Associated local circuits

- UP1: Upnor – Frindsbury – Strood – Upnor
- RS1: Rochester – Borstal – Rochester
- CS1 (in preparation – due Autumn 2019): Luton – Chatham – South Rochester – Luton
- SW2: Borstal – Wouldham – Nashenden – Borstal

Shorter circuit: The return towards Rochester along the Esplanade and the riverside walkway is a pleasant interlude, but this shorter walk is overwhelmingly urban, lacking the scenic features of the full circuit. Many of the town stretches are perfectly pleasant, though for the most part decidedly ordinary.

Roads and hindrances:

Though there are many roads, none should cause undue concern, given ordinary care.

Rochester Bridge is currently awash with road works, which might temporarily override the detail of the directions given.

SHORTER CIRCUIT

Frindsbury – Rochester – South Rochester – Borstal – Rochester – Strood – Frindsbury

Notes taken: Spring and Summer 2019

The start and finish is at Frindsbury Church (ME2 4UR).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		START OF THE SPINE SECTION From the west door of Frindsbury Church , turn sharp left to go through the churchyard, almost parallel to the church's south side, towards the gate in the far right-hand corner. Then go through the gate, and along the path beyond to the T-junction of paths at the end.	744 698	

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
2	2	Turn right to join the Saxon Shore Way, dropping steeply down, between fences.		
3	4	Reach the road at the bottom, cross it, and go ahead along Riverside directly opposite, then almost immediately swinging rightwards and then leftwards. <i>Riverside is currently (March 2019) a building site, but will no doubt return to normal in due course. Meanwhile a protected walkway is in place.</i>		
4	10	Continue ahead, passing the end of the link road to Strood station.		
5	13	At the end, turn left to go over Rochester Bridge, following the left-hand pavement all the way across (<i>if possible in the road works – see note under ‘Roads and hindrances’ on the first page</i>).		
6	17	After crossing the river, reaching the first traffic lights on the other side, use them to start road crossings, negotiating a right turn to start you setting off to the right of The Crown and along the Esplanade.		0.83
7	18	Continue ahead, ignoring Castle Hill on the left.		
8	20	[Map point] Carry on up the paved walkway on the left which soon bends to the left, steeply uphill.		
9	21	Merge with the road joining from the right, still uphill.		
10	22	Follow on leftwards at the top of Baker’s Walk.		
11		At the junction at the end, turn right, along St Margaret’s Street..	742 685	
12	23	Pass the Coopers Arms on the right.		
13	28	Reach the lych-gate, the entrance to St Margaret’s Church .		
14	29	Turn left into Watts Avenue.		
15	32	At the end go over the crossing road, and more or less straight ahead along the ‘no through road’ roadway.		
16	33	At its dead end go ahead along an enclosed walkway.		
17		At the end turn right along the road, following it as it swings to the left.		1.66
18	35	Just before the shops on the right, turn right up the roadway, and, after crossing another one, start up a narrow passageway opposite, passing briefly under the houses.	743 678	
19	36	Cross another road, and continue ahead along a similar alley.		
20		When finally confronted by a wall, turn left to go parallel to the road above.		
21	37	[Map point] Take the first opportunity to turn right up a similar passage.		
22	38	Reaching one more road (Castle Avenue), turn left along it.		
23	41	At the T-junction at the bottom turn right along Delce Road.	746 676	
24	42	Pass the driveway leading to St Peter’s Church .		
25	44	Turn right along Cecil Road.		
26	45	Turn second-left along Catherine Street.		
27	49	At the crossroads continue ahead along Weller Avenue.		
28	51	Turn right, alongside the Co-op, and follow the road as it bends to the left.		2.51
29	53	Marling Way becomes The Tideway. Continue ahead.		
30	56	Turn left into Crest Road, steeply uphill.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
31	57	Turn right up Windward Road.		
32	60	Pass the end of Leeward Road, and continue ahead, uphill.		
33	61	END OF THE SPINE SECTION Turn right into the major road.		
34		Pass the steps on the left leading to St Justus' Church .		
35	63	At the junction at the bottom turn sharp right and then cross the road as soon as is convenient.		
36	64	Turn left up Hawser Road.		3.21
37	67	At the top turn left to go briefly along the main road and cross it by means of the traffic island.	741 663	
38	68	[Map point] Turn right along Valley View Road.		
39	73	Go with the road as it swings right, and then left.	737 664	
40	75	Carry on ahead, crossing the end of Secretan Road.		
41	80	At the T-junction at the end turn right along Hill Road.		3.95
42	81	Turn left down Cookham Hill.		
43	83	At the bottom turn left alongside the main road, but keeping above it on the raised access road.		
44	86	After following the roadway down to reach the main road opposite Borstal Church , rejoin the full circuit by doubling back along the road, parallel to the roadway (above) on which you approached.		
45	89	Turn left down Shorts Way.		4.37
46	93	Swing right at the bottom and follow the footway, winding at first, and then following the river along the Esplanade.		
47	106	[Map point] Stay alongside the river as the path forks left, away from the road. After the end of the houses, follow it as it bends to the right and soon goes alongside an open space.		5.23
48	112	Continue ahead past a children's playground. Then edge rightwards across the grass to rejoin the Esplanade, merging with it at the corner, level with the entrance to the pier.		
49	115	On meeting the Esplanade, go along it to the end of the bridge.		
50	118	Keep on the left crossing the bridge (<i>if possible in the road works – see note under 'Roads and hindrances' on the first page</i>). Then cross the road after the end of it.		
51	122	Now on the right of the main road, continue straight ahead at the junction with Canal Road.		
52	124	Cross Station Road and continue ahead along the right-hand side, ignoring the road forking left.		6.13
53	126	At the next junction go ahead along the right-hand side of the road which goes almost straight ahead (or slightly left).		
54	128	Turn right up the steps leading to the south door of St Nicholas' Church , and reaching it turn left at first to go around the building.		
55	129	Beyond the building continue along the path, with the grass on your right.		
56	130	Reach the road (A228) at the top left-hand corner, and turn right to walk alongside it, crossing as soon as possible.	735 694	

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
57	136	At the major junction, turn right along Station Road. This is probably best achieved by continuing an extra few yards up the left of the A228 to use the lights, then returning to the junction to turn left and go down the left of Station Road.		
58	137	Turn left up Banks Road, staying on its left, for the moment.		
59	139	After the junction opposite with Commissioners Road, cross Banks Road and look out for a gap in the fence on your right, about 60 yds. along.		
60	140	Go through the gap and set out diagonally to the right up across the open space to meet the roadway at the top, beside a children's playground.		
61	143	At the top, turn right along the road.		
62	145	After going through a gate at the end, reach the west door of Frindsbury Church , the starting point of the walk.	744 698	7.01

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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!

ROCHESTER SOUTH - SHORTER CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	5-7, 10-13, 23-24, 33-35, 37, 44-46, 49-53, 56-59	45
Quiet road \$\$	3-4, 9, 14-15, 17-18a, 22, 25-32, 36, 38-43, 61a	40
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	47b-48, 55, 60	6
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1-2, 8, 16, 18b-21, 47a, 54, 61b	9
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.