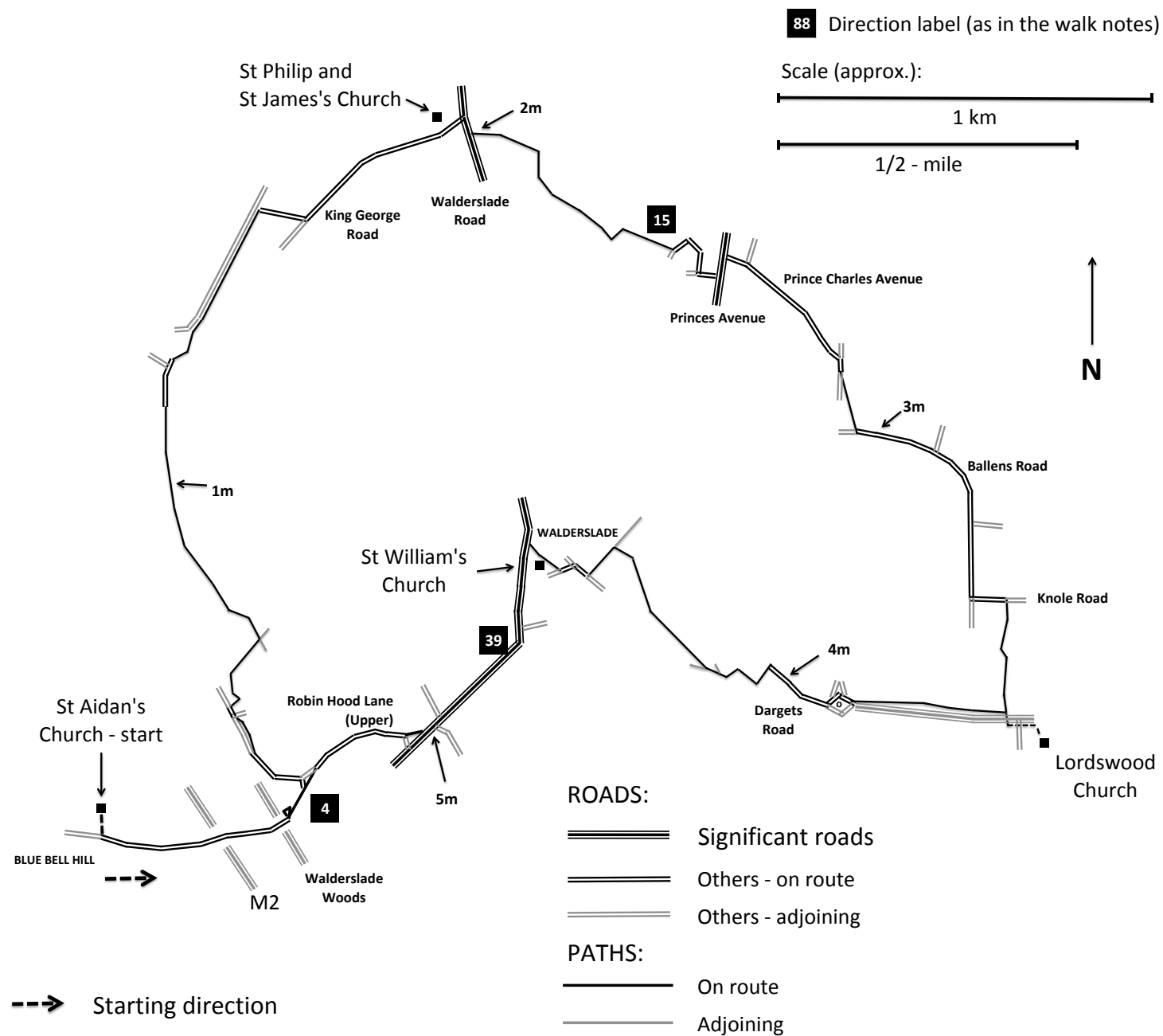


LOCAL CIRCUIT RS2: LORDSWOOD & WALDESLADE



LOCAL CIRCUIT RS2: LORDSWOOD AND WALDESLADE - 5.65 miles

Linked churches:

St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill (start and finish)

Chatham St Philip and St James (Direction 12)

St David's, Lordswood (25B: Detour - see Appendix)

St William's, Walderslade (37)

Roads and hindrances:

Crossing the main roads is no particular problem: there are lights in 17 and 25A/C, and good sightlines in 13, 26 and 39. The Walderslade Village By-pass (38 to 40) is an uninspiring uphill drag, but has pavements for safety and is soon over!

Notes taken: September 2019

The start and finish is at **St Alban's Church, Blue Bell Hill** (ME5 9QR).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		Start in Robin Hood Lane, at the end of the path leading from <u>St Alban's Church</u> . With your back to the church and path, turn left along the road.	748 624	
2	5	At the end of the road go ahead between the barriers and over footbridge.		
3	6	At the end of the spiral descent, turn left to join the dead end of a cul-de-sac, and go briefly along it.		
4	7	[Map point] At the first opportunity turn left to go along Taddington Wood Lane, crossing over to its right-hand side when convenient (and briefly using the alternative of the walkway up on the right alongside the road, but abandoning it when it goes away to the right).		
5	11	A few yards after crossing Hurst Hill, fork right down the signalled footpath, soon between barriers and on, downhill.		
6	14	As the trees appear to be coming to an end, with steps up ahead, instead turn left at a crosspaths. Then continue straight ahead all the way until you reach the dead end of a cul-de-sac.	753 629	0.72
7	23	There pass between the barriers and go ahead along the roadway.		
8	25	Towards the end, ignore the roadway as it goes down to the left, but just after house no. 7 on the right continue ahead past the barrier to a narrow footpath between walls on both sides.		
9	26	At the end turn half-right on to a walkway above and parallel to the road.		
10	30	Swing right with the road.	753 640	
11	32	At the end turn left into a more significant road.		1.61
12	38	Pass <u>St Philip and St James's Church</u> on the left, and then cross the road when convenient.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
13	39	Reaching the main road at the end, turn right along it and cross it as soon as convenient.		
14	40	Turn left immediately after the school entrance along a broad pathway. Follow this through all its twists and turns, and past various barriers (never turning off, and only following bends when they are forced) finally reaching steps down to a road.		
15	49	[Map point] Reaching the road turn left along it, steeply downhill, and follow it around a full semicircle, clockwise.		
16	51	At the junction at the bottom, turn left.		2.53
17	53	Turn left along the main road, and use the light-controlled crossing to go, briefly, along its right-hand pavement.		
18	54	Almost immediately turn right along the right-hand side of Prince Charles Avenue, soon steeply uphill.		
19	59	At the T-junction at the top, turn right.		
20	60	At the end of the railings opposite, cross the road and go across the grass at a slight diagonal towards its far left-hand corner.		
21	62	There turn left along Ballens Road, and follow it, beginning with its gentle right-hand bend.		
22	71	After house no.137, turn left along Knole Road.		3.39
23		After the last of the houses on the right, turn right along a metalled passageway with the school grounds on its left.		
24	73	Continue on the main path as it bends left, then right, to go alongside children's playgrounds.		
25	77	Reach a bench, just before the trees at the top. <i>[To visit St David's Church, Lordswood, now divert instead to the Detour in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Just before the trees, next to the bench, turn right on the the path alongside them.		
26	84	Reaching a major roundabout, continue ahead, anti-clockwise round it, crossing the two carriageways of Lordswood Lane. Follow the footpath round, slightly to the right, along the start of Dargets Road, and cross that road when convenient.		
27	87	After following the road's right-swing and passing the end of Redwood Close, turn left along an enclosed footpath indicated by a ground-level slab.		4.04
28	88	Follow the path, right-left-right, passing the corner of a fenced-off area.		
29	89	Fork left to stay near the border of the wood.		
30	90	But at the next fork take the right-hand option, away from it.		
31	92	Continue ahead, alongside the fence on the left.		
32	94	And still straight ahead, ignoring minor right turns, following the path briefly across an open area, then back again into trees.		
33	96	Turn sharp-left along the enclosed walkway.	762 632	
34	98	After a steep descent, ending in steps, turn right along the road.		
35	99	Turn left at the corner of the village car park.		
36		Turn right along the roadway in front a row of shops.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
37	100	Pass St William's Church on the left, and continue beyond it, slightly to the right, along a short, narrow path through the trees to reach the main road.		
38	101	There turn left, uphill, staying for now on the left-hand pavement.		
39	105	[Map point] Cross the road using the long grassy island up above, and swing right along its right-hand side.		4.75
40	112	Continue ahead at the junction.	757 627	
41		A few yards further on, turn away from the major road by forking right along a minor offshoot. Follow this as it bends right and down, and left and up.		
42**	118	When the road swings right, near the top: <u>either, to continue the circuit</u> (if not visiting, or finishing at, St Alban's Church), carry on from Direction 4, by following the turning road as it becomes Taddington Wood Lane;		
** or 42A	118	<u>... or, to detour to, or finish at, St Alban's Church</u> , go straight ahead (a dead end for traffic).		
42B	120	At the end embark on the spiral climb to the footbridge over the road.		
42C	122	Emerge at the dead end of a cul-de-sac and go straight ahead along it.		
42D	128	Reach, on the right, the gateway to St Alban's Church .	748 624	5.65
42E		If returning to the circuit having visited the church, resume from Direction 1.		

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

APPENDIX to Local Circuit RS2

Detour to St David's Church, Lordswood

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
25A		To reach St David's Church, Lordswood: At Direction 25, instead of turning right at the bench, go ahead between the trees, reach the main road, cross it by road by way of the lights and turn left on the far side. Then cross Kestrel Road and go along the joint pedestrian/cyclist pathway opposite.		0.00
25B	1	Reach the car park at its corner. Over on the right is St David's Church, Lordswood (shared Anglican/Methodist facility). After visiting the church, retrace your steps: with your back to the entrance of the church building, go across to what is now the left-hand corner of the car park, and there turn left along a joint pedestrian/cyclist pathway.		
25C	2	Cross Kestrel Road and use the pedestrian crossing on the right to cross the main road. On the far side go straight ahead between the trees for a few yards, then rejoin the main route by turning left along the path near the bench, continuing from Direction 25. Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.14 miles to cumulative distances.		0.14

* "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 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 RS2	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	11-13, 17-19, 26, 34-35, 38-40	22
Quiet road \$\$	1, 3-4, 7, 10, 15-16, 21-22, 36, 41-42A, 42C	35
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	6b, 6d, 20, 24, 32b	8
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	2, 8-9, 14, 23, 25, 27, 33, 42B	22
Woods	5-6a, 6c, 28-32a, 32c, 37	13

** 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.