

CHATHAM SOUTH

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1 (first and last sections)

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

ROADS:

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

PATHS:

- On route
- Adjoining

Ballens Road

9m

79

Knole Road

10m

Albemarle Road

Albemarle Road

Sultan Road

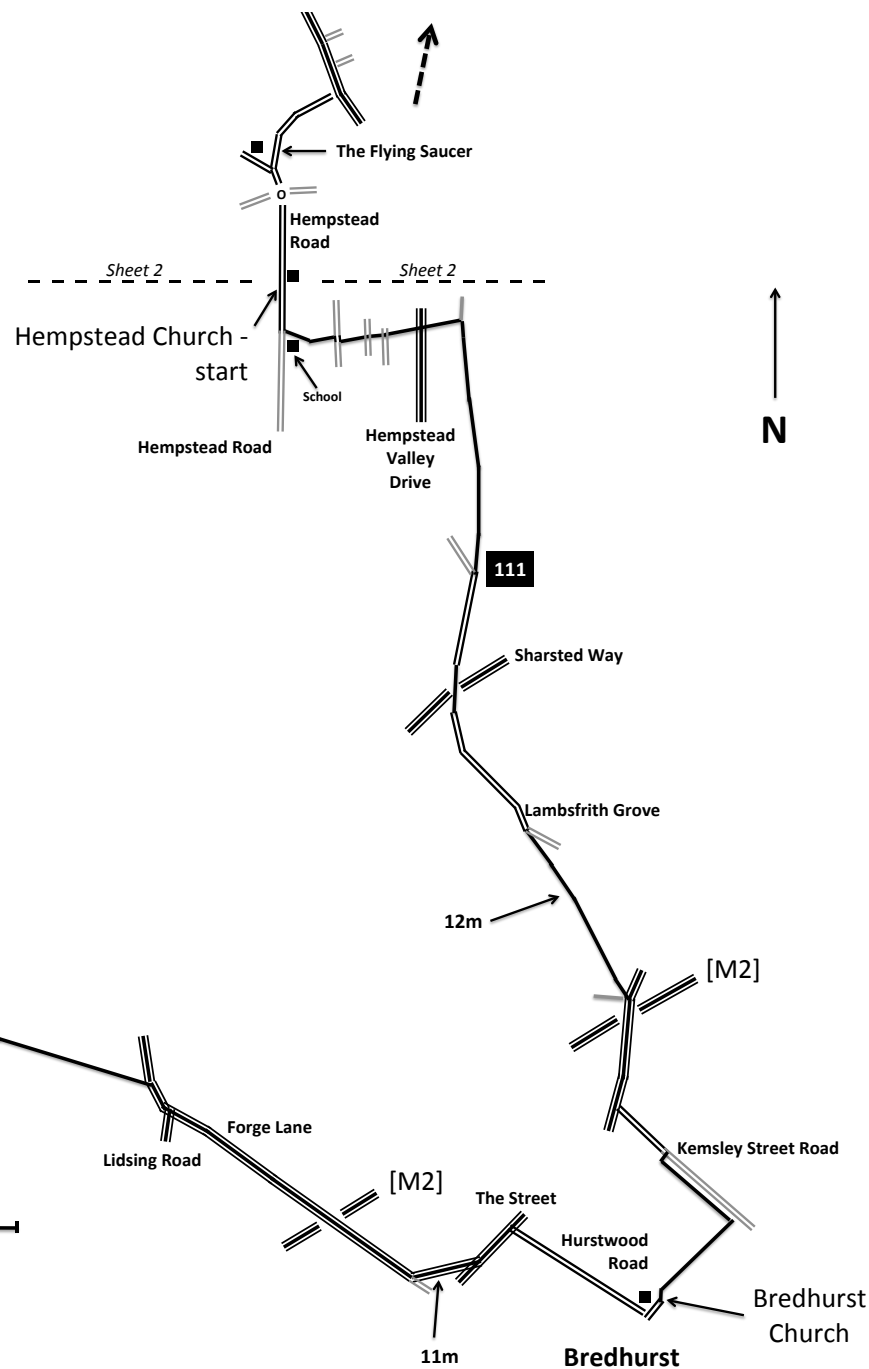
Lordswood Church

Scale (approx.):

1 km

1/2 - mile

Starting direction



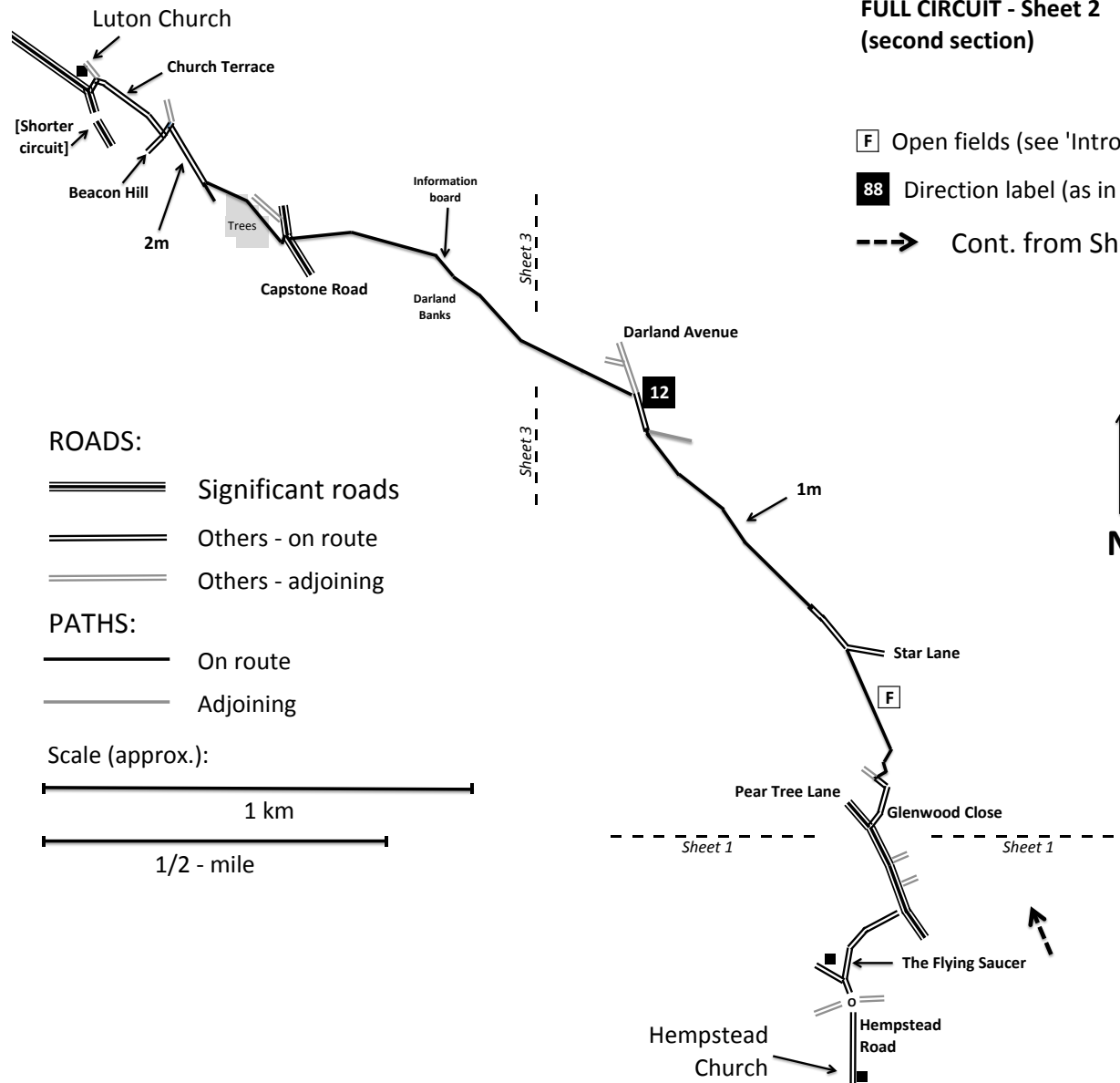
CHATHAM SOUTH

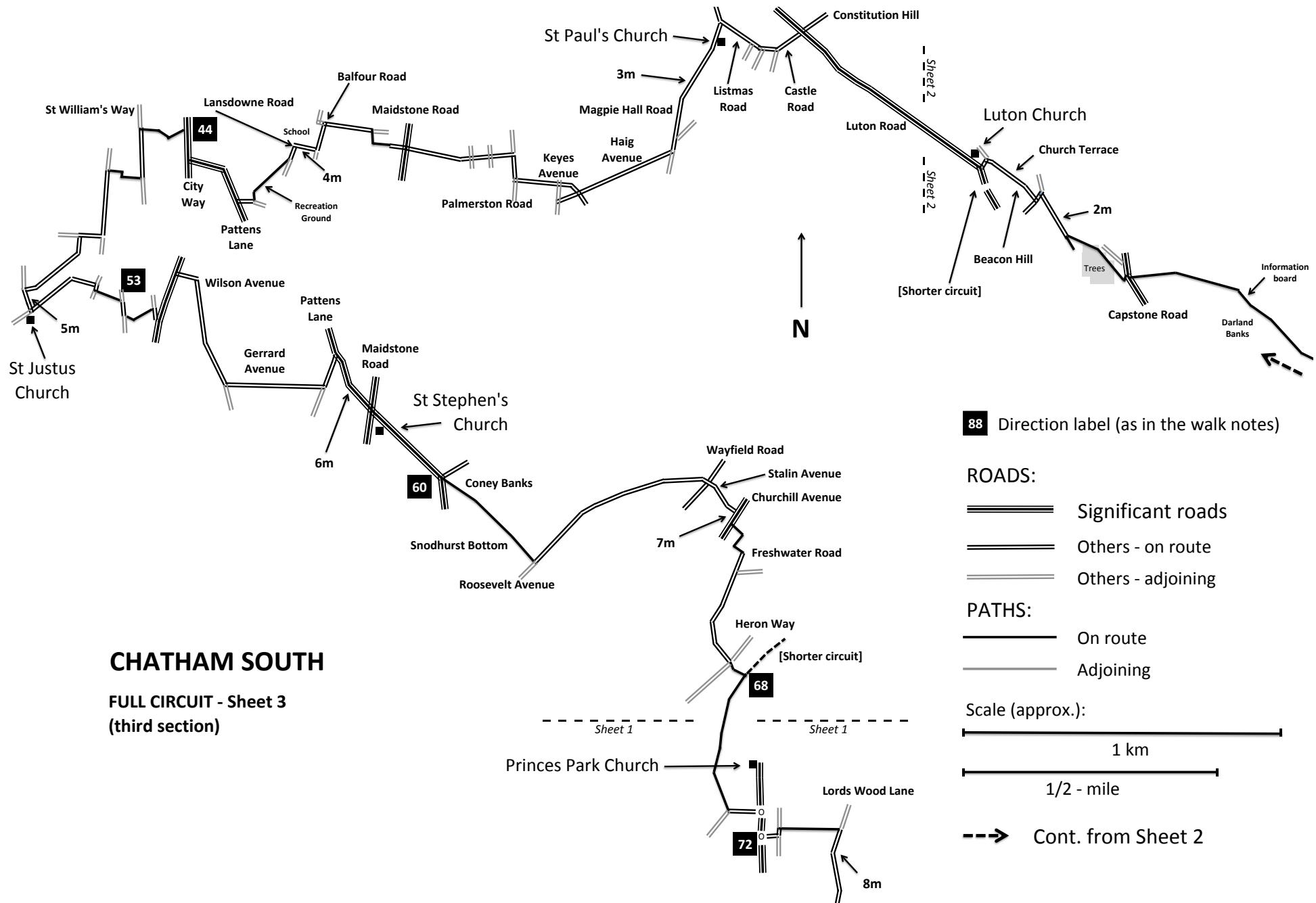
FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2 (second section)

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

---> Cont. from Sheet 1





CHATHAM SOUTH CIRCUIT - 13.20 miles

Churches in the full circuit:

Hempstead (start and finish)

Luton (Direction 21)

Chatham St Paul (24)

Rochester St Justus (51)

Chatham St Stephen (59)

Princes Park (Direction 71B: Detour - see Appendix)

Lordswood (82)

Bredhurst (96)

Associated local circuits

- CS2: Luton – Darland Banks – Hempstead – Capstone Farm CP – Princes Park - Luton
- MN1: Chatham – Gillingham – Darland Banks – Luton - Chatham
- CS1: Luton – South Chatham – South Rochester – South Chatham - Luton
- RS1: South Rochester – Borstal – Rochester – South Rochester
- RS2: Blue Bell Hill – South Chatham – Lordswood – Blue Bell Hill
- GS1: Hempstead – Wigmore – Parkwood – Bredhurst - Hempstead

Full circuit: Varied in the extreme! The walk combines the wonderful view from the top of the Darland Banks nature reserve (Direction 14) with Chatham's urban fringe, a good deal of quiet suburbia and stretches of open countryside.

Roads and hindrances:

Much of the walk is on roads, most - but not all, relatively harmless. It is worth crossing the road after St Stephen's Church (59) quite early, to avoid the complexity of the junction further ahead. And the roundabouts around Princes Park (71B and 72) are busy enough to command particular respect.

There are a few healthy climbs, but only the one up from Emily Way (73) is significantly steep.

FULL CIRCUIT

Hempstead – Darland Banks – Luton – South Chatham – Princes Park – Lordswood – Bredhurst - Hempstead

Notes taken: August to December 2019

The start and finish is at All Saints Church, Hempstead - 169 Hempstead Road, ME7 3QG

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		On Hempstead Road with your back to the entrance to Hempstead Church , turn right along the road, and cross to its left-hand side when convenient.	791 643	
2	2	Cross Dukes Meadow Drive on the left, and continue ahead.		
3	3	Pass the Flying Saucer on your left and continue along the left-hand side of the road.		
4	5	Reaching the roundabout, cross the major road using the island, and then turn left along its right-hand side.		
5	8	Turn right into Glenwood Close, and follow its leftward bend.		
6	9	Turn right, away from the road, along a narrow passage between houses 34 and 35.	792 650	
7	10	After going down steps among the trees, turn left with the track. Then, about 40 yds. further on, follow the track as it swings to the right.		
8	11	[!!F!!] Emerge from the trees along the path heading straight on down towards the houses by the roadside in the middle distance.		
9	14	Next to the signpost turn slightly left, up the roadway.		
10	16	Carry on up, past the traffic barrier.		0.84
11	24	And still on, up past another barrier.		
12	25	[Map point] Take the footpath forking left away from the road.		
13	26	Go through a kissing gate, then after about 20 yds. more take the right fork. Then continue ahead on a more or less level path.		
14	33	Reach an information board, and, just beyond it, a bench. Then a few yards further on follow the track steeply downhill to the left. Ignore all tracks to left and right and always follow the main path all the way down to the road.	782 662	
15	39	Cross the road and, directly opposite, go, among the trees, leftwards down a few steps and then briefly right.		1.81
16		After a few yards emerge at the edge of an open grassy area and turn right to follow, about 15 yds. further on, a path back into trees.		
17	40	Emerge from trees into another grassy space and head down towards the bottom left-hand corner.		
18	41	At that corner, at the start of the houses, join the road by turning half-right along it.		
19	43	At the far end turn sharp-left, steeply downhill.		
20	44	Take the first-right turning into Church Terrace.		
21	46	Opposite the end, and slightly down to the left, reach the lych-gate and entrance path to Luton Church . A few yards after passing it, turn right alongside the main road.		
22	55	Turn left along Castle Road, crossing it as soon as convenient.		
23	57	Turn right along Listmas Road.		2.75
24	59	At the end turn sharp left, soon passing the entrance to St Paul's Church on the left. Continue steeply uphill.		
25	66	Near the top, turn right up Haig Avenue.		
26	72	Turn right to keep to the right of the green.		
27	73	Cross White Road, and continue ahead along Keyes Avenue.	760 666	

* **"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
28	75	At the end go almost straight across the road (slightly to the left) to go along a footpath between walls.		
29	77	Turn right, with the path.		
30	78	After steep steps down, turn left along the road.		
31	80	Cross Maidstone Road (if necessary using the light-controlled crossing over to the right) and continue ahead along Kingswood Avenue.		3.74
32	81	At the bottom, cross the crossing road and continue straight ahead along a narrow walkway.		
33	82	Follow the walkway as it turns right.		
34		At the end turn left along the road.		
35	83	At the crossroads continue ahead up Neville Road.		
36	85	Just before the end at the top, turn left alongside the school.		
37	86	At the junction, by the General at Sea, turn right along Lansdowne Road.		
38	87	Turn left along Rosebery Road.		
39	88	Cross into the field and head across towards the corner diagonally opposite.	752 667	
40	90	At that corner, leave the field along a narrow pathway.		
41	91	Turn right along the road.		
42		Then right again along Pattens Lane.		
43	94	Cross City Way, and turn right to walk along its left-hand side.		
44	95	[Map point] After house no.252, turn left down an alleyway and follow it as it turns from side to side between its walls.		
45	97	Emerge to go down steps and turn left up St William's Way.		4.50
46	100	Turn right, away from the road, down another winding walkway.		
47	101	At the end, turn left along the road.		
48	104	After the school, turn right into Crest Road.		
49	105	Turn left into Leeward Road, and follow it round to the right.		
50	108	At the end turn left up Windward Road.		
51	109	START OF THE SPINE SECTION At the junction with the major road (The Fairway), St Justus Church is visible over the road and slightly to the right. To continue the route turn left along The Fairway.	744 662	
52	112	Turn right at the bottom, and then, between houses 51 and 53, left up a steeply rising passageway, with an open area soon opening out on the right.		
53	114	[Map point] Go up steps to a road and turn right. Then after about 20 yds. turn left up more steps.		
54	116	At the top of the steps go ahead to cross both the roads which are merging at this point, and turn left to go along the right-hand side of City Way.		5.34
55	118	Turn right into Wilson Avenue, and soon follow it as it turns further to the right.		
56	122	Turn left along Gerrard Avenue.		
57	126	At the end turn left, rejoining Wilson Avenue.		
58	127	At the end turn sharp right along Pattens Lane, keeping on its right-hand side.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
59	130	Cross the main road at the junction and continue ahead, passing St Stephen's Church on the right, and cross when convenient to go now along the left-hand side.		6.09
60	134	[Map point] At the end, when road swings to the right, instead go straight across into the Coney Banks open space and follow the path to Snodhurst Bottom, soon steeply down, with steps.		
61	137	Continue ahead along the right-hand side of a massive field.		
62	138	Continue, climbing the steep metalled path ahead.		
63	140	After a squeeze barrier turn left along the road.	759 654	
64	148	At the crossroads at the end cross the major road and continue ahead down Stalin Avenue.		6.91
65	150	At the bottom cross the crossing road and turn right along its left-hand side, then turn left up a steep, winding passageway, sometimes with steps.		
66	152	At the top, emerging at the dead end of a cul-de-sac, turn sharp right up it. Go straight ahead ignoring Fisher Road on the left.		
67	158	After following the road uphill through its mainly leftward curves, cross Heron Way at the top, and, next to the lamp-post, go down the footpath opposite – metalled with steps.		
68	159	END OF THE SPINE SECTION [Map point] At the bottom of the steps, turn right along a broad concrete path.		
69	162	Ignore the narrow path leading down to the left. <i>[It would be possible, and indeed it is tempting, to use it as a short cut down to Princes Park Church and its surroundings, but even in the dry it is too steep to recommend!]</i>		
70	164	At the end turn left alongside the road.		7.69
71	165	[To visit Princes Park Church , now divert instead to the Detour in the Appendix.] Main route: After crossing the road when convenient, reach the roundabout at the bottom and turn right along the main road.		
72	166	[Map point] After a second roundabout, use the lights to cross the main road on the left, and continue briefly up Wren Way opposite.		
73	167	At the top look across the crossing road (Emily Way) and slightly to the left, to find the start of the steep uphill footpath ('to Lordswood Lane, RC9A'). Set off up this path.		
74	172	After two squeeze gates reach a crossing road, and turn right along it, staying on the right-hand side; and at the junction after house no.364 continue straight ahead.	769 645	
75	183	Ignore Prince Charles Avenue on the right and continue ahead.		8.51
76	184	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.		
77	186	There turn left along Ballens Road, and follow it, beginning with its gentle right-hand bend.		
78	195	After house no.137, turn left along Knole Road.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
79		[Map point] After the last of the houses on the right, turn right along a metalled passageway with the school grounds on its left.		
80	197	Continue on the main path as it bends left, then right, to go alongside children's playgrounds.		
81	201	At the top cross the 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.		
82	202	Reach the car park at its corner. Over to the right is Lordswood Church (shared Anglican/Methodist facility). There join the car park's main access road (Newton Close), going between the Kent Autistic Trust Centre on the left and Lordswood 10-Pin Bowling on the left.		
83	203	At the end of Newton Close turn left along the road (Sultan Road), crossing when convenient.		9.44
84	204	At the end turn right along the main road, staying on the right-hand pavement.	774 627	
85	207	Pass the end of Clandon Road and continue ahead.		
86	209	When the road swings decisively to the left, instead go straight on across a rough parking area, and then along a rough path among the trees ahead.		
87	210	Reaching a rough but clear crossing path in the trees, turn right along it (currently – August 2019 – contending with fallen trees).		
88	214	Emerge from the trees and go ahead along a path between hugh fields.		
89	226	At the end turn right along the road, and follow it around its left-hand bend.		10.55
90	227	Continue ahead, crossing the road on the right at the junction, and go ahead, along the wide grass verge to start with.		
91	229	Cross to the left-hand side when the pavement appears there.		
92	232	Cross the motorway over the bridge and continue ahead.		
93	235	Keep left, following the road.		
94	236	At the end turn left along The Street.		
95	237	Use the zebra crossing, then turn right along Hurstwood Road.		
96	241	Pass Bredhurst Church on the left, then follow the roadway (marked as a footpath) leftwards alongside the wall.		11.32
97	242	Slightly further left, start along a footpath, between fences at first.		
98	245	At the end turn left along an enclosed path parallel to the road.	801 623	
99	247	At the end of the path join the road and continue ahead in the same direction.		
100	249	At the end turn right into the major road. Cross to its left-hand side as soon as convenient.		
101	252	A few yards after crossing the motorway turn left into an access roadway, and then immediately right off it, down an overgrown and narrow footpath, with steps, into trees. The signpost is currently (August 2019) damaged and useless.		
102	253	At the bottom, after the bend to the right, continue straight on, ignoring the path which goes away to the left.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
103	255	Emerge from the trees through a MKG and continue ahead along a grassy pathway between fences.		
104	257	Continue ahead through another MKG, back into trees.		
105		And on, along an enclosed path.		
106	258	Go a little to the left to join a quiet road (Lambsfrith Grove).		
107	259	Pass Lullingstone Close on the right and continue ahead.		12.21
108	262	At the end of the road, go ahead alongside the grass.		
109	263	Reach the main road at an angle and cross it using the lights. Then continue beyond it, in much the same direction as before.		
110	264	At the dead end of a cul-de-sac, go ahead along it.		
111	266	[Map point] When the roadway swings down to the left, instead go straight ahead, ignoring the driveway on the right, along the broad footpath between barriers.		
112	273	At a crossing of paths, turn left through a squeeze barrier, down a concrete path with steps.		12.88
113	274	Continue ahead, ignoring the dead end of a cul-de-sac on the left.		
114	275	Use the zebra crossing and go straight ahead up a similar path, with steps, ignoring the crossing driveway in between.		
115	276	Cross another road and continue ahead in the same way.		
116	278	And again. This time the continuing path is a little to the right.		
117	279	After passing the school on the left, turn right along the road.		
118	281	Reach Hempstead Church (All Saints) on the right, the starting point of the walk.	791 643	13.20

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

APPENDIX to Full Circuit

Detour to Princes Park Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
71A		To reach Princes Park Church, do not cross the road at Direction 71, but carry on down the left-hand side and turn left at the roundabout at the bottom instead of right. Stay on the left-hand side of the main road.		0.00
71B	2	Cross the side road and find Princes Park Church over on the left. After visiting the church, retrace your steps towards the roundabout, crossing the main road to the left-hand side when convenient, and before reaching the roundabout (using the footbridge if necessary).		0.10
71C	4	Pass the roundabout and continue ahead to a second one.		
71D	5	Rejoin the main route by turning left up Wren Way, as at Direction 72. Add 4 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.20 miles to cumulative distances.		0.25

* *“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!

CHATHAM SOUTH - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-4, 21b-22, 24, 42-43, 45, 51-52a, 54, 58-59, 70-72, 75, 81a, 84-85, 89-94, 100, 117	25
Quiet road \$\$	5, 9-12, 18-21a, 23, 25-27, 30-31, 34-38, 41, 47-50, 53a, 55-57, 63-64, 66, 74, 77-78, 82-83, 86a, 95-96, 99, 106-107, 110-111a	41
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	8, 16a, 17, 39, 52c, 61, 76, 80, 88, 108-109	10
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	13a, 13c, 14a, 28-29, 32-33, 40, 44, 46, 52b, 52d, 53b, 65, 68-69, 73, 79, 81b, 97a, 97c-98, 103, 105, 111b, 112-116	17
Woods	6-7, 13b, 14b-15, 16b, 60, 62, 67, 86b-87, 97b, 101-102, 104, 111c	8

** 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.