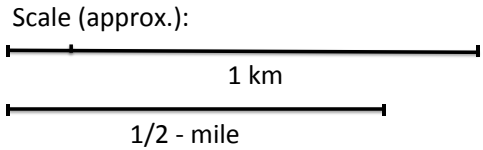
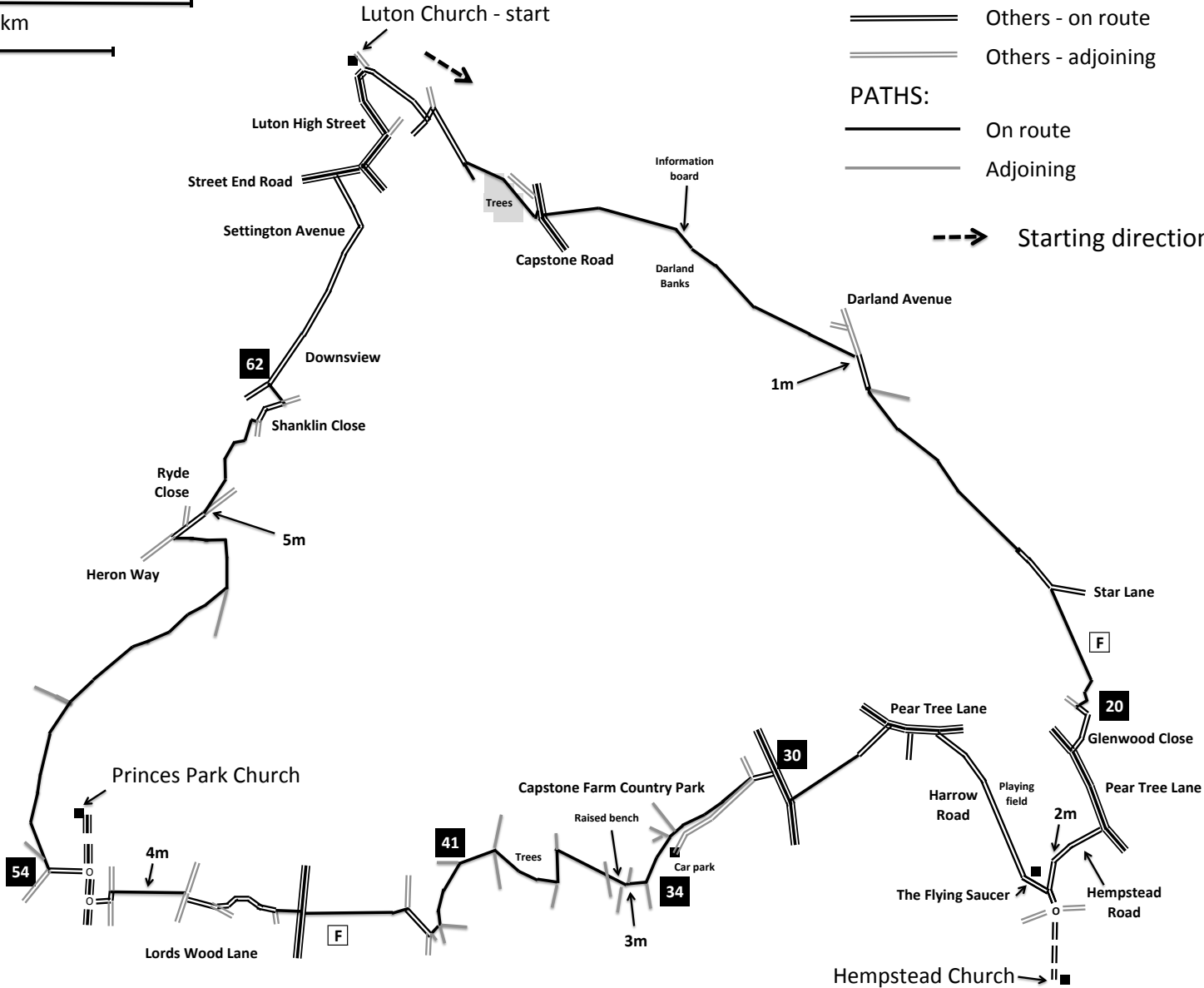


LOCAL CIRCUIT CS2: LUTON & HEMPSTEAD



- ROADS:**
- Significant roads
 - Others - on route
 - Others - adjoining
- PATHS:**
- On route
 - Adjoining
- Starting direction**



LOCAL CIRCUIT CS2: LUTON AND HEMPSTEAD - 5.89 miles

Linked churches:

Luton (start and finish)

Hempstead (Direction 23C: Detour 1 – see Appendix)

Princes Park (Direction 53B: Detour 2 – see Appendix)

Roads and hindrances:

The roads are relatively harmless, though the roundabouts around Princes Park (Direction 52) are busy enough to command particular respect.

Notes taken: August to December 2019

The start and finish is at Luton Church, ME4 5BT.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		With your back to the lych-gate of <u>Luton Church</u> , cross the road and go ahead along Church Terrace, which starts a few yards further to the left.	774 667	
2	3	At the T-junction at the end turn left, steeply uphill.		
3		After about 30 yds. turn right.		
4	5	At the end of the houses, go gently uphill over the grass which opens out on the left, aiming at the far left-hand corner at the top.		
5	7	Here turn slightly right to go into trees, parallel to the road you have reached.		
6	9	Emerge from the trees at the corner of an open area, and go ahead a further 15 yds. Here go up a short, narrow path on the left to reach the road by way of some steps.		
7	10	Cross the road and directly opposite walk up the start of the steep footpath which angles up to the right.		
8	12	After passing a redundant gate go increasingly steeply uphill.		
9	14	And more steeply still, straight up ahead.		
10	17	Reach the top, and bend to the right, passing a bench and an information board.		0.64
11	18	Ignore the path going down to the right.		
12	23	Continue ahead, ignoring the left fork.		
13	24	Go on, through the kissing gate.		
14	25	Merge right with the roadway as it comes down from the left.		
15	26	Continue down the roadway, passing the traffic barrier and ignoring the footpath signposted up to the left.		
16	33	Pass another traffic barrier and continue on down.		
17	35	!!!F!! As the road bends to the left, instead strike out to the right along the signposted path up across the field. (Bearing 160.)		1.47
18	38	Go straight ahead into the trees.		

* ***“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
19	39	Bend left with the track, then after about 40 yds. right, up steps.		
20	40	[Map point] Turn left along Glenwood Close, then follow it as it bends to the right.		
21	41	At the end, turn left along the main road (Pear Tree Lane), and cross to its right-hand side when convenient, and at the latest using the island before the nearby junction.		
22	44	Remain on the pavement on the right of Pear Tree Lane and then turn right with it (now Hempstead Road).	792 647	
23	47	[To visit <i>Hempstead Church</i> , now divert instead to <i>Detour 1</i> in the Appendix.] Main route: Reach the Flying Saucer, and at the corner at its far end turn sharp right (the start of Harrow Road).		
24	48	Continue ahead as the road becomes rough, and goes ahead alongside the playing field.		
25	53	Turn left alongside the main road.		2.36
26	54	Ignore Dukes Meadow Drive on the left and go briefly ahead.		
27	55	Turn left along the metalled footpath.	787 650	
28	57	At the end, keep left and go straight on between barriers and on down a path, with a house on your right.		
29	60	At the bottom turn right along the road.		
30	61	[Map point] Turn left up the road leading into the Capstone Farm Country Park (signposted 'Ski Centre').		
31		After passing, on the right, a roadway and an information board, continue ahead uphill, no longer along the road but on the parallel pathway in the trees on the right, as waymarked.		
32	64	Follow the 'straight-ahead' waymarks, keeping to the left of the fence, and always close to the parallel road beyond the hedge on the left.		
33	67	After ignoring paths on the right, reach the top (where the road on the left has opened out into the car park) and follow the main path until a grassy space opens up on the right.	782 647	
34		[Map point] At that point turn right to go along the right-hand edge of the grass.		
35	69	At the end of the grass edge slightly right to go immediately to the left of the raised bench, and, following for the moment the claret waymark, go directly across a fenced-off crossing track and down along the right-hand edge of the field.		
36	72	At the bottom turn left, briefly into trees.		
37	73	Emerging from the trees, turn right, past a bench and along the right-hand edge of the field, bending gently up to the right. Follow the waymarks all the way round at the edge of the trees.		
38	75	Merge into another path, and go leftwards into trees.		
39		Meet a fenced-off crossing track, and go directly across it and along another path opposite.	777 647	3.30
40	76	Emerging from the trees, continue ahead along the right-hand side of a field.		
41		[Map point] Take the left fork, to continue along the bottom of the field.		
42	77	Continue ahead at the crosspaths.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
43	78	At the very far corner, go slightly to the right through a squeeze gate, and on beyond it for about 40 yds. along the bottom of a field.		
44	79	Then pick your way down through a gap on the right to reach the road next to a signpost.		
45		Turn right along the road.		
46	80	[!!F!!] After the bend look out for steps on the left and use them (signposted RC9) to start the climb up the left-hand side of the field.	775 645	
47	86	At the top go ahead down steep steps to reach the road, cross it by way of the island, then go up steps beyond and ahead along a pathway between hedges.		
48	87	Join a road, going straight ahead at first (ignoring Bowman Close), then swinging left with it.		
49	89	At the T-junction at the end, turn right.		
50	90	At the T-junction at the bottom, go ahead, steeply down a footpath almost opposite (slightly to the right).		3.93
51	93	After right-left bends in the path, reach the road at the bottom. Cross it, and, over to the left, turn right to go down the bottom end of Wren Way, staying on its right-hand pavement.		
52	94	Reaching the busy main road, turn right along it, crossing it before the second roundabout with the help of the island.		
53	95	<i>[To visit Princes Park Church, now divert instead to Detour 2 in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Start to climb Swallow Rise, crossing to its right-hand side as soon as possible.		
54	96	[Map point] At the start of the road's swing to the left, leave it by turning right along the footpath.		
55		Ignore the path forking up to the left: continue ahead.		
56	102	Pass steps coming down from the left, and continue ahead.		4.49
57	109	At the path junction, swing leftwards, ignoring the path leading down to the right.		
58	112	Reach the road at the top and turn right, crossing it before reaching the bus stop on the other side.		
59	113	At the bus stop, take the path forking left away from the road, and continue along it as straight as possible, until you reach house no.29 on the left.	769 655	
60	117	At this point turn right to go down the steps, then left along the roadway.		
61	118	Immediately before house no.49 on the left, turn left up the alley between the houses.		
62	119	[Map point] At the top, opposite Maunders Close, turn right along the road (Downsview, which soon becomes Settington Avenue).		5.26
63	125	Swing left with the road.		
64	127	At the end turn right along the main road, use the island to cross to the left-hand side, and continue ahead, passing the garage on the left.		

* **"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
65	129	Follow the main road as it turns left at the bottom, then cross it when convenient, and at the latest before it bends to the right at the end.		
66	131	Cross Upper Luton Road to reach, a few steps up to the right, the lych-gate and entrance pathway to Luton Church , the starting point of the walk.	774 667	5.89

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

APPENDIX to Local Circuit CS2

Detour to Hempstead Church (Detour 1)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
23A	0	For the detour to Hempstead Church: Instead of Direction 23, continue ahead past the Flying Saucer and a small row of shops.		0.00
23B	1	Continue ahead, crossing Dukes Meadow Drive.		
23C	3	Reach Hempstead Church on the left. After visiting the church retrace your steps to the Flying Saucer.		0.17
23D	6	Rejoin the main route by forking left at the Flying Saucer and start along Harrow Road as at Direction 23. Add 6 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.34 miles to cumulative distances.		0.34

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

Detour to Princes Park Church (Detour 2)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
53A	0	For the detour to Princes Park Church: Instead of turning left up Swallow Rise at Direction 53, cross it and continue ahead along the main road.		0.00
53B	2	Cross the side road and find Princes Park Church over on the left. After visiting the church, retrace your steps towards the bottom of Swallow Rise.		0.10
53C	4	Rejoin the main route at Direction 53 by turning right up Swallow Rise. Add 4 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.20 miles to cumulative distances.		0.20

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

FOR THOSE WHO WALK WITH THEIR DOGS

See footnote on next page.

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 CS2	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	21-22, 25-26, 29, 51-53, 58, 64-65	14
Quiet road \$\$	1-3, 13-16, 20, 23-24a, 24c, 27, 30, 45, 48-49, 60, 62-63, 66	32
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	4, 6a, 17, 24b, 34, 35b, 37, 40-44, 46b, 56b-57a	19
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	8-11, 12b, 28, 46a, 47, 50, 54-56a, 57b, 59, 61	27
Woods	5, 6b-7, 12a, 18-19, 31-33, 35a, 36, 38-39	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.