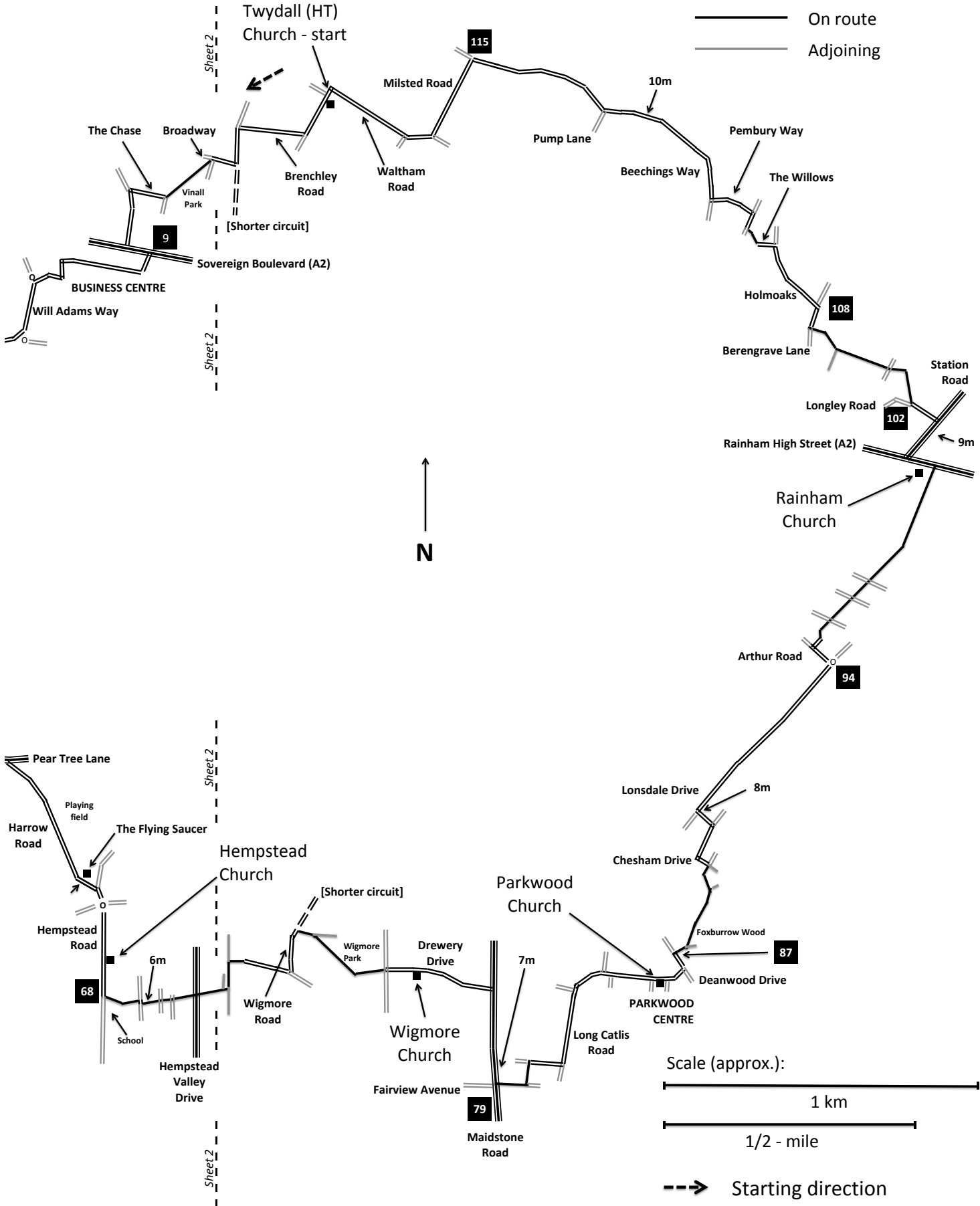


GILLINGHAM SOUTH

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 1  
(first and last sections)

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)  
--> Starting direction

ROADS:  
===== Significant roads  
===== Others - on route  
===== Others - adjoining  
PATHS:  
===== On route  
===== Adjoining

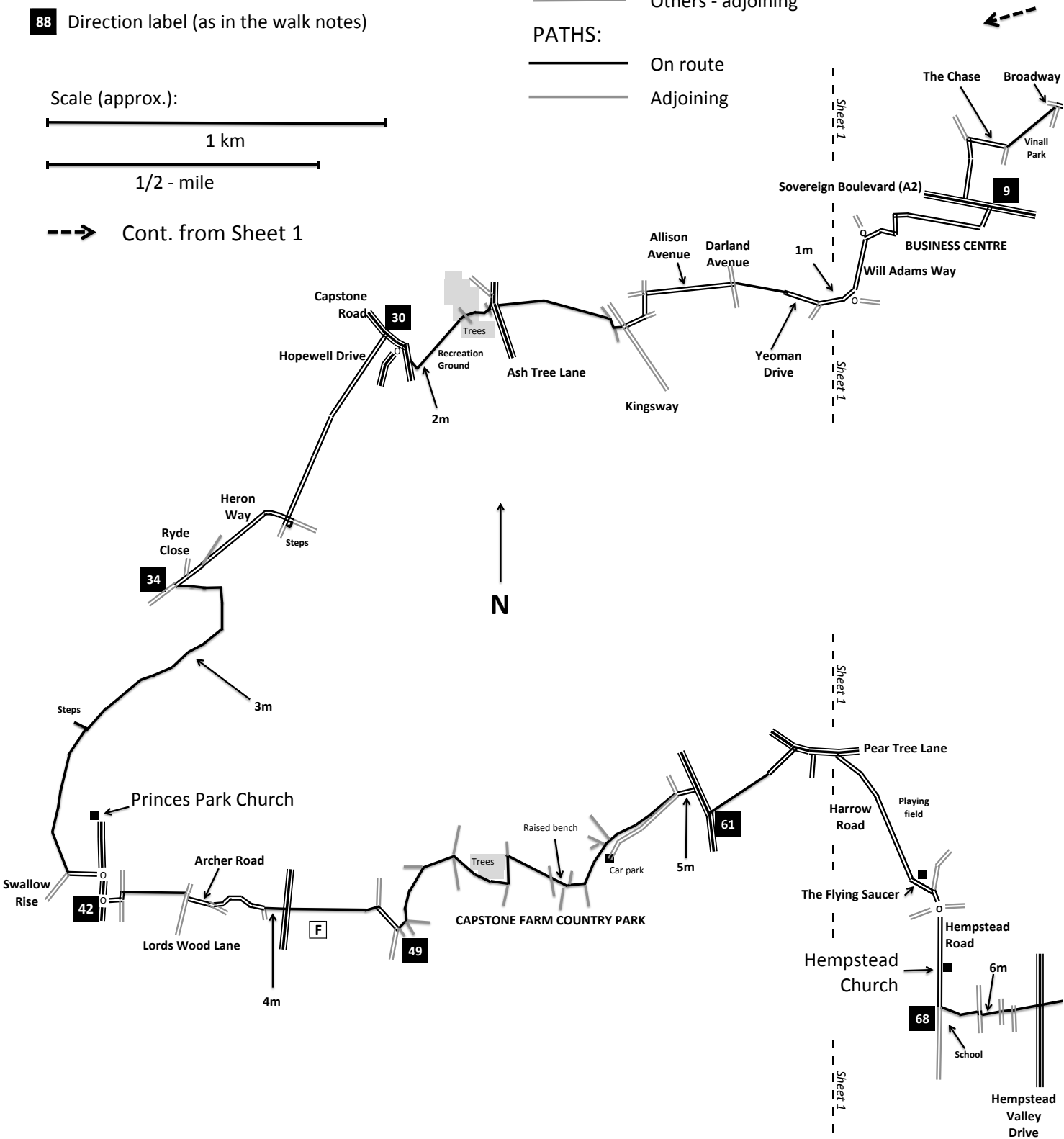


# GILLINGHAM SOUTH

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2  
(middle section)

- [F] Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')
- 88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

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



## GILLINGHAM SOUTH CIRCUIT - 10.75 miles

### Churches in the full circuit:

Twydall - Holy Trinity (start and finish)

Princes Park (Direction 41B: Detour - see Appendix)

Hempstead (67)

Wigmore (77)

Parkwood (85)

Rainham (99)

### Associated local circuits

- GS2: Parkwood – Rainham – Twydall – Wigmore – Parkwood
- MN1: Chatham – Gillingham – Darland Banks – Luton – Chatham
- CS2: Luton – Darland Banks – Hempstead – Capstone Farm CP – Princes Park – Luton
- GS1: Hempstead – Wigmore – Parkwood – Bredhurst – Hempstead

**Full circuit:** Like its Chatham counterpart, this circuit is a mixture: in this case airily suburban for the most part, though returning also to the delights of Darland Banks and later a fleeting glimpse of open countryside followed by the Capstone Farm Country Park.

### Roads and hindrances:

The busier roads are well supplied with lights or islands. The roads and roundabouts around Princes Park (Directions 41B and 42) should command particular respect.

The climb up from Emily Way (43) is steep, but relatively short.

### FULL CIRCUIT

**Twydall – Darland Banks – Princes Park – Capstone CP – Hempstead – Parkwood – Rainham – Twydall**

Notes taken: December 2019

The start and finish is at Holy Trinity Church, Twydall (ME8 6JX).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the entrance path to <b>Holy Trinity Church</b> , turn left (along Twydall Lane).	798 671	
2	<b>2</b>	Turn right along Brenchley Road.		
3	<b>4</b>	At the T-junction at the end, turn left.		
4	<b>6</b>	Turn right into Broadway.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
5	<b>7</b>	Turn half-left across the grass as Vinall Park opens out on the left. Aim at its diagonally opposite corner, where a blue and white notice board is visible.		
6	<b>9</b>	At the corner turn half-right along The Chase.		
7	<b>11</b>	At the end turn left along Featherby Road.		
8	<b>14</b>	Reaching the A2, go across to the right to use the light-controlled crossing. Once across, turn left along the far side.		
9	<b>15</b>	[Map point] Leave the A2 by turning right, between barriers, along a dual-use track.		
10	<b>16</b>	Follow the track as it turns right and goes up the slope towards the Business Centre car park.		
11	<b>17</b>	At the top go ahead along the right-hand edge of the car park, eventually swinging left, then right, with the roadway.		
12	<b>19</b>	Cross to the left-hand side before the roundabout.		
13	<b>20</b>	At the roundabout swing left with the road, and when convenient cross to its right-hand side.		0.99
14	<b>23</b>	Alongside the next roundabout at the end, turn right, along Academy Drive.	789 663	
15	<b>24</b>	Continue ahead on Yeoman Drive, alongside the big sports ground on the right.		
16	<b>26</b>	Still go ahead alongside the sports ground as the road bends away to the left, now along a narrow passageway.		
17	<b>27</b>	At the end of the passageway cross the road and go ahead along the left-hand pavement of Allison Avenue opposite.		
18	<b>31</b>	Turn left into Preston Avenue and cross when convenient.		
19	<b>32</b>	At the end turn right.		
20		Cross Kingsway and opposite, between a bin and the 'Kingsway' sign, find steps, and go down them.		
21	<b>33</b>	At the bottom, reach an information board, and go briefly right, past a bench. Then a few yards further on follow the track on the left, steeply downhill. Ignore all tracks to left and right and always follow the main path all the way down to the road.		1.61
22	<b>39</b>	Cross the road and, directly opposite, go, among the trees, leftwards down a few steps and then briefly right.		
23		After a few yards emerge into an open grassy area. Go down across it to the trees below, slightly to the right, to find a narrow path heading down into the trees.		
24	<b>40</b>	Follow this winding path, ignoring, after a few yards, a left fork.		
25		Reach a wider crossing path, and continue ahead beyond it. <i>(The next few yards go steeply downhill. If underfoot conditions, or just the steepness itself, make this direct route seem unwise, detour a little to the left along the crossing path to find a gentler descent.)</i>		
26	<b>41</b>	At the bottom, emerge at the corner of a large open space and continue ahead along its right-hand side.	777 662	
27	<b>44</b>	At the far end, use the gently rising walkway to go rightwards up towards the main road.		
28		Reach the road, opposite house no. 72 (Hillview), and continue along its right-hand side, crossing Capstone Green at the roundabout.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
29	<b>45</b>	After the roundabout cross to the left-hand side without delay.		
30	<b>46</b>	[Map point] Turn left along Hopewell Drive.		
31	<b>52</b>	Continue ahead between the barriers.		
32	<b>53</b>	Go past more barriers and under the bridge.	772 657	
33	<b>54</b>	After the bridge double back on yourself to the left and go up the steps, turning left at the top to go over it, staying on the left-hand pavement as the road swings left, uphill.		2.54
34	<b>61</b>	[Map point] Just after passing the end of Ryde Close opposite, turn left away from the road on the signposted footpath (RC36), going down steps to start with.		
35	<b>63</b>	Follow the tarmac path as it swings to the right (ignoring the left-turn).		
36		And swing slightly right again.		
37	<b>64</b>	Take the right fork, slightly uphill.		
38	<b>71</b>	<b>START OF THE SPINE SECTION</b> Where the steps come down from the right, continue ahead.	766 651	
39	<b>74</b>	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>		
40	<b>76</b>	At the end turn left alongside the road.		3.53
41		<i>[To visit <u>Princes Park Church</u>, now divert instead to the <u>Detour</u> in the Appendix.]</i>		
	<b>77</b>	<b>Main route:</b> After crossing the road when convenient, reach the roundabout at the bottom and turn right along the main road.		
42	<b>78</b>	[Map point] After a second roundabout, use the lights to cross the main road on the left, and continue briefly up Wren Way opposite.		
43	<b>79</b>	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.		
44	<b>84</b>	After two squeeze gates reach a crossing road, and continue up Archer Road, almost opposite (slightly to the right).		
45	<b>86</b>	Turn left on to Stanley Road, and swing right with it.		
46	<b>88</b>	When the roadway bends right again, instead go straight ahead along a pathway leading towards a main road.		
47	<b>89</b>	[!!F!!] Go down steps to reach the road, cross it by way of the island, then go up steps beyond. Maintain the same direction along the field path ahead, aiming at the left-hand edge of the further row of trees in the middle distance. On reaching them, continue down the right-hand edge of the very big field.		
48	<b>94</b>	After carefully negotiating a steep step down to the road, turn right along it.		

\* "**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
49	<b>95</b>	[Map point] Just around the bend look out for a gap on the left with two footpaths signposted to lead away from the road: one only slightly left, uphill; the other (RC6) sharp left after a few yards up through the undergrowth. This second is the one to take. After about 40 yds. along the bottom of a field it leads to a squeeze gate in the corner.		
50		Go through the squeeze gate into the Capstone Farm Country Park, and a few yards later go leftwards along the bottom of a new field.		4.27
51	<b>98</b>	After following this path along the field-edge through its gentle rightward curve, go into trees.		
52	<b>99</b>	Meet a fenced-off crossing track, and go directly across it and along another path opposite.	777 647	
53	<b>100</b>	After about 40 yds. turn half-right, going alongside more trees, so that they are now on your left, bending gently left alongside them.		
54	<b>102</b>	At the bottom, just after a bench (and a waymark not to be followed) turn left along a path into a wooded avenue.		
55	<b>103</b>	At the end of the trees, swing right to go up along the left-hand edge of a large field.		
56	<b>107</b>	Near the top, once again meet a fenced-off crossing track and go directly across it, and on along the left-hand side of a grassy area, sweeping gradually to the left.		
57	<b>109</b>	At the end, just before the fence, merge leftwards into the path alongside it. Keep with this path, ignoring the right-turn into the car park and three tracks joining from the left.	781 647	
58	<b>110</b>	Still following the main path, slightly right at first, go down parallel to the roadway on your right.		
59	<b>113</b>	Reaching the road at the bottom, opposite an information board, join the road to go straight down, keeping the information board on your left.		4.98
60	<b>114</b>	<b>END OF THE SPINE SECTION</b> Turn right along the road.		
61	<b>115</b>	[Map point] At the start of the road's right-hand bend, leave it by turning left up the signposted footpath, which soon goes steeply uphill.		
62	<b>120</b>	Go between the barriers at the top, and straight on ahead along the metalled driveway..		
63	<b>122</b>	Reaching the main road, turn right along it, staying on its right-hand side and crossing the end of Dukes Meadow Drive.		
64	<b>123</b>	About 100 yds. further on, turn right along the rough Harrow Road.		
65	<b>129</b>	At the end, alongside the Flying Saucer, merge right into a major road, with a small row of shops on your right.	791 646	
66	<b>130</b>	Continue ahead, crossing (the other end of!) Dukes Meadow Drive.		
67	<b>133</b>	Pass <b>Hempstead Church</b> , on the left.		5.84
68	<b>134</b>	[Map point] Just beyond house no.193, turn left along the footpath, passing the school on your right.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
69	<b>136</b>	Reach a road and cross it, and continue in much the same direction, on a path starting downhill about 20 yds. to the right.		
70	<b>137</b>	Cross a second road and continue downhill directly opposite, all the way to the main road at the bottom, ignoring the crossing driveway in between.		
71	<b>138</b>	Use the zebra crossing and go straight ahead up a similar path, ignoring the dead end of a cul-de-sac on the right.		
72	<b>140</b>	Pass a squeeze gate, turn left, and go ahead on the level path to pass between barriers.		
73	<b>141</b>	Turn right along a road which goes ahead over a bridge.		
74	<b>144</b>	Beyond the bridge turn left into Wigmore Road, crossing when convenient to its right-hand side.		
75	<b>146</b>	After house no.71, turn right into Wigmore Park. Go across the grass, slightly to the right, aiming at a point about 20 yds. to the left of the tennis courts. There go ahead along a tarmac pathway leading to the park's exit gate.  <i>[Park opening times as currently advertised: Opens at 6 a.m. all year round. Closes: Nov-Feb 5 p.m.; Mar 6 p.m.; Apr 7.30 p.m.; May-Aug. 9 p.m.; Sep 7.30 p.m.; Oct 6 p.m.]</i>		
76	<b>150</b>	Leave the park at the gate, cross the road ahead, and go straight on along Drewery Drive.	800 643	
77	<b>151</b>	Pass on the right the roadway leading to <b>Wigmore Church</b> and Community Centre.		6.68
78	<b>154</b>	After passing the school on the right, turn right at the T-junction at the end, crossing that road to its left-hand side when convenient.		
79	<b>158</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Opposite the end of Fairview Avenue, just after house no.493, turn left alongside a little patch of grass.		
80	<b>159</b>	Reaching the dead end of a roadway, continue ahead along it.		
81	<b>160</b>	At the end of the garages on the right, turn left along the 'no-traffic' Fane Way.		
82	<b>161</b>	At the end turn right along the road.		
83	<b>162</b>	At the end turn left down the long, straight Long Catlis Road.		
84	<b>165</b>	Follow the road as it starts to bend gently to the right.		
85	<b>168</b>	Pass, on the right, the access road into Parkwood Centre, and also <b>Parkwood Church</b> .		7.55
86	<b>169</b>	At the end turn left along the main road, crossing it as soon as possible.		
87	<b>170</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Leave the road by turning right through a wooden kissing gate into the trees of Foxburrow Wood.		
88		After 30 yds. take the left fork and follow the broad path, gently downhill.		
89	<b>173</b>	Fork left again, quite steeply downhill at first.		
90	<b>174</b>	At the bottom merge right into another path.		
91		Reaching the road, turn left, uphill; then right at the top.	811 646	
92	<b>176</b>	Swing left, uphill again, ignoring Barleycorn Drive on the right.		
93	<b>177</b>	Turn right into Lonsdale Drive, and cross when convenient.		
94	<b>184</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> At the mini-roundabout turn left into Arthur Road.		8.39

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
95	<b>185</b>	Turn right into a cul-de-sac.		
96		At its far left-hand corner start along a footpath between fences, continuing along it as it crosses three roadways in turn.		
97	<b>190</b>	Follow the path as it bends slightly leftwards.		
98	<b>193</b>	Turn left at the A2, staying on its left-hand side to start with.		
99	<b>194</b>	Pass <b>Rainham Church</b> on the left.		
100	<b>195</b>	In order to reach Station Road on the right, use the light-controlled crossing just beyond it to get over the A2. Then walk down the left-hand side of Station Road.		
101	<b>197</b>	Turn left along Longley Road.		
102	<b>198</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Just before the road's left-hand bend, leave it by turning half-right along the signposted footpath.		
103	<b>199</b>	Follow the path as it bends to the left.		
104	<b>200</b>	Cross the road, and continue ahead on another path.		9.17
105	<b>201</b>	Go slightly right, down a rough pathway, ignoring the path coming in from the left.		
106	<b>203</b>	Keep left, again between fences.		
107	<b>204</b>	Turn right along the road.		
108		<b>[Map point]</b> After a few yards turn left along Holmoaks.		
109	<b>207</b>	In the course of the right-hand bend, turn off to the left along The Willows.		
110	<b>208</b>	At the far right-hand corner of this cul-de-sac, turn half-right on a path between walls.		
111	<b>209</b>	At the end, turn right along the road (Pembury Way).		
112		At the first opportunity turn left (still Pembury Way).		
113	<b>211</b>	At the end cross Beechings Way and turn right along the dual-use pathway on its far side.	811 668	
114	<b>217</b>	Cross Pump Lane on the left and continue along the left-hand side of Beechings Way.		10.07
115	<b>223</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Turn left into Milsted Road, crossing to its right-hand side when convenient.		
116	<b>227</b>	Swing right at the end (Waltham Road), crossing to its left-hand side when convenient.		
117	<b>232</b>	After following the road as it turns left at the end, reach, on the left, the entrance to <b>Holy Trinity Church</b> , the starting point of the walk.	798 671	10.75

\* ***"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
41A		To reach Princes Park Church, do not cross the road at Direction 41, 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
41B	<b>2</b>	Cross the side road and find <u>Princes Park Church</u> 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
41C	<b>4</b>	Pass the roundabout and continue ahead to a second one.		
41D	<b>5</b>	Rejoin the main route by turning left up Wren Way, as at Direction 42.  <b>Add 4 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.20 miles to cumulative distances.</b>		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 (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!

<b>GILLINGHAM SOUTH - FULL CIRCUIT</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	1, 7-8, 11-13, 28-30, 33b, 40-42, 60, 63, 65-67, 74, 76-78, 83-86, 93, 98-101, 113a, 113c, 114b, 114d, 116	36
Quiet road \$\$	2-4, 6, 14-15, 17-19, 44-45, 48, 59, 62, 64a, 64c, 73, 80, 82, 91-92, 94-95, 107-109, 111-112, 115	21
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	5. 23, 26-27, 34b-37a, 47a, 49-50, 53, 55, 56b, 64b, 75, 79, 113b, 114a, 114c	14
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	9-10, 16, 20-21a, 31-33a 34a, 37b-39, 43, 46, 47b, 61, 68-72, 81, 96-97, 102-106, 110	22
Woods	21b-22, 24-25, 51-52, 54, 56a, 57-58, 87-90	6

\*\* 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.