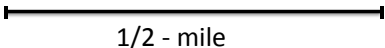
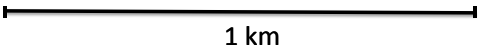


MEDWAY NORTH

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2
(middle section)



Scale (approx.):



88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

--- Cont. from Sheet 1

ROADS:

== Significant roads

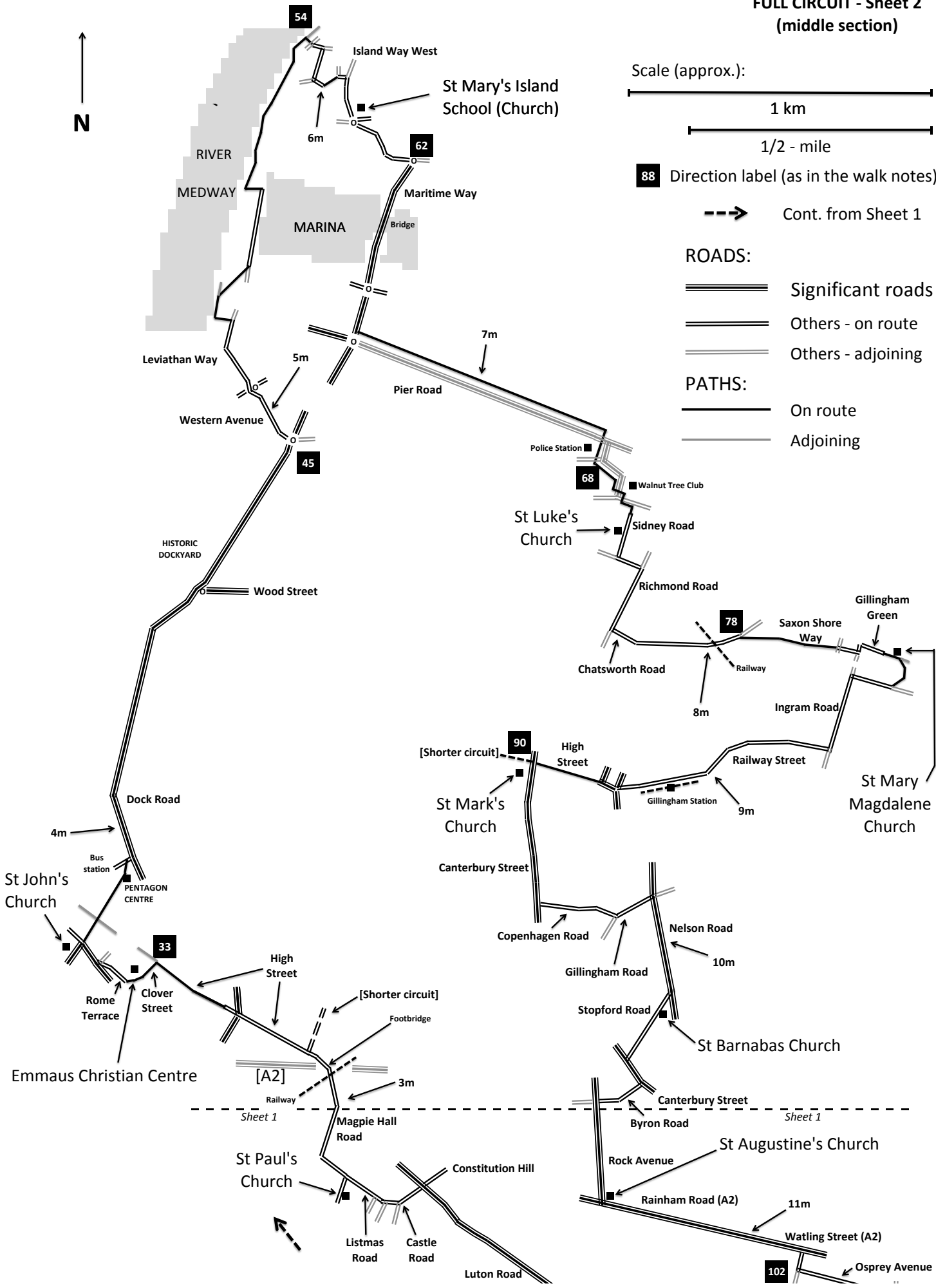
--- Others - on route

--- Others - adjoining

PATHS:

--- On route

--- Adjoining



MEDWAY NORTH CIRCUIT - 13.06 miles

Churches in the full circuit:

Hempstead (start and finish)

Luton (Direction 24)

Chatham St Paul (27)

Emmaus Christian Centre (34)

Chatham St John (37)

St Mary's Island (60)

Gillingham St Luke (72)

Gillingham St Mary Magdalene (83)

Gillingham St Mark (90)

Gillingham St Barnabas (94)

Gillingham St Augustine (98)

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
- MN2: Gillingham – St Mary's Island – Gillingham

Full circuit: Different aspects of Gillingham, town and country!

[Construction work on St Mary's Island means a change in the landscape and in some of the route details. This walk will be one for early review when work is further advanced.]

Roads and hindrances:

The section of Capstone Road in Direction 14 can be quite busy, though the parallel footpath before it keeps its length to a minimum.

FULL CIRCUIT

Hempstead – Luton – Chatham – St Mary's Island – Gillingham – Hempstead

Notes taken: October 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	Reach the Flying Saucer, and, keeping it on your right, fork left to start along Harrow Road		
4	4	Continue ahead as the road becomes rough, and goes ahead alongside the playing field.		
5	9	Turn left alongside the main road.		
6	10	Ignore (the other end of!) Dukes Meadow Drive on the left and go briefly ahead.		
7	11	Turn left along the metalled footpath.	787 650	
8	13	At the end, keep left and go straight on between barriers and on down a path, with a house on your right.		
9	16	At the bottom turn right along the road.		
10	17	START OF THE SPINE SECTION Continue ahead past the road leading into the Capstone Farm Country Park.		0.82
11	18	When a path begins, on the left parallel to the road, start along it, always keeping as close as possible to the road.		
12	22	Carry on, in the same general direction still not far from the main road, across a parking area.		
13	23	Go ahead, once again on a path parallel to the road.		
14	27	At the end of path, continue ahead along the road, crossing to its right-hand side for safety.		
15	29	Cross back over to go along the footpath which now begins and goes alongside the roundabout.		
16	31	At the road junction, cross the road to the corner of the big car park opposite. (At busy times it will probably be necessary divert briefly via the traffic island on the left.)		1.50
17	32	[Map point] Go across the car park, and then on over the grass, aiming towards the right-hand edge of the trees, and not straying far from the main road on the right (Ash Tree Lane).		
18	35	Continue ahead over a ridge in the grass, and carry on to walk along the right-hand edge of the trees.		
19	37	Go ahead as the path leads into trees.		
20	39	Emerge from the trees and continue straight ahead toward the road and houses at the far end of the field.	776 663	
21	41	Join the road (a cul-de-sac at its dead end) and go ahead along it.		
22	43	At the far end turn sharp-left, steeply downhill.		
23	44	Take the first-right turning into Church Terrace.		
24	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.		2.21
25	55	Turn left along Castle Road, crossing it as soon as convenient.		
26	57	Turn right along Listmas Road.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
27	59	At the end the entrance to St Paul's Church is very close by, on the left along Magpie Hall Road. But to continue the walk, cross Magpie Hall Road and follow it to the right along its left-hand pavement.		
28	63	Continue ahead ('No entry' for vehicles).		3.06
29	64	Embark on the complicated footbridge-crossing over the A2.		
30	66	On the other side the last anti-clockwise twirl of the descent from the footbridge leaves you facing along the left-hand pavement of the start of the High Street. Follow this ahead.		
31	67	END OF THE SPINE SECTION Pass and ignore Institute Road on the right. Then cross to the right-hand side when convenient (and before the busy road junction at the end).	764 675	
32	69	Reaching the junction, use the lights to go across the main road and continue along the High Street towards its pedestrian area.		
33	73	[Map point] Turn left up Clover Street.		
34	74	Pass the entrance of the shared Emmaus Christian Centre . Then go up the steps ahead on the right.		
35	75	Swing to the right along Rome Terrace, keeping to the right of the open-air car park.		
36	77	Approaching the end, continue ahead over the dead end of the roadway to merge alongside the busy road on the left.		
37	78	With St John's Church over on your left, turn right, away from the main road, down steps and along the pedestrian Railway Street.		
38	79	At the intersection continue ahead along Military Road.	757 679	
39	80	Just beyond the main entrance of the Pentagon Centre, edge across to the left, to the point where the exit road from the bus station meets the main road ahead (where The Brook becomes Dock Road).		
40	82	Opposite (currently) a careers office, turn left along Dock Road, staying on its left-hand side.		3.92
41	84	Follow the roadway as it bends rightwards alongside a church.		
42	91	Continue ahead, keeping to the right of the Chatham Maritime entrance.		
43	95	At the first roundabout continue ahead along the left-hand side of the main road.		4.54
44	100	Approaching the second roundabout, first continue ahead, but now along the dual-use path to the left of the road.		
45	101	[Map point] Then turn left by following this path as it bends.		
46	104	Continue straight ahead beyond another roundabout, still on the left-hand side of the road (Leviathan Way).		
47	106	Follow the footpath as it goes to the left, away from the road.		
48	107	At a board with a map, turn right along the walkway.		5.24
49	109	Rejoin the road on the right, and follow it as it passes the distillery on the left.		
50	111	Continue ahead past the vehicle entrance into the car park.		
51	113	Go ahead past the barriers across the inlet into Chatham Marina. After the last barrier, turn left back towards the river.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
52	114	Turn right, once again along the riverside walkway.		
53	116	Go ahead, after a jetty and next to a crane. The mapped right turn at this point is currently not available because of the construction work. <i>The next few directions are dictated by the current state of the work.</i>		
54	120	[Map point] Turn right, away from the river, at the first opportunity, next to an information board, at the highest point of a slightly raised section.		
55	121	Joining quiet roadways go ahead, between The Causeway on the left and Westerly Way on the right.		
56		Turn right along Firecrest Close.		
57	122	At the end turn left along the edge of the building site.		
58	123	Fork left to go alongside an oval-shaped enclosure, with houses on your left.		
59	124	Reaching a road at the far end, cross it, in two stages, and turn right along its far side.	766 707	
60	126	At the roundabout, the first left turn (Edgeway) leads after about 50 yds. to the entrance, on the left, of the school, which serves as the venue for St Mary's Island Church . But to continue the walk take the second left turn instead.		6.17
61	127	Follow the road as it swings right, crossing Aster Drive, and then left. Cross to the right-hand side when convenient, before the roundabout.		
62	129	[Map point] At the roundabout turn right along Maritime Way, crossing to its left-hand side as soon as possible.		
63	130	Continue ahead, over the bridge.		
64	134	And still ahead beyond it.		
65	136	Skirt the first roundabout, passing it on its left-hand side.		
66	137	Swing left to go alongside the slip-road leading on to the A289 as it emerges from the tunnel. Continue alongside the A289.		6.74
67	148	Begin to negotiate multiple road-crossings, with the help of a series of lights. First cross the A289 itself, and reach the left-hand side of the police building.	774 695	
68	149	[Map point] Imagining the complex junction as a giant roundabout, and the route going anti-clockwise round it, there is, from the police station, one further leg to go, crossing the two sections of the road which comes down from the right, and turning left beyond them.		
69	150	Then turn right, uphill, with the Walnut Tree Club on the left.		
70		At the top, cross two more roads with the help of lights, first to the left (ignoring the right-turn signpost for 'Mid Kent College' etc.), then to the right; finally going briefly along this last road's right hand side.		
71	151	After a few yards turn right, away from the road, between small areas of grass, and with houses on the left, to join the end of Sidney Road.		
72	152	Pass St Luke's Church on your right.		7.57
73	153	At the T-junction at the end turn left along Milburn Road.		
74	154	At the end turn right, up the hill (Richmond Road).		
75	158	Turn left up Chatsworth Road, towards the Frog and Toad.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
76	160	At the Frog and Toad continue upwards, turning slightly left.		
77	163	Go across the junction, starting down Parr Avenue.		
78	165	[Map point] Leave the road on the footpath forking right (Saxon Shore Way).		
79	168	Continue ahead between barriers towards the road at the top.		
80	169	Passing a road barrier at the dead end of a road, go ahead along it.		
81	170	Reaching the main road at the top turn left (after first using the zebra crossing on the right).		
82	171	After about 40 yds. turn right along Gillingham Green.		
83	172	Reach the lych gate of St Mary Magdalene Church , and continue ahead towards the south (right-hand) side of the church building.		8.39
84	173	At the church door start on a series of gentle right turns along footpaths and finally a track over the grass, curving round clockwise to reach Grange Road over on the right, near its junction with Oak Avenue.		
85	174	Complete the curve by turning right up Grange Road.	784 687	
86	176	At the top turn left, crossing when convenient, and head down towards the level crossing at the bottom.		
87	182	Just before the level crossing, turn right along Railway Street, and cross to its left-hand side when convenient. The road passes Gillingham station on your left and continues uphill to a road junction.		
88	188	At the junction go straight ahead along the High Street.		
89	189	Go straight ahead along the pedestrian part of the High Street.		
90	192	[Map point] At the next junction St Mark's Church is over towards the left, at the corner. But to continue the walk turn left along Skinner Street (leading to Canterbury Street) instead.		9.37
91	198	Turn left along Copenhagen Road.		
92	200	At the end turn left. Then cross when convenient.		
93	202	At the lights turn right, along Nelson Road.		
94	208	Fork right along Stopford Road, with St Barnabas Church on your left.		10.11
95	211	At the end turn left, rejoining Canterbury Street.		
96	213	Turn right along Byron Road (after first using the zebra crossing just beyond it).		
97	215	Turn second-left along Rock Avenue.		
98	219	Turn left along the A2, passing St Augustine's Church on the corner.		10.65
99	220	Use the lights just after Milton Road to cross to the right-hand side, and continue along the A2.		
100	224	Cross Ash Tree Lane and continue ahead along the A2, soon passing a row of shops.		
101	228	Turn right, briefly, up Beechwood Avenue.		
102	229	[Map point] After about 60 yds. turn left along Osprey Avenue.		
103	233	Turn right up Darland Avenue.		11.33
104	236	Continue ahead alongside a small grass triangle.		
105	238	Go ahead passing Allison Avenue on the right.	785 664	

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
106	243	Passing the end of Kingsway, start down Star Lane. (Ignore the 'Star Lane closed ...' sign, which is for vehicles, not walkers.)		11.82
107	246	Continue down the roadway, passing the traffic barrier and ignoring the footpath signposted up to the left.		
108	253	Pass another traffic barrier and continue on down.		
109	255	!!!F!!! As the road bends to the left, instead strike out to the right along the signposted path up across the field. (Bearing 160.)		12.31
110	258	Go straight ahead into the trees.		
111	259	Bend left with the track, then after about 40 yds. right, up steps.		
112	260	[Map point] Turn left along Glenwood Close, then follow it as it bends to the right.		
113	261	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.		
114	264	Remain on the pavement on the right of Pear Tree Lane and then turn right with it (now Hempstead Road).	792 647	
115**	267	Reach the Flying Saucer. Here either, to continue the circuit (if not visiting, or finishing at, Hempstead Church), turn sharp right at its far end (the start of Harrow Road) to carry on from Direction 3;		12.89
** or 115A	267	... or, to detour to, or finish at, Hempstead Church, go ahead past a small row of shops on your right.		12.89
115B	268	Continue ahead, crossing the southern end of Dukes Meadow Drive.		
115C	270	Reach Hempstead Church , on the left.	791 643	13.06
115D		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.

!!!F!! : **Field crossing might be unmarked.** See 'Open Fields' in 'Introductory Notes' for some thoughts about dealing with this.

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!

MEDWAY NORTH - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-2, 5-6, 9, 14-16, 24b-25, 27-28, 35-36, 40-43, 45-46, 59-70, 74, 81, 86-88, 90, 92-93, 95, 97-100, 113-114	50
Quiet road \$\$	3-4a, 4c, 7, 10, 21-24a, 26, 30-31, 49-50, 55-56, 71b-73, 75-77, 80, 82, 85, 91, 94, 96, 101-108, 112	27
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	4b, 17-18, 20, 39, 58, 71a, 84, 109	6
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	8, 12, 29, 32-34, 37-38, 44, 47-48, 51-54, 57, 78-79, 83, 89	12
Woods	11, 13, 19, 110-111	4

** 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.