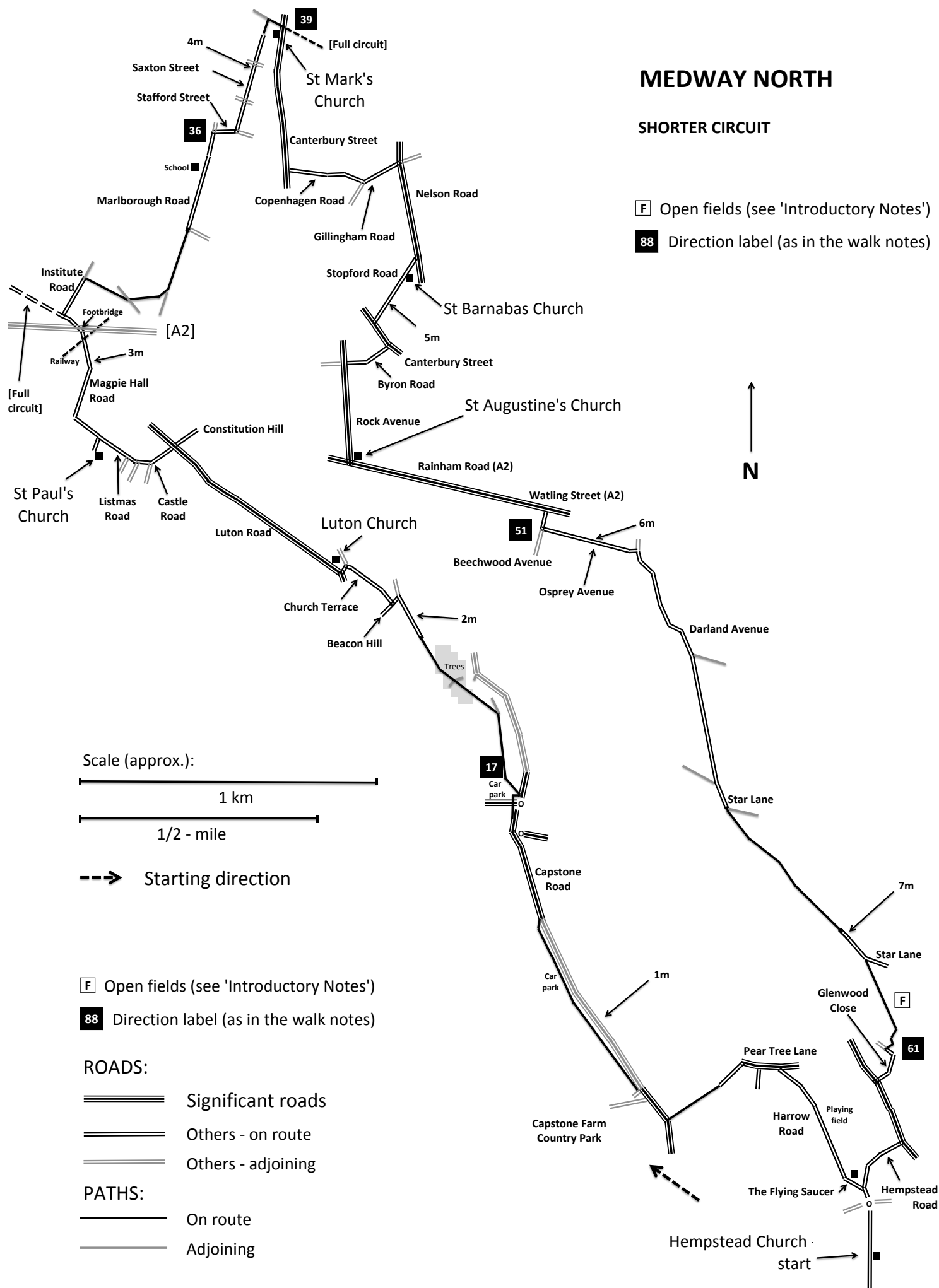


## SHORTER CIRCUIT

**88** Direction label (as in the walk notes)



## **MEDWAY NORTH CIRCUIT - shorter: 7.83 miles**

### **Churches in the shorter circuit:**

Hempstead (start and finish)

Luton (Direction 24)

Chatham St Paul (27)

Gillingham St Mark (39)

Gillingham St Barnabas (43)

Gillingham St Augustine (47)

### **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

**Shorter circuit:** Like the full circuit, different aspects of Gillingham, town and country! This shorter circuit loses the dimension of St Mary's Island, but compensates with the inclusion of Chatham's historic Great Lines (Direction 33).

### **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.

## **SHORTER CIRCUIT**

**Hempstead – Luton – Chatham – Great Lines – 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 <b>Hempstead Church</b> , turn right along the road, and cross to its left-hand side when convenient.	791 643	
2	<b>2</b>	Cross Dukes Meadow Drive on the left, and continue ahead.		
3	<b>3</b>	Reach the Flying Saucer, and, keeping it on your right, fork left to start along Harrow Road		
4	<b>4</b>	Continue ahead as the road becomes rough, and goes ahead alongside the playing field.		
5	<b>9</b>	Turn left alongside the main road.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
6	<b>10</b>	Ignore (the other end of!) Dukes Meadow Drive on the left and go briefly ahead.		
7	<b>11</b>	Turn left along the metalled footpath.	787 650	
8	<b>13</b>	At the end, keep left and go straight on between barriers and on down a path, with a house on your right.		
9	<b>16</b>	At the bottom turn right along the road.		0.75
10	<b>17</b>	<b>START OF THE SPINE SECTION</b> Continue ahead past the road leading into the Capstone Farm Country Park.		
11	<b>18</b>	When a path begins, on the left parallel to the road, start along it, always keeping as close as possible to the road.		
12	<b>22</b>	Carry on, in the same general direction still not far from the main road, across a parking area.		
13	<b>23</b>	Go ahead, once again on a path parallel to the road.		
14	<b>27</b>	At the end of path, continue ahead along the road, crossing to its right-hand side for safety.		
15	<b>29</b>	Cross back over to go along the footpath which now begins and goes alongside the roundabout.		
16	<b>31</b>	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	<b>32</b>	[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	<b>35</b>	Continue ahead over a ridge in the grass, and carry on to walk along the right-hand edge of the trees.		
19	<b>37</b>	Go ahead as the path leads into trees.		
20	<b>39</b>	Emerge from the trees and continue straight ahead toward the road and houses at the far end of the field.	776 663	
21	<b>41</b>	Join the road (a cul-de-sac at its dead end) and go ahead along it.		
22	<b>43</b>	At the far end turn sharp-left, steeply downhill.		
23	<b>44</b>	Take the first-right turning into Church Terrace.		
24	<b>46</b>	Opposite the end, and slightly down to the left, reach the lych-gate and entrance path to <b>Luton Church</b> . A few yards after passing it, turn right alongside the main road.		2.21
25	<b>55</b>	Turn left along Castle Road, crossing it as soon as convenient.		
26	<b>57</b>	Turn right along Listmas Road.	Qr	
27	<b>59</b>	At the end the entrance to <b>St Paul's Church</b> 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	<b>63</b>	Continue ahead ('No entry' for vehicles).		
29	<b>64</b>	Embark on the complicated footbridge-crossing over the A2.		
30	<b>66</b>	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	<b>67</b>	<b>END OF THE SPINE SECTION</b> After about 60 yds. turn right (Institute Road), steeply uphill.	764 675	3.16

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
32	<b>70</b>	At the top turn right, still uphill, along the footpath signposted 'RCX39 to Longhill Avenue'.		
33	<b>74</b>	At a junction of paths next to a lamp post, go a little further left, again steeply uphill after a few steps, across the edge of the Great Lines open space.		
34	<b>76</b>	At the far right-hand corner, turn half-left to join the dual-use path which runs alongside the hospital wall on the right.		
35	<b>79</b>	At the end, at the hospital entrance, meeting a road at its corner, go straight ahead, down alongside Brompton Academy on the left, crossing when convenient.	768 678	
36	<b>83</b>	[Map point] Turn right into Stafford Street.		
37	<b>84</b>	Turn first-left (Saxton Street), and continue along its entire length, crossing two junctions on the way.		
38	<b>89</b>	At the end turn right into the High Street.		
39	<b>90</b>	[Map point] Reach the corner by <u>St Mark's Church</u> and turn right.		4.14
40	<b>96</b>	Turn left along Copenhagen Road.		
41	<b>98</b>	At the end turn left. Then cross when convenient.		
42	<b>100</b>	At the lights turn right, along Nelson Road.		
43	<b>106</b>	Fork right along Stopford Road, with <u>St Barnabas Church</u> on your left.		4.88
44	<b>109</b>	At the end turn left, rejoining Canterbury Street.		
45	<b>111</b>	Turn right along Byron Road (after first using the zebra crossing just beyond it).		
46	<b>113</b>	Turn second-left along Rock Avenue.		
47	<b>117</b>	Turn left along the A2, passing <u>St Augustine's Church</u> on the corner.		5.42
48	<b>118</b>	Use the lights just after Milton Road to cross to the right-hand side, and continue along the A2.		
49	<b>122</b>	Cross Ash Tree Lane and continue ahead along the A2, soon passing a row of shops.		
50	<b>126</b>	Turn right, briefly, up Beechwood Avenue.		
51	<b>127</b>	[Map point] After about 60 yds. turn left along Osprey Avenue.		
52	<b>131</b>	Turn right up Darland Avenue.		6.10
53	<b>134</b>	Continue ahead alongside a small grass triangle.		
54	<b>136</b>	Go ahead passing Allison Avenue on the right.	785 664	
55	<b>141</b>	Passing the end of Kingsway, start down Star Lane. (Ignore the 'Star Lane closed ...' sign, which is for vehicles, not walkers.)		
56	<b>144</b>	Continue down the roadway, passing the traffic barrier and ignoring the footpath signposted up to the left.		
57	<b>151</b>	Pass another traffic barrier and continue on down.		6.99
58	<b>153</b>	[!!F!!] As the road bends to the left, instead strike out to the right along the signposted path up across the field. (Bearing 160.)		
59	<b>156</b>	Go straight ahead into the trees.		
60	<b>157</b>	Bend left with the track, then after about 40 yds. right, up steps.		
61	<b>158</b>	[Map point] Turn left along Glenwood Close, then follow it as it bends to the right.		

\* "**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
62	<b>159</b>	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.		
63	<b>162</b>	Remain on the pavement on the right of Pear Tree Lane and then turn right with it (now Hempstead Road).	792 647	
64**	<b>165</b>	Reach the Flying Saucer. Here <u>either, to continue the circuit</u> (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;		7.66
64A	<b>165</b>	<u>... or, to detour to, or finish at, Hempstead Church</u> , go ahead past a small row of shops on your right.		7.66
64B	<b>166</b>	Continue ahead, crossing the southern end of Dukes Meadow Drive.		
64C	<b>168</b>	Reach <u>Hempstead Church</u> , on the left.	791 643	7.83
64D		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.

## **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>MEDWAY NORTH - SHORTER CIRCUIT</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	1-2, 5-6, 9, 14-16, 24b-25, 27-28, 35, 39, 41-42, 44, 46-49, 62-63, 64A-B	40
Quiet road \$\$	3-4a, 4c, 7, 10, 21-24a, 26, 30-31, 36-37a, 40, 43, 45, 50-57, 61	38
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	4b, 17-18, 20, 33, 58	8
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	8, 12, 29, 32, 34, 37b-38	7
Woods	11, 13, 19, 59-60	7

\*\* 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.