

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

SHORTER CIRCUIT

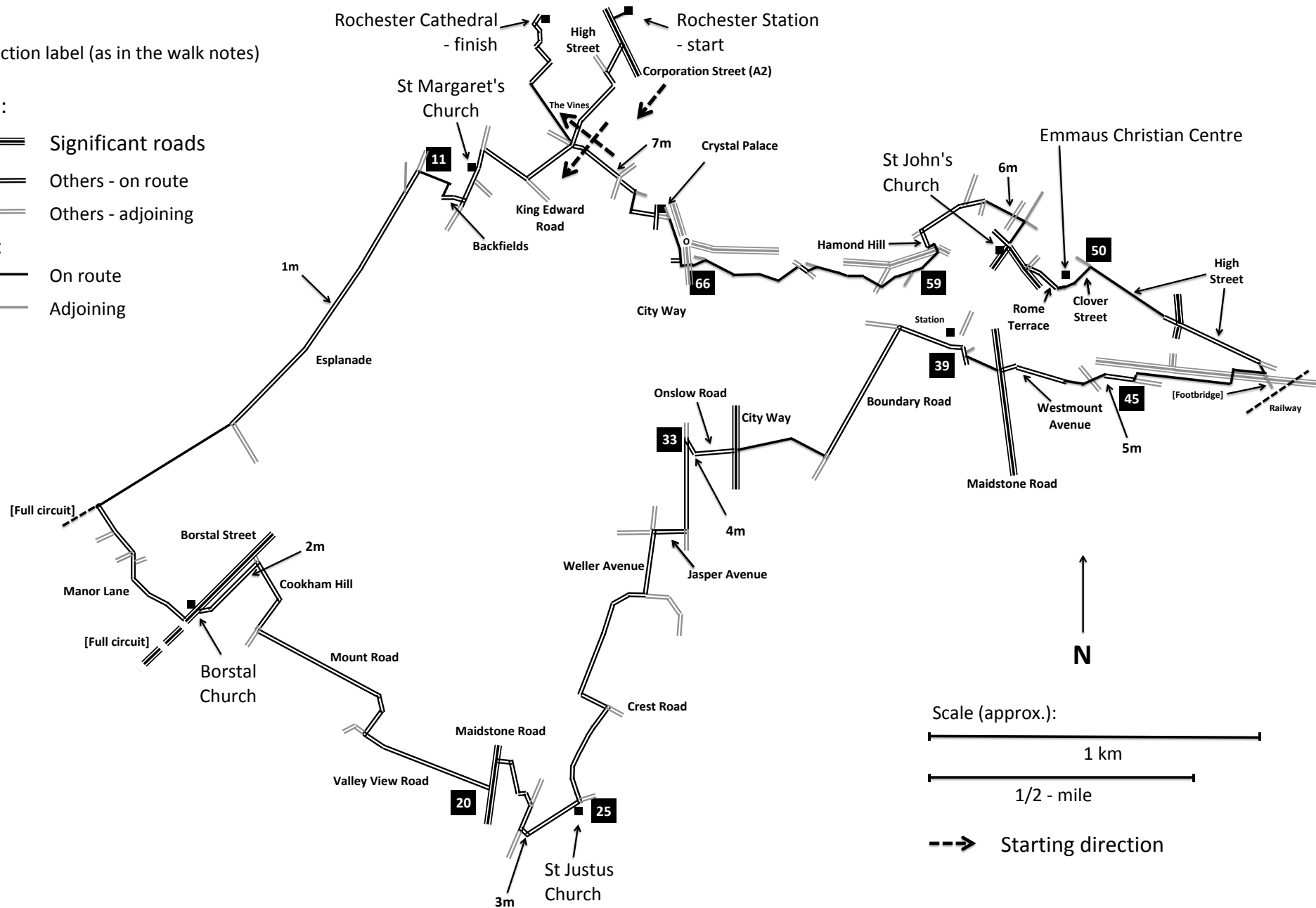
88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

ROADS:

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

PATHS:

- On route
- Adjoining



ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL CIRCUIT - shorter: 7.39 miles

Churches in the shorter circuit:

Rochester St Margaret (Direction 8)

Borstal (15)

Rochester St Justus (24)

Emmaus Christian Centre (51)

Chatham St John (54)

Rochester Cathedral (77)

Associated local circuits

- RS1: South Rochester – Borstal – Rochester – South Rochester
- SW2: Borstal – Wouldham – Medway Valley Walk / North Downs Way – Borstal
- CS1: Luton – South Chatham – South Rochester – South Chatham – Luton
- MN1: Chatham – Gillingham – Darland Banks – Luton – Chatham

Shorter circuit: This, along with its full-circuit counterpart, is the only walk in the entire project which is not (quite) fully circular. It seems appropriate to cast the cathedral in the role of a final destination, and if 'final' it follows that it should not be the walk's starting point. So it starts round the corner at Rochester station. (And it so happens that there is no significant view of the cathedral before the very end, protecting its 'climax' status!)

Roads and hindrances:

There are some major roads to cross (Directions 2, 20, 34, 40, 46, 49, 58 and 66), but all have lights, islands or reasonable sightlines.

SHORTER CIRCUIT

Rochester – Borstal – South Rochester – Chatham – Rochester

Notes taken: November to December 2019

The start and finish are at Rochester station (ME1 1NH) and Rochester Cathedral (near ME1 1LB) respectively.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		At the exit from Rochester station, head towards the main road and on reaching it turn left to walk along its left-hand side towards the light-controlled pedestrian crossing about 150 yds. along.	745 686	
2	1	Go across, and then continue along the road a little further.		
3	2	After about 40 yds. turn right up Blue Boar Lane.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
4	3	At the end turn left briefly along the High Street.		
5		Turn right up Crow Lane.		
6	6	Reach a junction and fork right alongside a school.		
7	8	At the T-junction at the top, turn right.		
8	10	At the next T-junction turn left, soon passing <u>St Margaret's Church</u> on the right.	741 682	
9	12	Just beyond Watts Avenue opposite, turn right, down away from the road, along Backfields.		
10		After about 40 yds. turn right, then left, down a long series of steps, down the edge of the field.		
11	15	[Map point] Turn left at the bottom to walk along the Esplanade.		0.69
12	27	When the road swings away to the left, instead carry straight on along the footpath, before long among trees.	733 673	
13	33	Turn left uphill alongside a children's playground. Continue up as it bends very slightly right, then left.		1.56
14	40	At the top turn left along the main road.		
15	41	Pass the door of <u>Borstal Church</u> , cross the road leftwards and immediately go up along the access road above its right-hand side.	732 668	1.86
16	45	At the end of the access road turn right up Cookham Hill.		
17	47	At the top swing right with the road as it becomes Hill Road.		
18	49	Turn left into Mount Road.		
19	54	Follow the road as it swings right in two stages, then left.		
20	61	[Map point] At the end turn left to go briefly along the main road and cross it by means of the traffic island.		2.77
21		Turn right down Hawser Road.		
22	64	At the bottom, reaching the major road, turn half-right along it, crossing as soon as is convenient.		
23	65	Turn sharp left up The Fairway.		
24	67	Pass the steps on the right leading to <u>St Justus Church</u> .		3.11
25	68	[Map point] Turn left down Windward Road.		
26	69	Continue ahead, ignoring Leeward Road on the right.		
27	72	At the end turn left opposite the school.		
28	73	Turn right at the next T-junction.		
29	75	Continue ahead, ignoring Barnaby Terrace on the right.		
30	77	After swinging right at the bottom, turn left opposite the Co-op down Weller Avenue.	745 668	
31	79	Turn right, up Jasper Avenue.		3.74
32	81	At the top turn left, and cross the road when convenient.		
33	84	[Map point] Turn very sharp right up Onslow Road, and after about 50 yds. follow it as it bends to the left, still uphill.		
34	87	At the top reach the main City Way, cross it using the traffic island over to the left, and turn left, briefly, along the far side.		
35		After a few yards turn right along the signposted footpath, up steps at first.		
36	91	Turn left along Boundary Road.		
37	97	At the top turn right.		4.58
38	99	Ignore Ordnance Street on the right and continue ahead, keeping Chatham station on your left.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
39	100	[Map point] Beyond the station swing right (Hills Terrace) but then, immediately after the entrance to the car park, turn left along an enclosed alleyway which, at its end, rises quite steeply to meet the next road.		
40	102	Cross the road with care (reasonable sightlines), and then start up Westmount Avenue opposite, soon swinging right with the road.		
41	105	At the end go down the passage at the left-hand corner (between houses 59 and 61) and down steps to a roadway.		
42	106	Go ahead, starting to make your way down to join the A2 (New Road) below, over to the left.	759 675	
43	107	There are various ways to achieve this, all obvious. Simplest is to go directly over the grass down to the road. But, if this looks too steep, perhaps head over to the left to the entrance of the subway, but turn right just before it. In any event it makes sense to stay to the right of New Road for the moment, to avoid traffic complications.		
44	108	At the bottom go ahead along the access road (parallel to New Road on your left).		
45	109	[Map point] Move over to join the walkway alongside the A2 itself, heading towards to the junction and bridges in the middle distance.		
46	113	Now use the pedestrian crossing, and continue along the left-hand side of the A2.		
47	114	Reach the junction, meeting, on the left, the bottom leg of the big footbridge. Follow the pavement all the way round to the left, to go along the start of the High Street.		
48	115	START 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	5.36
49	117	Reaching the junction, use the lights to go across the main road and continue along the High Street towards its pedestrian area.		
50	121	[Map point] Turn left up Clover Street.		
51	122	Pass the entrance of the shared Emmaus Christian Centre . Then go up the steps ahead on the right.		
52	123	Swing to the right along Rome Terrace, keeping to the right of the open-air car park.		
53	125	Approaching the end, continue ahead over the dead end of the roadway to merge alongside the busy road on the left.		
54	126	With St John's Church over on your left, turn right, away from the main road, down steps and along the pedestrian Railway Street.		
55	127	At the intersection, turn left, once again along High Street, and then continue straight ahead over the crossing.	757 679	
56	129	Joining a road at its right-angle bend, continue straight ahead.		
57	131	Turn left up Hamond Hill.		6.19
58	132	At the top, using the island a few yards to the left, go across the A2, then rightwards up the angled walkway parallel to it.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
59	134	[Map point] At the top, bear right to continue along the edge of Victoria Gardens, parallel to the road and above its left-hand side.		
60	135	Where the paths divide, keep right to go downhill.		
61		At the bottom cross the road and start along the walkway parallel to and about 20 yds. to the left of the main road.	753 678	
62	136	Ignore the first footpath going up to the left, and continue ahead.		
63	138	After gentle curves left and right, uphill, use the steps up to the left, and, after crossing a very rough road, continue up the angled pathway, still more or less parallel to the A2, but now well above it.		
64	139	At the top go ahead, soon walking along the right-hand, bottom, edge of a sloping field and then a children's playground, with a bowling green and tennis courts below on the right.		
65	143	Approaching the main road ahead, follow the path which forks left, heading towards a light-controlled pedestrian crossing.		
66		[Map point] Cross at the lights, and then turn right to go along the left-hand side of the road, crossing but ignoring The Cut on the left.		6.72
67	144	Follow the access road which forks away on the left alongside house no.16., and at the end continue ahead down an enclosed pathway, which then rejoins the main road at its end.		
68	146	Just before 'Crystal Palace' - no.46 - turn left down steps and go ahead to reach and cross the major road at the end.		
69		Once across, go straight ahead down the road opposite (<i>and continue downhill with the OS-mapped footpath to the right currently closed for works - December 2019</i>).	746 680	
70	147	<i>Turn right, just before the '20' speed limit sign, along the well-concealed St Peter's Path.</i>		
71	148	<i>At the end go up a few steps and turn left along the roadway.</i>		
72	149	At the junction, cross Cazeneuve Street and continue straight ahead up the hill (East Row), crossing to the right-hand side when convenient.		
73	151	Stay on the walkway as it reaches the junction. Then go straight ahead, using the traffic island to cross the road, and start along the path which diagonally crosses The Vines open space.		
74	154	Leave The Vines by the far right-hand corner, and go ahead along the road.		
75	155	Follow the road as it bends, left at the end of King's Orchard ...		
76	156	... then right, then gently left.		
77	157	On the right, reach the west door of Rochester Cathedral . END OF THE SPINE ROUTE	742 685	7.39

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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!

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL - SHORTER CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-5, 8, 11, 14, 20, 22-23, 32, 34, 36-38, 44-46, 52-53, 56, 66, 67c, 72	35
Quiet road \$\$	6-7, 9, 13, 15-19, 21, 24-31, 33, 40, 42, 47-48, 57, 67a, 68-69, 71, 74-76	41
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	10b, 12a, 12c, 43, 59-62, 64-65, 73	10
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	10a, 35, 39, 41, 49-51, 54-55, 58, 63, 67b, 70	12
Woods	12b	2

** 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.