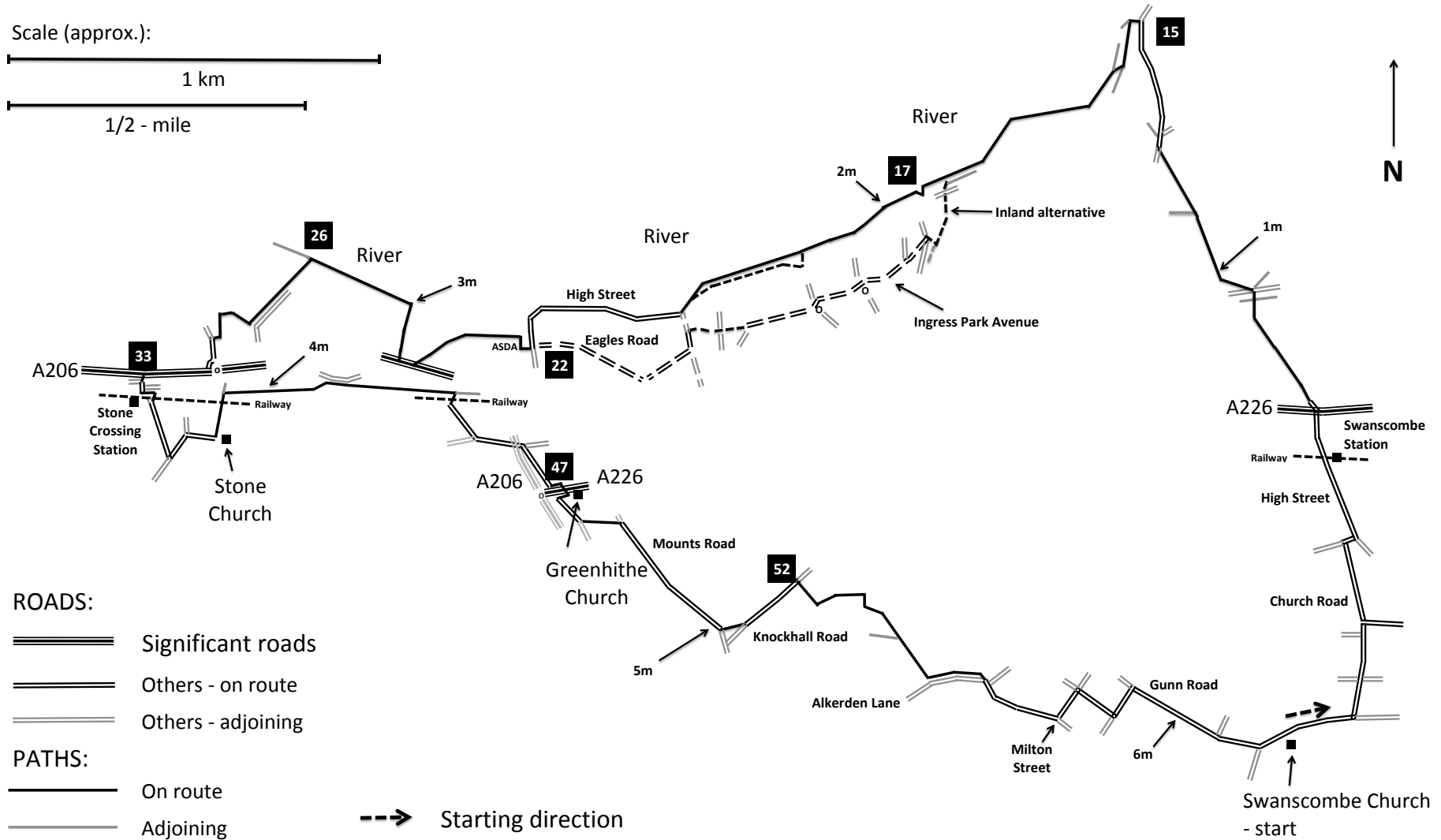
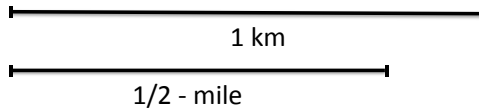


## LOCAL CIRCUIT DA2: SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE

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

Scale (approx.):



## LOCAL CIRCUIT DA2: SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE - 6.20 miles

### Linked churches:

Swanscombe (start and finish)

Stone (Direction 38)

Greenhithe (47)

### Roads and hindrances:

Crossing the few main roads (Directions 6, 32, 45, 47) is not difficult with usual care.

At Direction 13 there is a more direct OS-mapped footpath, but even in a dry summer it is impossibly flooded. The road alternative is much used. There are 'No right of way' notices at each end of this road section directed at anyone thinking of staying on it further, beyond this short length, implying that use of the section itself is accepted in practice.

The stretches alongside the Thames (Directions 15-21) have alternatives.

15-16: There are actually three parallel options: the line written up here, nearest to the river (and potentially in it if the water is exceptionally high!); the embankment up on its left, which gives the best view of the river, but gets increasingly rough underfoot; and if all else fails the roadway further to the left. All lead to the same place (the start of 17, where the new buildings of Greenhithe Village begin).

17-21: The riverside walk should not be a problem, but an 'inland' alternative is given in the Appendix just in case. (From 18 onwards there is also a parallel walkway up above the riverside walk.)

The climb of Breakneck Hill (49) is steep but not very long.

The path down from Spring Vale (52 – unsignposted and easily missed!) is quite narrow and currently overgrown in places: tiresome rather than a real problem!

Notes taken: May 2020

The start and finish is at **Swanscombe Church** (Swanscombe Street, DA10 0BD).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the entrance to <b>Swanscombe Church</b> , turn right along Swanscombe Street.	605 740	
2	2	After crossing the road when convenient, turn left along Church Road.		
3	5	Continue ahead, ignoring Herbert Road on the right.		
4	8	At the end go ahead, using the island to cross the road, and continuing, after a slight right-left turn, along the left-hand side of the High Street.		
5	11	Pass the entrance to Swanscombe Station opposite, and go on towards the traffic lights ahead.		
6	12	Use the lights to cross, first to the right, and then the main road (A226 - now on the left.)		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
7	<b>13</b>	On the far side of the main road, turn left for a few yards, then right to start along a short, rough roadway, more or less continuing the original direction of the High Street. This soon continues ahead to become an enclosed tarmac path.		0.67
8	<b>17</b>	Cross a minor roadway and then a more substantial road.		
9	<b>18</b>	On the other side, go ahead through a squeeze gate and take the left fork.		
10	<b>19</b>	Take the obvious course, slightly left over a tarmac area, then right along its far edge..		
11	<b>20</b>	Follow the path along the right-hand side of a green wire fence.		
12	<b>21</b>	At the end, go straight on (not following the main path as it swings to the left) down a much narrower pathway. (DS12 - very flooded!)	602 754	
13	<b>24</b>	Emerge through a squeeze gate and turn right along the roadway. Continue along it, ignoring the footpath which forks off to the left (which would be the preferred route if it were not permanently under water!).		1.21
14	<b>25</b>	Take the left fork.		
15	<b>28</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Follow the roadway as it doubles back on itself, leftwards, and then, for the sake of the view over the river, walk along the start of the raised embankment which follows its curve. The greenness of the surface is deceptive, as there are rough stones beneath.		
16	<b>30</b>	To avoid the worst of the stones, abandon the embankment at a signpost to go carefully down to the right, to the parallel path just above the river level.  <i>See above. If, exceptionally, the river is so high as to be problematic, it is possible to continue, with care, along the embankment, or to cut back across to it from the riverside path (but the terrain does not allow this everywhere – just at occasional individual places).</i>		
17	<b>38</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Reaching the very end, step up to the left to reach the start of riverside walkway and then turn to walk through a metal gate and on again alongside the river's edge.  <i>[And here, if, again exceptionally, the water level is discouraging, see the alternative route written in the Appendix.]</i>		1.91
18	<b>43</b>	Where the walkway bends briefly to the left, go more or less straight ahead over the grass, and then on the path next to the river, as before.  <i>[As an alternative there is a parallel walkway up to the left.]</i>	592 753	
19	<b>49</b>	At the far end turn half-left alongside the children's playground. Then follow the path slightly rightwards, to emerge at a road next to the Pier Hotel.		
20	<b>50</b>	Turn half-right along the road (Arethusa Place, leading to High Street).		
21	<b>54</b>	At the end swing left with the road (now Station Road).		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
22	<b>55</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Just after the end of Eagles Road opposite, turn right at the end of the modern building, initially down an unpromising paved entry (signposted for Hibernia Court), which soon opens out and turns right, then left, around a square dominated by ASDA, leaving its café on the left on the far side. Then leave the square at the corner and continue ahead.		
23	<b>58</b>	At the end go straight ahead along a narrow footpath with fences on both sides (and currently construction works over on the right).		
24	<b>60</b>	At the far end cross what is currently a site access road, and carry on to go briefly along the right-hand side of the main road.		2.87
25	<b>61</b>	Turn right, away from the road, along the signposted footpath. Where the path reaches the river and turns left, follow it, but (if it is not too muddy) along the top of the embankment which rises parallel to it on its left.	581 750	
26	<b>66</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Turn left, down steps, off the embankment and away from the river, just beyond the point at which another set of steps leads across from the main riverside path. Then, at the bottom, continue ahead along an enclosed pathway.		
27	<b>68</b>	Continue ahead through a MKG and a barrier formed by concrete slabs, and walk alongside a metal fence on the right and a roadway on the left.		
28	<b>70</b>	At the end of the fencing, as the road bends slightly to the left, instead leave it by turning right, at a waymark, through a wooden kissing gate and along a footpath with a lake on your left.		
29	<b>71</b>	Swing left with the path.		
30	<b>72</b>	Move across to the right, through a gap, to join an access road leading to a roundabout at the main road.	576 751	
31	<b>73</b>	Turn right to go alongside the main road toward the light-controlled crossing.		
32	<b>74</b>	Cross to the left-hand side using the crossing and continue alongside the road away from the roundabout.		
33	<b>75</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Leave the road by way of a gap on the left, signposted for Stone Crossing Station.		
34		Turn left along the roadway.		3.61
35	<b>76</b>	When the road turns left, instead go ahead a few yards further and then turn left up the steps and cross the railway over the footbridge.		
36	<b>77</b>	Coming down from the bridge, turn left up the road, passing the Lads of the Village opposite.		
37	<b>79</b>	Turn left on to Church Road, and follow it as it bends slightly left to start with.		
38	<b>81</b>	Turn left down a footpath at the entrance to <b>Stone Church</b> .		
39	<b>82</b>	Cross a road and continue straight across to cross the railway over a footbridge.		
40		Immediately after the footbridge, turn right, parallel to the railway.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
41	<b>86</b>	Continue ahead, keeping over to the right and going along the narrow footpath, ignoring the road which has briefly come alongside on the left.	579 750	
42	<b>89</b>	Go ahead over a bridge, and down the other side.		
43	<b>90</b>	At the bottom turn right to go under the railway bridge, then swing left along the roadway.		
44	<b>92</b>	Turn left towards the traffic lights and the main road.		
45	<b>93</b>	Reaching the dual carriageway, use the light-controlled crossing to go across.		
46		Once across, turn right, not immediately along the dual carriageway, but parallel to it along Ivy Villas.		
47	<b>96</b>	[Map point] At the end follow the road round to the left, to the light-controlled crossing. Use it to cross the road. The entrance to <b>Greenhithe Church</b> is a few yards further on the left, but to continue on the route, instead turn right on the far side.		4.56
48		Without going as far as the dual carriageway ahead, turn left at the corner of the Railway Tavern / McDonald's to go along the access road.		
49	<b>98</b>	Take the left fork up Breakneck Hill.	586 746	
50	<b>100</b>	At the top merge right into the road (Mounts Road).		
51	<b>105</b>	Just after the brow of the hill, turn left along a walkway above and parallel to Knockhall Road. Then, opposite house no.23, use the steps to go down to the road itself, and along it.		
52	<b>108</b>	[Map point] Soon after Spring Vale on the right, and about 15 yds. before the next road, turn right along a long, narrow passageway, currently somewhat overgrown at first, which soon bends left and then right.		
53	<b>112</b>	Keep left, ignoring the track on the right.		
54	<b>116</b>	After a couple of kissing gates, reach the road at the end, and turn left up the walkway which runs parallel to it.		5.49
55	<b>119</b>	At the top cross Gilbert Close and carry on ahead, alongside the road itself.		
56	<b>122</b>	Approaching a mini-roundabout, turn left (Milton Street).		
57	<b>123</b>	At the next mini-roundabout turn right (Alamein Road).		
58	<b>124</b>	Cut the corner leftwards to make a left turn (Trebble Road).		
59	<b>125</b>	Turn right along Gunn Road.		
60	<b>130</b>	After walking alongside Swanscombe Park, pass the gate at its far end.		
61		At the junction, swing left with the road as it becomes Swanscombe Street.		
62	<b>131</b>	Reach, on the right, the entrance to <b>Swanscombe Church</b> on the right.	605 740	6.20

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

## APPENDIX to Local Circuit DA2

### The inland alternative to Directions 17-21

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
17A		About 100 yds. before the end, approaching the new residential colony, instead of going ahead towards riverside railings, turn left, up past the end of main embankment and over the roadway to reach a squeeze gate concealed behind a concrete slab.		
17B	<b>1</b>	Go through the squeeze gate and then follow the path as it bends slightly to the right.		
17C	<b>2</b>	Approaching the estate road at the end, surprisingly take the right fork, which curls round further to the right and leads to a gap in the fence enclosing the grass. Go through the gap to the roadside, cross the road and head along the long, straight road which starts here (from a point slightly further to the left), first passing the bus stop.		
17D	<b>3</b>	Continue ahead along the right-hand pavement, passing the 'Stonely Crescent' sign on the right. (It may be appealing along this long road to cross over to the grass on the left-hand side, which will not be a problem, though at the end you will have to cross back.)		
17E	<b>5</b>	At the first roundabout cross Portland Place and continue ahead.		
17F		Pass the Ingress Abbey bus stop, and continue ahead.		
17G	<b>7</b>	At the second roundabout cross Lighterman's Way and continue ahead.		
17H		With the imposing façade of the abbey up to the left, pass the end of The Boulevard on the right.		
17I	<b>10</b>	Pass Waterman's Way on the right and continue up ahead. (If walking on on the left, the grass ends here: cross back to right.)		
17J		At house no.33, where the road bends to the left, instead continue straight on along the tarmac path signposted for Meriel Walk.		
17K	<b>12</b>	Go straight across the road which comes down from left to right, and walk along the passageway ahead.		
17L		Go through a metal kissing gate.		
17M	<b>13</b>	At the end turn left along the road, then after about 40 yds. right along Eagles Road.		
17N	<b>19</b>	At the end briefly turn left along the main road, rejoining the main route, and then turn right as at Direction 22.  <b>Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.08 miles to cumulative distances.</b>		

\* "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 DA2	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 4-6, 24, 27, 30-32, 44-45, 47, 55, 61	16
Quiet road \$\$	2-3, 7a, 13-14, 20-21, 34, 36-37, 43, 46, 48, 50, 51b, 56-57, 58b-60	32
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	9-11, 15-16, 18a, 19a, 25b, 58a	15
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	7b-8, 12, 17, 18b, 19b, 22-23, 25a, 26, 28-29, 33, 35, 38-42, 49, 51a, 52-54	37
Woods		0

\*\* 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.