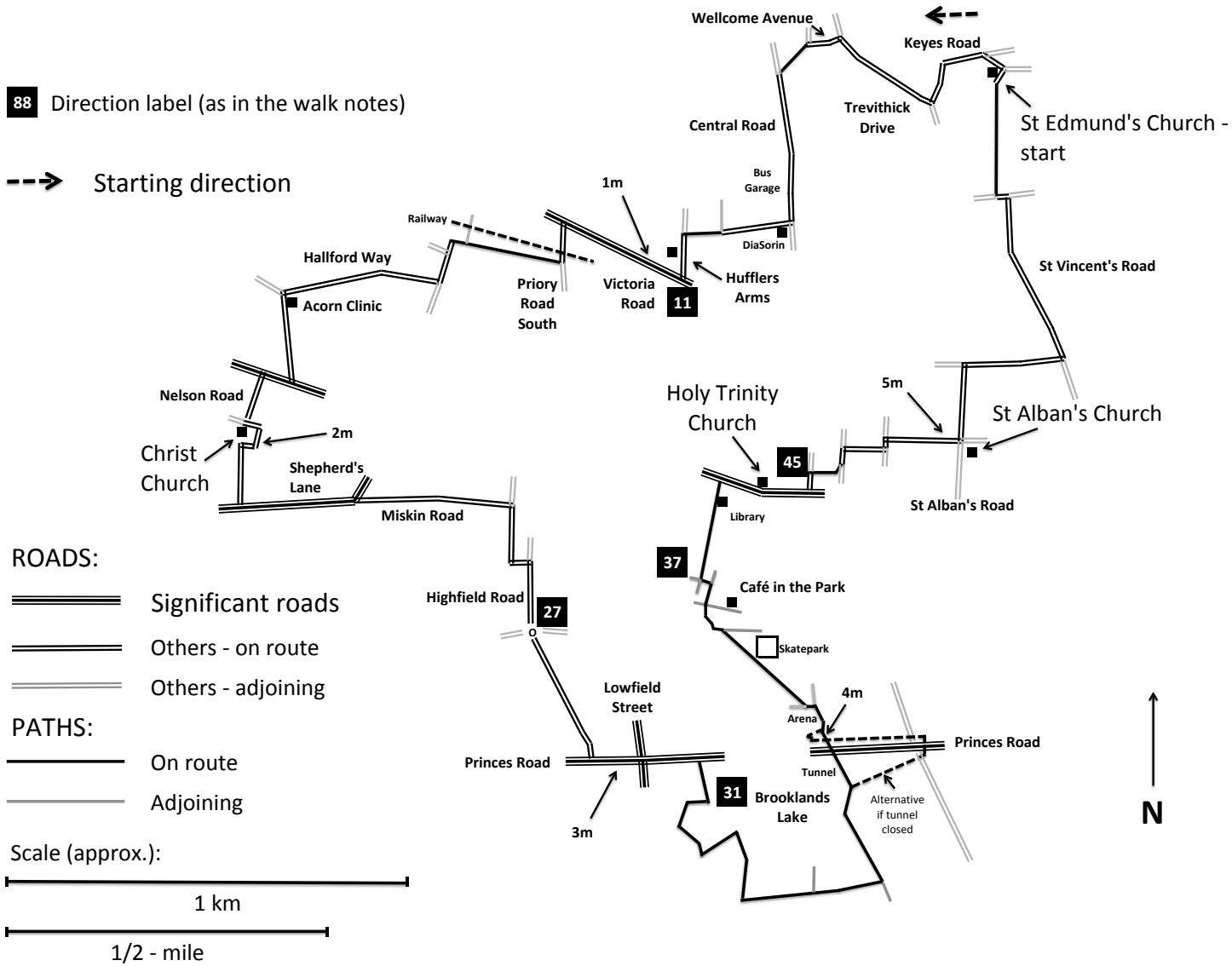


LOCAL CIRCUIT DA1: DARTFORD

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

--- Starting direction



LOCAL CIRCUIT DA1: DARTFORD - 5.76 miles

Linked churches:

Dartford St Edmund's (start and finish)

Dartford Christ Church (20)

Holy Trinity Dartford(42)

Dartford St Alban's (50)

Roads and hindrances:

Relatively busy roads mostly have zebra crossings (Directions 11, 19, 29, 43). The exception in the middle of Dartford (41) is easy enough, with good sightlines and one-way traffic.

The crossing of Princes Road (34) is through a tunnel (with recorded music if lucky). But if the Darent alongside is running too high the tunnel is closed, and an alternative (as described in the Appendix) is necessary, involving a sequence of road crossings – 34C-D – to get safely over Princes Road.

Notes taken: January to May 2020

The start and finish is at St Edmund's Church, St Edmund's Road, Dartford (DA1 5ND).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the entrance to St Edmund's Church , turn left along the road to reach Keyes Road, and left again to walk along it.	550 750	
2		And left again, following the road as it bends.		
3	1	At the T-junction at the end of the grass on the right, turn right down Trevithick Road, crossing it as soon as convenient. After house no.43, use the short-cut walkway on the left.		
4	4	Turn left along Wellcome Avenue.		
5	5	Where the road bends to the right, instead turn half-left across the field, heading towards the far-left corner.		
6	6	There turn left along the road.		
7	8	At the junction, continue ahead along Central Road, crossing to the right-hand side when convenient.		
8	11	Turn right alongside the DiaSorin building.		0.69
9	12	Go alongside a car park and continue over the footbridge ahead, and on ahead along the tarmac path beyond.		
10	14	Turn left at the end, passing the Hufflers Arms.		
11	15	[Map point] Reaching the main road, use the zebra crossing and then turn right along the far side of the road.		
12	19	Cross Priory Road South and turn left along it to go under the railway bridge.		
13	20	Immediately after the bridge turn right up a tarmac footpath.	539 746	
14	21	Continue uphill, up steps.		
15	23	Soon after the top of the steps, go past, and ignore, the approach to the railway bridge on the right, and go ahead a few yards further.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
16		After about 20 yds. turn left at the start of a road.		
17	25	Turn second-right into Hallford Way.		1.43
18	29	Turn left at the end, next to the Acorn Clinic at the corner.		
19	32	Reaching the main Dartford Road at the end, cross it on the zebra crossing, and turn right.		
20	33	Turn first-left into Nelson Road, go ahead to reach the Christ Church building, and there turn left.		
21	35	After a few yards turn right alongside the church. Then follow the road as it bends right, and then left (now Christchurch Road), continuing the direction of Nelson Road from before the church.		
22	37	At the end turn left into Shepherds Lane, and cross to the right-hand side when convenient (at the lights ahead if not before).		
23	40	Where the main road swings left, instead continue straight on along Miskin Road.	534 740	2.28
24	45	Turn right at the T-junction at the bottom.		
25	47	Swing left with the road at the end.		
26		And turn right at the T-junction.		
27	49	[Map point] Go straight ahead at the roundabout (Highfield Road South).		
28	54	Follow the walkway on the left to turn left alongside Princes Road.		
29	55	Reach the major crossroads with Lowfield Street, and use the lights to cross to the diagonally opposite corner of the junction. Then continue ahead along the right-hand side of Princes Road.		
30	57	Immediately after Homebase, turn right through a gap into the car park, and head towards the hedge on its far side, diverging about 40 yds. from the side of the Homebase building and aiming at a Brooklands Lakes information board at that point.		3.14
31	58	[Map point] There turn right to start on an anti-clockwise circuit of the main lake, following wild swings as the path hugs its shore.		
32	65	Turn left to go, still next to the water, along a straighter path with new industrial buildings now on your right. Keep straight on along the main path (not leftwards down to the water's edge).		
33	68	At the end of the path, in front of railings, turn left, still alongside the lake.	547 730	
34	71	<i>The route described here relies on the tunnel under Princes Road being open – not always the case, depending on the river level. If it is closed, use the detour in the Appendix instead.</i> At a fork swing left at first, and then half-right at an angled junction to go down a concrete path and then through the tunnel under the main road.	546 732	
35	73	After emerging from the tunnel, turn right at an information board and follow the path as it bends to the left to go alongside an athletics arena.		3.99

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
36	75	Passing the corner of the arena, turn left briefly alongside it, then after about 25 yds. turn half-right to go diagonally across the big grass area. Aim, first, 20 yds. to the left of the corner of hedged skatepark. Then, approaching the tarmac path which borders the field at its far side (about 100 yds. short of the Café in the Park), join it at the furthest left point you can see. There follow it rightwards past fitness equipment.		
37	79	[Map point] After a final bend to the right, go ahead over the crossing path, keeping the bandstand about 70 yds. away over on the left.		
38	80	At the end follow the main path left, ignoring the one which goes straight ahead.		
39		Then, at the signpost for 'Town Centre', turn right, away from the bandstand, and go straight ahead towards the red-brick Dartford Library building, visible ahead.		
40	82	Pass the library entrance and continue ahead to the main road.	543 739	
41		Cross the main road, and go ahead along a short roadway ('Market Place'), along the left-hand side of the 'Iceland' store.		
42	83	At the end turn right along the pedestrian roadway, and go ahead, as the main road joins from the right, to pass Holy Trinity Church on the left.		
43	85	Go straight ahead, taking on, with the help of the lights, the double crossing of the busy road junction, and go briefly up the left-hand side of the road ahead (East Hill).		4.63
44	86	Turn left up Mount Pleasant Road.		
45	87	[Map point] Turn right up the footpath. This consists of very steep steps, particularly difficult as they are of irregular height!		
46	89	Just below the top, cut off the corner by taking the left fork.		
47		At the top, merge leftwards into the road.		
48	90	Turn right, at the top of the gentle rise, into Tufnail Road.		
49	92	At the end, continue in the same direction, by turning left, then immediately right, along Colney Road.		
50	94	At the first crossroads, St Alban's Church is over at the far right-hand corner. But to continue the walk turn left (St Alban's Road).		
51	96	At the end turn right (Fulwich Road).		5.14
52	99	Reaching the major road at the end (St Vincent's Road), turn left along it and cross to its right-hand side as soon as convenient.		
53	104	At the end go over the crossing road, with the help of the island, and turn briefly left along its far side. Then, after a few yards, turn right along the signposted footpath, leading alongside the school to the church at the end.		
54	108	Reach St Edmund's Church , the starting point of the walk.	550 750	5.76

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

APPENDIX to Local Circuit DA1

Detour, if Princes Road tunnel is closed

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
34A	0	At the fork in Direction 47, keep right, then turn right to cross a bridge, take the obvious left fork over a second bridge and carry on upwards, up steps to start with.	546 732	0.00
34B	1	Continue up the hill, ignoring the path on the left.		
34C	3	After a final bend to the right, emerge at the top at a junction. Here Darenth Road meets the busy A225 (Princes Road), which you need to cross. For the safest crossing go around anti-clockwise with the help of lights, first crossing the minor Darenth Road to reach them.		
34D		Then cross, in turn, the three sections of the main road, and, once over, turn left to cross, finally, the northern section of Darenth Road (beware traffic coming from both sides) and the bus lane.		
34E	4	And go ahead along the right-hand side of Princes Road.		0.16
34F	6	Go through the gap on the right, signposted for the Darent Valley Path, and descend the steep hairpin path towards the river below.		
34G	8	At the bottom, where the path from the tunnel joins from the right, continue straight ahead next to the information boards, and follow the path as it bends to the left to go alongside an athletics arena. Add 6 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.24 miles to cumulative distances.		0.32

* ***“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 DA1	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	3, 6-7, 11-12, 19, 22, 26-29, 41, 42b-43, 52	31
Quiet road \$\$	1-2, 4, 8, 10, 16-18, 20-21, 23-25, 40, 44, 47-51, 53c	35
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	5, 35-39, 53b	12
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	9, 13-15, 30-34, 42a, 45-46, 53a	22
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.