

## LOCAL CIRCUIT SB1: ERITH AND BELVEDERE - 6.21 miles

## Linked churches:

Slade Green (start and finish)
Erith Christ Church (Direction 9B: Detour 1 - see Appendix)
Erith St John the Baptist (13)
Belvedere St Augustine (29)
Belvedere All Saints (34)
Northumberland Heath (48B: Detour 2 - see Appendix)

## Roads and hindrances:

The straight footpath currently OS mapped at the start (north-west from the railway footbridge) now instead zigzags its way through a partially completed development (as described in Directions 2 and 3), but finishes in the same place. The criss-crossings of the A206/ A2016 are all protected (lights, underpass, footbridge), and the other roads present no special problems.

Notes taken: May and June 2020
The start and finish is at Slade Green Church , Slade Green Road (DA8 2LW).

|  | Mins.* | From the exit from Slade Green Church, turn right along the <br> roadway. | 521770 | Miles |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | $\mathbf{3}$ | At the railway, bend right with the road, into the estate. |  |  |
| 2 | $\mathbf{5}$ | Where the roadway bends away to the right, instead (as things <br> are currently - May 2020) turn left to embark on crossing the <br> construction works along a protected walkway, which <br> proceeds by further turns, right then left, then right. |  |  |
| 3 | $\mathbf{7}$ | Go leftwards along a footpath over a bridge. |  |  |
| 4 | $\mathbf{1 0}$ | Reach the dead end of a cul-de-sac, and start along it. |  |  |
| 5 | $\mathbf{1 1}$ | At the end turn left up a passageway leading to the main road. | 517775 |  |
| 6 | $\mathbf{1 2}$ | At the top turn right alongside the main road. |  |  |
| 7 | $\mathbf{1 5}$ | [Map point] Cross to its left-hand side by means of the lights <br> (just before James Watt Way), and continue to the next junction <br> at the roundabout. |  |  |
| 8 | $\mathbf{1 9}$ | [To visit Christ Church, now divert instead to Detour 1 in the <br> Appendix.] <br> Main route: Use the lights a little to the left to cross the | M220/A206, before then correcting to the original direction, <br> down a passageway leading in the direction of Erith station. |  |
| 9 | $\mathbf{2 1}$ | But reaching the roadway at the bottom, turn right, away from <br> the station and under the main road above. |  |  |
| 11 |  | Follow the road left, then right. |  |  |

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

|  | Mins.* |  | OS | Miles |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 12 | 24 | Reaching the main road turn left (West Street, the continuation of Erith High Street), and follow it all the way to the church at the end. | 513782 |  |
| 13 | 32 | Facing the lych-gate to St John the Baptist's Church, turn left along Jesset Close and past the bollards. |  |  |
| 14 | 33 | At the end use the footbridge on the left to cross the road. |  |  |
| 15 | 35 | Coming down from the footbridge, turn left along Battle Road. |  | 1.71 |
| 16 |  | Turn right up Valley Road. |  |  |
| 17 | 38 | At the top go ahead into Franks Park. Take the middle of the three paths. Go ahead on the broad path, ignoring the first fork on the right. |  |  |
| 18 |  | At the next major fork keep right. |  |  |
| 19 | 42 | Entering an open area, pass a ball park on the right and a playground on the left, before going into trees again. |  |  |
| 20 | 45 | Take the right fork. |  |  |
| 21 | 46 | But ignore the next right fork. |  |  |
| 22 | 50 | Leave the trees after some gentle steps downhill, merge left into the road and walk uphill, crossing to its right-hand side. | 496788 |  |
| 23 | 52 | At the junction continue ahead along Halt Robin Road. |  | 2.45 |
| 24 | 54 | [Map point] At the next, slightly angled, junction go as straight across as you can, to start along Upper Abbey Road (avoiding the left fork down to Abbey Crescent). |  |  |
| 25 | 57 | After house no. 53 on the right, turn right down an enclosed path (Footpath 13). |  |  |
| 26 |  | At the bottom turn left. |  |  |
| 27 | 58 | At the end turn right, and go all the way down to the end, notwithstanding the 'No Entry' sign for traffic. |  |  |
| 28 | 61 | At the end turn left along the main road. |  |  |
| 29 | 62 | At the junction ahead turn left (St Augustine's Road) and immediately pass the entrance to St Augustine's Church, and begin the long climb to Upper Belvedere. |  | 2.93 |
| 30 | 66 | Continue the ascent as the road swings left and becomes Heron Way. |  |  |
| 31 | 74 | Cross the road (Lessness Park) at the top of the hill. |  |  |
| 32 |  | [Map point] Go into the playground through the gate on the left and head diagonally across to the gate at the far corner on Woolwich Road. |  |  |
| 33 | 76 | Going out through the gate, use the zebra crossing a few steps to the left to cross Woolwich Road, and turn left on the far side. |  |  |
| 34 | 79 | At the mini-roundabout cross Nuxley Road and turn right along its far side, at the entrance to All Saints' Church. |  | 3.62 |
| 35 | 81 | Turn second-left along Cheshunt Road, just after the traffic constriction. |  |  |
| 36 | 83 | At the T-junction at the end turn right. |  |  |
| 37 | 84 | After about 70 yds. turn left along a passageway (Footpath 230), and follow it through its windings and down steps. |  |  |
| 38 | 86 | At the bottom cross a stream by way of a footbridge on the right, then go ahead, straight on up an estate road. |  |  |

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|  | Mins.* |  | OS | Miles |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 39 | 87 | At the top of the road, walk up Footpath 211, which leads uphill to the left, to reach the end of the terrace at house no. 28 . <br> The footpath is signposted (correctly) but at a slightly misleading place. To reach it, after the roadway swings to the right, continue straight ahead (past the signpost), keeping on the right-hand edge of the parking area and heading for the wall at the right-hand edge of the small service unit. Here (surprisingly) is the start of the tarmac footpath. Turn left up it. |  |  |
| 40 | 88 | At the junction at the top turn right along another tarmac footpath. |  |  |
| 41 | 89 | At the end reach the dead end of a cul-de-sac and go ahead. | 494778 |  |
| 42 | 90 | At the main road, turn left briefly. |  |  |
| 43 |  | After about 40 yds. turn right, away from the road, along Footpath 44. |  | 4.21 |
| 44 | 91 | Turn left through a gate into a large playing field and head across it towards the diagonally opposite corner, which is about 40 yds . to the right of the largely white buildings of the Erith Rugby Club. <br> This direct route across the playing field to reach, eventually, the Duchess of Kent depends on its three gates being unlocked. I am assured that (if only to save costs!) they are now permanently open, despite the remnants of a notice showing closing times. If necessary, however, there is an alternative - continuing along Footpath 44, turning left along a path level with the end of the field, and then continuing ahead along a road to reach the corner at Direction 47, turning right there to rejoin the main route. |  |  |
| 45 | 95 | [Map point] At the corner by the rugby club go through the metal gate and on along a passageway. |  |  |
| 46 | 96 | At its end carry on, slightly right, across an open area, following the path which edges across towards the road on the right. |  |  |
| 47 | 98 | Reach the road through a gate at the corner and turn half-right along Brook Street, keeping the Duchess of Kent on your right. |  |  |
| 48 | 101 | [To visit Northumberland Heath Church, now divert instead to Detour 2 in the Appendix.] <br> Main route: At the junction with Mill Road, continue ahead along Brook Street, crossing to its left-hand pavement. |  |  |
| 49 | 104 | At the junction at the end, use the island, or the lights a little further along, to cross the A220 and continue ahead along the left-hand side of Colyers Lane. |  | 4.88 |
| 50 | 106 | Cross Hurst Road and continue ahead along Colyers Lane. |  |  |
| 51 | 122 | At the bottom, use the lights to cross the main road, and turn left along its far side. |  | 5.75 |
| 52 | 123 | Turn right along Peareswood Road. |  |  |
| 53 | 127 | Pass the end of Craydene Road and go ahead to cross the railway over the footbridge. |  |  |

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|  | Mins.* | OS | Miles |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| $54^{* *}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 9}$ | Coming off the footbridge: either, to continue the circuit <br> (if not visiting, or finishing at, Slade Green Church), carry <br> on from Direction 2, by turning sharp left along the road <br> into the estate; | 6.12 |  |
| ** or <br> 54 A | $\mathbf{1 2 9}$ | .. or, to detour to, or finish at, Slade Green Church, turn <br> 90-degree left along the main roadway. | OS |  |
| 54 B | $\mathbf{1 3 2}$ | On the left reach Slade Green Church, the starting point of <br> the walk. | 521770 | 6.21 |
| 54 C |  | If returning to the circuit having visited the church, resume <br> from Direction 1. |  |  |

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## APPENDIX to Local Circuit CE1

Detour to Christ Church, Erith (Detour 1)

|  | Mins.* | OS | Miles |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 9A | $\mathbf{0}$ | Instead of crossing the A220/A206 at Direction 9, continue <br> along the left-hand pavement and turn left along Victoria Road. | 0.00 |
| 9B | $\mathbf{1}$ | Reach the entrance to Christ Church on the left. <br> After visiting the church retrace your steps to the nearby lights. | 0.05 |
| 9C | $\mathbf{2}$ | Use these lights to rejoin the main route at Direction 9 by now <br> crossing the A220/ A206 (Bexley Road), and going briefly <br> ahead on the far side, then turning left down the passageway. <br> Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.10 miles to <br> cumulative distances. | 0.10 |

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Detour to Northumberland Heath Church (Detour 2)

|  | Mins. |  | OS | Miles |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 48 A | $\mathbf{0}$ | Instead of continuing ahead at Direction 48, turn left off Brook <br> Street into Mill Road. | 0.00 |  |
| 48B | $\mathbf{1}$ | Reach Northumberland Heath Church on the left. <br> After visiting the church retrace your steps to Brook Street. | 0.09 |  |
| 48 C | $\mathbf{2}$ | Turn left along Brook Street to rejoin the main route at <br> Direction 48. Stay on its left-hand side. <br> Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and $\mathbf{0 . 0 9}$ miles to <br> cumulative distances. |  |  |

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## 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 SB1 | Direction numbers | $\mathbf{\%}$ <br> of walk |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Busy road | $7-8,10-12,24,28-31,33-34,42,47-52$ | 53 |
| Quiet road \$\$ | $1-2,5,15-16,22-23,26-27,35-36,38 b, 41$, <br> $53 a, 54 \mathrm{~A}$ | 18 |
| Open field with livestock |  | 0 |
| Edge of field with livestock |  | 0 |
| Field (or edge) without livestock ** | $4 \mathrm{~b}, 19 \mathrm{a}, 32,38 \mathrm{a}, 44,46$ | 8 |
| Path (hedged, or otherwise forced) | $3-4 \mathrm{a}, 4 \mathrm{c}, 6,9,13-14,25,37,39-40,43,45$, <br> 53 b | 13 |
| Woods | $17-18,19 \mathrm{~b}-21$ | 8 |

** 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.

