

BEXLEYHEATH

FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2 (second section)

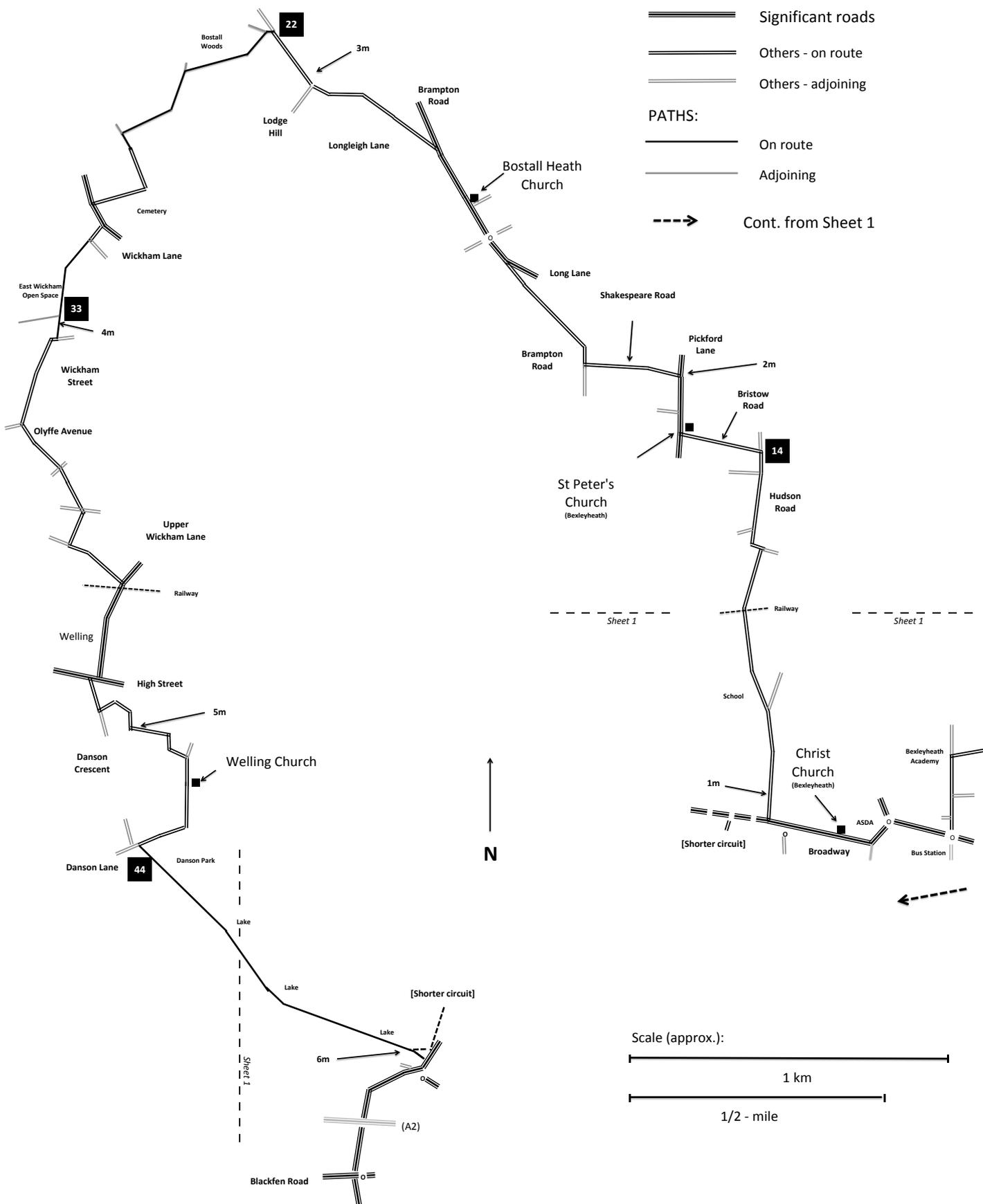
88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

ROADS:

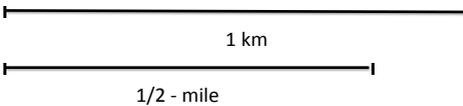
-  Significant roads
-  Others - on route
-  Others - adjoining

PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining
-  Cont. from Sheet 1



Scale (approx.):



BEXLEYHEATH CIRCUIT - 12.13 miles

Churches in the full circuit:

Barnehurst (start and finish)

Bexleyheath Christ Church (Direction 8)

Bexleyheath St Peter (15)

Bostall Heath (20)

Welling (43)

Blendon (52)

Bexley St John the Evangelist (61)

Bexley St Mary the Virgin (66)

Joydens Wood (68H: Detour – see Appendix)

Crayford (86)

Associated local circuits

- BH2: Barnehurst – Bexleyheath – Bexley – Crayford - Barnehurst
- BH1: Welling – Bexleyheath – Bostall Woods - Welling
- SL1: Lamorbey – Blendon – Danson Park – Falconwood – Lamorbey (to be published Autumn 2020)
- CV1: Joydens Wood – Bexley – North Cray – Joydens Wood (to be published Autumn 2020)

Full circuit: Suburban sections, quite busy but not unpleasantly so, are punctuated by a series of enjoyable open spaces and woods. Danson Park, with its lake, is a highlight.

The detour to Joydens Wood and back is to ensure that the church there, like all others, is included in the network of full circuits. But alternatively it will, by means of a slightly shorter extension, also be accessible in the Cray Valley full circuit (to be published in Autumn 2020).

Roads and hindrances:

Beyond usual prudence the only significant traffic issue is at the Danson interchange (Directions 50 and 51) – busy, but manageable with the help of the islands. On leaving the interchange it will at most times be more or less essential to cross at the outset to the left-hand side of Penhill Road as its traffic can be heavy in both directions and there is no further crossing point before the left-turn at Blendon Church (52).

On entering Bostall Woods (22), the second of the left-turns (the one down into the woods) comes very soon and is easily missed. The fallen trees (26) are, we might hope, a temporary feature.

The section from Bexley to Crayford follows the London Loop, and includes its intricately protected crossing of A2 and railway (71-75), which surprisingly works, as described!

FULL CIRCUIT

Barnehurst – Bexleyheath – Bostall Woods – Welling – Danson Park – Blendon – Bexley – Crayford - Barnehurst

Notes taken: June and July 2020

The start and finish is at Barnehurst Church, Erith Road, DA7 6LE.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		On Erith Road, with your back to Barnehurst Church , turn left along the road and cross it as soon as possible.	497 758	
2	1	Turn right along Pelham Road, and follow it as it bends left and then right.		
3	8	At the end, facing Bexleyheath Academy, cross the road and turn left to walk along its right-hand side.		
4	10	Continue ahead, ignoring Russell Close.		
5	11	At the mini-roundabout, cross the road and turn right along its far side, alongside the bus station and then the car park.		
6	14	At the mini-roundabout at the end, facing ASDA, cross the road and turn left along its far side.		
7	15	Swing right with the road along Bexleyheath Broadway.	489 753	
8	16	Pass the entrance to Christ Church , and continue ahead along the right-hand side of the road.		0.83
9	18	After the Albion Road roundabout on the left, carry on ahead.		
10	19	Turn right along Church Road.		
11	23	At the mini-roundabout keep left (still Church Road).		
12	27	Carry on over the railway bridge.		
13	30	At the end turn left (Hudson Road) and immediately follow the road as it turns right.		1.52
14	34	[Map point] Take the third turning on the left (Bristow Road).		
15	37	At the end turn right along the main road, with St Peter's Church on the corner.		
16	39	Take the second turning on the left (Shakespeare Road).		
17	43	At the end, facing shops, turn right (Brampton Road) and cross to go along its left-hand side.		2.20
18	49	As Long Lane comes in from the right, continue ahead past the shops.		
19	51	At the roundabout go straight ahead, crossing Okehampton Crescent and continuing on the left-hand side of Brampton Road.		
20	52	Pass Bostall Heath Church on the other side of the road.	477 773	
21	55	Take the left fork along Longleigh Lane.		
22	63	[Map point] At the start of the Bostall Woods open space (about 250 yds. after passing the end of Lodge Hill, and immediately after the end of a section under trees) turn left on a path away from road, and then after about 25 yds. left again, downhill into trees, away from the open space and the bowling green.		3.14
23	65	After some gentle steps fork right with the track. (Here, and from now throughout this section through the woods, always use the 'Green Chain Walk' posts to confirm your route.)		
24	67	Keep right (GCW post).		
25	68	Turn left (GCW post).		
26	70	Keep right (GCW post). There are currently two fallen across the path, tricky to negotiate!		
27	72	Turn left at the GCW signpost.	465 775	

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
28		Go straight ahead along a rough road.		
29	75	At the top follow the road as it turns right at the cemetery entrance.		
30	77	At the bottom turn briefly left along Wickham Lane.		
31	78	Turn right along Highbanks Road (signposted GCW).		
32	79	As the road turns left, instead continue up ahead into the East Wickham Open Space. Follow the path as it goes up and then along the left-hand side of the grass.		3.82
33	84	[Map point] When the Green Chain Walk turns away to the right, instead go straight ahead towards the exit at the road visible ahead.		
34	85	After passing a pair of barriers, turn right along the road and follow it around its left-hand bend. When convenient cross to its left-hand side.		
35	89	Turn left along Olyffe Avenue.		
36	91	Go straight ahead, crossing Lovel Avenue.		
37	93	Go straight ahead, crossing Leigh Place.		
38	94	Turn left along Burnell Avenue.		
39	97	At the end turn right (Upper Wickham Lane) and go under the railway bridge. Stay on the right-hand side.		
40	100	Reach Welling's main crossroads and go ahead, with the lights, over the main A207 (Welling High Street / Bellegrave Road). On the other side, almost opposite, take the road which goes half-left, Danson Crescent.		4.80
41	102	Turn left along Marwood Close, and follow it as it becomes St John's Road and winds right and left and right and left.		
42	106	At the T-junction at the end turn right (Danson Lane).		
43	107	Reach the end of the driveway to Welling Church on the left, and continue along Danson Lane.		
44	110	[Map point] Turn left into Danson Park. <i>Opening times currently advertised (June 2020): 7.30 weekdays, 9.00 weekends and bank holidays; closing 4.30 or sunset, whichever is the later.</i>		
45	115	Go straight ahead through the next gate, soon walking alongside the lake on the left, gently bending leftwards.		5.58
46	125	Approaching the end of the lake, take the right fork towards the road and the exit gate.		
47	126	Turn right alongside the main road.	476 746	
48		At the roundabout follow the pavement round to the right. Then cross the two sections of Lakeside Close, and follow the road as it swings leftwards, past the bus stop and under the A2.		
49	130	Cross both sections of Park Mead.		
50	131	Reaching the main intersection, use the island to go ahead across the A210 (Blackfen Road).		
51		On the other side the walk continues ahead along the A221 Penhill Road. Be sure to use the staggered crossing at its start to go across to its left-hand side.		6.40
52	138	Turn left along Bladindon Drive, with Blendon Church on the corner.		
53	141	START OF THE SPINE SECTION Pass Crofton Avenue on the right and continue along Bladindon Drive.		
54	146	At the end bend left with the road.		
55	147	At the T-junction turn right (The Drive).		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
56	148	At the end turn right (Elmwood Drive).		
57	150	Immediately after the bridge over the stream, turn left towards the trees.		7.30
58	152	[Map point] In the wood, after ignoring a narrow track on the left (directly alongside the stream) take the much broader left fork a few yards further ahead.		
59	154	Ignore the track on the right, but continue straight ahead towards a road and brick wall visible ahead.		
60	156	Reaching the road turn right along it, up the hill. Stay on the right-hand side.	485 739	
61	165	Pass St John the Evangelist's Church on the right.		
62	167	Go ahead along Bexley High Street, which begins at the major junction with Hurst Road (A222), continuing along its right-hand side.		
63	169	Continue ahead, crossing the end of Tanyard Lane (at this point joining the London Loop, which the route now follows to Crayford).		8.18
64	171	Turn right at the mini-roundabout.		
65	172	Continue along the road, but cross to the left-hand side by means of the zebra crossing.		
66	174	Start to walk alongside St Mary the Virgin's Church .		
67	175	At the corner turn left up the roadway still next to the church. But after about 40 yds. go through an unusual kissing gate on the right to start along a long, straight tarmac footpath.		
68	181	[Map point] <i>[To visit Joydens Wood Church, now divert instead to the Detour in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: About 30 yds. before a fork in the path, turn, with the London Loop, sharp left into the trees (signposted Footpath 127).		8.71
69	182	Follow the track as it bends to the right.		
70	191	Reaching the A2, audible if not visible ahead, pass a redundant stile and turn left down a tarmac path.	506 738	
71	194	At the end start on the complicated crossing of the A2 and the railway. First follow the path to the right to go under the A2 and alongside the railway on your left.		9.34
72		After the bridge follow the path, surprisingly, away from the railway, briefly over a relatively open area.		
73	196	Turn sharp right up a steep tarmac path leading to the road above.		
74	198	At the top go through a little gate to cross the railway, walking briefly alongside the A2, protected by a crash barrier.		
75	199	Turn right to go down steps, reaching a gate at bottom next to the railway.		
76	200	Go through the gate and ahead alongside the railway.		
77	201	When a wide gap appears in the trees on the left, turn left to go through it, away from the railway,		
78	204	Cross a bridge over a stream and continue ahead along the left-hand edge of a large field.		
79	206	Turn left, then right, to go over another footbridge (over the River Cray). After the bridge turn right again to go along the right-hand edge of a parking area, and on, parallel to the river.	504 742	

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
80	207	After a few yards go a little to the left, into a huge field at its corner. Over on the left it is bounded by Bourne Road, and ahead across its width there is a line of trees. But beyond the trees is hidden another open space doubling the size of the field. The route goes diagonally to the left across this double field, eventually to reach the far-left corner at Bourne Road, by the Bourne Road Garage (visible, once beyond the trees).		9.92
81	216	[Map point] At that corner go through the gate and turn right along Bourne Road, crossing it to its left-hand side.		
82	220	At the mini-roundabout, cross the road ahead, and then walk up the steep Orchard Hill opposite.		
83	223	Nearing the top, where the road bends to the right, instead carry straight on up steps and along a passageway.		
84	224	Merge with Chapel Hill, coming up from the right, and continue ahead to cross Old Road, and then along Manor Road opposite, crossing over to its right-hand side to reach the lych-gate of Crayford Church. <i>The next section ('SB') of the spine walk begins at the lych-gate - linking with the Full Circuit in that sector, which comes from the opposite direction and then goes from the lych-gate past the church itself. If there is no intention to preserve the continuity of the spine walk or to visit the church, it is possible here to leave out the continuation up Manor Road and start down Old Road immediately, continuing from Direction 87, and reducing the walk by 3 mins. and 0.14 miles.</i>		
85	226	END OF THE SPINE SECTION Go through the lych-gate and ahead along the path towards the church.		
86	227	Reach the south door of Crayford Church . After visiting the church retrace your steps to the lych-gate, and, by turning left along the major road there, to the start of Old Road.		10.67
87	228	Start along Old Road (by right-turn if from Direction 86, by left-turn if from 84), and walk along its right-hand side.		
88	236	[Map point] At the bottom, opposite the gas-holder and just after house no.7, turn right along a narrow path.		
89		Keep on the main path (ignoring the one leading up to the right) and continue ahead winding gradually uphill.		
90	242	Emerge from the trees and turn right along the tarmac path.	504 753	
91		Swing left with the path (next to a bench and a dog-waste bin) and follow it, at first round its gentle right-hand bend, then on ahead towards the park's exit gates.		11.42
92	246	Go through the gates and turn left up the road, crossing it and following it around a slight right-hand bend.		
93	248	Reaching the main road, cross it by means of the zebra crossing, and go ahead along Barnehurst Road directly opposite. Cross to its left-hand side as soon as is convenient.		
94	249	Turn left along Lyndhurst Road.		
95	251	And left again along Rudland Road, following it through its turns – right, right, left, right and left.		
96	257	At the end, on the right at the corner, reach Barnehurst Church , the starting point of the walk.	497 758	12.13

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APPENDIX to Full Circuit

Detour to Joydens Wood Church

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
68A	0	To reach Joydens Wood Church, instead of the sharp-left turn into the trees at Direction 68, go the few yards ahead to the main path junction and take the right fork. Then, after a few yards, turn right again to take on a steep but brief climb.		0.00
68B	2	At the top turn left along the road.		
68C	4	At the end turn right along the busy main road, crossing if convenient, or otherwise using the island at the bottom.		
68D	6	Opposite the island, as the main road bends to the right, instead turn left up a rough, narrow roadway.		0.25
68E	9	Just after the top pass a traffic barrier and continue ahead.		
68F	13	Carry on along a cul-de-sac at its dead end.		0.53
68G	16	At the bottom cross and ignore Baldwyns Park.		
68H	17	Reach Joydens Wood Church on the left. After visiting the church retrace your steps (as follows) all the way back to the London Loop path junction where you started the detour. Start, on leaving the church, by turning right, along the road.		0.79
68I	23	Go ahead into the wood along the signposted byway.		
68J	26	Continue past the barrier on to the rough, narrow road.		
68K	28	Reaching the main road at the bottom, use the island to cross it, and turn right up its left-hand pavement.		1.33
68L	30	At the top turn left along Hill Crescent.		
68M	32	Turn right down the steep, narrow footpath (216), paved to start with.		
68N	34	At the bottom turn left, and then immediately half-left again.		
68O		After a few yards, join the main route and the London Loop as at Direction 68, by forking right, into the trees (Footpath 127 – the ‘sharp-left’ turn for the main route as it approaches from the opposite direction). Add 34 minutes to subsequent total times and 1.58 miles to cumulative distances.		1.58

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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!

BEXLEYHEATH - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 3-13, 15, 17-21, 30, 34, 38-40, 42-43, 47-51, 60-66, 74, 81, 84b, 86b-87, 93	45
Quiet road \$\$	2, 14, 16, 28-29, 31, 35-37, 41, 52-56, 67a, 82, 84a, 92, 94-95	22
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	32, 44-46, 72a, 76b-78, 80, 90-91	14
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	33, 57a, 67b, 71, 72b-73, 75-76a, 79, 83, 85-86a, 88	7
Woods	22-27, 57b-59, 68-70, 89	12

** 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.