






BEXLEYHEATH

SHORTER CIRCUIT

ROADS:

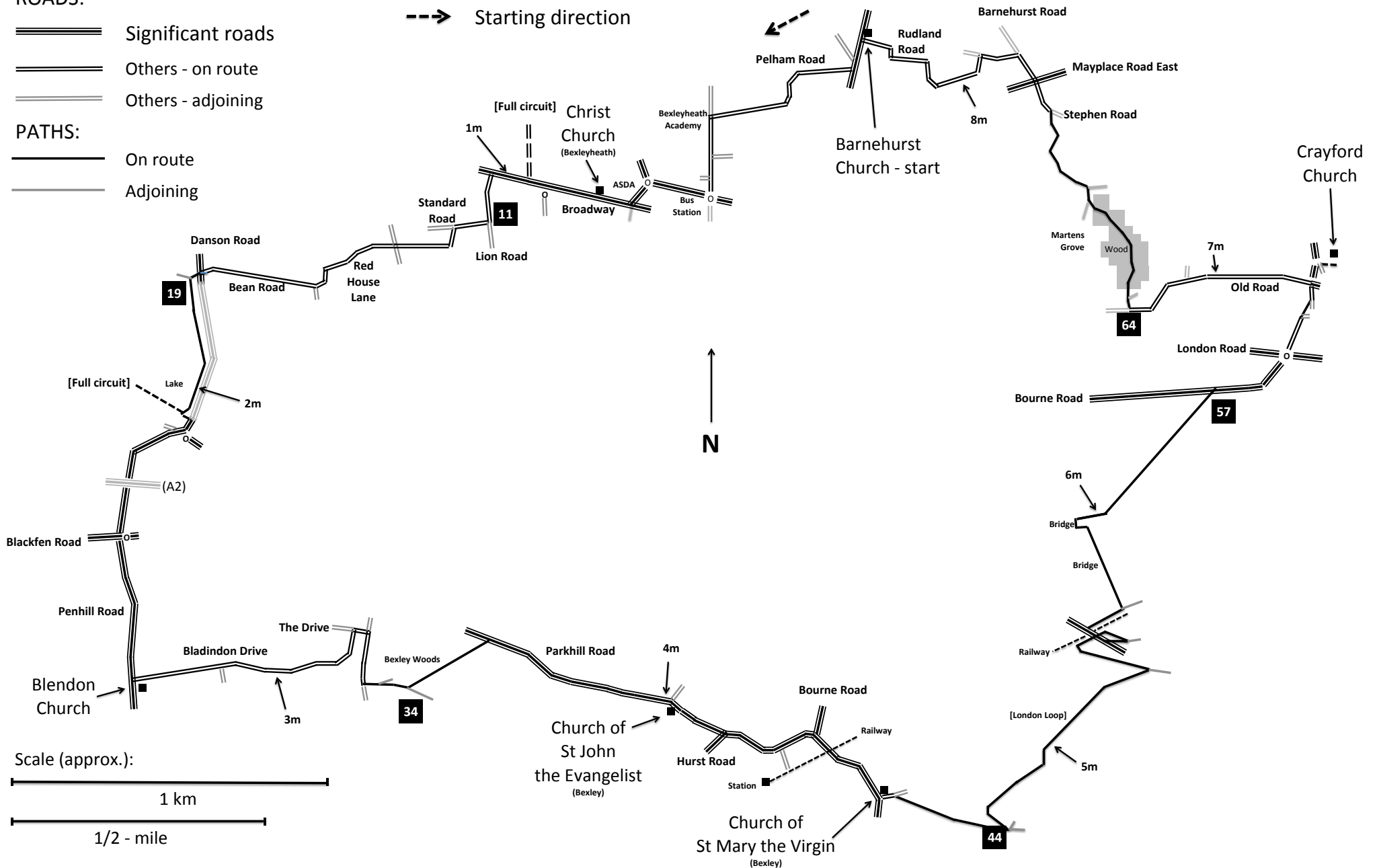
-  Significant roads
-  Others - on route
-  Others - adjoining

PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

 Starting direction



BEXLEYHEATH CIRCUIT - shorter: 8.19 miles

Churches in the shorter circuit:

Barnehurst (start and finish)

Bexleyheath Christ Church (Direction 8)

Blendon (28)

Bexley St John the Evangelist (37)

Bexley St Mary the Virgin (42)

Crayford (62)

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)

Shorter circuit: Like the full circuit, a mixture of suburban sections, quite busy but not unpleasantly so, and enjoyable open spaces and woods.

Roads and hindrances:

Beyond usual prudence the only significant traffic issue is at the Danson interchange (Directions 26 and 27) – 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 (28).

Danson Road is busy (Direction 18), but there is a light-controlled crossing.

The section from Bexley to Crayford follows the London Loop, and includes its intricately protected crossing of A2 and railway (47-51), which surprisingly works, as described!

SHORTER CIRCUIT

Barnehurst – Bexleyheath – 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.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
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.	489 755	
8	16	Pass the entrance to Christ Church , and continue ahead along the right-hand side of the road.		0.83
9	18	Beyond the Albion Road roundabout turn left to cross the road at the crossing, and then right to go along its left-hand side.		
10	20	Opposite West Street, turn left (Lion Road).		
11	22	[Map point] Turn right along Standard Road.		
12	23	Turn left down Paddock Road. ('No through road' is correct for traffic, but there is a way through for walkers.)		
13	24	Swing right with the road.		
14	25	Go ahead up the rough roadway, as the main one bends left.		
15	26	Pass the traffic barrier, cross the road, and go straight on along the road opposite.	482 752	
16	29	Follow the road around its leftward bend.		
17	30	Turn right along Bean Road, walking along its left-hand side.		1.53
18	34	At the end use the lights over on the right to cross the busy main road. Then turn left to go into Danson Park through the gate opposite Bean Road.		
19	35	[Map point] Once through the park gate, immediately turn left along the tarmac path, parallel to the road outside.		
20	38	Continue ahead alongside the lake on the right.		
21	40	At the end of the lake, swing right briefly with the path.		
22	41	Then turn sharp-left to merge with the path leading to the road and the exit gate.		
23	42	Turn right alongside the main road.	476 746	
24		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.		
25	46	Cross both sections of Park Mead.		
26	47	Reaching the main intersection, use the island to go ahead across the A210 (Blackfen Road).		
27		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.		2.46
28	54	Turn left along Bladindon Drive, with Blendon Church on the corner.		
29	57	START OF THE SPINE SECTION Pass Crofton Avenue on the right and continue along Bladindon Drive.		
30	62	At the end bend left with the road.		
31		At the T-junction turn right (The Drive).		
32	64	At the end turn right (Elmwood Drive).		
33	66	Immediately after the bridge over the stream, turn left towards the trees.		3.36
34	68	[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.		
35	70	Ignore the track on the right, but continue straight ahead towards a road and brick wall visible ahead.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
36	72	Reaching the road turn right along it, up the hill. Stay on the right-hand side.	485 739	
37	81	Pass St John the Evangelist's Church on the right.		
38	83	Go ahead along Bexley High Street, which begins at the major junction with Hurst Road (A222), continuing along its right-hand side.		
39	85	Continue ahead, crossing the end of Tanyard Lane (at this point joining the London Loop, which the route now follows to Crayford).		4.24
40	87	Turn right at the mini-roundabout.		
41	88	Continue along the road, but cross to the left-hand side by means of the zebra crossing.		
42	90	Start to walk alongside St Mary the Virgin's Church .		
43	91	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.		
44	97	[Map point] About 30 yds. before a fork in the path, turn, with the London Loop, sharp left into the trees (signposted Footpath 127).		4.77
45	98	Follow the track as it bends to the right.		
46	107	Reaching the A2, audible if not visible ahead, pass a redundant stile and turn left down a tarmac path.	506 738	
47	110	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.		5.40
48		After the bridge follow the path, surprisingly, away from the railway, briefly over a relatively open area.		
49	112	Turn sharp right up a steep tarmac path leading to the road above.		
50	114	At the top go through a little gate to cross the railway, walking briefly alongside the A2, protected by a crash barrier.		
51	115	Turn right to go down steps, reaching a gate at bottom next to the railway.		
52	116	Go through the gate and ahead alongside the railway.		
53	117	When a wide gap appears in the trees on the left, turn left to go through it, away from the railway,		
54	120	Cross a bridge over a stream and continue ahead along the left-hand edge of a large field.		
55	122	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	
56	123	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).		5.98
57	132	[Map point] At that corner go through the gate and turn right along Bourne Road, crossing it to its left-hand side.		
58	136	At the mini-roundabout, cross the road ahead, and then walk up the steep Orchard Hill opposite.		
59	139	Nearing the top, where the road bends to the right, instead carry straight on up steps and along a passageway.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
60	140	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 63, and reducing the walk by 3 mins. and 0.14 miles.</i>		
61	142	END OF THE SPINE SECTION Go through the lych-gate and ahead along the path towards the church.		
62	143	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.		6.73
63	144	Start along Old Road (by right-turn if from Direction 62, by left-turn if from 60), and walk along its right-hand side.		
64	152	[Map point] At the bottom, opposite the gas-holder and just after house no.7, turn right along a narrow path.		
65		Keep on the main path (ignoring the one leading up to the right) and continue ahead winding gradually uphill.		
66	158	Emerge from the trees and turn right along the tarmac path.	504 753	
67		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.		7.48
68	162	Go through the gates and turn left up the road, crossing it and following it around a slight right-hand bend.		
69	164	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.		
70	165	Turn left along Lyndhurst Road.		
71	167	And left again along Rudland Road, following it through its turns – right, right, left, right and left.		
72	173	At the end, on the right at the corner, reach Barnehurst Church , the starting point of the walk.	497 758	8.19

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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!

BEXLEYHEATH - SHORTER CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 3-10, 15-16, 18, 23-27, 36-42, 50, 57, 60b, 62b-63, 69	39
Quiet road \$\$	2, 11-14, 17, 28-32, 43a, 58, 60a, 68, 70-71	24
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	19, 22, 48a, 52b-54, 56, 66-67	12
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	20-21, 33a, 43b, 47, 48b-49, 51-52a, 55, 59, 61-62a, 64	11
Woods	33b-35, 44-46, 65	13

** 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.