

SIDCUP AND LAMORBEY CIRCUIT - shorter: 6.34 miles

Churches in the shorter circuit:

Lamorbey Holy Trinity (start and finish)

Sidcup Christ Church (Direction 6)

Sidcup St John (10)

Foots Cray (27C: Detour 1 - see Appendix)

North Cray (35E: Detour 2 - see Appendix)

Sidcup St Andrew (41)

Blendon (52)

Associated local circuits

- SL2: Sidcup – Foots Cray – North Cray - Sidcup
- SL1: Lamorbey – Blendon – Falconwood - Lamorbey

Shorter circuit: In between the urban sections (not troublesome, and sometimes leafy) there is pleasant walking, including a section of the Cray valley and Five Arch Bridge.

Roads and hindrances:

There are several busy road-crossings, but all are manageable with ordinary care.

SHORTER CIRCUIT

Lamorbey – Sidcup – Foots Cray – North Cray – Blendon - Lamorbey

Notes taken: August and September 2020

The start and finish is at **Holy Trinity Church, Lamorbey** (DA15 8LG), a short distance north of Sidcup station, at the junction of Halfway Street, Station Road and Hurst Road.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the entrance to Lamorbey Holy Trinity Church cross the end of Hurst Road and start down the left-hand side of Station Road. (Although eventually the route will go along the right-hand side of Station Road, it probably makes better sense to start in this way!)	462 728	
2	3	Just before the railway bridge, here is the opportunity, using the lights, to cross to the right-hand side. Then continue under the bridge by way of the separate short walkway on the right.		
3	5	Continue ahead at the crossroads.		
4	7	Turn right along Manor Road.		
5	10	Follow the major road as it bends to the left and becomes Christchurch Road.	459 724	

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
6	17	At the end, with Sidcup Christ Church on the right, turn left into the main road and cross when convenient to its right-hand side.		0.82
7	22	At the major crossroads cross Elm Road and turn right to walk along its left-hand side.		
8	24	At the mini-roundabout (opposite Carlton Road) turn left. Stay on the left of the roadway, crossing the car park access, but swinging right with it to go to the right of Morrison's.		
9	26	At the far end of the Morrison's building go ahead past bollards, joining a cul-de-sac at its dead end.		
10	28	Turn right at the end and cross the road to pass Sidcup St John's Church .		
11		Swing right with the main road.		
12	29	Follow the left fork (minor road, 'No entry' for traffic).		
13	30	Turn left again along a winding path (Footpath 161).		
14	32	[Map point] Immediately opposite a children's play area on the right, turn left into trees.		
15	33	Emerge from the trees into a wide open space, and go ahead, moving a little to the right, to walk, on the grass, along the right-hand edge of the cluster of trees which soon appears ahead.		1.51
16	35	Maintaining the same direction, follow a path into more trees, soon going through a kissing gate and continuing along a winding tarmac passageway (now on the London Loop).	466 713	
17	39	Pass the end of a quiet road on the left and go ahead, then following the path as it bends to the right.		
18	40	Continue ahead in this new direction, through a gate and along an enclosed footpath.		
19	43	START OF THE SPINE SECTION [Map point] At the end go through another gate and turn sharp left on to a tarmac path along the left-hand edge of the open space.		
20	45	In the corner at the end go through yet another gate and turn half-left along a short passage.		
21		Turn right at the dead end of a cul-de-sac and start along it.		
22	46	After house no.41, turn left along a passage between the houses (Footpath 167) and follow it as it bends half-right.		
23	47	Turn half-right on to a quiet road and follow it to its end.		
24	48	At the end turn left alongside the main road.		
25	50	At the crossroads use the lights to cross, continuing directly ahead along Rectory Lane, and crossing to its right-hand side.		2.35
26	53	Pass a traffic constriction and continue ahead along the road.	475 711	
27	54	<i>To visit Foots Cray Church, now divert instead to Detour 1 in the Appendix.]</i> [Map point] Main route: Just before the road bends left at the end, go down to the right into the trees, following the 'Cray Riverway' signpost (in fact also continuing on the London Loop).		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
28		At the bottom swing left past an information board. The path is grassy at the very start, but then goes a little to the right to merge with a rougher one and continue into trees.		
29	55	Fork right - still the rougher path, not the grassy one ahead.		
30	56	Meeting a path coming from the left, merge rightwards into it and cross a stone bridge over the river.		
31	57	At the end of the bridge turn left, go through a gate, and keep left to follow the main path roughly parallel to the river (now on the left), and, to start with, along the left-hand edge of a large field.		
32	61	Take the right fork, a little surprisingly, away from the river briefly, as shown by a currently concealed waymark on the left.		
33	63	After going over a footbridge between barriers, reach an area where signposted paths cross. At successive forks the route then essentially carries on in an unchanged direction: first, about 25 yds. after the multiple signpost, ignore the right fork and keep left.		
34	64	Then about 40 yds. further on go straight ahead ignoring the left fork (unless the proximity of the river inspires you to follow that slightly longer waterside path). Go ahead until the two paths come together again.		
35	67	<i>To visit North Cray Church, now divert instead to Detour 2 in the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Soon after the rejoin, about 40 yds. after a bench, and at a manhole cover, take the left fork, heading directly to the bridge.		
36	68	Turn left to cross Five Arch Bridge.		3.16
37		After the bridge go straight on along the tarmac path which can be seen bending slightly leftwards ahead.		
38	72	Follow the path rightwards into trees.		
39	75	And then through an exit gap at the far-left corner and along a passageway leading ahead between houses to a road.		
40		Turn right along the road, crossing to its left-hand side when convenient.	479 722	
41	78	Pass Sidcup St Andrew's Church on the left, and at the mini-roundabout continue uphill, slightly left (Kimberley Drive).		
42	82	At the top of the hill, opposite Davenport Road, turn left along the signposted footpath, between fences.		
43	83	At the end cross the road and continue ahead along Cherrydown Road.		
44	86	At the T-junction turn right (Onslow Road).		
45	87	Reaching Longmead Drive, turn briefly right along it.		4.03
46		After about 30 yds. turn left along Footpath 148.		
47	88	Go over the railway bridge, and beyond bend slightly right with the main path. Follow it ahead over two crossing roads, and eventually between the fronts of houses.		
48	94	Reaching the main road, cross it (with the help, if necessary, of the island over to the right), and turn left along its right-hand side.		
49	95	Turn right into Crofton Avenue.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
50	101	Cross the bridge over the stream at the bottom, and continue up ahead.		
51	103	END OF THE SPINE SECTION At the top turn left into Bladindon Drive.		
52	106	At the end turn left along the A221 (Penhill Road), with Blendon Church on the left at the corner. Cross to its right-hand side when possible. (There are islands after a while.)		4.93
53	113	At the roundabout turn right ('Sidcup A222').		
54	117	Immediately after house no.191, turn right along the signposted footpath (number 150), keeping to the left of the fence (where the entrance to Hurstmere School is on the right).	471 731	
55	122	Keep right with the main path, keeping the main body of water on your left. Then follow round gently to the left.		5.71
56	126	Pass the traffic barrier, and go ahead along the rough roadway.		
57	127	[Map point] Meet a road at its corner, and immediately turn away from it leftwards, on an access roadway to Lamorbey Park.		
58	129	Go ahead through the gate into the park itself.		
59	130	Ahead of a path leading off to the right, take a short cut rightwards over the grass towards it.		
60	131	Reach the path and merge rightwards along it.		
61	134	After following it a little to the left, leave the park by turning left along the main road.		
62	135	Reach the entrance to Lamorbey Holy Trinity Church , the starting point of the walk.	462 728	6.34

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APPENDIX to Shorter Circuit

Detour to Footscray Church (Detour 1)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
27A	0	To reach Foots Cray Church, continue ahead instead of following the path down into the trees at Direction 27.		
27B		Turn right at the gate and follow the path through the churchyard.		
27C	1	Reach the entrance to Foots Cray Church . After visiting the church retrace your steps along the churchyard path, turning left at its end.		0.05
27D	3	Rejoin the main route at the 'Cray Riverway' signpost, going down to the left into trees (where there would have been a right-turn at Direction 27). Add 3 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.10 miles to cumulative distances.		0.10

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Detour to North Cray Church (Detour 2)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
35A	0	To reach North Cray Church, ignore the left fork at Direction 35 and go straight ahead.		
35B	1	Turn right on to the tarmac path leading away from the bridge.		
35C	2	Go over a crossing path.		
35D		Go ahead, slightly right, ignoring the left fork.		
35E	3	Reach the entrance gate to North Cray Church . After visiting the church retrace your steps from this gate (by immediately keeping right on the tarmac path down through the trees).		0.14
35F	4	Go over the crossing path.		
35G	6	The main route joins from the left. Go ahead, following it from Direction 36, straight on over the bridge. Add 5 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.22 miles to cumulative distances.		0.26

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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 (on the next page) 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!

SIDCUP & LAMORBEY - SHORTER CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1-3, 6-7, 10-11, 24-26, 41, 45, 48, 52-53, 61	27
Quiet road \$\$	4-5, 8-9, 21, 23, 40, 43-44, 49-51, 56-58	28
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	12, 13b, 15, 19, 28a, 30a, 31-35, 37, 59-60	18
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	13a, 16b-18, 20, 22, 30b, 36, 39, 42, 46-47, 54, 55b	20
Woods	14, 16a, 27, 28b-29, 38, 55a	6

** 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.