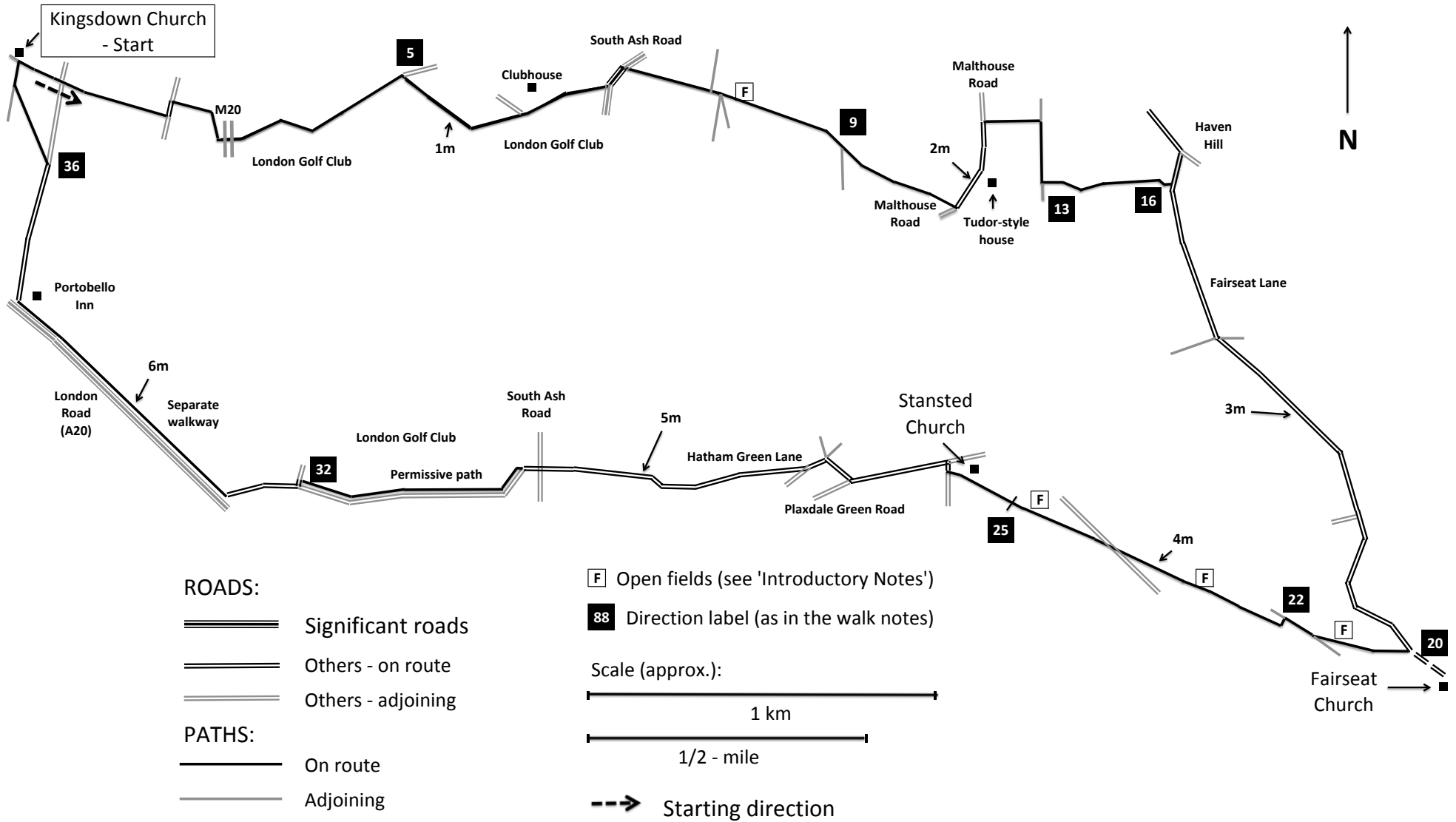


# LOCAL CIRCUIT FA3: KINGSDOWN & FAIRSEAT



## LOCAL CIRCUIT FA3: KINGSDOWN AND FAIRSEAT

### Linked churches:

Kingsdown (start and finish)

Fairseat (Direction 20A: Detour – see Appendix)

Stansted (26)

### Roads and hindrances:

There is more road walking here than usual, but nothing which should deter you unduly. The short section of South Ash Road (6) is probably too short to matter (and I understand, for what it is worth, that there has been discussion of rerouting footpaths around here to make even this unnecessary.)

The long stretch of road before Fairseat (17-19) is quiet and pleasant. The same applies to the section after Stansted (27-30), though the permissive path at 31 makes a welcome change. Walking alongside the A20 (33-34) is not wonderful, but not particularly distressing either (and perfectly safe). The other short road sections are harmless.

The stile at 8 needs a little care. Generally no significant hindrances, though.

Notes taken: Between October 2011 and March 2012; updated October 2014

The start and finish is at Kingsdown Church (TN15 6AY).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		At <u>Kingsdown Church</u> turn left at the end of the church path, heading east.	580 633	
2	3	At the road turn right, then immediately left. After a MKG go ahead along a rough avenue between trees. Regardless of any alternatives which might seem more attractive, stay directly below the power lines until you reach another road.	581 632	
3	7	Turn left along the road, and then immediately right, alongside (not into!) the entrance to Eagles Farm. This takes you over speed ramps alongside some industrial units before swinging right at the end.	584 632	
4	11	The path turns left under the M20, and on to London Golf Club land. Go straight on along the clear path across the course.		
5	20	[Map Point] At a choice of road or track, it is probably best to use the latter. (They come together again very soon.) Keep going straight, even at the end, where you cross a golf-course road and the way ahead looks unpromising. It soon emerges (after swinging to the right of a white house) through a MKG to a road.		
6	26	Turn left along the road.	597 632	1.22
7	27	Turn right at a MKG, and go along the left-hand side of a field towards another MKG in the middle-distance.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
8	<b>32</b>	Go through the MKG, cross a wider path, and go straight on over a slightly crotchety stile. <b>!!!F!!!</b> Then continue straight ahead (MR221) across a field. (Ignore the 'footpath' sign pointing to the right.) After a little while the path becomes grassy and goes straight ahead along what is now the left-hand edge of the field.	600 632	
9	<b>36</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> When confronted with trees ahead the obvious thing would be to swing rightwards around them; but instead go straight on into the trees along a narrow track. This winds down from side to side - but generally tending to the left - through the wood.		
10	<b>41</b>	When you reach the road turn left along it.		
11	<b>44</b>	Turn right off the road through a MKG, and go up the path on the left-hand side of the field.		
12	<b>47</b>	At the top turn right along the (lower) edge of the trees, along what is now the top of the same field.		
13	<b>49</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> At the waymark turn left into the trees. (This turn-off is roughly level with a tudor-style house on the road below to the right.)	609 629	
14	<b>50</b>	After following the narrow track, once in the trees, very slightly leftwards for 100 yds. or so, continue with it as it kicks a little to the right to avoid a small bank.		
15	<b>52</b>	Keep on it as it bears left and then right, at the edge of the trees, to go along the right-hand edge of a field towards houses which gradually come into view. (At first only the tops of the roofs are visible.)		
16	<b>54</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Go all the way to the corner, then ahead between the houses.		
17	<b>55</b>	When you reach the road turn right along it. It will be your companion for the next mile.		2.51
18	<b>61</b>	Ignore the footpaths to right and left		
19	<b>69</b>	Carry straight on at the road junction.	618 619	
20	<b>74</b>	<i>To visit <b>Fairseat Church</b>, now divert instead to the <b>Detour</b> in the Appendix.</i> <b>Main route:</b> <b>[Map point]</b> A little way after the Thames Water plant on the left, look out for 'The Dairy Farm', also on the left, just before a leftward swing in the road. (The nameplate is so placed that you only see it after you pass it.) <b>!!!F!!!</b> Almost opposite the farm drive, turn right over a stile on to footpath MR206. Go slightly right across the field towards and over a stile: then enjoy the view to the right as you go ahead.	620 615	3.50
21	<b>77</b>	The path goes a little to the right when it reaches a fence at the field edge.		

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

!!!F!!! : Field crossing might be unmarked. See 'Open Fields' in 'Introductory Notes' for some thoughts about dealing with this.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
22	<b>79</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Turn off to the left over a stile. This turning is very well hidden, and looks very unpromising, but after a few seconds opens out at a MKG. Here turn to the right and see the whole of the next stage of the walk as far as Stansted Church. <b>[!!F!!]</b> Now maintain, more or less, a straight line all the way to Stansted: start by moving down and gradually away from the right-hand field-edge, aiming to the left of the farm buildings in the middle distance.	616 617	
23	<b>84</b>	Go through a well-concealed gate in the hedge (currently next to a large metal container which looks like a permanent feature), <b>[!!F!!]</b> and carry on without changing the line. <i>However, although the right of way follows this straight line the track all the way to Stansted can raise ploughed-field issues and is not always easy to negotiate. If you choose to compromise by going along the right-hand field edges there seems little harm you can do to the margins; but first identify the gate at Direction 25 as your eventual target.</i>		
24	<b>87</b>	Cross (and ignore) the broad track which leads to the farm to the right.		
25	<b>91</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Go ahead over a stile next to a gate - the point you need to reach whatever steps you have taken to deal with ploughed fields - and then along the left-hand (top) field-edge.	608 620	
26	<b>93</b>	Go through a MKG into the churchyard of <b>Stansted Church</b> . Still keep along the left-hand edge.		
27	<b>94</b>	Go out through the gate and turn right down the road and immediately left at the T-junction along Plaxdale Green Road. Follow this down the hill, and most of the way up the other side.	606 621	4.43
28	<b>98</b>	A little before the top turn right on to Hatham Green Lane.		
29	<b>99</b>	Swing left with the road by Hatham Green Cottage and Oak Tree Farm.		
30	<b>100</b>	At the fork keep right (not left down Parsons Lane).		
31	<b>110</b>	At the crossroads continue straight ahead. After about 100 yds. you can escape from the road itself by using the permissive footpath (not marked on the OS map) which goes alongside it on the right (along the edge of the golf course).		
32	<b>120</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> The path reaches the entrance road to the London Golf Club, next to the gate. Turn left and then, at the two-stage junction, right, so that you are heading towards the A20.	587 620	
33	<b>123</b>	Turn right on to the walkway alongside the A20.		5.76
34	<b>125</b>	Continue ahead under the motorway.		
35	<b>133</b>	At the corner at the Portobello Inn turn right along Fawkham Road. Use the pavement on the left of the road.	580 626	

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!!F!! : Field crossing might be unmarked. See 'Open Fields' in 'Introductory Notes' for some thoughts about dealing with this.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
36	<b>138</b>	[Map point] When the pavement comes to an end, about 100 yds. after Warland Road, turn half-left into the trees along the path signposted for the church.		
37	<b>141</b>	After merging right into another path you reach the starting point at <b>Kingsdown Church</b> .	580 633	6.73

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

## APPENDIX to Local Circuit FA3

### Detour to Fairseat Church

20A	Where the main route turns right at Direction 20, instead go ahead along the road to the church on the right. Retrace your steps to rejoin the walk, turning left to cross the stile at Direction 20.  <b>Add 6 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.27 miles to cumulative distances.</b>
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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!

<b>LOCAL CIRCUIT FA3</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	33, 34	8
Quiet road \$\$	1, 3, 6, 10,17-19, 27-30, 32,35	37
Open field with livestock	20a, 22	4
Edge of field with livestock	7, 25	4
Field (or edge) without livestock **	8, 11-12, 15, 20b-21, 23-24	16
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	2, 4-5, 16, 26, 31	23
Woods	9, 13-14, 36	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 (5) - Details noted in April 2015, but **subject to frequent change:****

The stile in Direction 8 does not currently exist, except as a collapsed heap on the ground. The two in 20 will be tricky. They are both double stiles, wired down to the ground and quite high: the first is about 4ft. high in all, with highest climb about 1.5 ft.; the second a little taller with highest climb about 2 ft. 22 (wired down) is about 3 ft. high with two climbs of about 1.5 ft. each. In 25 the climbs are about 1.5 and 2 ft.: it too is wired down, but there is a gap of about 6 ins. underneath the adjacent gate.