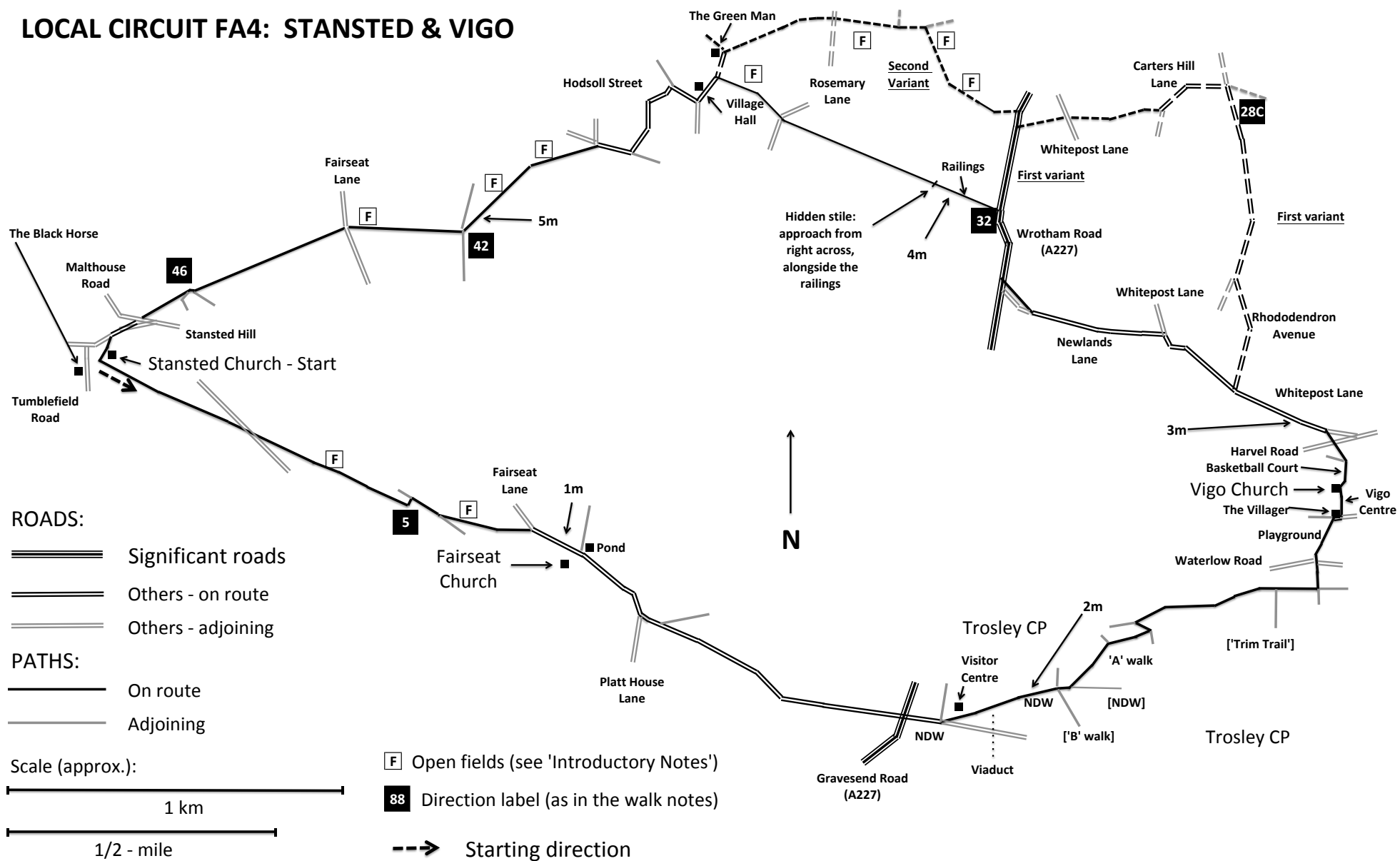


LOCAL CIRCUIT FA4: STANSTED & VIGO



LOCAL CIRCUIT FA4: STANSTED AND VIGO

Linked churches:

Stansted (start and finish)

Fairseat (Direction 9)

Vigo (24)

Roads and hindrances:

The two crossings of the A227 are easy to manage, and the other roads encountered present no particular hazards.

The stiles around Hodsoll Street are generally poor, but not unmanageable.

Notes taken: December 2013; updated October 2014

The start and finish is at **Stansted Church** (TN15 7PG).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		Start by walking eastwards along the south side of <u>Stansted Church</u> (with your back to Tumblefield Road and with the church on your left) and head for the MKG in the corner ahead.	607 621	
2	1	Go through the MKG and along the top (right-hand) edge of the field.		
3	3	Go over the stile. [!!F!!] The track now goes down, a little to the left at the angle indicated by the waymark, reaching the valley bottom after crossing two paths at an angle. <i>This track can raise ploughed-field issues and is not always easy to negotiate. If instead you choose to compromise by going along the left-hand field edges there seems little harm you can do to the margins; but first identify the 'correct' angle so that you finish up at the right point at the valley bottom.</i>		
4	9	[!!F!!] At the bottom go through an old metal kissing gate in the hedge, and continue upwards at the same angle as before, towards the brow of the hill. Head for the far end of the long fence up on your left which you are merging towards.		
5	16	[Map point] About 100 yds. beyond the end of the fence, go through the MKG hidden on your left. Then briefly upwards, winding through a few trees, and, on emerging, turn right on to a path along the right-hand edge of a field.	616 617	
6	18	[!!F!!] When this path turns slightly to the right, instead go half-left across the field towards a stile on the far side. Enjoy the view to the left.		
7	20	[!!F!!] Cross the stile and continue ahead.		
8	21	And cross another stile and turn right along the road.		0.92
9	24	Pass <u>Fairseat Church</u> on your right and a pond on your left, and carry on along the road.	622 615	

* **"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
10	26	Ignore Platt House Lane as it goes away to the right, but follow the left-hand option (signposted for Meopham).		
11	34	As you approach the main road, be ready for the sound of spectacularly noisy dogs, which are safely behind the fence of the property on the left!		
12	36	Cross the A227 (quite busy, but with reasonable sightlines) and go ahead, joining the North Downs Way, down the minor road opposite next to what was The Vigo (now a nameless white building).		
13	38	In sight of, but before, a viaduct over the road, there are a pair of footpaths up to the left. Go up the one which is only half-left, with steps (still North Downs Way).		1.80
14	39	Pass (up to the left) the Visitor Centre of Trosley Country Park (car park currently £1.50, or £2 weekends and bank holidays), and go ahead along the broad path (still NDW, and also the Red, Blue and Yellow Walks).		
15	44	When the 'B-Walk', along with one leg of the Blue Walk, disappears down to the right, instead continue straight ahead (North Downs Way).		
16		But after about 40 yds. leave the main track by turning slightly left up a narrow path (the A-walk) into the trees. Follow this track as it winds through the woods, always staying with the main path if there is a choice, but if in doubt tending gently to the left.		
17	47	At a more significant junction of paths swing to the right (still waymarked 'A-walk')	63734 61213	
18	48	At successive T-junctions go first left, then right to go along a broad track (still waymarked 'A-walk').		
19	53	Where the 'Trim Trail' goes away to the right, instead continue straight on.		
20	55	Turn left at the next significant cross-path, on to a narrower track towards the road.	64353 61456	
21	56	Cross the road and go ahead and slightly to the right, past the 'Churchside' bus stop and up a grassy rise between wooden bollards.		2.64
22	57	Skirt the children's playground and go ahead towards The Villager (slightly set back and hidden, beside the little road).		
23	58	Go down the narrow walkway immediately to right of The Villager, between brick walls, into the square.		
24	59	Go diagonally across the square. On the left is the Village Hall, which serves as Vigo Church . Leave the square by the far left corner, passing to the left of Village Florist, and go alongside the school playground on your left.		
25	61	After crossing the school's entrance road pass along the right-hand side of an enclosed basketball court. The concrete path swings left towards a scout hut, but instead go straight ahead into trees and along an up-and-down path, slightly leftwards at its lowest point.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
26	62	The track emerges at a pair of roads near a junction. Cross the first road, go across the triangle to the second (post box), and turn left along it.	643 618	
27	63	Ignore Beechwood Drive on the right and continue along the road.		
28	66	<i>[There are variants here – a little longer, but featuring a more pleasant road section. See the Appendix.]</i> Main route: Ignore Rhododendron Avenue on the right.		3.13
29	69	Ignore Meadow Lane on the right, but then, as the road itself swings to the right, instead take the lesser road up to the left, which turns out to be Newlands Lane.		
30	74	Pass Triple Oak on the right and the entrance to Newlands Farm on the left. Then, soon after the extensive frontage of Avoca, take the opportunity to go through the gap on the right, and walk along the left-hand edge of the playing field (still in the original direction, parallel to, and never straying far from, Newlands Lane).		
31	77	At the end swing leftwards and emerge through a metal gate at the point where Newlands Lane meets the A227. Turn right and walk alongside the A227. Cross the road whenever convenient (safe walkways on both sides).		
32	79	[Map point] Just after the '30' speed limit sign, turn left away from the road along a footpath (SD250). Even though this seems to lead nowhere, keep to the right next to the fence (panel at first, then, after you cross a little road, green railings).	634 625	3.78
33	82	In the far right-hand corner – but only if you have stayed immediately next to the railings – an opening and a stile come into sight. Go through, and along the right-hand side of two fields, separated in due course by another stile.		
34	89	Again look for a stile in the far right-hand corner. Cross it, then cross the road and the stile opposite. Then go along the left-hand edge of the field.		
35	91	Over another rough stile. !!F!! Go ahead over the grass, keeping the right-hand hedge about 25 yds. to your right. A red post box emerges in the middle distance: head towards it.		
36	93	Just to the right of the post box is a stile. Cross it and turn left along the road.		4.38
37	94	At the next angled T-junction turn sharp right and walk along the walkway which is up to the left alongside this road; and continue along it as it and the road swing to the left.		
38	96	Continue along the road as the walkway comes to an end.		
39	98	Swing right with the road, ignoring the signpost to Pettings Court Farm.		
40	99	When the road swings right and a grand driveway goes straight ahead, !!F!! instead go half-left through a gap in the hedge and a MKG, and cross the field at an angle, towards another gate.	622 627	

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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
41	102	[!!F!!] Go across the stile beside this gate, then turn a little to the left, and go down across the grass to the corner of the woodland at the bottom.		
42	106	[Map point] Go a little to the right, uphill, alongside these fenced-off trees.		
43	107	At the top cross a big solid stile, then go a little to the right towards another much smaller stile.		
44	108	[!!F!!] Cross this stile, and go across the middle of the field to a MKG in the middle distance.		
45	109	Cross the road and a (currently damaged but adequate) stile and go ahead along the footpath between barbed-wire fences.		5.23
46	115	[Map point] At the end of the field go slightly left into trees - but only slightly left, along the narrower, upper of the two possible tracks, keeping the fence immediately on your right. This leads very soon to a stile, and then into the open for the descent to the war memorial at Stansted, visible ahead.		
47	119	At the bottom go over a stile next to a wooden gate, and then ahead up the road opposite towards Stansted Church .		
48	120	Go up the little pathway branching up to the left into the churchyard, to reach the starting point at the church.	607 621	End at 5.77

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

APPENDIX to Local Circuit FA4

A pair of variants – for slightly longer walks but a more pleasant road section

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
28A	66	<i>Where the main route ignores Rhododendron Avenue (Direction 28), instead turn right down it.</i>		
28B	70	<i>Carry on, as a road merges from the left.</i>		
28C	77	<i>[Map point] At a road junction turn left along the little road marked (on a signpost opposite) Carters Hill Lane, and follow it as it bends further to the left.</i>	640 629	
28D	80	<i>Ignore the first waymarked path to the right, by the litter bin.</i>		
28E	81	<i>About 40 yds. after 'Invicta' on the left (nameplate somewhat overgrown), turn right (just before 'Shan-gri-la') up footpath NS 272.</i>	638 628	
28F	83	<i>Go between the railings and straight ahead.</i>		
28G	85	<i>Cross the minor road and go ahead along a metalled walkway which turns into a narrow pathway between fences.</i>		
28H **	87	<i>Reach the A227. Turn left and cross when convenient. (Walkway on both sides, and excellent sightlines.)</i>		
28I	90	<i>Immediately before the '40' speed limit sign, turn right through a wooden kissing gate (footpath SD250), and resume the main route at Direction 32.</i> <i>Add 11 minutes to subsequent total times (as shown under the main route) and 0.50 miles to cumulative distances.</i>	634 625	4.28

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

**** And the variant within the variant!**

	<i>Mins.*</i>		OS	Miles
28J	87	<i>Where the first variant turns left along the A227 (Direction 28H), instead cross the A227 as soon as you reach it (for the best sightlines) and turn right along the walkway on the other side.</i>		
28K	88	<i>Turn left over a stile, just before Hill House. Then keep well across to the right alongside the field.</i>		
28L	90	<i>[[!F!!] Cross the stile in the far right-hand corner, and in the next field keep reasonably near to, and gradually merge with, the right-hand edge. At some times of year there is a track faintly visible.</i>		
28M	91	<i>Look out for a MKG in the hedge to the right and go through it. [[!F!!] Turn slightly left and head diagonally across the field to another MKG in the middle-distance.</i>		
28N	94	<i>Turn left through this MKG and go downhill among trees.</i>		
28O	95	<i>[[!F!!] Cross the stile at the bottom and go very slightly left and upwards across a grassy field, on the left-hand side of, and parallel to, cables above.</i>		
28P	97	<i>Go through the MKG, across the road, and through the MKG on the other side (replacement for the rickety stile warned about in earlier versions!). It is to the left of Dairy House Farm with its two driveways.) Continue ahead, keeping close to the right-hand edge of the field. At the end pass an old storage unit, and head for a stile in the far right-hand corner.</i>		
28Q	99	<i>Cross this stile and go along the right-hand edge of the field.</i>		
28R	101	<i>Next to the gate in the far right-hand corner, go through the hedge on the right, with the help of a stone step; and continue ahead along the track in more or less the same direction.</i>		
28S	102	<i>Emerge through an imposing gate opposite the Green Man, and turn left along the road.</i>		
28T	103	<i>The footpath which joins the road from the left, just before the post box, is the one used by the main route (joining at Direction 36). Carry on ahead and resume the main route from Direction 37. Add 10 minutes to subsequent total times (as shown under the main route) and 0.47 miles to cumulative distances.</i>		4.85

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

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 FA4 - MAIN ROUTE	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	26-28, 31	8
Quiet road \$\$	8-12, 29, 36, 38-39, 47	23
Open field with livestock	4, 7, 35, 41	9
Edge of field with livestock	2, 42	2
Field (or edge) without livestock **	3, 5-6, 22, 30, 33-34, 40, 43-44	23
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1, 21, 23-25a, 37, 45, 48	13
Woods	13-20, 25b, 32, 46	22

LOCAL CIRCUIT FA4 - IF USING THE FIRST VARIANT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	26-27, 28H	5
Quiet road \$\$	8-12, 28A-28D, 36, 38-39, 47	30
Open field with livestock	4, 7, 35, 41	8
Edge of field with livestock	2, 42	2
Field (or edge) without livestock **	3, 5-6, 22, 33-34, 40, 43-44	19
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1, 21, 23-25a, 28E-28G, 37, 45, 48	16
Woods	13-20, 25b, 32, 46	20

LOCAL CIRCUIT FA4 - IF USING THE SECOND VARIANT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	26-27, 28J	4
Quiet road \$\$	8-12, 28A-28D, 28S, 36, 38-39, 47	31
Open field with livestock	4, 7, 41	6
Edge of field with livestock	2, 28K, 28Q, 42	4
Field (or edge) without livestock **	3, 5-6, 22, 28L-28M, 28O-28P, 40, 43-44	21
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1, 21, 23-25a, 28E-28G, 28R, 37, 45, 48	17
Woods	13-20, 25b, 28N, 46	17

** 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.

[continued ...]

STILES (16 - plus 5 if using the second variant, but see below)

- Details noted in April 2015, but **subject to frequent change**:

The stile in Direction **3** has climbs of about 1.5 ft. and 2 ft. It is wired down to the ground, but there is a gap of about 6 ins. underneath the adjacent gate. The one in **5**, also wired down, is about 3 ft. high in all with roughly equal climbs of about 1.5 ft. each. Those in **7** and **8** will be tricky. They are both double stiles, wired down to the ground and quite high: the first is about 4.5 ft. high in all, with highest climb about 2 ft.; the second a little lower with highest climb about 1.5 ft. All the five stiles in **33-35** have easy gaps.

The stile in **36** might prove impossible (but see under the second variant below). It is wired down (though there is a small hole in the wiring - no more than 6 ins. in each direction), and has climbs of about 1 ft. and 2.5 ft. This might make preferable the second variant, which avoids this stile.

Those in **41, 43** and **44** all have dog gates. (The one in **44** has become stiff, but works If persuaded.)

45 and **46** are wired to ground and are quite tall, but in each good gaps have been burrowed out to one side. **47** could be tricky: quite high (2 ft. climb, then 1 ft.), but a 6-in. gap under the gate to the side might be helpful.

The above covers the main route and the first variant.

The second variant has four additional stiles in **28K-28Q**, but all have easy gaps; and the stone step in **28R** is easy. So your dog might well find this to be the most suitable of the routes.