




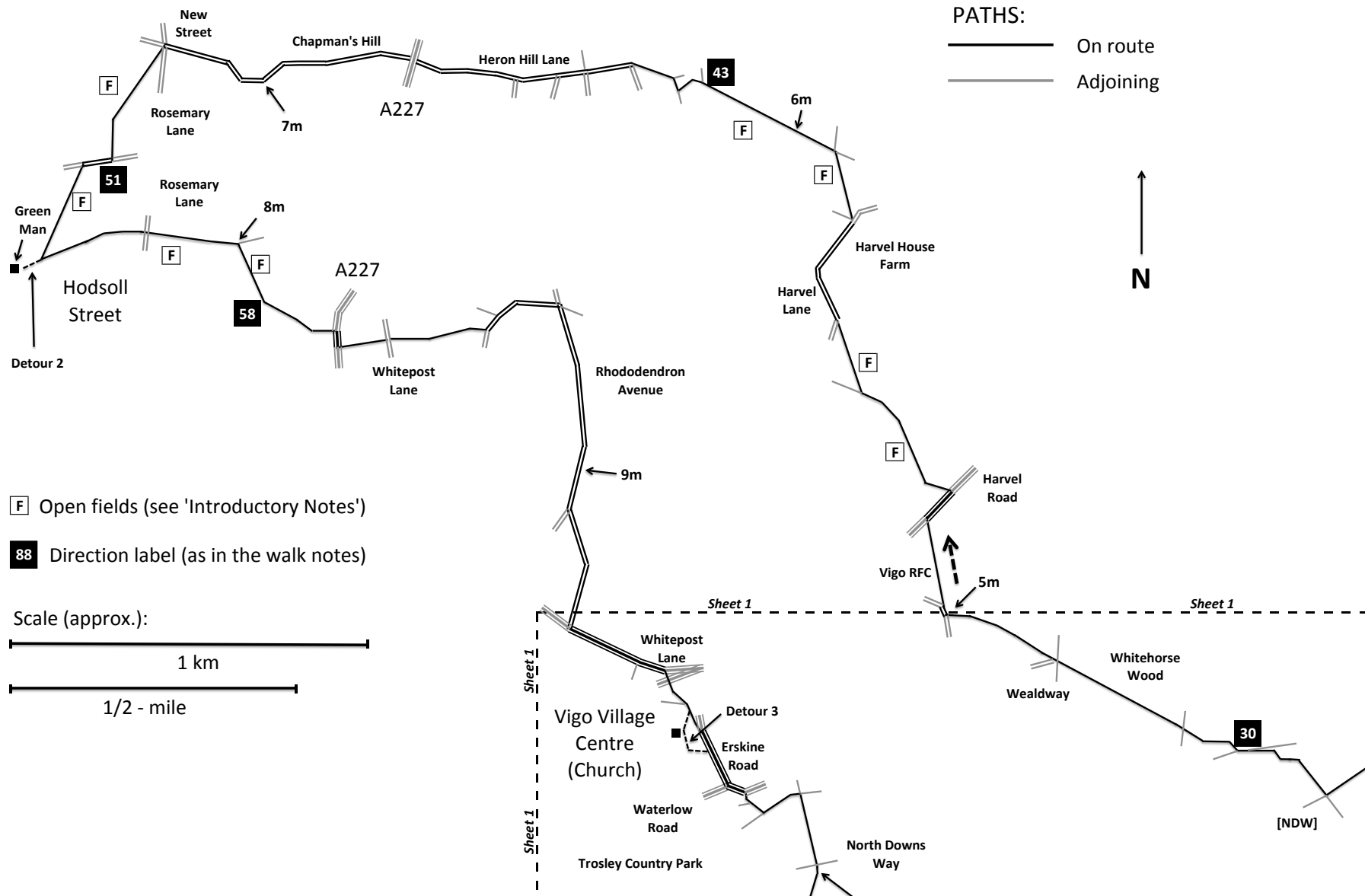


FULL CIRCUIT - Sheet 2 (middle section)

 Significant roads
 Others - on route
 Others - adjoining

 On route
 Adjoining



ADDINGTON & VIGO CIRCUIT

Churches in the full circuit:

Addington (start and finish)

Ryarsh (Direction 12A: Detour 1 - see Appendix)

Birling (18)

Vigo (71A: Detour 3 - see Appendix)

Trottiscliffe (85)

Associated local circuits

- AV3: West Malling – Offham – Addington – Ryarsh (Church) – West Malling
- FA4: Stansted – Fairseat – Vigo – Stansted
- AV1: Trottiscliffe – Birling – Trottiscliffe

Full circuit: A lot of variety in this walk: villages, a golf course, expansive farmland, a steep climb, and later a spectacular view over the Weald and a bracing descent.

Roads and hindrances:

The road towards Addington (92) feels as if it should be busy but is quite manageable. All the other roads are quiet – even Birling Road (15) reasonably so - except for a few very short sections, and crossings where there are good sightlines. There are no hindrances worthy of mention, except perhaps the long steep climb (27-28)! The descent in 77 also demands respect. Flooding in the woods (30-32) can be avoided on parallel tracks nearby.

FULL CIRCUIT

Addington – Ryarsh – Birling – Vigo – Trottiscliffe – Addington

Notes taken: May 2015

The start and finish is at Addington Church (ME19 5BQ).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		With your back to the gate of Addington Church , facing north, go straight ahead down the metalled roadway.	653 588	
2	3	At the end turn right.		
3	4	At the main road go straight across between the green on the left and The Angel on the right, down Millhouse Lane.		
4	6	Just before 'Kingfishers' turn right down a hidden track and then very soon take the path to the left.		
5	8	Turn right through a wooden kissing gate and go ahead alongside the private garden on the right.		
6	11	Turn right, briefly along a road, then left after a few yards.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
7	12	[Map point] Embark on the crossing of the golf course, taking care to look out for flying golf balls, left and right as necessary. On the far side go slightly to the right uphill.		
8	16	Go through a MKG, and keep virtually straight on (not right) up a little rise through trees. [!!F!!] Then emerge from the trees on to a large expanse of heathland and continue across it. There may be a track faintly visible, but in any case go a little way to the right, slightly away from the left-hand edge. Keep to the right of the first fence which, after a minute or two, comes out part of the way at right-angles towards you from the left. After that, the point you are aiming at, though initially there seems to be no future in it, is about 60 yds. to the right of the far left-hand corner of the field. Here, at the last moment, a MKG comes into view.	662 592	
9	20	Go through the MKG and continue along the right-hand side of the field.		
10	23	Go through a wooden kissing gate and ahead on an enclosed path.		
11	24	At the end cross the road and continue ahead along Church Road.		
12	27	[To visit <u>Ryarsh Church</u> , now divert instead to <u>Detour 1</u> in the Appendix.] Main route: Where the road goes away to the right, instead go straight ahead along a broad track.		
13	28	Turn left along a narrow pathway, as waymarked.	671 591	
14	32	Cross the footbridge over the motorway and continue ahead, passing the works on the left, then swinging right and left to meet the main road.		1.49
15	38	Turn right along the road, then at the road junction keep right, alongside the Duke of Wellington, along Birling Road. It is a perfectly pleasant road with a safe walkway on the right-hand side. (But be prepared for traffic coming from behind occasionally to be next to you on 'your' side of the road, having been traffic-calmed.)		
16	50	After crossing Masters Lane continue ahead, but cross to the pavement on the left-hand side.		
17	53	Swing left with the road, after passing the Nevill Bull.		
18	54	After passing <u>Birling Church</u> on the right and Ley Farm on the left, leave the road by going up steep steps on the left.		2.59
19	55	Go through a MKG at the top and follow the obvious path which goes along the left-hand edge of the field, swinging gently to the right to pass farm buildings.		
20	58	Pass the farm buildings and go ahead through a MKG.		
21	63	Continue ahead ignoring the gate and footpath to the left.		
22	67	[Map point] At the bottom of a little dip go ahead over a crossing path and up.		
23	71	Go ahead across a concrete path, keeping to the left of the fence, along the right-hand edge of a field.		

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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
24	80	Go through a metal gate, and beyond it turn left along the North Downs Way, keeping the field-edge and its hedge to your left.		3.72
25	86	Ignore the path leading downwards to the left, but swing to the right, then soon to the left to regain your original direction, still along the NDW.		
26	89	Ignore the next path on the right.		
27	92	Turn right through a gap next to redundant stile, steeply uphill (wooden steps to start with). The track winds relentlessly uphill, tending to the left.	662 615	
28	97	But then there is a decisive turn to the right, as the climb eases a little.		
29	100	At the top, as the trees open up a little, go slightly leftwards to join a broad track.	65955 61699	
30	101	[Map point] Take the right fork.		
31	103	Go straight across at a cross-paths.		
32	109	Cross the Wealdway (unsignalled) and pass to the right of an open area at the end of a forest road. Keep along the right-hand side and go along the narrow track ahead.		
33	113	Turn right on to a roadway.	65186 62069	
34		Then after about 20 seconds cross a stile on the right and go diagonally across the field of Vigo Rugby Club. Head for a gap next to a piece of electrical equipment (which turns out to be a transformer rectifier, we read).		5.00
35	117	Go through the gap, past a redundant stile, and turn right along the road.		
36	118	Turn left off the road along a well-concealed path, directly opposite Well House.		
37	120	[!!F!!] Emerge from the woodland and start out ahead across an open field.		
38	122	Go slightly left alongside some trees.		
39	124	[!!F!!] A short way after the end of the trees go a little less than half-right, through a metal gate. Follow this diagonal line across the field to a gate visible on the far side, just to the left of a house.		
40	127	Go through the gate and turn right along the road.		
41	130	[!!F!!] Shortly after passing Harvel House Farm, two left-turns off the road are signposted. Follow the less sharp of these, through a metal gate, diagonally across the field (towards a distant white house) to a gate in the far left-hand corner.		5.80
42	133	[!!F!!] Go through the gate and turn half-left. In the middle distance are aerial cables supported by a line of poles. Head towards the fourth pole counting from right to left.		
43	137	[Map point] When you reach the pole go straight ahead down through an unpromisingly narrow gap in trees.	644 635	
44	138	After crossing a scrappy stile, turn left beside a gate and a large garden.		
45	139	Go down some steps and turn right at the bottom.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
46	140	Turn left down a steep, broad byway.	643 635	
47	142	Carry on along the metalled roadway as it comes in from the left, and continue along it, up, down and steeply up, ignoring all roads and tracks to the side, until you reach the A227.		
48	152	Cross the main road and continue along Chapman's Hill directly opposite. Follow the road as it swings left and right, down and up, until it reaches a crossroads, with Rosemary Lane to the left.		6.73
49	162	[!!F!!] At the crossroads leave the road to go diagonally left, following the 'footpath' signpost, over an exceedingly awkward stile.		
50	167	[!!F!!] There is an old stile in the fence on the right-hand edge of the field, about 100 yds. short of the far-right corner. Correct would be to go over it, but new fencing has made this quite impossible, so it is clearly understood that you will go ahead to the gate at that corner.		
51	168	[Map point] There turn right on to the little roadway.		
52	169	[!!F!!] And a short distance along (where you 'should' have been emerging from the right), turn left through the MKG. Then go slightly to the right across the next field towards the corner of the farm buildings.		
53	173	Reach the fence next to the stepping-stone stile on the left. <i>[For two reasons you may wish to follow the very short Detour 2 from here to the green in Hodsoll Street: 1) if you are following the spine route strictly, to eliminate a little gap left by the Fairseat & Ash Full Circuit; 2) to visit the Green Man! For the detour see Appendix.]</i> START OF THE SPINE SECTION (from here to the end) Use the stepping-stone stile to cross into the field, turn left alongside the fence, and continue ahead along the left-hand side of the field with the fence on your left.		7.66
54	175	Cross the stile in the far left-hand corner. Then turn a little to the right to pass to the right of an old and very static container ('Cadbury's Milk') before swinging back slightly leftwards to go along the left-hand edge of the field.		
55	177	[!!F!!] Go through the MKG, across the road, and through a gap into the field beyond. Walk gently down across the grassy field, on the right-hand side of, and parallel to, cables above.		
56	180	Continue ahead over a stile into trees, and up along a path between barbed-wire fences.		
57	181	[!!F!!] Go through the MKG at the top and take the path (NS301) which goes to the right, across the large field at an angle, to another MKG in the middle distance.		
58	184	[Map point] Go through that MKG and a few trees beyond, then turn left keeping quite close to the left-hand edge.		
59	185	Cross a rough old stile, about 20 yds. to the right of the left-hand corner of the field.	633 628	

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
60	187	Stay alongside the left-hand edge of the next field and go ahead to reach the A227 over a stile.		
61	188	Turn right alongside the road. (For the best sightlines, cross it sooner rather than later.)		8.25
62	189	Look out for a narrow alleyway on the left. Turn into it, and pass some new buildings on the left before reaching a minor road.		
63	190	Cross the road and continue ahead along the track opposite.		
64	192	Go between railings and continue ahead downhill.		
65	194	At the bottom turn left along the road.		
66	197	After the road swings to the right, turn right at the crossroads.	640 629	
67	205	Keep left at the fork.		
68	209	Turn left at the T-junction.		9.29
69	212	Pass Beechwood Drive on the left.		
70	213	Turn right at the post box (just after the 'Last Post'!), to go along the right-hand side of the little green triangle. Cross the road ahead, and continue directly over a little bank on to a track which goes down and up, left and right, through the trees.		
71	215	Emerge from the trees and go along the concrete path which joins from the right and continues past the enclosed basketball court. <i>[To visit the Village Hall, which serves as Vigo Church, now divert instead to Detour 3 in the Appendix.]</i>		
	216	Main route: Go slightly to the left across the car park towards the bus stop.		
72	217	At the bus stop keep ahead alongside the right-hand side of the road, crossing minor roads and Waterlow Road and swinging round to the left.		
73	219	Opposite Admers Wood turn right along an unsignposted track into the trees of Trosley Country Park. Continue straight ahead along the track as a path merges from the right.		
74	220	Turn left along a major path.		
75	222	Turn right on to the first significant path you meet, next to a dog-waste bin. Follow this path straight ahead, quite steeply downhill at the end (with steps) until you go across the wide track of the North Downs Way.		
76	224	Cross the NDW and continue ahead, still quite steeply downhill (with more steps).	647 613	
77	225	Admire the view at the MKG. Then carry on (carefully - it is not as smooth underfoot as it seems!) down the steep, grassy hill, aiming towards the gates at the bottom right-hand corner.		10.00
78	230	At the bottom turn right through the further of the two kissing gates (the one immediately next to the notice-board) to keep correctly to the left of the fence dividing the two parallel tracks. Go gently uphill.		
79	231	The paths then diverge. Yours goes a little to the left and levels off.		
80	232	Pass a pylon on the left.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
81	234	In spite of a waymark with a blue arrow ahead, instead, just before it, turn down to the left (unsignposted) into the trees.		
82	235	[Map point] Go through a gap next to a redundant gate, down some steps and across the road, and carry on a few yards in the same direction to start ahead along a narrow track.	643 611	
83	238	[!!F!!] Carry on ahead, through a wooden gate, ignoring the path coming in from the right.		
84	243	At the end of the path turn left in front of the farm buildings, and go through the farmyard.		
85	244	Pass <u>Trottiscliffe Church</u> on the left and follow the road as it swings to the right.	646 605	10.80
86	245	Keep left at the road junction.		
87	246	[!!F!!] As the road swings to the left, take the footpath which forks off, gently uphill, to the right.		
88	251	The mapped path reaches the right-hand end of trees, and a bridge over a well-disguised ditch. (But the cleared path – currently, in June 2015 – goes to another bridge a little further to the right. Either way ...) Cross the ditch and turn right.	650 602	
89	252	[!!F!!] Diverge a little from the line of the ditch and head for a gap in the hedge up ahead. (The line is, at times, unclear and covered by crops. The field-edge is of course an alternative, though you should not be put in the position of having to do this.)		
90	256	[!!F!!] There are in fact two ways through the hedge at the top (the one on the left with a MKG, the other simply a gap) and it is not always clear which one is correct. They are about 25 yds. apart. The path beyond goes ahead from the latter, and you may find it necessary to adjust to find this point. Once you have found it, walk its whole length.		
91	260	[!!F!!] Reach a MKG at the far corner and go through it along a track across a big field.	654 597	11.52
92	263	At the end go down steps to a road junction. Ignore the minor road on the left, and turn left along the major road. There is a case for, exceptionally, walking on the left-hand side briefly, ahead of the road's swing to the right. Make your own decision!		
93**	268	After crossing the motorway, at the junction of Park Road on the right, opposite The Angel: either, to continue the circuit , (if not visiting Addington Church) turn left between the green and The Angel, down Millhouse Lane, and follow Direction 3 and onwards;		11.97
** or 93A	268	... or, to detour to, or finish at, Addington Church , turn right along Park Road.		11.97
93B	269	Turn left along the quiet roadway to the church, keeping alongside the brick wall on the right.		
93C	272	Arrive back at the starting point at <u>Addington Church</u>	653 588	12.15
93D		If returning to the circuit having visited the church, resume from Direction 1.		

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APPENDIX to Full Circuit

Detour to Ryarsh Church (Detour 1)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
12A	0	For the very short detour to Ryarsh Church : Instead of going ahead at Direction 12, continue along the road to the right, which leads directly to the church gate.		0.00
12B	2	On leaving the church turn right at the gate and go alongside the fence to the right. The path is currently very overgrown, but harmlessly so.		
12C	3	Rejoin the main route at Direction 13, by going straight ahead along the narrow pathway referred to. Add 2 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.08 miles to cumulative distances.		0.13

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Detour to Hodsoll Street – the green and the Green Man (Detour 2)

53A	<p>On reaching the fence and the stepping-stone stile (Direction 53), do not cross the stile but continue to the right along the track, to reach an ornate kissing gate. Go through to the green and the Green Man ahead. (If relevant: the point at which to pick up the spine route from the Fairseat & Ash Full Circuit is at the entrance to the Holywell Park nursing home at the far right-hand corner of the green.)</p> <p>To rejoin the main route, retrace your steps to the stepping-stone stile, cross it, and follow the directions from the remainder of Direction 53.</p> <p>Add 3 minutes to subsequent total times and 0.12 miles to cumulative distances.</p>
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Detour to Vigo Church (Detour 3)

71A	<p>After the enclosed basketball court in Direction 71, keep to the right alongside the school and go ahead until Vigo's central square opens up, in front and to the left. The Village Hall, the location for Vigo Church, is on the right.</p> <p>Leave the square by the narrow passageway which goes up from the far left-hand corner, alongside The Villager. At the top turn left along the access road, and then rejoin the main route (Direction 72) by turning right at the main road at the end. Cross Waterlow Road and follow subsequent directions.</p> <p>There is no significant addition to total times or cumulative distances.</p>
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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!

ADDINGTON & VIGO - FULL CIRCUIT	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	15-17, 35, 61, 68-70a, 72, 92	14
Quiet road \$\$	1-3, 11, 14, 33, 40, 47-48, 51, 65-67, 85-86, 93A-B	23
Open field with livestock	39, 41, 49, 52	5
Edge of field with livestock	9, 50, 53, 59-60	3
Field (or edge) without livestock **	8b, 19-21, 23, 34, 37-38, 42, 54-55, 57-58, 77-80, 83, 87-91	28
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	4-7, 10, 12-13, 18, 22, 46, 62-64, 71, 81-82, 84	13
Woods	8a, 24-32, 36, 43-45, 56, 70b, 73-76	15

** 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 (8) – Details noted in May 2015, but subject to frequent change:

All the 'ordinary' stiles have easy gaps (those in Directions **34, 44, 49, 54, 56, 59** and **60**). The stone step in **53** is also easy.