Circling the Field
4x32J in a square set

1-8 Men cast counterclockwise behind partners, turn next woman by the right, giving her momentum to cast one place clockwise, turn next man by the left, sending the women into the center and the men to face counterclockwise.

9-16 In two bars, women dance right hands across half way, while men dance outside one place counterclockwise. At this place, women give left hands to this man and turn in two bars, leaving the women again in the center and the men ready to dance round. Women dance right hands across one place only when men again dance counterclockwise one place. Turn this new partner 3/4 by the left to face. Women are in original positions; men are one place to the left.

17-24 Left shoulder interlocking reel of three. Give left shoulder to (new) partner and dance all the way around former partner by the right, passing left again with new partner.

24-32 Circle to the left and back.

This dance celebrates the dissertation of Britta Ager on Roman agricultural magic. The circularity of the dance evokes the Roman rite of lustratio, which involved a ritual procession around an area, whether a city or a field, that needed to be purified. The dance may need more than one walkthrough, which is also appropriate to ancient Roman religion, since if someone made a mistake in a ritual, the Romans started it over. "Ager" is Latin for "field."