

THE VANGUARD WAY

‘From the suburbs to the sea’

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

and points of interest along the route

SECTION 3

Limpsfield Chart to Haxted Mill

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VANGUARD WAY ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION 3

SECTION 3: LIMPSFIELD CHART TO HAXTED MILL

8.1 km (5.0 miles)

The Route Description is based on a completely new survey undertaken by club members in 2006 and 2007. Inevitably changes to the route and facilities will occur, and we try to keep abreast of them. It is our intention to bring out an updated version of the Route Descriptions and Companion as necessary, but you can refer to the Latest News page on our website www.vanguardway.org.uk for any changes that may have taken place meanwhile.

Paragraphs are numbered for ease of reference. The route is marked on Ordnance Survey Explorer and Landranger maps, though you should note that in some places it is incorrectly marked on some older maps - we draw your attention to specific instances where relevant. Grid references are given at each numbered point to help identify the route. The country is divided into 100 km squares identified by a two letter code, and following standard OS practice we include these letters in our grid references. In this section they are in square TQ.

In this route description:

The actual route description is shown in black Roman (upright) text.

Links with stations and other key places off route are shown in boxes with a grey background.

Italic text is used for items that are not part of the main route description, including:

- *Key information about facilities (see Vanguard Way Companion for more details)*
- *Road and street names **
- *Advice and asides.*

* The mention of a road or street name does not necessarily mean that you will see this name on the spot, but it may be helpful if you need to be picked up or set down, or to find your position on a street map.

Underlined bold italic text indicates that more details can be found in the Commentary, which follows the route description.

Distances and altitudes are given in metres (m) or kilometres (km); but if you are more familiar with yards and miles, remember that 100m is about the same as 110 yards, and that 1 km is about five eighths of a mile.

Abbreviations

> = off route
Bw = bridleway
Fp = footpath
Rd = road
Tk = track
VW = Vanguard Way

N = north
S = south
E = east
W = west

KA = keep ahead
TL = turn left
TR = turn right
L = left
R = right

m = metres
km = kilometres

VANGUARD WAY ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION 3

Public transport

On route: Buses at Limpsfield Chart.

Links with Edenbridge station and Westerham bus stops.

Although Haxted Mill has no public transport, it is an easy place for local taxis to find (taxi operators are listed in the Vanguard Way Companion) and is well signed in the area.

Distances from Westerham to:

>Crockham Hill (via Northern Link)	6.2 km (3.9 miles)
>Crockham Hill (via Southern Link)	6.8 km (4.2 miles)
>Edenbridge Station	10.2 km (6.3 miles) (diverting at Troy Town)
Haxted Mill	11.8 km (7.3 miles)

Distances from Limpsfield Chart to:

>Crockham Hill (via Northern Link)	2.5 km (1.6 miles)
>Crockham Hill (via Southern Link)	3.1 km (1.9 miles)
>Edenbridge Station	6.5 km (4.0 miles) (diverting at Troy Town)
Haxted Mill	8.1 km (5.0 miles)

Distances from Crockham Hill (via Northern Link) to:

>Edenbridge Station	6.4 km (3.9 miles) (diverting at Troy Town)
Haxted Mill	7.9 km (4.9 miles)

Distances from Crockham Hill (via Southern Link) to:

>Edenbridge Station	5.3 km (3.3 miles) (diverting at Troy Town)
Haxted Mill	6.9 km (4.3 miles)

Overview

After a gentle descent from the greensand ridge it is easy, mostly level walking through farmland, on footpaths or bridleways which may be uneven. It is quite low-lying and the area around Kent Brook and the River Eden may be very muddy or even under water after heavy rain. The highlight of this section is historic Haxted Mill, but you will also encounter a Roman road and a sacred maze. For just 4 km, the VW makes its only visit to the County of Kent.

Note 1: Some older editions of Ordnance Survey 'Landranger' 1:50,000 sheet 187 show the VW running erroneously along a yellow road west of Crockham Hill. Please note that the correct line is further east along the footpath running roughly north-south on the east side of Guildables Wood.

Note 2: There have recently been instances of rights of way illegally blocked by high maize crops, making progress and visibility difficult - these have been reported to the highway authority. You are advised to carry a compass so that you can navigate your way through the crop.

Lowest and highest points. River Eden near Haxted Mill (43m); Limpsfield Chart (175m).

VANGUARD WAY ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION 3

Section 3 of the Vanguard Way starts at Tally Road, Limpsfield Chart [TQ 426 519]
in Tandridge District in Surrey.

[Transport] *An infrequent bus service operates to the Carpenters Arms from Westerham, Oxted and Redhill. More frequent services to Westerham (see link below).*

[Refreshments] *Carpenters Arms pub (closed Monday lunchtimes).*

Link from Westerham [3.8 km / 2.4 miles, TQ 446 540]

[Transport] *Buses from Bromley and Tonbridge; also (Monday-Friday only) East Grinstead and Edenbridge.*

[Refreshments] *Several places in Westerham.*

- a) *As if leaving Kings Arms Hotel, TR towards Westerham Green.*
- b) *In 100m TR up steps and along paved alley (Water Lane) between Owl House and Comodor Restaurant.*
- c) *At end go through kissing gate then TR along foot of field.*
- d) *At end of field go through kissing gate, cross footbridge and up steps to Mill Lane.*
- e) *TL to Park Lodge, where TL then immediately TR beside hedge to climb steep Fp.*
- f) *Cross first stile then follow fenced Fp to second stile, KA across field.*
- g) *Cross third stile and KA through sparse copse to fourth stile.*
- h) *KA into wood and follow Fp for 900m in same general direction (bearing 210°).*
- i) *Pass tall GW waymark post at T-junction, then 50m further (at broader, muddy T-junction) TR to join GW main route. (GW waymark post here broken at time of writing, March 2008.)*
- j) *In 80m cross stile by fieldgate and cross Rd (Goodley Stock Road) with care.*
- k) *At entrance to private Rd immediately bear R on Bw.*
- l) *At five-ways junction with GW halfway plinth and tank, go half L on major Tk (bearing 240°).*
- m) *In 120m (at second five-ways junction) bear R (bearing 260°) on lesser Tk.*
- n) *Continue in this general direction, ignoring all crossing Tks, for 900m to National Trust sign for Limpsfield Common.*
- o) *KA at next crossing Tk and stay with main Tk bearing L at fork.*
- p) *At next fork bear R for 100m to Rd (Moorhouse Road) at Limpsfield Chart, where TL to rejoin VW.*

3.1 [TQ 426 519]

- a) *KA past St. Andrew's Church.*
- b) *Cross Rd (B269 Kent Hatch Road) and KA along lane (Trevereux Hill, signed to Marie Curie Research Institute).*
- c) *In 200m KA downhill, ignoring entrance drive on R to Marie Curie centre.*
- d) *In a further 700m at foot of hill, pass gate and fork R past Trevereux Manor. (Ignore side turnings on the way down referring to Trevereux.)*
- e) *In 50m cross stile on L in hedgerow opposite Trevereux Cottages.*
- f) *KA, passing on your L ornamental lake with model temple on island (may not be visible when trees are in leaf).*

See next page for northern link with Crockham Hill

Northern Link to Crockham Hill (1.2 km / 0.8 miles, TQ 442 506]

- a) TL on Fp between ornamental lake and (possibly dry) pond and follow it all the way for 600m across several fields and stiles and through wood. Take care entering wood as you have to use a stepping stone which may be slippery.
- b) KA along residential Rd (Oakdale Lane). At its end TR along Smiths Lane to B2026 Main Road in **Crockham Hill**.
- c) At major Rd TR for village centre, bus stop and Royal Oak pub.

[Transport] Infrequent buses Monday-Friday only to Westerham, Edenbridge and East Grinstead.

[Refreshments] Royal Oak pub, Crockham Hill.

[Phone box] By Crockham Hill post office.

If starting from Crockham Hill:

- a) From B2026 Main Road, as if leaving Royal Oak pub, TL and shortly take left fork (Smiths Lane).
- b) Pass Deanery Road then TL along Oakdale Lane.
- c) In 200m bear L over stile and down Fp through wood (stile at each end) to emerge in field. Note slippery stepping stone at exit from wood.
- d) KA along R side of several fields for 600m, crossing stiles.
- e) Pass ornamental lake on your R, then TL after pond to join VW.

Alternatively you can return to the VW by following the Southern Link (see next page) but you would then miss 750m of the route.

3.2 [TQ 431 507]

- a) KA past (possibly dry) pond.

*Our second encounter with the **Tandridge Border Path** which crosses here - see Section 1.*

- b) Continue across large field (heading slightly left of oast house) to double stile with footbridge over **Kent Brook**.

If you look carefully to your left in this field you can see the line of the Roman road that you will shortly be walking on - it gradually comes closer to converge with the VW at the second stile.

- c) KA with fence to your R past house and small gate to cross stile on R.
- d) Follow field boundary on your L to gate and stile leading on to Rd (Dairy Lane).
- e) KA on Rd – part of a **Roman road**.
- f) The Rd passes Hurst Farm then bears L to drive of Dairy Green, where TR, just before **Old Dairy Farm**.

The Southern Link to Crockham Hill starts here - see next page.

Southern Link to Crockham Hill [1.0 km / 0.6 miles, TQ 442 506]

- a) Bear L on Rd past Old Dairy Farm then at next bend take Fp on L by metal gate.
- b) Follow fenced Tk uphill then KA into field, keeping to lefthand side.
- c) KA along enclosed Fp then residential Rd (Deanery Road) to village centre.
- c) TR along B2026 Main Road to bus stop by Royal Oak pub.

[Transport] Infrequent buses Monday-Friday only to Westerham, Edenbridge and East Grinstead.

[Refreshments] See Crockham Hill Northern Link above.

[Phone box] See Crockham Hill Northern Link above.

If starting from Crockham Hill:

- a) From B2026 Main Road, as if leaving Royal Oak pub, TL and shortly take left fork (Smiths Lane).
- b) Immediately TL along Deanery Road.
- c) At its end bear R on Fp between grass and houses then KA on Tk.
- d) At field keep to righthand side then follow fenced Tk down to Rd (Dairy Lane). Take care joining Rd as vehicles may come fast round bend.
- e) TR along Rd for 200m, passing Old Dairy Farm.
- f) Ignore first Fp on L, then at bend TL into Dairy Green to join VW.

3.3 [TQ 435 501]

- a) Immediately after passing through entrance to Dairy Green, cross stile on L.
- b) Follow lefthand side of field to far L corner. Here you cross the line of the Roman road - see 3.2 b) & e).
- c) In 200m, where trees start, bear R to cross stile in fence. Do not KA as this is not a right of way.
- d) TL beside fence for 40m then cross stile on L into copse.

3.4 [TQ 433 499]

- a) KA on Fp through copse, cross stile into field then KA along righthand edge.
- b) In 100m cross stile and TR to follow righthand side of next field.
- c) In 150m cross stile then KA into small wooded enclosure with pond (may be dry).

3.5 [TQ 433 496]

- a) Leave wooded enclosure by another stile on to Tk and TL for 30m.
- b) TR following field edge beside Guildables Wood to stile in field corner.
- c) Cross stile and KA along field edge with wood still on your R.
- d) As wood ends and field begins to rise, KA to stile on L of metal gate and cross to Rd (Hole Lane).

3.6 [TQ 432 488]

- a) TL on Rd for 30m to gate on R (metal fingerpost).
- b) Cross stile and follow L edge of two fields.
- c) At far corner of second field, at junction with Bw, TR to follow fence for 30m.
- d) TL through gate on to enclosed Tk.
- e) TR along enclosed Tk for 400m to Rd (Troy Lane) at **Troy Town**.

The Northern Link link to Edenbridge and Edenbridge Station starts here (see next page), or you can continue a further 5.2 km to Cernes Farm in Section 4 then follow the Eden Valley Walk for 3.6 km to Southern Link to Edenbridge and Edenbridge Town Station.

Northern Link to Edenbridge and Edenbridge Station [1.8 km / 1.1 miles, TQ 440 475]

- a) 40m after joining Rd (opposite brick house) cross stile on L and follow Fp quarter R across field.
 - b) Pass hedge corner and go through gap into next field.
 - c) Follow R side of field and cross stile on to farm Tk.
 - d) Pass through metal gate and between barns of Hilders Farm to Rd (Hilders Lane).
 - e) TL on Rd for 575m - there is no pavement so take care and generally keep R (but see Road Safety section for advice regarding righthand bends).
 - f) Where Rd bends L, KA on faint grassy Fp towards houses.
 - g) Approaching house bear L through scrub and follow Fp between garden fences.
 - h) TR at Rd (B2026 Gorse Hill), then bear R along Albion Way to Edenbridge Station.
- Edenbridge Town Station and the town centre are a further 1 km (half a mile) ahead along the main road (cross to opposite pavement).

[Transport] Trains to/from Tonbridge, Redhill and Gatwick Airport; also (not Sundays) East Croydon, central London, Crawley, Horsham, Tunbridge Wells.

[Refreshments] In Edenbridge.

[Phone box] In Edenbridge.

[Accommodation] In Edenbridge.

If starting from Edenbridge Station:

- a) From westbound platform use footbridge to eastbound platform then go through gate in fence. KA to main Rd where TL.
- b) TL along B2026 Gorse Hill for 50m then TL again (behind brick wall) along enclosed Fp between gardens.
- c) At end of gardens continue on faint, grassy Fp as it bears half R across field.
- d) TL at Rd (Hilders Lane) - there is no pavement so take care and generally keep R (but see Road Safety section for advice regarding righthand bends).
- e) In 575m TR into Hilders Farm and follow Fp between barns and through metal gate.
- f) In 75m TL across stile and follow L side of field.
- g) Go through gap into next field and bear half R past hedge corner, aiming for brick house
- h) Cross stile and TL on Rd at Troy Town to rejoin VW.

The next 900m (3.7 and 3.8) are along roads with no pavement, some of them quite busy, so take care, especially at righthand bends - see Road Safety in 'An Introduction to the Route'.

3.7 [TQ 427 481]

TL along lane past cottages to junction with Rd (Hilders Lane).

[Transport] Buses operate along this road (except Wednesdays and Sundays) to/from Edenbridge.

[Phone box]

3.8 [TQ 426 477]

- a) TR along Hilders Lane, which bears L across railway bridge (Redhill-Tonbridge line) to Rd junction (Little Brown Lane to L, Honeypot Lane to R).
- b) TR along Honeypot Lane and follow for 500m, passing Little Browns Farm.
- c) Just before Rd bears R you cross Kent Brook again, back into Surrey and Tandridge District.
- d) Ignore first Fp on L immediately after brook, then cross stile on L by entrance to Ash Farm. You briefly rejoin the Tandridge Border Path (see Section 1) for the next 750m.

VANGUARD WAY ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION 3

3.9 [TQ 421 475]

- a) Go up field parallel to farm drive. Cross stile, continue across series of stiles and horse paddocks into next field.
- b) Bear slightly R to stile in line of trees. Cross it and KA across field.
- c) Cross bridge and go through metal gate.
- d) In next field continue in same direction on righthand side parallel with wooden fence of garden, then cross stile into mown area at rear of house.
- e) Bear R to find narrow Fp in corner between hedge and fence, leading to stile at Rd (*Dwelly Lane*) by Shingle Barn Farm (with 'Wintersell Herd' sign).

3.10 [TQ 417 471]

- a) TL along Rd for 1.7 km, passing Dwelly Farm and Haxted Kennels.

This road has no pavement - see Road Safety in 'An Introduction to the Route'.

Here the VW coincides with two cycle routes: the Yew Tree Way (24 km / 15 miles around Tandridge District) and Surrey Cycleway (150 km / 93 miles around Surrey).

- b) At Rd junction TR (*Haxted Road*) for 100m to **Haxted Mill**, where Section 3 ends at:

4.1 [TQ 418 455] Haxted Mill.

[Transport] Taxi (see VW Companion) to:

Edenbridge station for trains to/from Tonbridge, Redhill and Gatwick Airport; also (not Sundays) East Croydon, central London, Crawley, Horsham, Tunbridge Wells.

Edenbridge Town Station for trains to Oxted, East Croydon, central London, Buxted, Uckfield; also buses (not Sundays) to East Grinstead, Westerham, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks.

[Refreshments] *Haxted Mill Riverside Brasserie and Restaurant.*

COMMENTARY

on places shown in bold italics and underlined in the route description

3.1

St. Andrew's Church was built in 1895 in the Victorian Gothic style and is constructed largely of sandstone. It was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield who, says Pevsner, was 'evidently not at home in Gothic'.

The **Marie Curie Research Institute** has been set up by the highly respected charity, Marie Curie Cancer Care (www.mariecurie.org.uk), as its main research centre. According to its website, 'It conducts a co-ordinated programme of research into the detailed molecular mechanisms responsible for the development of cancer, with the ultimate aim of exploiting our efforts in the development of new methods for the prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and palliation of cancer. Areas in which we have built considerable strengths include, for example, the architecture and mechanics of cell division, gene regulation and its role in development, and DNA replication and recombination. MCRI scientists operate in an international environment with collaborations across the globe. The Institute also operates as a meeting centre for presentations and planning in its key areas of focus.'

Marie Curie was born Maria Sklodowska in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867, and in 1891 went to study at the Sorbonne in Paris. Her physics professor was Pierre Curie, and they married in 1895. Pierre died in 1906, but together they had started research into the therapeutic properties of radium, and were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903. Marie continued with their work and won a second Nobel Prize (for Chemistry) in 1911. In 1929 President Hoover of the USA presented \$50,000 to her laboratory, with which to acquire radium for further research. She died in 1934.

The unusual name **Trevereux** was first recorded in 1542 as Trivyrocks after a local squire, Thomas Trivyrock. During the Second World War, the skies above this area were the scene for many a dogfight of the Battle of Britain, with fighters from Biggin Hill and other nearby airfields arriving to take on the incoming bombers.

Crockham Hill (1 km E on link) is a sleepy village on a south-facing promontory of the Greensand Ridge in Kent. This location provides outstanding views, and many large houses were built here by wealthy London businessmen. Holy Trinity Church was built in 1842 of local stone in Victorian Gothic style, and stands on a spur with good views over The Weald. Inside is a marble effigy of Octavia Hill (1838-1912), a housing reformer and co-founder in 1895 of the National Trust, who is buried in the churchyard. The last building on the right as you leave the village southwards on the B2026 was a youth hostel until 1991, much used by VWayfarers. Just south of the former youth hostel is a plain iron milepost ('London 24 miles') of the Westerham & Edenbridge Turnpike Trust, dated 1767.

1.5 km to the northeast of Crockham Hill is **Chartwell Manor**, the home of Sir Winston Churchill from 1922 to 1965, now owned by the National Trust and open to the public as a memorial and museum.

3.2

The line of a **Roman road** may be discerned if you look carefully to your left in this field. It gradually comes closer and joins the VW as you cross the stile. Then you follow its line for the next 100m along the road, leaving the line as the road bears left, and crossing it again in the next field. Sitting on top of a 3m high agger (embankment), the road would have been about 6m wide with a ditch either side.

The road branched off Watling Street (Dover to London and Wroxeter) at Deptford, then ran in a southeasterly direction through Edenbridge and the Ashdown Forest (where it encounters the VW again) to a presumed fort in the neighbourhood of Lewes, where merchandise could have been transferred to ships navigating the River Ouse to the sea. Frustratingly, no evidence has yet been discovered for such a fort, though it has been suggested that it may have been called Mutuantonis or Mantuantonis. The road's main purpose was probably to serve the iron workings and farms of the Weald.

Britain was criss-crossed by well engineered roads built by the Romans during the 1st to 4th centuries, but many of them became totally eroded and lost to human knowledge. In the 20th century aerial photography revealed straight lines in, for example, crop marks and hedges, which often turned out to be the lines of Roman roads. This road was such a case, discovered by Ivan Margary (1896-1976), author of *Roman Roads in Britain*, from an aerial photo he took in 1929. He gave each Roman road a number, and this is his number 14. Some Roman roads, such as Watling Street, have distinctive names, but this one is known to historians, somewhat blandly, as the London to Lewes Way, as they don't know what the Romans called it. Nevertheless, as it effectively connected London with Newhaven, we could claim that the VW is its modern equivalent!

Kent Brook is a tributary of the River Eden. Its name signifies the border between Kent and Surrey, and indeed you cross here from Surrey (Tandridge District) into Kent (Sevenoaks District).

Old Dairy Farm, just a few metres further along the road where you turn off, is now a private residence, but appropriately signed by two old milk churns by the road. First mentioned in the Court Roll of 1547, it is believed to date from the 15th century and is now a listed building. It has a gallery and large central hall, almost unchanged for four centuries.

3.6

It is suggested that the name of the tiny hamlet of **Troy Town** indicates the possible existence here in former times of a sacred maze, the association being with the complicated defensive walls of ancient Troy.

Edenbridge (1.9 km E on link, www.edenbridgetown.com) is a small town (population around 4,000) straddling the old Roman road from London to Lewes. The earliest mention of the name was around 1100 as Eadelmesbrege, meaning Eadhelm's bridge. Its parish church, St. Peter and St. Paul, dates from the 13th century and has much of interest. The southern part of the High Street is dominated by the distinctive overhead sign of the Crown Hotel.

3.10

Haxted Mill (www.haxtedmill.co.uk) consists of two weatherboarded buildings beside the River Eden, described by Pevsner as 'a charming group'. There has been a mill on this site since the 14th century, when it was owned by Reginald de Cobham of Starborough (passed later along the VW). The smaller, tile-hung left-hand building (now the Riverside Brasserie and Bar) is the older of the two existing buildings, built in 1680; the larger right-hand one, with double mansard roof, was added in 1794. This is one of just six watermills in southeast England that still have a working wheel - this is the one on the left of the larger building (the one to the right is for display only). The wheel here is overshot, which means that water enters the buckets at the top of the wheel, then gravity forces it round. The mill ceased commercial operation in 1945 but was restored in 1969 as a watermill museum (open summer only), and scheduled as a building of historic interest. There is also a museum of parts retrieved from other mills, and an exhibition of the Wealden iron industry. There is a set of stocks, and a flood mark shows the level reached by the River Eden in 1968.
