

# THE VANGUARD WAY

'From the suburbs to the sea'

ROUTE DESCRIPTION  
and points of interest along the route

SECTION 6  
Poundgate to Blackboys



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*Fifth Edition*

This fifth edition was first published in 2014.  
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## VANGUARD WAY ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION 6

### **SECTION 6: POUNDGATE TO BLACKBOYS**

#### **11.1 km (6.9 miles)**

The Route Description is based on a completely new survey undertaken by club members in 2012 and 2013. 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](http://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 railway 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.

**Names that are not visible are shown in italics within brackets.**

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

Distances 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. Altitudes are shown in metres – for an approximate conversion into feet multiply by 2 and add 10%.

#### **Abbreviations**

>	= off route		
Bw	= bridleway	N	= north
FB	= footbridge	S	= south
Fp	= footpath	E	= east
KG	= kissing gate	W	= west
Rd	= road (NP = no pavement, see below)		
Tk	= track	m	= metres
VGW	= Vanguard Way	km	= kilometres
KA	= keep ahead		
TL	= turn left	L	= left
TR	= turn right	R	= right

## VANGUARD WAY ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION 6

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### Roads with no pavement

'NP' in the route description indicates a road with no pavement, and there are several of them in this section. Although they are usually quiet, you should take great care when walking along them, as traffic may approach at speed. Generally, you should walk in single file along the right-hand side, but this may be dangerous at a right-hand bend, where you cannot see approaching traffic, and the driver, not seeing you, may keep too close to the bend. You should therefore follow the advice given in the Highway Code for such situations, which is: 'It may be safer to cross the road well before a right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend.' If walking in poor light conditions or in the dark, always wear something bright, luminous or reflective on top.

### Public transport

On route: Buses at Poundgate, High Hurstwood, Pound Green and Blackboys.  
Link with Buxted station.

### Distances from Poundgate to:

High Hurstwood (church)	3.1 km (1.9 miles)
>High Hurstwood (Maypole pub)	4.5 km (2.8 miles)
>Buxted Station (via northern link)	7.5 km (4.7 miles)
Pound Green	6.7 km (4.2 miles)
>Buxted Station (via southern link)	8.0 km (5.0 miles)
Blackboys Crossroads	11.0 km (6.8 miles)

### Distances from Buxted Station to:

Blackboys Crossroads (via northern link)	6.6 km (4.1 miles)
Blackboys Crossroads (via southern link)	5.6 km (3.5 miles)

### Overview

This is an idyllic area of rolling countryside and small farms, mostly in open countryside and pastures. From Poundgate you gradually descend a ridge to High Hurstwood, then cross the River Uck just before reaching Pound Green on the outskirts of Buxted. The Vanguard Way then passes through one of its most delightful stretches around Tickerage Mill, and briefly joins the Wealdway.

*Note: After heavy rain the area around the River Uck can get very wet and muddy, and even flooded.*

**Lowest and highest points.** River Uck (32m); Poundgate (184m).

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### **BEFORE SETTING OUT ALONG THE VANGUARD WAY**

Please read the **Introduction to the route**, available from the 'Directions and maps' pages of our website [www.vanguardway.org.uk](http://www.vanguardway.org.uk). It contains important information that will be helpful when reading this route description.

And don't forget to look at the **Latest News** page on our website for any developments affecting this and any other part of the route.

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**IF YOU ENCOUNTER ANY PROBLEMS affecting the rights of way, such as obstructions, closures or diversions, your first course of action should be to contact the relevant highway authority, which on this section is:**

**East Sussex County Council.**

**Please also let us know about it by email to [graham@vanguardway.org.uk](mailto:graham@vanguardway.org.uk).**

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## VANGUARD WAY ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION 6

### Section 6 of the Vanguard Way starts at Poundgate [TQ 492 288]

50m west of the Crow & Gate pub on the A26 Uckfield Road. This is in Wealden District in East Sussex.

[Transport 

[Phone box 

[Refreshments 

#### 6.1 [TQ 492 288]

- Continuing from Section 5, cross Rd to phone box / bus stop and cross stile.
- KA along fenced Fp across field to cross another stile.
- Pass between houses on tarmac Tk then in 30m at metal gate TR in field beside wooden fence.
- Cross stile before partly concealed brick pill-box, then keep to R edge of next field.
- In 100m, by next tree in hedge beside stile, TL following fenced path between fields.

#### 6.2 [TQ 490 285]

- Cross stile into wood and in 25m bear R on Fp along edge of wood.
- In 500m cross stile into field and follow L edge of field.
- Cross stile beside gate and bear L through woods and beside fence, ignoring turnings to L and R.
- Tk passes under telegraph wires then leaves wood by cottage on R.
- KA beside fence for 75m to fingerpost.

#### 6.3 [TQ 487 277]

At fingerpost bear half R through trees to descend steps on to concrete Tk by lake at Stroods. You can TR along this Tk if you wish to visit [Barnsgate Manor](#).

[] Barnsgate Manor, 1 km NW along concrete Tk and across A26 Rd.

#### 6.4 [TQ 487 277]

- Continuing along VGW, do not cross cattle grid but TL along grass outside fence, then in 25m go through small gate.
- KA in field beside fence for 200m.

### Diversion

*Note: At the time of writing (February 2013) a long-term diversion was in force at this point due to a landslide and bridge repair works at point 6.5(c) below. The well-signed diversion follows a footpath through Quarry Wood to the south and rejoins the VGW at point 6.7 below. It is described here, replacing the boxed text highlighted blue below, and an announcement will be made in 'Latest News' on our website when the proper route has been reopened.*

- At end of fence, by fingerpost, continue ahead down field with trees on L to reach stile into Quarry Wood.
- Follow wide track passing old iron ore and clay working (see notice) on L, and continue through wood, later with fence on L to descend to gate (walk around) and out onto Perrymans Lane.
- Bear L and take care on this narrow lane which twists L and then R.
- Around R bend locate KG to your L and go down (bearing 90°) across grass field to another KG.
- Continue down next grass field, following line of single trees to bottom and through gate.
- After 30m cross FB and continue on wide Tk in wood which turns R and L to gate and a Rd (Chillies Lane).
- TR for 20m to Rd junction. (Sussex Diamond Way comes in from R here) Rejoin original route of VGW at 6.7.

## VANGUARD WAY ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION 6

### *Route when diversion is lifted*

- c) At end of fence, by fingerpost, TL up steps and go through gate into next field, with tennis court on your L.
- d) Keep to L edge of field, veering R towards end to go through gate 20m from field corner.
- e) Descend to gap in corner of next field with stile on R.

#### **6.5 [TQ 489 274]**

- a) Cross stile and bear half L down large field, passing fenced corner of wood, to cross stile by metal gate in field corner.
- b) TR along narrow Fp downhill between fence and hedge towards houses for 200m.
- c) Cross FB over stream (infant **River Uck**), then up steps via raised boardwalk to gravel drive.
- d) Follow drive past houses to Rd (*Chillies Lane*).

[?]

#### **6.6 [TQ 493 266]**

TR on Rd for 200m to Rd junction. (**Sussex Diamond Way** comes in from R here.)

#### **6.7 [TQ 493 264]**

TL up lane, with car park on your R, towards Holy Trinity Church at **High Hurstwood**.

[🚌] Buses (Monday to Friday) to / from Buxted, Poundgate and Uckfield.

#### **6.8 [TQ 494 264]**

*This section involves four KGs - keep track carefully of where you are!*

- a) Just before church, TR through first KG.
- b) Ascend righthand side of field to go through second KG (to R of large oak-tree).
- c) Pass small brick shed, noting ornamental pond down to your R, and follow Fp in trees past house and garden.
- d) Go through third KG and ascend through brambles and bracken to fourth KG.

#### **6.9 [TQ 496 262]**

- a) Go through gate to Rd (*Burnt Oak Road*) **NP**, TL for 70m then TR on rough Tk.
- b) Follow Tk (which later becomes concrete) for 350m, passing Royal Oak and Mount Pleasant Farms, to lane (*Royal Oak Lane*).

*The house almost opposite used to be the Royal Oak beerhouse, but is now a private home.*

[🍷] For the Hurstwood pub TR along Royal Oak Lane for 650m down to Chillies Lane in High Hurstwood, where you will find the pub on your left.

[?] opposite pub.

[🚌] Buses at pub (Mon to Fri) 2 per day Uckfield to Crowborough.

#### **6.10 [TQ 499 260]**

- a) TL on lane (now unmade) past Hurstwood Farm.
- b) In 700m keep R at fork beside power line. (*Sussex Diamond Way continues ahead here.*)
- c) At Four Chimneys Farm KA on Tk between hedges, signed Holders Farmhouse.
- d) In 50m cross stile and KA on narrow Fp with fence on your R and concealed ditch on your L.

## VANGUARD WAY ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION 6

### 6.11 [TQ 503 256]

- a) KA across gated FB over stream in dip by trees.
- b) Immediately TR beside fence\* then climb bank to continue in same direction close to field edge.  
\* *If this short stretch is overgrown, go out into the field and TR.*
- c) Go through KG and across FB behind large oak tree.
- d) Bear half L up field (bearing 150°) to far corner, keeping well L of wooden barn among trees.
- e) Cross stile (may be hidden behind large mound of earth) beside gate on to Rd (*Fowly Lane*) at entrance to Greenhurst Farm.

### 6.12 [TQ 504 252]

- a) TR along Rd (**NP**) between ponds for 100m then TL across stile into field.
- b) Bear half R passing wood with stream in gully on L.
- c) Cross stile to follow L edge of next field for 300m to end of wood by brick pill-box on R.
- d) Bear L down slope beside ditch (*note Greenhurst Viaduct over to L*), then bear R at electricity pole.
- e) Cross FB over River Uck (see 6.5).

### 6.13 [TQ 504 246]

*This stretch can be very muddy.*

- a) Ignoring footpath beside river, KA on narrow and sometimes overgrown Fp through wood (Coe's Rough) then go through arch under **East Croydon to Uckfield railway line**.
- b) Cross stile then KA on Fp in trees to edge of field.
- c) Follow worn Fp ahead then bearing slightly R across field (ignoring Fp to R up field towards houses).
- d) Follow Fp past two metal gates and pond into valley and beside wood, then bear half R before trees, climbing to pass broken stile by fingerpost.

*If you need to divert to **Buxted** for the station or pubs, the Northern Link is much more pleasant and direct than the Southern Link along the road, described later.*

### **Northern Link to Buxted Station** [1.5 km / 0.9 miles, TQ 497 233]

- a) Between stiles TR on Fp in trees, climbing beside L side of field.
- b) KA to cross stile to R of metal gate/cattle enclosure.
- c) Follow Tk ahead past houses, leading on to tarmac Rd (*Church Lane*).
- d) Follow lane for 1 km, later becoming Church Road, to A272 Buxted High Street, at Buxted Stores.
- e) TR to pass Buxted Inn and take 2<sup>nd</sup> R to Buxted Station.

[Transport  ] Trains to Uckfield, Crowborough, Oxted, East Croydon and central London. Buses (2 per day Monday-Friday) to /from Uckfield, Hadlow Down.

[] Buxted Inn, next to the station; Buxted Stores, on link.

[] In Buxted.

### **If starting from Buxted Station:**

- a) TR through forecourt to A272 Buxted High Street.
- b) TL to pass Buxted Inn then at Buxted Stores TL along Church Road, passing the church of St. Mary the Virgin.
- c) In 400m ignore waymarked Tk to L and continue along Rd as it bears R past St. Mary's Garth.
- d) In 600m KA on rough Tk, still with houses, ignoring signed paths to R and L near 1 The Common.
- e) Cross stile to L of metal gate/cattle enclosure KA on R side of field.
- f) Cross stile and follow Fp down through trees to junction by fingerpost, where TR to rejoin VGW.

## VANGUARD WAY ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION 6

### 6.14 [TQ 506 243]

- Continuing along the VGW, cross stile and KA on ascending Fp between wood and field.
- At end of wood KA on rough drive past houses, eventually leading on to lane (*Redbrook Lane*) and in a further 450m to main Rd (A272 *Buxted High Street*) at **Pound Green**.
- Cross Rd with great care, as traffic approaches fast from both sides around bends.

[🚌] Buses (2 per day Monday-Friday) to /from Uckfield, Hadlow Down.

### **Southern Link to Buxted Station** [1.3 km, 0.8 miles, TQ 497 233]

- TR along *Buxted High Street* for 1 km following L-hand pavement.
- In 1 km opposite *Buxted Stores*, cross zebra crossing then TL to pass *Buxted Inn* and take 2nd R to *Buxted Station*.

[🚆] Trains & buses: see Northern Link above.

[🚶] See Northern Link.

[↔] In *Buxted*.

### **If starting from Buxted Station:**

- TR through station forecourt to A272 *Buxted High Street*.
- TL to pass *Buxted Inn* then at *Buxted Stores* go over zebra crossing and continue up the right-hand side.
- Rejoin the VGW at the *Pound* by turning R along *Limes Lane*.

*Between Buxted and Exceat (Sections 6 to 9) the VGW is joined or crossed at various points by the Wealden Walks.*

### 6.15 [TQ 508 236]

- After crossing Rd **with great care** immediately TL then bear R beside grass pound along *Limes Lane* (signposted 'Potters Green') for 20m.
- At far end of pound cross Rd, watching for traffic from both directions then KA along rough Tk signed *Pound Cottage*.
- When Tk bears R into cottage KA along grass.
- At field gate take Fp to L of wire fence and field, then through trees.

### 6.16 [TQ 511 236]

- In 150m TR at Rd **NP** (*Pound Green Lane*) and in 200m KA at Rd junction with *Rosers Common* to pass *Popeswood Reservoir*.
- In 700m at crossroads (*Tuck's Corner*) TL along lane (**Nan Tuck's Lane**) (signed *Blackboys 1½ miles*).

### 6.17 [TQ 509 226]

- In 50m TR across stile beside gate marked 'Potters End' to follow Tk through trees. It soon bears L, generally downhill, deteriorating into narrow Fp.
- Follow Fp with old earthworks on your L.
- Continue past a piggery, with *Lower Lowlands Farm* down to your L, and KA downhill at Fp crossing.
- Cross stile and KA past farm buildings, then go through squeeze stile.
- KA to follow sunken and sometimes overgrown Fp in trees between fields, soon bearing L downhill.

## VANGUARD WAY ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION 6

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### 6.18 [TQ 511 219]

- a) Cross gated bridge over stream and, when stream soon bears away to L, immediately TL through gate into corner of field.
- b) TR along edge and when it bears R KA through metal KG and pine copse into junk-filled farmyard (Scantlings Farm).
- c) In 60m at sign before buildings turn sharp L on rising and winding Tk, then go through gate to Rd (*Pound Lane*).

### 6.19 [TQ 512 215]

- a) TR along Rd and in 150m TL on to fenced farm Tk (*Tickerage Lane*), which crosses field then descends to L of trees and through gate.
- b) Go through second gate (*Wealdway* comes in from R here) to reach *Tickerage Stream* and millpond.

### 6.20 [TQ 515 211]

- a) Go between houses (former mill buildings), across weir then uphill on Tk for 200m (*Wealdway goes off to the R halfway up*).
- b) At fingerpost TL past metal gate then ascend small rise with steps to follow fenced Fp past stand of grand old pine trees.
- c) Go through gap, still following fenced Fp between fields towards houses.
- d) Bear R between hedges to lane (*Terminus Road*).

### 6.21 [TQ 519 208]

- a) TL and in 30m TR up Tk into allotments.
- b) After 50m bear L on Fp between allotments.
- c) Go through gate then bear R down to Rd (*Gun Road*) by Village Hall.

*Note that some old Ordnance Survey maps show the VGW route incorrectly here as going south from the allotments to the B2102 road.*

[↔] *For The Glade (formerly Blackboys Youth Hostel) TL here and follow lane northwards for 750m. Run on similar lines as a youth hostel, it is now privately owned. We are especially pleased about this, as it was one of the establishments that influenced the route of the VGW.*

### 6.22 [TQ 522 208]

TR to main Rd (B2012 *Uckfield Road*) at *Blackboys* Crossroads, where Section 6 ends at:

### 7.1 [TQ 523 208]

[🚌] *Buses (not Sundays) to / from Uckfield, Heathfield, Etchingam and Hurst Green.*

[🍴] *Blackboys Inn is 300m further along the VGW on Section 7.*

[↔] *In Blackboys.*

[📏] *300m to R along main Rd.*

### COMMENTARY

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

#### 6.3

**Barnsgate Manor** (1 km NW along the concrete track and across the A26 road, [www.barnsgate.co.uk](http://www.barnsgate.co.uk)) is now run as a conference centre and has a restaurant and tea-room. The 16<sup>th</sup> century manor house was built by the Barns Gate, one of the gates into the Ashdown Forest.

#### 6.5

The **River Uck** rises from several springs in the low hills south of Crowborough, a few kilometres to the northeast. It flows for some 20 km (12.5 miles) through Uckfield to join the River Ouse near Isfield. In recent years it has flooded after heavy rain, causing much damage to nearby properties. You will cross it again lower down at location 6.9.

The **Sussex Diamond Way** shares its route with the VGW for the next kilometre. It runs for 97 km (60 miles) between Midhurst and Heathfield, and was named to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ramblers' Association. A booklet is available from the Mid Sussex Ramblers ([www.midsussexramblers.co.uk](http://www.midsussexramblers.co.uk)).

#### 6.7

The name of the sleepy little village of **High Hurstwood** has a tautological history: first recorded in 1602 as Heyhurst - which on its own means 'high enclosed wood' - it later became Hayhurst Wood and even High Heyhurstwood = 'high high enclosed wood wood'! The church, Holy Trinity, is of an unusual design, with its partly half-timbered porch tower and flat bellcote. It was built in 1871 with later additions including an elaborate chancel ceiling. Described by Pevsner as 'Arcadia indeed' because of its location next to the rhododendrons of the parsonage garden.

#### 6.13

The **East Croydon to Uckfield railway line** (also known now as the Wealden Line) was opened in 1858 for the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. It originally ran on to Lewes but that section was closed in 1968 - there is a campaign to restore it, see [www.wealdenline.co.uk](http://www.wealdenline.co.uk).

The straggling village of **Buxted** (1.5 km SW on link, [www.buxtedvillage.org.uk](http://www.buxtedvillage.org.uk)) gets its name from the Anglo-Saxon, Bocstede, which roughly translates as beech wood - appropriate today as it boasts two shops specialising in furniture. The village used to be further west, beside the River Uck, and was a thriving centre for the production of iron, silk and hops. An extraordinary local character was George Watson, born 1785, who looked like a village idiot but was a mathematical genius.

In the 1830s the owner of Buxted Place, Lord Liverpool, forcibly moved the inhabitants and demolished the original village to improve the view from his mansion. The original 18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian mansion was partially destroyed by fire in 1940. In its grounds is the parish church of St. Margaret the Queen, which dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and has much of interest. The present village developed around the railway station, opened in 1858.

#### 6.14

**Pound Green**, at the east end of Buxted, gets its name from the grassy triangle here, which used to be a pound for stray animals.

#### 6.15

The **Wealden Walks** is a network of 20 walks set up by Wealden District Council. They vary in distance between 6.5 and 18.5 km (4 and 11.5 miles) and have a distinctive 'W' waymark. More information at: <http://bit.ly/Y2ZwF4>.

### 6.16

**Nan Tuck** was one of the more colourful residents of Buxted. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century she was accused of witchcraft and murdering her husband, but when being chased completely disappeared. Depending on whose story you believe, she was either never seen again or later found hanged in a wood, but either way her ghost is said to haunt the lane and crossroads that bear her name.

### 6.19

The millpond was formed from the **Tickerage Stream**, which rises in low hills to the northeast then flows for 12 km (7.5 miles) to join the River Uck near Uckfield. Here the VGW bounces off the Wealdway (see paragraph 5.10) for just 200m.

Tickerage Mill was, from 1961 until her death, the home of the actress, Vivien Leigh (1913 - 1967) who married and divorced Laurence Olivier. Her ashes were scattered over the millpond. According to *Notable Sussex Women* (Hastings Press), 'she described the house as "an absolute dream", adding "I am miserable at the thought of having to leave it"'.

### 6.22

The village of **Blackboys** clusters around the junction of two B roads linking Heathfield with Uckfield or Lewes. Its name is attributed alternatively to a 15<sup>th</sup> century local squire, Richard Blakeboy, or to the local 'black boys' (charcoal-burners). A plaque on the seat by the crossroads tells us that 'This seat and the surrounding maple trees were presented by the Canadian forces to commemorate their happy association with this village during the Second World War 1939-1945.'

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