

THE VANGUARD WAY

(SOUTH TO NORTH)

A different experience in the other direction!

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

and points of interest along the route

SECTION H

Haxted Mill to Limpsfield Chart

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First Edition (South-North)
Version 1.0

This first edition of the south-north route description
was first published in 2011.
It is only available as an online resource.

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Colin Saunders asserts his right to be identified as the author of this work. Whilst the information contained in this guide was believed to be correct at the time of writing, the author and publishers accept no responsibility for the consequences of any inaccuracies. However, we shall be pleased to receive your comments and information of alterations for consideration. Please email colin@vanguardway.org.uk or write to Colin Saunders, 35 Gerrards Close, Oakwood, London, N14 4RH, England.

SECTION H: HAXTED MILL TO LIMPSFIELD CHART

8.1 km (5.0 miles)

The South-North version of the Route Description is based on a completely new survey undertaken by club members in 2010. 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. However, please note that this South-North version uses the same numbering system for locations along the route as the original North-South version, so they appear to run in reverse order, i.e. in this section from H(3.10) to H(3.1). (The individual route description paragraphs in this South-North section are preceded by the letter H to distinguish them from the North-South versions.)

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. Downloadable maps in pdf format showing the correct route are available on our website. 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 kilometres (km) and metres (m); but if you are more familiar with miles and yards, remember that 1 km is about five eighths of a mile and that 100m is about the same as 110 yards. To roughly convert metres to feet, multiply by three and add 10 per cent.

Abbreviations

VGW = Vanguard Way	KA = keep ahead	> = off route
Bw = bridleway	TL = turn left	N = north
Fp = footpath	TR = turn right	S = south
Rd = road	L = left	E = east
Tk = track	R = right	W = west
m = metres	km = kilometres	

VANGUARD WAY *SOUTH-NORTH* ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION H

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 Haxted Mill to:

>Edenbridge Station	5.1 km (3.2 miles)(diverting at Troy Town)
>Crockham Hill (via Southern Link)	6.9 km (4.3 miles)
>Crockham Hill (via Northern Link)	7.9 km (4.9 miles)
Limpsfield Chart	8.1 km (5.0 miles)
>Westerham	11.8 km (7.3 miles)

Distances from Edenbridge Station via Troy Town to:

>Crockham Hill (via Southern Link)	5.3 km (3.3 miles)
>Crockham Hill (via Northern Link)	6.4 km (3.9 miles)
Limpsfield Chart	6.5 km (4.0 miles)
>Westerham	10.2 km (6.3 miles)

Distances from Crockham Hill (via Southern Link) to:

Limpsfield Chart	3.1 km (1.9 miles)
>Westerham	6.8 km (4.2 miles)

Distances from Crockham Hill (via Northern Link) to:

Limpsfield Chart	2.5 km (1.6 miles)
>Westerham	6.2 km (3.9 miles)

Overview

Mostly easy, 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 route ascends gently towards the end as it crosses the Greensand Ridge. 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 VGW makes its only visit to the County of Kent.

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

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

VANGUARD WAY *SOUTH-NORTH* ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION H

Section H of the Vanguard Way (South-North) starts at Haxted Mill [TQ 418 455].

This is in Tandridge District in Surrey.

[Transport] Taxi (see VGW 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 (www.haxtedmill.co.uk).

H(4.1) [TQ 418 455]

The roads in this paragraph have no pavement - see Road Safety in 'An Introduction to the Route'.

- After crossing the stile TR along Rd (Haxted Road) for 100m to Rd junction.
- TL along Rd (Dwelly Lane) for 1.7 km, passing Haxted Kennels, Dwelly Farm and Waterham Pit, all on your L. Here the VGW coincides with two cycle routes: the Yew Tree Way again (see G/4.2) and Surrey Cycleway (150 km / 93 miles around Surrey).
- In 1.7 km, after pronounced L-hand bend, reach Shingle Barn Farm (with 'Wintersell Herd' sign). The Tandridge Border Path comes in again from the left here and stays with VGW for 750m.

H(3.10) [TQ 417 471]

- Opposite farm drive, cross stile and turn sharp R between fence and hedge (may be overgrown).
- In 15m bear L across grass to stile and cross fenced garden (right of way) to cross stile opposite.
- Continue along L-hand side of field to corner, go through gate and cross footbridge into field.
- TR across field (bearing 50°) to stile in line of trees.
- Cross stile and bear slightly R across next field.
- Cross another stile and KA along L side of field parallel to drive of Ash Farm. This large field has in the past been divided into long strips separated by fences – hence the series of abandoned stiles.
- At end of field go behind concrete cupboard and cross stile on to Rd (Honeypot Lane).

The next 900m (H3.9 and H3.8) 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'.

H(3.9) [TQ 421 475]

- TR along lane for 500m, passing Little Browns Farm. In 40m you cross Kent Brook into the county of Kent and Sevenoaks District. The Tandridge Border Path goes off to the L here.
- At Rd junction TL along Hilders Lane, keeping L. Cross railway bridge and swing R with Rd. You cross two separate railway lines in quick succession: the first, under the bridge, is the Redhill-Tonbridge line via Edenbridge Station; the second, lower down and in tunnel at the bend, is the London-Oxted-Uckfield line via Edenbridge Town Station.
- TL at next Rd junction (Troy Lane).

Although this is not the official VGW link to Edenbridge Station (1.5 km), which starts at Troy Town (see below), it is quite practical to divert there from this point: where Rd bears sharp L after 1 km, take Fp on R into field. The road has no pavement – see 'Road safety' in the Introduction. Or you may prefer to use the VGW northern link to Edenbridge below, which has less road walking.

You may wish to make a 200m diversion along this road anyway to see an interesting building on your right: the Miss Matilda Alice Hubbard Memorial Home for Girls, now the Holcot Residential Centre (which provides accommodation for groups). We would be grateful for any information about the history of this building.

VANGUARD WAY *SOUTH-NORTH* ROUTE DESCRIPTION: SECTION H

H(3.8) [TQ 426 477]

a) Follow lane for 300m to **Troy Town**.

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

[Phone box]

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

- a) Opposite brick house go through kissing gate on R 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) Go through kissing gate and TR on Rd at Troy Town to rejoin VGW.

H(3.7) [TQ 427 481]

- a) At sharp L bend in lane, TR across stile (note barn with clock to your L) then KA up enclosed Tk (Bw) – may be very muddy towards the top.
- b) In 400m, between gates, go through L-hand gate then immediately TR in field beside fence.
- c) In 30m at field gate TL along Fp, following R edge of same field.
- d) KA at Fp junction beside lone tree.
- e) Cross stile by gate into next field and KA along R edge. 75m from end of field, note abandoned trig point in hedge and brambles on your right – it may be completely overgrown. Its spot height is 81m (266 feet) above sea level. The large building on the hillside above the trees (quarter left) is the Marie Curie Research Institute, which you pass near later.
- f) Cross stile by gate on to Rd (Hole Lane) at Gaywood.

H(3.6) [TQ 432 488]

- a) TL on Rd for 30m then cross stile before gate on R.
- b) Descend field quarter L to corner of wood (due N). *You now have a fine view ahead of buildings in Crockham Hill.*
- c) KA along field edge with Guildables Wood on your L.
- d) At end of field cross stile, and KA (ignoring gate on your L) along L side of next field.
- e) At kink in field boundary, with fence ahead, TL along Tk then in 40m, immediately before gap into field, TR across stile into small wooded enclosure.

H(3.5) [TQ 433 496]

- a) Pass pond (may be dry) and cross stile into field.
- b) Follow L-hand side of field for 150m then, 50m before end of field, cross stile on L into another field.
- c) Now follow L-hand side of this field for 100m then cross stile into copse.

H(3.4) [TQ 433 499]

You should now follow the right of way ahead to cross another stile, TR in field 40m and cross a third stile, but local walkers generally walk as follows and the landowner does not object.

- a) TR to reach narrow strip of scrubland and KA along R-hand side beside fence. *The tiled house on your left is Dairy Green. Here you cross the line of the Roman road, from Lewes to London, that you encountered earlier on Section F.*
- b) At end of field cross stile and TR along drive of Dairy Green to Rd (Dairy Lane). *On a very short diversion to your right here is Old Dairy Farm.*

The Southern Link to Crockham Hill starts here.

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

- a) TR on Rd and bear L 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 below.

[Phone box] See Crockham Hill Northern Link below.

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 and KA past Dairy Green to rejoin VGW.

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

H(3.3) [TQ 435 501]

- a) TL along Rd for 200m passing Hurst Farm. *As the road bears right you rejoin the line of the Roman road mentioned at H(3.4); it continues straight ahead in the field as you leave Dairy Lane, and you may be able to discern its line as it diverges from the VGW.*

Continued on next page. ►

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- b) Halfway round sharp L-hand bend, just before Brook Cottage, go through gate on R and follow L-hand side of paddock.
- c) At wall corner KA across paddock, ignoring gate straight ahead, to go through another gate in far L corner behind trees.
- d) Follow L-hand side of large field then in 100m cross **Kent Brook** on footbridge with stile at each end.
- e) Continue on same bearing across next field, heading for lone tree to L of large buildings, which is next to a (possibly dry) pond.

The Northern Link with Crockham Hill starts here.

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

- a) TR on Fp between (possibly dry) pond and embankment and follow it (bearing 90°, due E) across field to stile.
- b) Cross stile and follow L side of next field to cross another stile into wood. Take care entering wood as you have to use a stepping stone which may be slippery.
- c) KA through wood, cross stile then follow L side of small field.
- d) KA along residential Rd (Oakdale Lane), then at its end TR along Smiths Lane to B2026 Main Road in **Crockham Hill**.
- e) 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 (www.westerhambrewery.co.uk/OurPubs.htm).

[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 L fork (Smiths Lane).
- b) Pass Deanery Road then TL along Oakdale Lane.
- c) In 200m bear L over stile and down Fp along R side of small field.
- d) KA through wood (stile at each end) to emerge in field. Take care on slippery stepping stone at exit from wood.
- e) KA along R side of field then cross stile into another field.
- f) KA in next field (bearing 370°, due W) to pass embankment on your R, then at lone tree beside (possibly dry) pond TR to rejoin VGW.

H(3.2) [TQ 431 507]

- a) KA (passing on your R an ornamental lake with model temple on island (duck house? May not be visible when trees are in leaf) to cross stile on to Tk opposite Trevereux Cottages. Our second encounter with the Tandridge Border Path, which comes in from the left here.
- b) TR along Tk to pass **Trevereux Manor** and bear L past gate up lane (Trevereux Hill).
- c) In 700m pass drive on L, beside the Old School House, leading to the **Marie Curie Research Institute**.
- d) KA for 200m to major Rd (B269 Kent Hatch Road).
- e) Cross Rd with care and KA along Rd opposite (Moorhouse Road) past **St. Andrew's Church** to junction with Tally Lane where the **Greensand Way** crosses the VGW, and where Section H of the VGW (South-North) ends in **Limpsfield Chart** at point:

H(3.1) [TQ 426 519]

[Transport] A bus service operates to the Carpenters Arms from Westerham and Oxted. More frequent services from Westerham (see link below).

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

See next page for link to Westerham. ►

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

This link follows the Greensand Way (GW) for the first 1.5 km then the GW link with Westerham. The route is mostly well signed by GW discs and fingers.

- a) On reaching Tally Road at Limpsfield Chart, opposite white fence of The Mill House, TR into wood at fingerpost along GW, following stony Tk.*
- b) In 100m at fork, bear L on lesser Tk.*
- c) Follow this general direction (around bearing 70°) for next 900m to end of wood, keeping ahead at all cross Tks. Soon after start pass Titsey Foundation Woodland sign, and towards the end join major Tk at five-ways junction.*
- d) At second five-ways junction with water tank, bear half R on Bw, past stone plinth marking GW halfway point, then between gardens.*
- e) Cross Rd (Goodley Stock Road) with care and cross stile beside fieldgate.*
- f) KA on permissive Fp/Bw for 80m to T-junction.*
- g) Here main GW route goes R, but VGW link goes L, now on GW link to Westerham. (GW waymark post here broken off at time of writing.)*
- h) Follow this Fp in same general direction (around bearing 15° to 20°) for 900m, ignoring all side turns.*
- i) At edge of wood, cross first stile and KA through sparse copse, now in Squerryes Park. (Prominent white dovecote down to L is part of 17th century Squerryes Court complex.)*
- j) Cross second stile and KA across field to third stile, then KA along fenced Fp.*
- k) Cross fourth stile then descend steeply towards pond.*
- l) At foot TL to Park Lodge then TR along lane (Mill Lane).*
- m) In 100m by pond TR down steps, over footbridge and through kissing gate, then KA along foot of sloping field.*
- n) In 300m TL through kissing gate and along paved alley (Water Lane) between high fences and walls.*
- o) At end go down steps to enter Westerham opposite the village green (bus stops close by).*

[Transport] Buses to Bromley and Sevenoaks; also (Mo-Fr only) East Grinstead and Edenbridge.

[Refreshments] Several places in Westerham.

[Accommodation] In Westerham.

COMMENTARY

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

H(3.8)

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.

H(3.4)

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.

H(3.3)

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).

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 VGWayfarers. 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 (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-chartwell/).

H(3.2)

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.

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.

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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'.

At 169 km (105 miles) the **Greensand Way** is one of the longest walking routes in southern England. It follows the Greensand Ridge, running parallel to and south of the North Downs, from Haslemere in Surrey to Folkestone in Kent. Further information at: www.ramblers.org.uk/info/paths/greensand.html.

The village of **Limpsfield Chart** is also known as The Chart, which is local dialect for overgrown common land, from the Saxon 'cert' - not to be confused with Limpsfield Common, 1½ km to the northwest. Confusingly, the chart is part of a group of several separate National Trust properties in the area, which the NT administers in one unit under the name Limpsfield Common. During the coaching era of the 18th and early 19th centuries, the B269 here used to be the main road from London to Lewes.
