

THE VANGUARD WAY

(SOUTH TO NORTH)

A different experience in the other direction!

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

and points of interest along the route

SECTION C

Berwick Station to Golden Cross

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First Edition (South-North)
Version 1.0

Thus 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 C: BERWICK STATION TO GOLDEN CROSS

6.6 km (4.1 miles)

This 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. 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 C(8.9) to C(8.1). (The individual route description paragraphs in this South-North section are preceded by the letter C 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 C

Public transport

On route: Trains and buses at Berwick Station. Buses at Golden Cross.
Link with bus stop at Chalvington.

Distances from Berwick Station to:

>Yew Tree Inn, Chalvington 3.9 km (2.4 miles)

Golden Cross (Deanland Road)* 6.7 km (4.2 miles)

*To the Golden Cross pub/bus stops on the A24 add 0.5 km (0.3 miles).

Overview

Most of this sparsely populated section goes through low-lying and generally level farmland, but there are some gentle gradients soon after the start.

Note 1: This section includes the muddiest section of the whole route, for about 1 km, where you may find a walking stick or pole helpful to keep your balance.

Note 2: Many stretches on this section cross large fields, often with no distinguishing feature to guide you. So we give a compass bearing as a guide - see the Equipment section of the Introduction to the Route.

Lowest and highest points. Chalvington Road (16m); Mays Farm (35m).

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

Section C of the VGW(S-N) starts at Berwick Station [TQ 526 067]

This is in Wealden District in East Sussex.

[Transport] *Trains to Berwick Station from Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Brighton, Gatwick Airport, East Croydon and central London. Trains to Eastbourne and Hastings go from the Down platform (north side of the lines, where the ticket office is also located). Take care if crossing the railway lines from the Up platform (south side of the lines opposite Berwick Inn, towards Lewes, Brighton, Gatwick Airport, East Croydon and London).*

Buses: The Cuckmere Community Bus serves Berwick Station from various places in the area such as Brighton, Eastbourne, Hailsham, Polegate, Alfriston, Chalvington, Ripe, Seaford, Exceat, Westdean, Charleston Manor, Litlington, Drusilla's Roundabout. It operates to a complicated timetable that changes each day – for more information please refer to its website www.cuckmerebus.freeuk.com.

[Phone box] *By Berwick Stores.*

[Refreshments] *At the Berwick Inn. Convenience store on north side of level crossing.*

C(9.1) [TQ 526 067]

- From the platform exit TL along Rd (*Coldharbour Lane*) – take care if crossing the railway lines.
- Opposite Berwick Stores TL on Tk beside station car park.
- At end TR across stile and follow Fp behind gardens, across plank bridge and through wood (may be overgrown).
- Cross stile into field then follow faint Fp along L edge of field.
- Cross stile in fence then TL along drive, passing cattle-grid.
- Immediately before 2nd cattle-grid at entrance to **Ludlay**, bear L to go through gate and along tarmac Tk.
- As Tk bears L, KA to stile.

C(8.9) [TQ 522 073]

- Cross stile and TR along R side of field to second stile.
- Bear half L (bearing 340°) on Fp across field to gap in hedge (to R of cattle trough).
- Cross plank bridge and stile then continue in same direction, heading for large house at top of hill.
- Go through gate then TR on Tk past pond in front of **Mays** house to farmyard.

C(8.8) [TQ 521 079]

- Cross farmyard half R then pass between R-hand barn and containers to fingerpost.
- Bear half L (bearing 340°) down field.
- Cross stile and plank bridge into next (large) field and continue almost in same direction, heading for electricity pole beside transformer.
- Cross second stile and plank bridge – beware awkward wire above top step and ditch.
- Follow R side of field to third (dilapidated) stile in corner and cross it to Rd (*Langtye Lane*).

C(8.7) [TQ 519 085]

This stretch of road has no pavement – see Road Safety in ‘An Introduction to the Route’.

- TR along Rd then shortly TL at Rd junction (*Poundfield Road*).
- Follow Rd for 650m, passing Meadow Cottage and Blackberry Farm (formerly Bungalow Farm), to sharp L-hand bend. (TL along Rd here for Chalvington village centre in 500m.)

[Transport] *From Chalvington village centre the Cuckmere Community Bus serves: (Wednesdays) Berwick Station, Alfriston and Hailsham; (Thursdays) Berwick Station, Alfriston, Polegate and Eastbourne; (Fridays) Berwick Station, Exceat and Seaford; also Brighton on alternate Thursdays.*

[Phone box] *300m to L along Poundfield Road.*

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

C(8.6) [TQ 524 091]

a) KA along Tk.

C(8.5) [TQ 527 094]

a) After 450m you reach a path junction with a stile. If you are now continuing along VW, KA for another 550m to Rd at Selmeston Croft. *If you wish to divert to the Yew Tree Inn the link starts here; we show a different route for the return link.*

Link with Yew Tree Inn at Chalvington [650m, TQ 525 100]

This, together with the return link, avoids 550m of the track.

- Cross stile on L and KA across field to cross second stile.*
- Go through hedgerow to second field then bear half R (bearing 350°).*
- Go through gap into third field and continue in same direction.*
- At fingerpost continue into fourth field and continue in same direction.*
- At second fingerpost cross stile into playing field and KA to Yew Tree Inn.*

[Refreshments] Yew Tree Inn, Chalvington.

Returning from Yew Tree Inn:

- Return across playing field to cross stile, where you divert from the outward route.*
- Cross second field half L (bearing 70°) and cross field gate.*
- Go 45m along R side of third field and pass through trees.*
- Cross fourth field diagonally L to gate, go through it and TL along Rd (Sheepcote Lane).*

C(8.4) [TQ 530 099]

a) KA along Rd (Sheepcote Lane) for 1.1 km, passing rambling barns of Mount Pleasant Farm and Marnhull Farm Cottage to Marnhull Farm House.

C(8.3) [TQ 538 110]

- Cross stream then TL to cross stile set back by gate.
- KA through narrow meadow, which then bears R.
- Cross another stile by gate and KA along drive, passing Limekiln Farm.
- At Rd (Chalvington Road) TR for 75m, then TL through gateway.

C(8.2) [TQ 536 113]

Until recently, all the stiles on this stretch were in very poor condition, but smart new stiles have replaced some of the old ones. Where old stiles are still in place you should take great care while climbing them. Occasional gymkhana events take place in these fields.

- Cross stile then KA close to L side of next two fields, with stream on your L. Ignore bridge on L which leads to fishery only.
- Cross ditch and stile into third field and KA to field corner.
- Bear slightly R away from field edge to dilapidated stile and cross to Rd (Deanland Road), where Section C of the VGW(S-N) finishes at:

C(8.1) [TQ 533 120] 500m south of Golden Cross in Deanland Road, by the white railings. This is in Wealden District in East Sussex.

For link to Golden Cross pub (www.thegoldencrossinn.co.uk) and bus stops see next page. ►

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

Link to Golden Cross pub and bus stops (500m). TR along Deanland Road for 500m to the A22. Buses go left (this side) towards East Hoathly, Uckfield, Forest Row, East Grinstead and London; and right (far side) towards Hailsham, Polegate and Eastbourne.

[Transport] Buses (not Sundays) call at the Golden Cross pub to East Grinstead, Forest Row, Uckfield, East Hoathly and Hailsham. There is also a daily express coach service to London, East Grinstead, Polegate and Eastbourne. The Cuckmere Community Bus (Monday only) serves Berwick Station, Hailsham, Polegate and Eastbourne from the Golden Cross car park.

[Refreshments] Golden Cross pub.

COMMENTARY

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

C(9.1)

Until 1966 the area northeast of **Ludlay** was the site of a brickworks, using clay from local pits and served by a narrow gauge railway, now disappeared. Ludlay Farm occupies a compound within a high flint wall, within which all the buildings are made of flint.

C(8.9)

The isolated hilltop community of **Mays** consists of an impressive Georgian brick house, a farm and some farmhands' cottages. The Sussex breed of cattle originated here. Nowadays much of the farm is used as a business centre, occupied by small, specialist companies. The house was built in the mid 17th century for the Reverend John Nutt, rector of Berwick. It was the birthplace in 1835 of Nathaniel Blaker, the stern author in 1906 of a collection of moralising essays that were typical of the late Victorian and Edwardian period.

C(8.4)

The VGW follows **Sheepcote Lane**, as either a track or surfaced road, for just over 3 km. A glance at the map shows that it runs parallel to several other roads and tracks, which together with many parallel crossing tracks form a grid divided into multiples of the Roman actus. An actus was 120 Roman feet, and as human feet were slightly smaller in those days this corresponds to approximately 116 modern English feet (about 35 metres). You are in fact following the eastern boundary of a huge Roman agricultural estate, stretching from here southwestwards towards Ripe. The individual fields created by this grid were each five acti square, so covered 25 square acti (about 30,000 square metres). They were laid out more than sixteen centuries ago, and records indicate that it still existed in Norman times, so the grid remained in use for at least six hundred years. Time has warped or obliterated some of the Roman farm tracks but the pattern is still recognisable.

We believe that one of the cottages near **Mount Pleasant Farm** is called Vanguard Cottage, though we have yet to establish its exact location, and whether it was named after the VGW.

C(8.3)

Limekiln Farm includes a converted former oast house. There was a brickyard here in the 18th century, run by the Guy family of Chiddingly. Note the inscription under the gable end of the house: 'DUM SPIRO SPERO' (literally 'While I breathe, I hope'; or more loosely 'Where there's life, there's hope'). A popular family motto, it was apparently added in the year 2000 as it appears below 'MM'.
