

THE VANGUARD WAY

(NORTH TO SOUTH)

From the suburbs to the sea!

SECTION 6 Poundgate to Blackboys (6th edition 2019)



THE VANGUARD WAY

ROUTE DESCRIPTION and points of interest along the route

SECTION 6 **Poundgate to Blackboys**

COLIN SAUNDERS

In memory of Graham Butler 1949-2018

Sixth Edition (North-South)

This 6th edition of the north-south route description was first published in 2019 and replaces previous printed editions published in 1980, 1986 and 1997, also the online 4th and 5th editions published in 2009 and 2014. It is now only available as an online resource.

Designed by Brian Bellwood

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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.

Cover photo: Holy Trinity Church in High Hurstwood, East Sussex.
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Vanguard Way Route Description: Section 6

SECTION 6: POUNDGATE TO BLACKBOYS

11.1 km (6.9 miles)

This version of the north-south Route Description is based on a completely new survey undertaken by club members in 2018.

This section 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, in paragraphs 6.5 and 6.6, can get very wet and muddy, and even flooded. In 2011 this led to the collapse of a boardwalk and footbridge on the Vanguard Way, just north of High Hurstwood, with a pleasant alternative route being provided. There is still no sign of repair, so we have decided to abandon the original route there and adopt the diversion as our official route.

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

How to use this route description

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.

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 green 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.

⊗ Busy roads

You often need to cross busy roads. Rather than tediously advising you to take care, which is common sense, we remind you with the symbol ⊗ – it means ‘Cross with care!’

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 mostly 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.

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Public transport

On route: Buses at Poundgate, High Hurstwood, Pound Green and Blackboys. Two links with Buxted station. Brief indications (subject to change) are shown at the relevant locations in the route description - for more information please see the Vanguard Way Companion on our website (click Directions & Maps).


Abbreviations

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

Key to symbols

 = Bus	 = *Cafés etc	 = Toilets	 = Tram
 = Train	 = *Pubs	 = Phone box	 = Cross with care
 = Taxi	 = *Accommodation	 = *Equipment shop	

* For the contact details of these facilities, please refer to the VGW Companion.

 Please note that, with improvements in mobile connectivity, phone boxes (or the equipment inside) are being removed.

Distances

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)

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)

In the route description, distances are only shown 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 3 and add 10 per cent.

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. 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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ALL INFORMATION SHOWN IS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT NOTICE

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.

If your trip relies on the provision of public transport, catering etc, you are strongly advised to check in advance that they will be available on the day of your visit. Further information about these facilities is provided in the Vanguard Way Companion available at www.vanguardway.org.uk (click the 'Directions and Maps' button). If you carry a smartphone, there are apps that give up-to-date information on public transport. Search engines will provide information on refreshments, taxis and other services nearby. This can also be done on Google or Bing maps by typing e.g. 'Pubs Forest Row' in the search box, then the map will highlight locations together with website links if available.

We will always be pleased to hear about any changes you may find, in which case please email colin@vanguardway.org.uk.

PROBLEMS WHILE WALKING THE ROUTE

If you encounter an obstruction, closure or diversion on a public right of way, please tell us about it by emailing colin@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.

 *Bus services operate along this road between Tunbridge Wells, Crowborough, Uckfield, Lewes and Brighton. They stop 60m west of the Crow & Gate pub.*

 *The Crow & Gate pub.*

6.1 [TQ 492 288]

- Continuing from Section 5, cross Rd  to bus stop on south side and cross stile.
- KA along fenced Fp beside field to cross another stile.
- KA between houses on tarmac Tk then in 30m at metal gate and TR in field beside wooden fence.
- Cross stile (may be wobbly) before partly concealed brick pill-box, then keep to R edge of next field.
- In 100m immediately before gate, TL to follow fenced path between fields.


6.2 [TQ 490 285]

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

6.3 [TQ 487 277]

Old maps may show an earlier route that went straight ahead through the buildings at Stroods.

- At fingerpost bear half R through trees to descend steps by third fingerpost on to concrete Tk by lake.
*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 on enclosed Fp between hedges/trees for 200m to fingerpost by steps.

6.5 [TQ 487 274]

Note that the VGW route in paragraphs 6.5 and 6.6 has changed, due to a landslip on the original route – see introduction to this section.

- KA past steps for 350m to reach stile into **Quarry Wood**.
- Follow Tk through wood for 520m, passing old iron ore and clay workings (where Tk may be muddy in a dip), later swinging L beside fence, and descend to pass gate onto Perryman's Lane.


6.6 [TQ 486 265]

- Bear L (joining the **Sussex Diamond Way**) and take care on this narrow lane **NP** which twists L and then R.
- In 130m, at R-hand bend, go through KG on your L and descend grass field (CB 90°), keeping between trees and slope that falls away to the field edge, to reach another KG.
- Continue down next grass field, following line of single trees to bottom and through gate.
- After 30m cross FB over **River Uck** and continue on twisting Tk in wood for 170m to gate and Rd (Chillies Lane), where you rejoin the original VGW route.
- TR for 20m to Rd junction.

Vanguard Way Route Description: Section 6

6.7 [TQ 493 264]

- a) TL up lane (signed 'To the church'), with private 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 worn Fp up R-hand side of field (tennis court on your R) to go through second KG (to R of large oak-tree).
c) Follow uneven earth Fp (beware exposed roots) in trees to pass small brick shed (note ornamental pond down to your R), remains of outhouse then house and garden.
d) Go through third KG and ascend through scrubby 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 rough earth Tk for 350m, becoming concrete as it passes 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 Holders Farm, where Tk splits into three, KA on central Tk between hedge and outhouses.
d) In 50m cross stile and KA on narrow Fp with fence on your R and concealed ditch on your L.

6.11 [TQ 503 256]

- a) KA across gated FB over stream in dip by trees then climb bank into field.
b) TR in field, keeping close to field edge.
c) Go through gate and across FB behind large oak tree.
d) Bear half L up field (CB 150°) to far corner behind area that is sometimes used to store earth or silage.
e) Cross stile 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/gap to follow L edge of next field for 300m to end of wood (note brick **pillbox** on R beneath tree).
d) Bear L down slope beside ditch (note **Greenhurst Viaduct** over to L – it may be hidden by foliage in summer), then bear R at electricity pole.
e) Cross FB over River Uck.

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6.13 [TQ 504 246]


This stretch can be very muddy.


- Ignoring Fp beside river, KA (CB 100°) on narrow and sometimes overgrown Fp through wood (Coe's Rough) then go through arch under East Croydon to Uckfield railway line.
- Cross stile then KA on Fp in trees to edge of field.
- Follow worn Fp ahead then bearing R across field (CB 150°, ignoring Fp to R up field towards houses).
- Follow Fp past two metal gates and pond into valley and beside wood, then bear half R before trees, climbing to fingerpost and stile (beware large hole). To continue along VGW cross stile.


*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]

- Do not cross stile but TR up Fp beside fence in trees on L side of field to 2nd stile.
- KA to cross 3rd stile to R of metal gate/cattle enclosure.
- Follow stony Tk ahead past houses, leading on to tarmac Rd (Church Lane).
- Follow lane for 1 km, later becoming Church Road, to A272 Buxted High Street, at Buxted Stores.
- TR past Buxted Inn, cross Queenstock Lane ☒ then take next R to Buxted Station.

 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:

- TR through forecourt to A272 Buxted High Street.
- TL to cross Queenstock Lane ☒ and pass Buxted Inn, then at Buxted Stores TL along Church Road, passing church of St. Mary the Virgin.
- In 400m ignore waymarked Tk to L and continue along Rd as it bears R past St. Mary's Garth.
- In 600m KA on stony Tk, still with houses, ignoring signed paths to R and L near 1 The Common.
- Cross stile to L of metal gate/cattle enclosure and KA down R side of field.
- Cross 2nd stile and continue down through trees and beside fence to junction by fingerpost, where TR across 3rd stile to rejoin VGW.

6.14 [TQ 506 243]

- Continuing along the VGW, KA up uneven earth Fp between wood and field (beware exposed roots).
- At end of wood KA on stony drive past houses, eventually becoming tarmac Redwood Lane, and in a further 450m reaching 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, which diverts a little to L beside grass area as it crosses Gordon Road ☒.
- In 1 km opposite Buxted Stores, cross zebra crossing ☒ then TL on far side.
- Pass Buxted Inn, cross Queenstock Lane ☒, then fork R to Buxted Station.

For facilities see Northern Link.

Continued on next page ►

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If starting from Buxted Station:

- a) TR through station forecourt to A272 Buxted High Street.
- b) TL to pass Buxted Inn then at Buxted Stores go over zebra crossing and continue up the right-hand side.
- c) 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]

- a) Continuing along VGW after crossing Rd, TL then immediately bear R beside grass pound along *Limes Lane* (signposted 'Potters Green') for 20m.
- b) At far end of pound cross Rd ⊗ (beware traffic from three directions) then KA along rough Tk signed Pound Cottage.
- c) When Tk bears R into cottage KA along grass.
- d) At field gate take Fp to L of wire fence and field, then through trees (*beware exposed roots, barbed wire fences and low overhanging branches*).

6.16 [TQ 511 236]

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

6.17 [TQ 509 226]

- a) In 50m TR across stile beside gate marked 'Potters End' to follow Tk through trees.
- b) Tk soon deteriorates into narrow Fp (*beware exposed roots*) and bends L to descend gently beside old earthworks.
- b) Continue past small piggery, with Lower Lowlands Farm down to your L, and KA downhill at low fingerpost beside Fp crossing.
- c) Cross stile and KA beside ditch and past old farm buildings, then go through squeeze stile.
- d) KA to follow sunken and sometimes overgrown Fp in trees between fields, soon bearing L downhill.

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 of field then KA through gap beside overgrown KG into pine copse and continue into junk-filled farmyard (**Scantlings Farm**).
- c) In 60m, at carved wooden 'Vanguard Way' fingers attached to container, turn sharp L on rising and winding stony Tk.
- d) Stay on Tk as it swings R between fields, past fingerpost and between trees for 325m 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 beside fingerpost. *It shows that the VGW here joins the Wealdway (see Section 5), which comes in from the R. This is the only place where the VGW and Wealdway run together, for just 150m.*

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6.20 [TQ 515 211]

- a) Go between houses (former mill buildings) and cross **Tickerage Stream** at weir, with millpond beyond tall hedge on L.
- b) KA past **Tickerage Mill** and up Tk for 150m (*Wealdway goes off to the R halfway up*).
- c) At end of fenced enclosure, by fingerpost, TL to ascend small rise with steps to follow fenced Fp past stand of grand old pine trees.
- d) Go through gap, still following fenced Fp between fields towards houses (beware barbed wire).
- e) 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.


6.22 [TQ 522 208]


- a) 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. The Grove Café and Blackboys Village Store are 350m to L along main Rd and past junction.

 In Blackboys (including the Blackboys Inn)..

 300m to R along main Rd.

COMMENTARY

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

6.3

The 16th century **Barnsgate Manor** (1 km NW along the concrete track and across the A26 road) was built next to the Barns Gate, one of the gates into the Ashdown Forest. It's now run as a conference centre and has a restaurant and tea-room.

6.4/6.5

Quarry Wood. We quote the text that appears on a sign by the old quarry: "You may wonder why the footpath you are walking on is so wide – here is the answer. What you see is the water-filled result of the excavation of iron ore and clay, probably starting between about 1575 and 1650. The quality iron ore would lie along the junction of the Ashdown beds to the north and the water-retaining Wealden clay, and could have been taken to any of the 20 furnaces within 7 miles, the nearest being Oldlands (Fairwarp) or Hendall (A26). The clay had to be dug by hand to reach the iron ore, and being good Wealden clay was valuable for making bricks and roof tiles at one of the 19 brickworks within 4 miles, possibly Maresfield Park or Old Forge Lane (Fairwarp). The route out for horse-drawn carts would have been along this footpath to Perryman's Lane – still natural stone and sand within living memory."

This elevated area is surrounded by the headwaters of the **River Uck**, which 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, including some of those on the original route of the Vanguard Way nearby. You will cross the Uck 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 60th anniversary of the Ramblers' Association. A booklet is available from the Ramblers Heathfield & District Group.

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. The village is home to the Engineer Brewery (which describes itself as a 'nano' brewery), whose beers are on tap at the Hurstwood pub.

Some 18,000 pillboxes were hastily constructed in 1940 throughout the British Isles (but mostly in south-east England) in a desperate attempt to hinder the expected Nazi invasion, which never came! The name comes from their similarity in shape to boxes that used to be provided by pharmacists for medicinal pills. Though there were some variations, they were mostly of hexagonal shape, about 10 feet across, with thick walls and mostly made of concrete (though some like this one are brick) with a flat roof. They were originally camouflaged by grass or shrubbery, though most of those that remain have lost this cover. One side had a door, the remaining five sides had a narrow slit for lookout and rifle firing. They were mostly manned by local volunteers of the Home Guard. For further information contact the Pillbox Study Group.

The 10 arches of the 169m Greenhurst Viaduct carry the East Croydon to Uckfield railway line (also known now as the Wealden Line), opened in 1858 for the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. It originally ran on to Lewes; that section was closed in 1968 but there's a campaign to restore it.

6.13

The straggling village of **Buxted** (1.5 km SW on link) gets its name from the Anglo-Saxon, Bocstede, which roughly translates as beech wood. The village used to be further west, beside the River Uck (see below) and

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was a thriving centre for the production of iron, silk and hops. The iron foundry is believed to have made England's first iron cannon in 1543, but by the early 19th century had closed due to competition from larger foundries in other parts of the country. 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 18th 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 13th 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. It hasn't been used for that purpose for centuries, and is now occupied by an Indian horse chestnut tree; it replaced a majestic pollarded European horse chestnut, which collapsed in 2011.

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.

6.16

Nan Tuck was one of the more colourful residents of Buxted. In the 17th 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.

6.18

Scantlings Farm is the home of Best Ironwork Ltd., which specialises in bespoke metalwork – hence all the metal junk! To quote their website (www.bestironwork.co.uk), “Traditionally, wrought iron was always used to manufacture gates and railings. However, as this is no longer produced commercially, we use steel to fabricate our designs.”

6.19

Tickerage Mill is a Grade II listed building dating from the early 17th century. It consists of the main house, the miller's cottage, a studio (the result of occupation by notable writers, artists and photographers – see below) and a gardener's cottage, all surrounded by 74 acres of grounds and a mill pond. In 1936, it was bought by Richard (Dick) Wyndham, an artist, photographer and journalist who won the Military Cross in the First World War. Born in 1896, he was killed in 1948 when he was photographing Arab troops on the outskirts of Jerusalem for an assignment for the Sunday Times. It was later acquired by Patrick Leigh Fermor (1915-2011), the travel writer and Second World War soldier, who played a key role in the Cretan resistance during World War II. According to a biography of his wife, Joan Monsell, socialite and photographer, Wyndham invited parties of celebrities to stay at the Mill, including the historian and writer Patrick Kinross (actually Patrick Balfour, 3rd Baron Kinross), his wife, the actress Angela Culme-Seymour, the composer Constant Lambert and the journalist and politician Tom Driberg. From 1961 until her death, it was the home of the actress, Vivien Leigh (1913 - 1967) who had recently divorced from 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”’.

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.

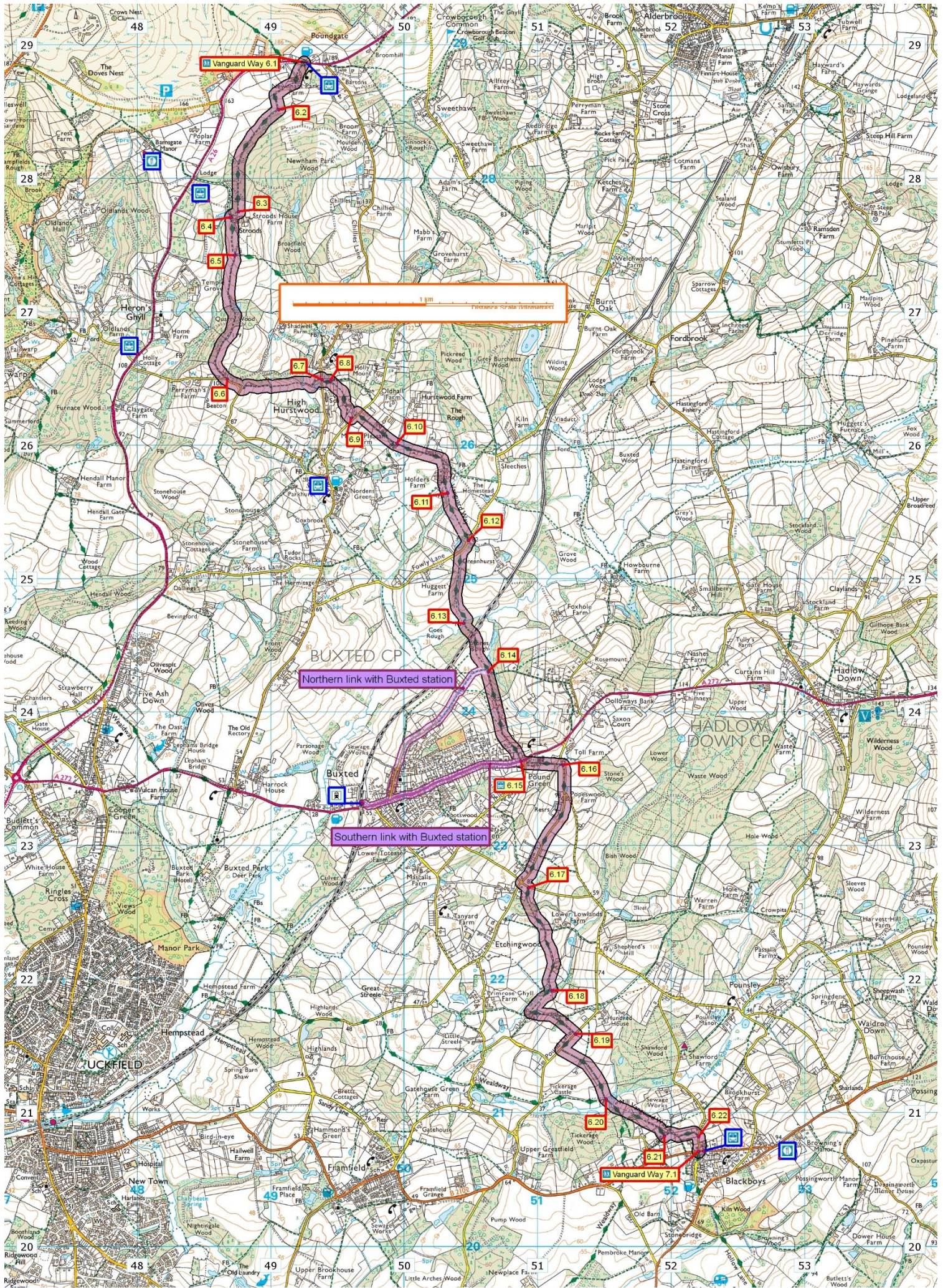
6.22

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 15th century local squire, Richard Blakeboy, or to 'black bois' (from the Norman French for wood) or to the 'black boys' (charcoal-burners), who supplied charcoal to the foundry at Buxted. (More about this in Section 7 under the Blackboys Inn).

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.'

Blackboys Youth Hostel used to occupy a building 800m north of the village along Gun Road, and was a major influence on deciding the route of the Vanguard Way. It was built in 1937 to house refugee children from the Spanish civil war and became a YHA hostel in 1943, then an independent one in 2008, but in 2014 the building was demolished and replaced by a private residence.

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Northern link with Buxted station

Southern link with Buxted station