

# **THE VANGUARD WAY**

**(NORTH TO SOUTH)**

**From the suburbs to the sea!**

## **SECTION 8**

**Golden Cross to Berwick Station**

**(6<sup>th</sup> edition 2019)**



# THE VANGUARD WAY

## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

and points of interest along the route

### SECTION 8

## Golden Cross to Berwick Station

**COLIN SAUNDERS**

In memory of Graham Butler 1949-2018

*Sixth Edition (North-South)*

This 6<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> editions published in 2009 and 2014. It is now only available as an online resource.

**Designed by Brian Bellwood**

Published by the Vanguards Rambling Club  
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## Vanguard Way Route Description: Section 8

### **SECTION 8: GOLDEN CROSS TO BERWICK STATION**

**6.6 km (4.1 miles)**

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

#### **Overview**

Most of this sparsely populated section goes through low-lying and generally level farmland, but some gentle ascents towards the end herald the approach of the South Downs, which you can see ahead.

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

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

#### **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.

#### **Public transport**

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




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### 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.

### Roads with no pavement

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### Public transport

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Link with bus stop at Chalvington.

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### Distances

Golden Cross (Deanland Road)\* to:

>Yew Tree Inn, Chalvington            3.4 km (2.1 miles)

Berwick Station                            6.7 km (4.2 miles)

\*From the Golden Cross pub/bus stops on the A22 add 0.5 km (0.3 miles).

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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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### **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

## Vanguard Way Route Description: Section 8

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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.

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](http://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](mailto:colin@vanguardway.org.uk).**

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### **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](mailto:colin@vanguardway.org.uk).

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## Vanguard Way Route Description: Section 8

**Section 8 of the VGW starts 500m south of Golden Cross [TQ 533 120]**  
in Deanland Road, by the white railings. This is in Wealden District in East Sussex.

**Link from Golden Cross bus stops (500m).**

a) From the back of the car park go southwest along Deanland Road for 500m until you reach the white railings.

 Buses from Lewes to Hailsham and Eastbourne (Mondays to Fridays only) call at Golden Cross. There is also a daily express coach service from 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.

 Inn on the Park at Deanland Wood Park (closed Mondays, see Section 7).

### 8.1 [TQ 533 120]

- TL over stile just before stream with white railings.
- Bear slightly R (CB 140°) over 1<sup>st</sup> field and cross stile by 1<sup>st</sup> gate in corner.
- Cross 2<sup>nd</sup> field and go through 2<sup>nd</sup> gate.
- Continue in same direction along R edge of 3<sup>rd</sup> field.
- Go through 3<sup>rd</sup> gate and across plank bridge then bear slightly right to skirt high ground of 4<sup>th</sup> field, beside stream lined with reed mace, and with large barn up to L.
- Go through 4<sup>th</sup> gate and cross plank bridge to continue in 5<sup>th</sup> field beside fence and stream.
- Go through 5<sup>th</sup> gate to cross fenced enclosure and through 6<sup>th</sup> gate on to Rd (*Chalvington Road*).

### 8.2 [TQ 536 113]

- TR along Rd **NP** past Bridlegate and in 75m at white fence TL down drive through gate of **Limekiln Farm**.
- When drive turns R, KA on grass to cross stile by gate. *Look back to see inscription on gable end of farmhouse.*
- KA through narrow meadow, which swings L.
- Cross stile by gate on to lane (**Sheepcote Lane**) by Marnhull Farm House.


### 8.3 [TQ 538 110]

- TR and follow gently rising lane **NP** for 1.4 km, passing rambling barns of **Mount Pleasant Farm**.
- Continue 300m to end of surfaced Rd by Selmeston Croft.

*The link with the Yew Tree pub at Chalvington starts here. Beware that, at the time of writing, the paths and stiles were in a very poor state.*

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

- Take Fp to R over stile by gate opposite Selmeston Croft.
- Cross 1<sup>st</sup> field half L (CB 260°) then cross stile and pass through trees.
- Go 45m along L side of 2<sup>nd</sup> field to cross with care a metal field gate on L.
- Cross 3<sup>rd</sup> field half R (CB 250°) towards line of trees.
- Cross stile and KA across playing field to Yew Tree Inn.

 Yew Tree Inn, Chalvington.

Continued on next page ►

## Vanguard Way Route Description: Section 8

### **Returning from Yew Tree Inn:**

To save having to return to the VGW at an acute angle, this link follows a different route from the outward one.

- a) Return across playing field to cross stile, where you divert from outward route.
- b) Bear slightly R across 1<sup>st</sup> field to fingerpost and go through gap.
- c) Bear slightly R across 2<sup>nd</sup> field to wide gap in hedge with another fingerpost (fallen and not very visible at time of writing).
- d) Go through gap into 3<sup>rd</sup> field and continue in same direction half R, aiming for far R corner.
- e) Bear L through hedgerow to cross stile.
- f) KA across 4<sup>th</sup> field to stile on to Tk (Sheepcote Lane) where TR to rejoin VGW at point 8.5.


### **8.4 [TQ 530 099]**

- a) KA along raised crushed stone Tk. It is a byway, open to pedestrians, cyclists, horses, motorbikes, sidecars and farm traffic, but other motorised vehicles are excluded from October to March.

### **8.5 [TQ 527 094]**

- a) In 500m the return route from the Yew Tree Inn comes in from the R.
- b) KA to eventually emerge at bend on Rd (*Poundfield Road*) near Chalvington. (TR for village centre - 500m.)

 *From Chalvington village centre the Cuckmere Community Bus serves: (Fridays) Berwick, Wilmington & Seaford; (Wednesdays & Fridays) Berwick, Hailsham; (Mondays) Berwick, Eastbourne; also Berwick Station, Alfriston, Firle & Brighton on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays each month.*

 *300m to R along Poundfield Road.*

### **8.6 [TQ 524 091]**

- a) KA on Rd **NP**, passing Blackberry Farm (formerly Bungalow Farm as shown on some maps) and Meadow Cottage.
- b) TR at Rd junction (*Langtye Lane*).
- c) Pass North Mays and Mays Corner then go through squeeze stile on L.

### **8.7 [TQ 519 085]**

- a) Follow L side of field to cross plank bridge and go through another squeeze stile in corner (behind electricity pole).
- b) Cross next field (bearing 160°), aiming for buildings to R on horizon and passing 20m L of L-hand telegraph pole.
- c) Cross plank bridge and ascend steps into next field, then continue in same direction (possibly through crop) up to fingerpost in front of left-hand barn.
- d) Follow Tk beside barn into yard of **Mays Farm**, then cross farm drive diagonally towards 'office' type building.
- e) Go through gate L of 'office'.

### **8.8 [TQ 521 079]**

- a) Follow Tk to R past pond then go through metal gate.
- b) At fingerpost TL through gate opposite Mays house, then half R through field (bearing 170°).
- c) Aim for large barn behind trees to locate stile and bridge in field boundary.
- d) Continue in same direction towards house (**Ludlay**) to L of barn (FP may now lead directly to barn).
- e) TR before stile and go round trees to stile near barn of Ludlay Farm.


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### 8.9 [TQ 522 073]

- a) Cross stile, KA along Tk and go through gate by entrance of Ludlay.
- b) Follow drive for 300m, crossing cattle-grid, then just past barn TR through KG into field.  
*Here the VGW joins a trail called **To Arlington with the Ramblers**.*
- c) Go half L, following strip of grass between field and scrub.
- d) Go through gate into wood then follow clear Fp through wood and behind garden fences.
- e) Cross squeeze stile at end of fences and TL beside station car park to Rd (*Coldharbour Road*) opposite the former Berwick Stores (now closed).
- f) TR to **Berwick Station**, where Section 8 ends at:

### 9.1 [TQ 526 067] Look out for the Vanguard Way ceremonial plaque attached to the ticket office wall.

 *There are no through trains to East Croydon and London, except for some early morning commuter services, so you normally change at Lewes, but it is sometimes quicker to change at Brighton. You can also travel back one stop eastwards to Polegate, which has frequent direct services to East Croydon and London, though this will incur a higher fare.*

*Trains to Polegate, Eastbourne and Hastings go from the Down platform (this side of the lines), where the ticket office and machine are also located. Trains from the Up platform (far side, take care when crossing the railway lines) go to Lewes and Brighton.*

 *On Mondays to Fridays the Cuckmere Community Bus only departs from Berwick Station on mornings, so is unlikely to be of use to VGW walkers arriving here at the end of their walk. On Saturdays and Sundays from March to October there is a regular circular service to Alfriston, Exceat and Seaford. There is also a regular service on Mondays to Fridays to Eastbourne, Polegate, Alfriston & Seaford.*

 **Berwick Inn.**

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### COMMENTARY

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

#### 8.2

**Limekiln Farm** includes a handsome, L-shaped brick farmhouse and a converted former oast house. There was a brickyard here in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, run by the Guy family of Chiddingly. Note the Latin 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’.

Just after Limekiln Farm, the VGW follows **Sheepcote Lane**, a straight road and track, 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 south-westwards 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 the estate 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.

#### 8.3

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. Note the unusual wind vane on a barn near the gate: it seems to consist of a red winged horse, which is being ridden by a cockerel.

#### 8.7

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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### 8.8

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.

#### 8.9

**To Arlington with the Ramblers** is an unsigned 12.3 km trail designed by Travel Log Lewes. It follows a circular route from Berwick Station, visiting Arlington Reservoir and village, Michelham Priory and Lower Dicker.

Although this small settlement has no official name on the map, we refer to it as **Berwick Station** to distinguish it from Berwick Village further south. The pronunciation is ‘Berrick’. The community developed around the railway station and includes the Berwick Inn, the proposed original final destination for the VGW (see *How it all began* on our website).

#### 9.1

The **Berwick Inn** was originally called the Fuller’s Arms, then became the Berwick Arms before reaching its current name. It holds fond memories for members of the Vanguard Rambling Club, as many of the ramblers’ excursions finished here. This was during the 1960s and 70s, when pubs didn’t open until 7 pm

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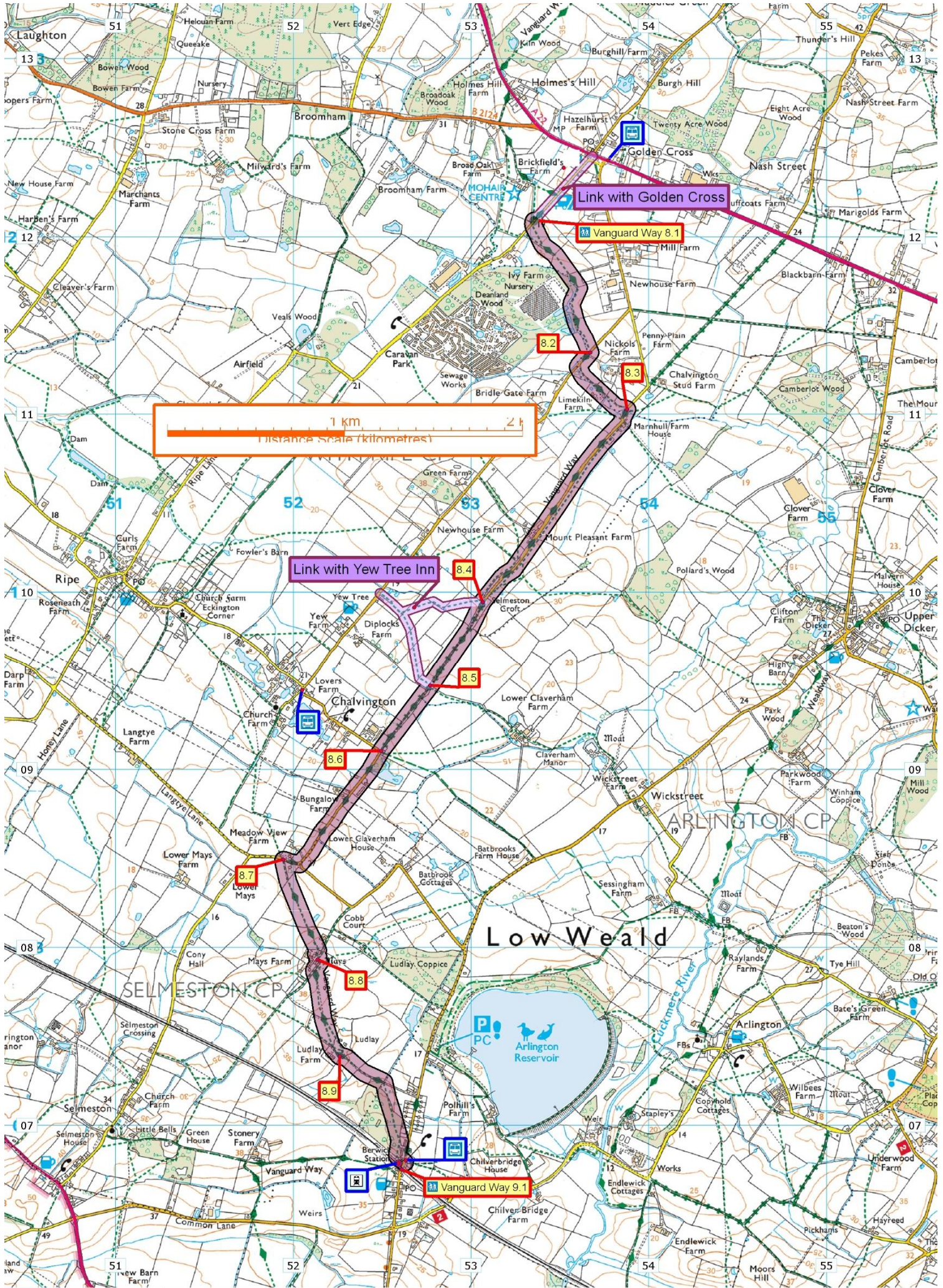
on Sundays, and the homeward train left at about the same time. So the landlord seized the opportunity for extra business and opened up early, with pints of beer and strong cider lined up on the bar ready for swift consumption, followed by noisy singing and dancing in muddy boots on the bare floorboards. The homeward journey was a merry affair!

*Text of brass plaque  
on outside wall of the  
ticket office at  
Berwick Station.*

**VANGUARD WAY  
LONG DISTANCE PATH  
FROM CROYDON TO NEWHAVEN  
RELAUNCHED BY  
KATE ASHBROOK  
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE  
RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION 1995-1998  
ON  
6 MAY 1998**



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1 km  
Distance Scale (kilometres)

Link with Yew Tree Inn

Link with Golden Cross

Vanguard Way 9.1

Vanguard Way 8.1

8.4

8.2

8.3

8.5

8.6

8.7

8.8

8.9