THE VANGUARD WAY

(SOUTH TO NORTH)

A different experience in the other direction!

SECTION D
Golden Cross to Blackboys

Third edition (2025)

VANGUARD WAY ROUTE GUIDE

SECTION D

Golden Cross to Blackboys

COLIN SAUNDERS

Third Edition (South-North) 2025
Version 3.0

This 3rd edition of the south-north route description was first published in 2025 and replaces the 1st edition published in 2011 and the 2nd edition published in 2017. It is only available as an online resource.

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To find out about any late changes to the route, please visit www.vanguardway.org.uk and click on the 'latest news' button. Or visit our Facebook page (Vanguard Way Association).

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: Chiddingly Church – cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Chris Thomas Atkin

SECTION D: GOLDEN CROSS TO BLACKBOYS
12.2km (7.6 miles)

Distances from Golden Cross (Deanland Road*) to:

Chiddingly	3.0km (1.9 miles)
>East Hoathly (bus)	7.9km (4.9 miles)
Blackboys	12.2km (7.6 miles)

*From Golden Cross bus stop add 0.5km (0.3 miles).

Distance from East Hoathly to:

Blackboys	7.2km (4.5 miles)

Public Transport

On route: Buses at Golden Cross, Chiddingly and Blackboys. Link with bus stops at East Hoathly. The Flexibus service operated by East Sussex County Council may be able to help in places that are poorly served by public transport: for details search 'East Sussex Flexibus' or phone 01273 078203 (Monday to Saturday 06:30 to 19:30).

Abbreviations and symbols

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		

= Bus = Cafés etc = Toilets

= Train = Pubs = Phone box

Ž = Taxi ã = Accommodation = Take extra care- see below

Route overview

This section passes through relatively low-lying but undulating and sparsely populated terrain, often following relatively quiet lanes with no pavement. The only settlements (apart from the occasional house or farm) are the tiny village of Chiddingly, with its interesting church and charismatic pub, and the hamlet of Stalkers Lane. Having started in the valleys of streams that feed the Cuckmere, you cross a watershed at Hawkhurst Common Wood to meet streams that feed the Uck.

Note especially:

(1) 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.

(2) There are some very muddy stretches in this section, with adjacent barbed wire fences. There is a danger of slipping and harming yourself or your clothing, so you may wish to carry a walking pole for greater stability.

Lowest point: Golden Cross (24m). Highest point: Hawkhurst Common Wood (93m).

How to use this guide

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

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reverse order, i.e. in this section from D(7.21) to D(7.1). (The individual route description paragraphs in this South-North section are preceded by the letter D 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 guide:

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 blue 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.

⊗ - Walking on roads and other hazards
When walking, one should of course take care in all sorts of potentially hazardous situations, but especially when crossing or walking along roads. **Please read the 'Safety' chapter in our Introduction to the Route, which can be downloaded from our website vanguardway.org.uk.** We use this symbol ⊗ to draw your attention to situations that may be especially hazardous – it means 'Take extra care here!'

'**NP**' in the route description indicates that the road has no pavement or other provision for pedestrians. 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 light, luminous or reflective on top.

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.

ALL INFORMATION SHOWN IS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT NOTICE

This third edition of the South-North version of the Route Description is based on a completely new survey undertaken by members of the Vanguard Way Association in 2023.

Inevitably changes to the route and facilities will occur, and we try to keep abreast of them. It is our

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intention to bring out an updated version of the Route Descriptions and Companion as necessary, **but please refer to the Latest News page on our website vanguardway.org.uk for any changes that may have taken place meanwhile. You might also like to join our Facebook page, where news of developments affecting the Vanguard Way will be posted – just search Vanguard Way Association. Another way would be to join the Association, as members are kept up to date through the bi-monthly VGW News – details on our website.**

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

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.

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 route@vanguardway.org.uk.

Section D of the VGW(South-North) starts on Deanland Road, 500m south of Golden Cross *[TQ 533 120]*

Link from Golden Cross bus stops *(500m).*
From the back of the former pub and car park KA (southwest, passing Golden Cross Park) along Deanland Road for 500m until you reach '40' speed limit signs and white railings, where TR along Fp to cross stile.

Buses (not Sundays) call at Golden Cross from Uckfield, East Hoathly, Lewes, Polegate, Eastbourne and Hailsham. 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 former Golden Cross car park.

Regency bus 28 goes to Golden Cross from Brighton and Lewes or Eastbourne, Polegate and Hailsham.

D(8.1) *[TQ 533 120]*

Some OS maps may show the VGW continuing along a footpath further north along the road, but it now follows the footpath almost opposite.

a) At the white railings, cross Rd *(Deanland Road)* and follow Fp to cross stile into field.
b) Follow L side of field past Brickfield Farm almost to its end then cross stile by gate on L.
c) Follow Tk past barn to ***Mohair Centre***.

D(7.21) *[TQ 532 123]*
a) TR on Tk past pen with Mohair goats towards gate, then bear L and R again, through car park and past junction for 250m to Rd *(B2124 Lewes Road)*.

D(7.20) *[TQ 531 126]*
a) ⊗ Cross busy Rd **with care** and stile opposite behind Mohair Centre sign then KA on Fp along L side of field to next Rd *(A22 London-Eastbourne Road)* beside Wattle Sussex Trugs (used to be Wattle Tearoom, sadly missed).

In the past, the far end of this path, about 100m along, has been obstructed by dense brambles and

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squelchy mud/water. It has improved in recent years, but if you cannot get through, return to B2124, TL (east) for 175m to the main A22 London-Eastbourne Road then TL along it for 200m to Wattle Sussex Trugs to rejoin the VGW route.

D(7.19) *[TQ 532 128]*

⊗ ***Do not cross here. This road is very busy and vehicles come round the bend very fast, so:***

a) TL along broad grass verge beside Rd.
b) In 100m, opposite Paragon House (just before entrance of Holmes Hill Estate), you should have better visibility of, and be more easily seen by, approaching traffic in both directions.

Happy Days Café in Holmes Hill Estate (café last building on right by lake).

c) ⊗ Cross Rd **with great care**.
d) Cross stile in gate, KA along L side of field and go through gate.
e) Continue on fenced Fp through Kiln Wood and go through second gate.
You now cross four fields, where the line of the VGW has been worn by years of footfall into faint Fps, however they may be obscured by crops.
f) In first field, cross quarter R under power line (CB 60°) and past gate in hedgerow, with spire of Chiddingly church peeping up ahead.
g) In second field, KA (CB 50°) to cross concrete footbridge then through hedge. *Away to your R lies the hamlet of Muddles Green - now the location of Chiddingly's village shop.*

D(7.18) *[TQ 536 134]*

a) In third field, go quarter L (CB 20°) to locate and cross another concrete footbridge and stile.
b) In fourth field, KA (CB 50°) over brow to reach corner of field in treeline by three-fingered post.
c) Turn sharp L to follow winding Fp through trees. *This stretch can be waterlogged after heavy rain.*
d) Cross concrete footbridge over stream and follow FP as it veers L around boggy area, then in 80m TR at fingerpost (which may be obscured by vegetation).

D(7.17) *[TQ 539 139]*

a) KA through trees and cross plank footbridge and stile into field.
b) Go half L across field a short distance and cross stile to R of gate.
c) Continue in same direction (CB 80°) on faint Fp aiming a little to R of spire of Chiddingly church and large house (Place Farm Cottage). ***Place Farm*** *itself is over to your L.*
d) Cross stile (with lifting bar), bridge and steps on to Rd *(The Street)*.

D(7.16) *[TQ 544 141]*

a) Cross Rd half L and pass gate.
b) Follow L side of cricket pitch past pavilion, heading for church.
c) Keep R of fence corner as you approach church, cross stile in front of it and follow Fp to L of ***Chiddingly Church***.
d) TL along Rd *(Church Lane, note green plaque on wall referring to Domesday Book)* to pass car park (with Millennium Garden, oak carvings and seats) to fingerpost opposite former village post office and shop *(now sadly closed but retaining its Grade II listed façade)*.

Here for the first time we encounter the ***Wealdway****, which comes in from the right, joins the VGW for just 50m then continues ahead past the pub. Note the shared fingerposts.*

Buses (limited service Mondays to Fridays only) to / from Lewes, Polegate, Hailsham and Golden Cross.

Six Bells at junction ahead.

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D(7.15) *[TQ 544 142]*

⊗ *Note that the next 500m across fields to Parsonage Lane is generally uneven and possibly muddy underfoot with barbed wire nearby.*

a) TR opposite former post office and follow Fp between hedges.
b) Follow R side of small field to cross stile into small plantation.

D(7.14) *[TQ 544 144]*

a) At another small field KA along R side to stile, cross into next field and KA to far corner - ignore small gate on L.
b) Go through another gate in corner and follow R side of next field between fences. This can get very muddy – beware barbed wire on both sides.
c) Go through second gate and follow L side of next field.
d) Keeping L, cross brief, sometimes boggy section with tussocky grass in small nature reserve and wetland *(managed under Countryside Stewardship Scheme; this area of disturbed ground is the site of an old brickfield in use until 1939).*
e) Go through ancient kissing gate on to Rd *(Parsonage Lane)*, then TR along Rd *(which now becomes Honeywick Lane)* for 40m.

D(7.13) *[TQ 546 147]*

a) At bend TL over stile and follow narrow fenced Fp past stables and along L side of four fields. This can get very muddy – beware barbed wire on both sides.
b) Pass pond and through gate, then up slope (ignore gate on L) and follow fenced Fp between fields and parallel with horse ride, with ***Hilders Court*** then Holden's Farm to your L.
c) At end go through hedges onto Rd *(Stalkers Lane)* – ⊗ taking care as you emerge onto Rd.

This is the easternmost point of the VGW.

D(7.12) *[TQ 549 155]*

a) TL through the hamlet of ***Stalkers Lane*** passing Holden's Oast and Chiswells Farm. *Although there's no pavement, the lane is normally fairly quiet, but* ⊗ ***take care****, especially at sharp R-hand bend, where keep left. See paragraph on Road Safety in 'An Introduction to the Route'.*
b) Follow Rd around R-hand bend (⊗ **take care**) past Fox Hunt Farm then in 40m TL into drive of Clarklye Barn and Blakes Farm.

D(7.11) *[TQ 548 156]*

a) Follow drive for 200m then TR over stile beside farm gate into field.
b) Follow faint Fp quarter R (CB 330°) across field then cross stile.
c) KA in same direction to hedge corner and continue along L side of field to cross stile in wire fence.
d) Cross another stile, ignore KG on R, then follow fenced Fp beside caravan park as far as KG.

D(7.10) *[TQ 541 161]*

a) Do not go through KG into caravan park. Instead bear L and cross stile.
b) TR along R side of field, with Broomfield Wood on your R and Park Wood Farm over to your L.
c) Cross stile and Tk then go through kissing gate into Gray Wood.
d) KA through wood following Fp between garden fences and under rose arbour.
e) Cross private drive by white house and KA between fences to reach triangular Rd junction by Graywood House *(Ailies Lane)*.
f) To continue along VGW TR along Graywood Lane.

This is the nearest point to ***East Hoathly****, which has a bus service (not Sundays), accommodation, a pub and a tea room. There is no convenient link on footpaths, so our link below follows lanes that are generally quiet, though as they mostly have no pavement you should still* ***take care*** ⊗*, especially in rush hour and on right-hand bends (see Road Safety in 'An Introduction to the Route').*

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Link with East Hoathly *[1.8km / 1.1 miles, TQ 521 161]*

a) TL along Graywood Road and follow Rds with care for 1.6km, bearing L at each of three junctions (Holdcroft Lane, Scallows Lane and Hollow Lane), and passing Belmont Farm and Business Centre.
b) At third junction join Waldron Rd and follow pavement along L side into East Hoathly High Street (note 'Dorothy's Seat' in a small arbour on your L).
c) Pass King's Head pub and Muffins Coffee Shop then KA at junction along High Street for 200m to bus stops (L side for Eastbourne, R side for Uckfield and East Grinstead).

To Polegate, Eastbourne and Uckfield (Mondays to Saturdays).
King's Head brew-pub, East Hoathly.
Muffins Coffee Shop, East Hoathly.
In East Hoathly – see VGW Companion.

If starting from East Hoathly:
a) From bus stops go northeast (past Lydfords Care Home) to village centre and KA at junction along High Street past King's Head pub, leading into Waldron Road and passing 'Dorothy's Seat'.
*b) At first junction bear R into Graywood Road then follow for 1km ⊗ **with care** (**NP**) past two more junctions (with Scallows Lane and Holdcroft Lane).*
c) At junction TL along Graywood Lane to rejoin VGW.

D(7.9) *[TQ 537 184]*
a) Go down this Rd **(NP)** for 1km, passing junction with *Stalkers Lane*, barns of Graywood Farm and under electricity wires *(where note picturesque Doctors Mead cottage on your R).*
b) TR at *Scallows Lane* to cross Scallow Bridge *(sic)*, over Scallow Stream which feeds the Cuckmere.

D(7.8) *[TQ 537 176]*
a) Immediately TL up *Moat Lane* and follow it for 1km.

D(7.7) *[TQ 537 184]*
a) At settlement of several houses, 80m after house on L called 'Covert' TL across stile in fixed gate.
b) Descend Tk(Fp) which twists through woodland to reach field gate.
c) Go through gap by gate and recross Scallows Stream. Fp continues ahead up first field (CB 255°), but you may find it more comfortable to follow the broad verge around the field edge to reach a gap in the hedge.
d) TL through gap and follow R side of second field for 100m then TR to go through another gap.
e) Again, follow R side of third field then KA along Tk(Fp) between trees to Rd *(Hawkhurst Lane).*

D(7.6) *[TQ 530 184]*
a) TL for 100m **(NP)** then TR on Fp through gap into field.
b) Follow R side of field beside Hawkhurst Common Wood and pass round end of fence.
c) Bear half L (CB 295°) across field, with large white house (Wood's End) to your R, to gate and Rd *(Hollow Lane).*
d) Ignore *Beechy Road** ahead and TR along *Hollow Lane* **(NP)** for 400m.
e) 100m after Wood's End on your R, by another part of Hawkhurst Common Wood, TL across stile.
*[*But note that 180m along Beechy Road is the **Three Acre Brewery**, which has a shop.]*

D(7.5) *[TQ 526 190]*
a) Follow L edge of field *(large house on L is Bushbury)* then KA on Fp between hedge and fence to Rd *(Bushbury Lane)* by Pear Tree Cottage.
b) KA on Rd **(NP)** for 150m, passing Toad Hall Cottage of 1892.

D(7.4) *[TQ 523 190]*
a) Opposite Little Barns TR through gate.
►►

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b) KA on grass Tk – a veritable (if muddy in places) green lane – for 650m, shortly passing through another gate.
c) At Rd *(Hollow Lane again)* TL and go downhill for 500m, passing Meadhurst Farm (converted stables) and Blackwell Farm to foot of hill.

D(7.3) *[TQ 523 200]*
a) When Rd bears L TR past gate into ***Kiln Wood***. *Paths may be muddy here.*
b) In 35m TL at fingerpost to cross footbridge over stream.
c) Climb steps and KA on broad Fp between trees and beside power lines *(passing memorial seat to Peter Jack Butler 1930-2005).*
d) Follow Fp round to L, crossing dip/stream.
e) Immediately TR (rejoining power lines) then fork L to ascend Fp inside edge of plantation to Rd *(B2192 Lewes Road).*

Blackboys Inn.

D(7.2) *[TQ 522 203]*
a) Cross Rd with care, TR past ***Blackboys Inn*** then immediately fork L past duck pond up *School Lane*.
b) In 300m reach junction with *B2102 Uckfield Road* where Section D of VGW(S-N) ends at:

D(7.1) *[TQ 523 208]* ***Blackboys*** Crossroads. *Note memorial seat to Canadian troops on L.*

Buses (not Sundays) to Uckfield, Haywards Heath and Heathfield. TL to bus stops: this side for Uckfield and Haywards Heath, far side for Heathfield.

There is bed and breakfast accommodation in Blackboys village – see VGW Companion. Sadly the Youth Hostel and its successor, The Glade, have closed.

300m to L along main Rd.

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

D(8.1)
The **Mohair Centre** was established in Brickfields Farm in 1988 by Jacky and Martin Webb. It is a small farm and craft centre specialising in raising angora goats, which produce the lustrous and smooth mohair wool. It provides opportunities for schoolchildren to get close to farm animals and learn about farming. Sadly, there are no longer any facilities for the general public and walkers.

D(7.17)
Previously called Chiddingly Place, **Place Farm** was the home of the Jefferay family (see below). Sir John Jefferay was its most famous squire, in the 16th century. He was a judge and member of parliament for Arundel, and rose to become Chief Baron of the Exchequer under Elizabeth I. It is said that his family was so proud, they had large cheeses placed on the ground to act as stepping-stones across the mud.

More recently, from 1934 to 1981 it was the home of the Earl and Countess of Limerick. Lady Limerick (née Angela Trotter, 1897-1981) was a leading figure in the British Red Cross, serving in both World Wars, and championed the family planning movement.

D(7.16)
Chiddingly Church, a Grade I listed building, dates from the 13th century and has a 15th century sandstone spire 40m (130 feet) high, one of few built of stone in Sussex. In 1897 the spire was damaged by lightning and is now held together by an iron strap around its base. Look for the 'Pelham buckles' carved on the west doorway, which you pass - they are associated with the Pelham family, who were local lords of the manor during the 15th century.

Inside is an ornate memorial to the Jefferay family: Sir John Jefferay (died 1573) is shown standing on a stone block shaped like a large cheese (see Place Farm). Some of the hands and fingers of the monument have been dismembered, reputedly by an infuriated mob of locals in the late 17th century who were under the mistaken impression that the late Sir John (himself a judge) was related to the notorious 'Hanging Judge', Baron George Jeffreys.

The compact village of **Chiddingly** (pronounced Chidding-lie) was first recorded in Saxon times as Cittingaleah, which means 'Citta's people's clearing'. Over the years it has been recorded variously as Cetelingei (Domesday Book, 1086), Chitingeleghe (1230), Chittinghlegh (1274) and Chudynglee (1348) - which just goes to show how liberal the spelling of English used to be! Most of the old houses in the village date from the mid-18th century. At the 2001 census the parish had a population of 864.

The Six Bells pub is over to your R, in The Street. A Grade II listed building, it is named after the number of bells in the church tower, it is a popular resort for friendly bikers, and jazz bands often play here. It was named 'Bargain Pub of the Year' in the 2009 edition of the Good Pub Guide. The Grade II listed cottage called Cordwainers (craftsmen who made goods of cordovan leather from Spain) in The Street (turn right for 50m at the Six Bells) was the home of the Russell family, who established the shoe firm Russell and Bromley in the late 19th century. The Old Bakery was the childhood home of the actor, writer and TV presenter, Julian Fellowes, who wrote *Downton Abbey* and won an Oscar in 2002 for Best Original Screenplay for *Gosford Park*.

There are six other Grade II listed buildings in the village: the Vicarage, Pilgrims, the old post office stores, Thorn House, Yew Tree Cottage and 1-2 Highlands Lane.

The Chiddingly Walk is a 3km circular walk in the area around the village. For details visit www.eastsussex.gov.uk and search for 'Chiddingly Walk'.

The **Wealdway** is a long-distance path, established like the VGW in 1981, and devised by the Kent and Sussex Areas of The Ramblers. It runs for 128km (79.5 miles) from Gravesend to Eastbourne and encounters the VGW in three places: here at Chiddingly, just after Blackboys, and in the Ashdown Forest.

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D(7.13)
Hilders Court was the home of the Agg family during the early 20th century, and the scene of many parties and fetes, which the family put on for the benefit of the people of Chiddingly.

D(7.12)
The comparatively large settlement along **Stalkers Lane**, part of Chiddingly parish, is surprisingly not given a name on OS maps. This may be because its residents cannot agree on what it should be called! In conversations with some of them, we have been told variously that it is Graywood, Stalkers Lane and part of Chiddingly. How about Little Chiddingly?

D(7.10)
East Hoathly (1.6km SW on link) is a pleasant village, made even more attractive by having been by-passed in 1992, until when the A22 passed through it. Its population at the 2001 census was 1,374. The name comes from the Saxon Hathleah, meaning heathery clearing, via the medieval Hodlegh. In the mid-17th century it was the home of Colonel Sir Thomas Lundsford, known as the Sussex Cannibal, who was said to eat children - this was probably a myth designed to scare people away, as the village was a haunt of smugglers at that time. The 15th century church was almost completely rebuilt in 1855 around the original tower, and contains an unusual Norman piscina (ceremonial washbasin). It is called East Hoathly only to distinguish it from West Hoathly, also in Sussex, which is actually 22km (14 miles) northwest, near East Grinstead.

The King's Head pub is well known to aficionados of real ale, as it brews its own (as the 1648 Brewing Company - www.1648brewing.co.uk) in the adjoining stables.

There are two Grade II* listed buildings in the village (the church and Belmont) as well as no fewer than 18 Grade II.

A plaque attached to a seat at the edge of the village on the VGW link bears this thoughtful reminder, attributed to Dorothy Frosdick:

If you should wonder why this wooden seat is placed where many cannot see the wider view,
Ponder awhile and then give thanks that you can walk this far as others long to do.

In later life she walked with a stick, which may account for the sentiment expressed here. The seat was donated by G.Grinling Esq. of Belmont in 1975.

D(7.6)
The **Three Acre Brewery** is located 200m along Beechy Road. Sadly, there is as yet no brewery tap but bottles and cartons of their beer range can be bought in the shop.

D(7.3)
Kiln Wood was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1979 and consists of 13.36 hectares of ancient woodland adjoined to two hectares of new native woodland. Its trees are mostly oak but there are also sycamore, ash, alder, Norway maple and other native broadleaves. The ground flora is generally quite sparse but you may see bluebells, lords-and-ladies, wood anemone and garlic mustard.

The **Woodland Trust** was established in 1972 and has made remarkable progress in the care and protection of woodland sites. They now own over 1,100 sites throughout Britain, many of them consisting of ancient woodland. Individuals can join the Woodland Trust and can sponsor a tree, to be planted in the woodland of your choice.

D(7.2)
The Grade II-listed **Blackboys Inn** was built in 1389 as a farmhouse and converted to an inn in the early 18th century. It was frequented by drivers taking charcoal from the nearby woods to Lewes, and is said to be haunted by the ghost of Anne Starr, who was the daughter of the licensee and died in childbirth in 1804, having been deserted by her lover.

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D(7.1)

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.

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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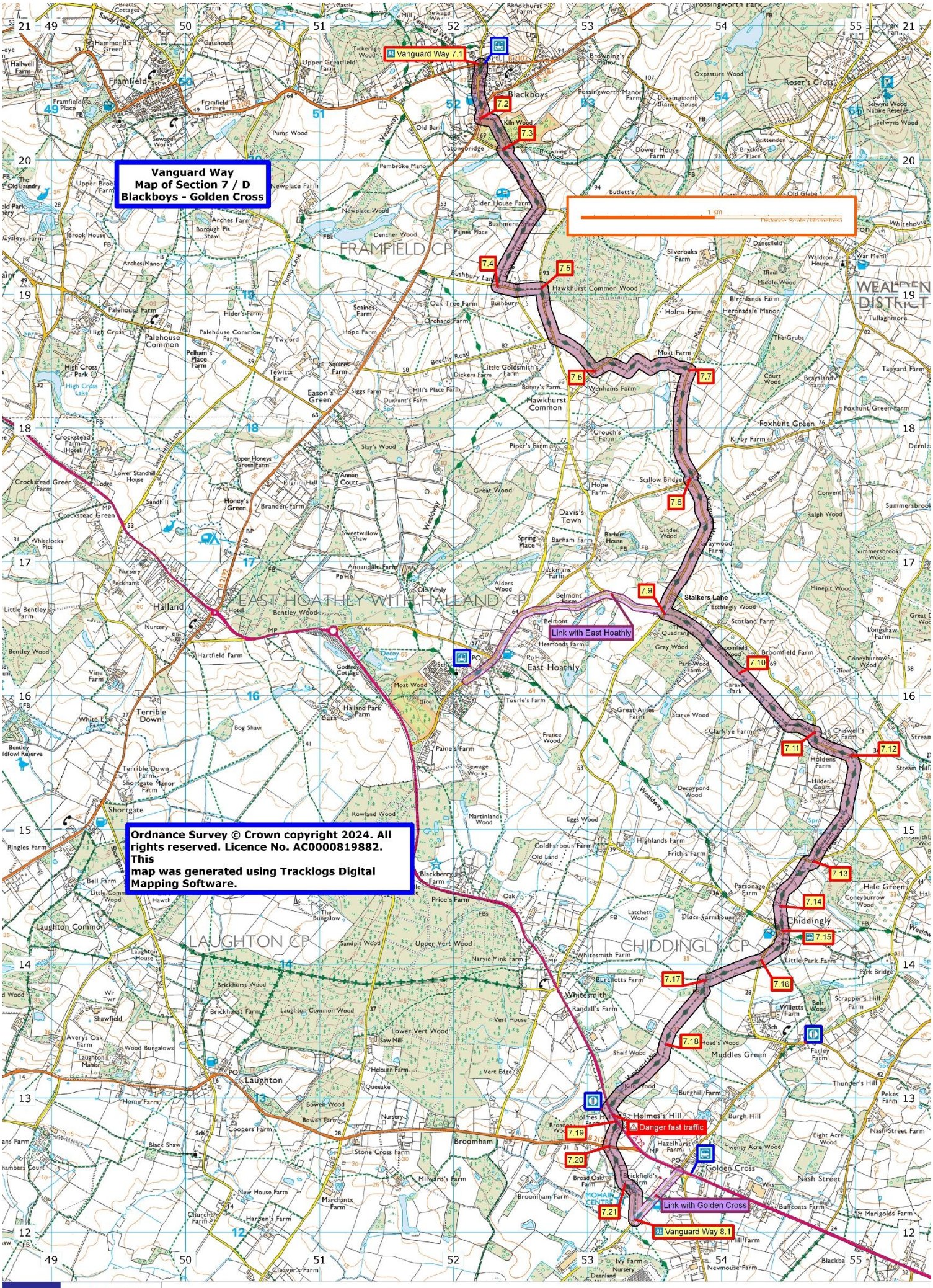

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