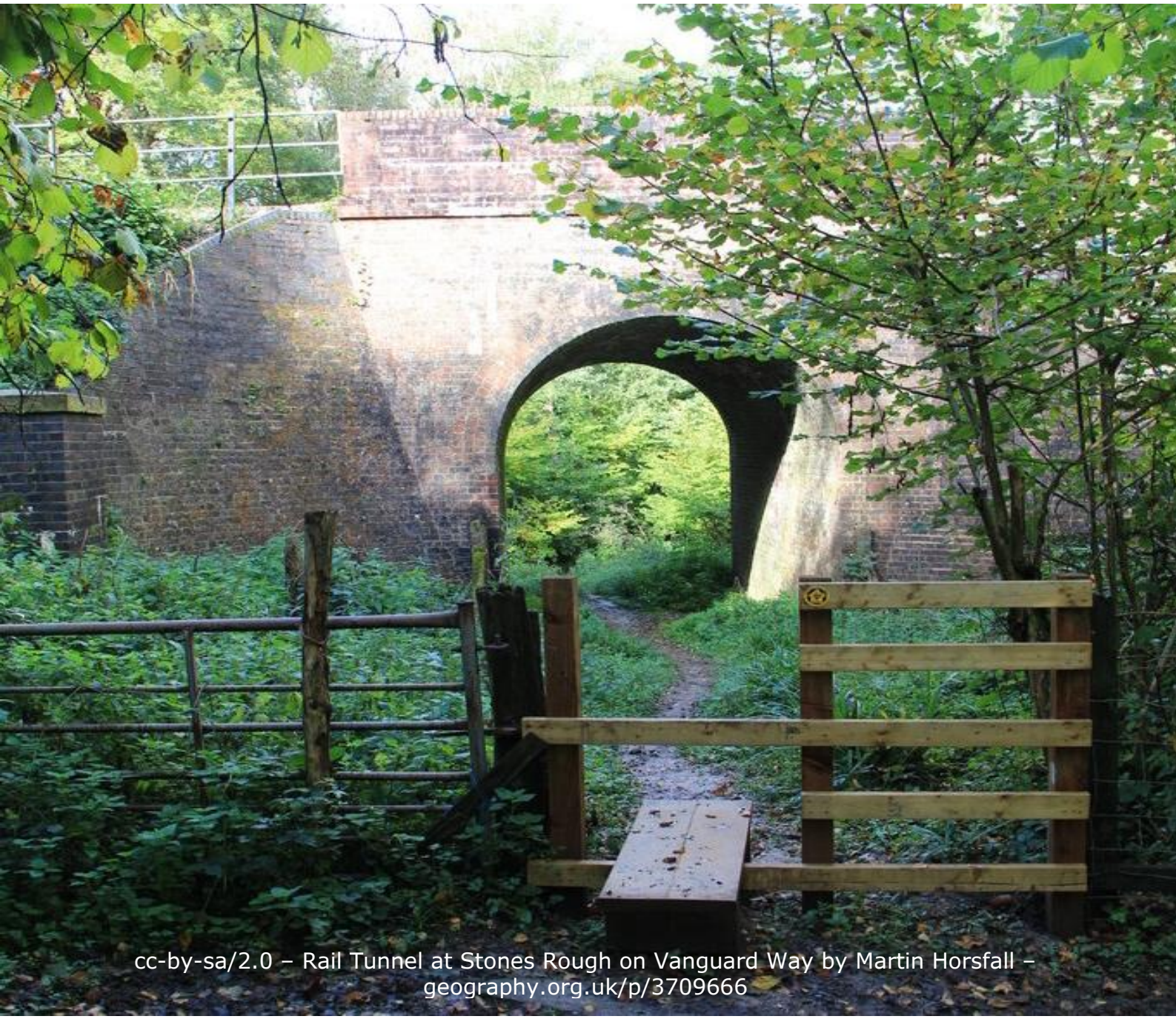
THE VANGUARD WAY

(SOUTH TO NORTH)

A different experience in the other direction!

SECTION E
Blackboys to Poundgate

Third edition (2025)



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VANGUARD WAY ROUTE GUIDE

SECTION E

Blackboys to Poundgate

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.

Designed by Brian Bellwood

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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: cc-by-sa/2.0 – Rail Tunnel at Stones Rough on the Vanguard Way
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SECTION E: BLACKBOYS TO POUNDGATE
11.1km (6.9 miles)

Distances from Blackboys Crossroads to:

Pound Green	4.5km	(2.8 miles)
>Buxted Station (via southern link)	5.8km	(3.6 miles)
>Buxted Station (via northern link)	6.8km	(4.2 miles)
>High Hurstwood (Maypole pub)	7.9km	(4.9 miles)
High Hurstwood (church)	8.0km	(5.0 miles)
Poundgate	11.1km	(6.9 miles)

Distances from Buxted Station (via northern link*) to:

>High Hurstwood (Maypole pub)	4.3km	(2.7 miles)
High Hurstwood (church)	4.4km	(2.8 miles)
Poundgate	7.5km	(4.7 miles)

*Via southern link: add 0.5 km (0.3 mile).

Public transport

On route: Buses at Blackboys, Pound Green, High Hurstwood and Poundgate. Link with Buxted station. 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

= Taxi = Accommodation = Cross or follow with care

Route overview

This is an idyllic area of rolling countryside and small farms, mostly in open countryside and pastures. The VGW passes through one of its most delightful stretches around Tickerage Mill, briefly joining the Wealdway, to reach Pound Green on the outskirts of Buxted. It then crosses the River Uck and climbs to High Hurstwood and Quarry Wood before descending gradually to Poundgate.

Note 1: After heavy rain the area around the River Uck at E(6.13) can get very wet and muddy, and even flooded.

Note 2: Due to a landslip, part of this section of the VGW north of High Hurstwood, from E(6.7) to E(6.5), now follows a different route from that shown on older maps, via Perryman's Lane and Quarry Wood.

Lowest point: River Uck (32m). Highest point: Poundgate (184m).

How to use this guide

Paragraphs are numbered for ease of reference. Please note that this South-North version uses the same

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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 E(6.22) to E(6.1). (The individual route description paragraphs in this South-North version are preceded by the letter E 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 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

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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 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 E of the Vanguard Way (South-North) starts at Blackboys Crossroads *[TQ 522 207]* on the B2012 Uckfield Road. This is in Wealden District in East Sussex.

- *From Uckfield, Heathfield and Haywards Heath (not Sundays).*
- *There is bed and breakfast accommodation in Blackboys village – see VGW Companion. Sadly the Youth Hostel and its successor, The Glade, have closed.*

Note that some old Ordnance Survey maps show the VGW route incorrectly here as going first a little to the Left (west) along the B2102 road then right (north) along Fp.

E(7.1) *[TQ 522 207]*
a) KA (N) along Gun Road for 100m to Village Hall. (From bus stops go towards the village centre and take first L.)

E(6.22) *[TQ 522 208]*
a) Bear L up drive behind hall (picnic tables on your L) then bear L past car parks.
b) Go through gate then KA between allotments to fingerpost at path junction.
c) TR to follow Fp to unmade lane *(Terminus Road).*

E(6.21) *[TQ 519 208]*
a) TL for 40m then TR beside Rangers Cottage on Fp between hedges.
b) Shortly bear L to follow fenced Fp between fields (beware barbed wire close to Fp).
c) Pass grand old pine trees then descend steep slope with steps (⊗ may be slippery – use handrail) to Tk(Bw).
d) Pass gate then TR down Tk for 200m, *passing dedicated fingerpost for the VGW and Wealdway, which joins from the left here for the second and longest encounter between the two routes.*
e) Pass ***Tickerage Mill*** *(sadly hidden from view by vegetation)* then cross weir and pass barn.

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E(6.20) *[TQ 515 211]*

a) KA through gate and ascend Tk between fences, *passing another dedicated fingerpost where Wealdway goes off to the left – you can follow it into Uckfield if you wish (5 km by this route).*
b) In 150m go through another gate and continue up Tk to Rd *(Pound Lane).*
c) TR along Rd (**NP**) for 150m then TL through gat*e (Scantlings Farm).*

E(6.19) *[TQ 512 215]*

a) Follow Tk, bearing L as it descends past fingerpost into junk-filled farmyard (***Scantlings Farm***).
b) TR at Tk junction in farmyard (kindly indicated for the VGW by the farm owners), past more junk and KA into pine copse.
c) Pass home of Buxted Shooting Club then KA along L side of field.
d) At end of field go L into woodland then immediately bear R beside stream to cross gated bridge.

E(6.18) *[TQ 511 219]*

There may be fallen trees on this section.

a) Ascend Fp either within gully (may be overgrown) or to L of it among trees and shrubbery between fields.
b) At top KA through squeeze stile.
c) Continue past farm buildings and cross stile. ⊗ *Beware exposed tree roots along here.*
d) At fingerpost KA *(Lower Lowlands Farm down to your R)* between embankments, with old earthworks on your R. *The house and garden looming up ahead is called Tuck's Corner.*
e) At top KA and cross stile (may be broken – take care) to Rd *(**Nan Tuck's Lane**).*

E(6.17) *[TQ 509 226]*

a) TL on Rd (**NP**) to crossroads *(also known as Tucks Corner – this is a part of Buxted called Etchingwood)* then TR *(Pound Green Lane).*
b) Follow this Rd (NP) for 500m, passing Popeswood Reservoir.
c) At Rd junction (Rosers Common) KA for another 200m to a corrugated iron garage.

E(6.16) *[TQ 511 236]*

Note: Some older Ordnance Survey maps incorrectly show the VGW continuing north along Pound Lane to the A272 and turning L there.

a) Opposite garage TL on narrow fenced Fp (⊗beware barbed wire and exposed roots, may be overgrown) and follow it past field then across grass to Tk at entrance to Pound Cottage.
b) KA on Tk to Rd *(Limes Lane).*
c) KA on Rd (NP) past fenced green triangle (The Pound) to main Rd *(A272 Buxted High Street)* at ***Pound Green***.

*If you need to divert to **Buxted** for the station, bus or pubs, the Southern Link along the main road is more direct but the Northern Link along footpaths and quiet lanes is more pleasant.*

*To continue on VGW ⊗ cross main Rd **with care**.*

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Southern Link to Buxted Station *[1.3km, 0.8 miles, TQ 497 233]*
a) TL along Buxted High Street for 1km, following L-hand pavement. You pass several Grade II listed buildings: Old Heatherwode, Cherry Tree Cottage, The Old Farmhouse, The Bells Cottage, Britt's, Horseshoes Farmhouse and The Olives.
b) In 1km, go over zebra crossing then TL past Buxted Inn, cross Queenstock Road by mini-roundabout then bear R to Buxted Station.

To Uckfield, Crowborough, Oxted, East Croydon and central London.

One a day (Monday-Friday only) to/from Uckfield and Hadlow Down (the bus stops are at the junction with Littlewood Lane, half way down this link).

Buxted Inn, next to station – open 7.30 am for breakfast. Food can be bought in Buxted Stores.

By Buxted Stores.

In Buxted – see VGW Companion.

If starting from Buxted Station:
a) TR through station forecourt to A272 Buxted High Street.
b) TL past mini-roundabout, Queenstock Road and Buxted Inn then at Church Road (just before Buxted Stores) go over zebra crossing and continue up on the right-hand side.
c) At Pound Green TL to re-cross main road ⊗ then KA along Redbrook Lane to rejoin the VGW.

E(6.15) *[TQ 508 236]*
a) KA along *Redbrook Lane* (private Rd, **NP**, beware humps and potholes). *Note fine view to your right across the Uck valley towards Crowborough.*
b) In 500m, at the last house (Bracken Cottage) KA down earth/mud Fp beside wood, descending to junction with fingerpost.
c) Cross stile and KA into field, taking care across sandy ditch.

The Northern Link to Buxted starts here –

Northern Link to Buxted Station *[1.5 km / 0.9 miles, TQ 497 233]*
a) After crossing stile, TL up Fp in trees.
b) At top go through small metal gate by large metal gate.
*c) Follow Tk ahead (fine view to R) past houses, leading on to tarmac Rd (Church Lane, **NP**).*
d) Follow lane for 1 km, later becoming Church Road, past Totease Farmhouse and St Mary the Virgin church (both Grade II listed), to A272 Buxted High Street (Buxted Stores to left here).
e) TR past Buxted Inn and Queenstock Lane then bear R to Buxted Station.

In Buxted – see Southern Link (above).

If starting from Buxted Station:
a) TR through forecourt to A272 Buxted High Street.
b) TL past Queenstock Lane and Buxted Inn then at Church Road (Buxted Stores on L ahead) TL, passing the church of St. Mary the Virgin.
c) In 400m ignore waymarked Tk to L and continue along Rd as it bears R past St. Mary's Garth.
d) In 600m KA to end of rough Tk. After 350m go through small metal gate by large metal gate.
e) TR down Fp on R side of field among trees to reach stile, <u>but do not cross it.</u>
f) TL in same field to rejoin VGW.

E(6.14) *[TQ 506 243]*
To continue along the VGW:
a) Follow right side of field beside trees, fence and pond.
b) KA on grass in open field into more trees. *Note that this is a generally used route; the correct line is slightly to the L. The next stretch can be very muddy.* ►►

c) Continue on Fp into trees and cross stile.
d) Go through arch under ***East Croydon to Uckfield railway line*** and bear slightly R on narrow and sometimes overgrown Fp through wood (Coe's Rough). Use parallel Fp to avoid worst of mud.

E(6.13) *[TQ 504 246]*
a) Cross wooden FB over ***River Uck*** into field. *The right of way turns R then L up the field edge but the worn Fp shows that most walkers cut the corner here!*
*Note **Greenhurst Viaduct** over to your right, though it may be obscured by foliage in summer. Also note brick pillbox under lone tree to your L (see Section A).*
c) At end of field KA through trees to pass stile into next field.
d) Follow faint Fp beside electrified fence up field (CB 5°) then cross stile on to Rd *(Fowly Lane)*.

E(6.12) *[TQ 504 252]*
a) TR for 100m, passing ponds and Greenhurst Farm, then immediately TL to cross stile L of gate – ⊗ beware rough wire ribbing at top.
b) Go half R (CB 340°, around vegetated mounds, then bear half R across field to bottom R corner. *Holders Farmhouse appears on the hillside ahead.*
c) Cross wooden FB with gate across ditch beside large oak tree.
d) Bear L (CB 0°/360°, due N) across corner of next field to dip among trees leading to gated FB over stream.

E(6.11) *[TQ 503 256]*
a) Climb Fp with fence, field and Holders Farmhouse on your L and concealed ditch on your R.
b) In 50m KA on Tk between hedges.
c) At junction (may be a rope across it) pass between Four Chimneys and Holders Farms then bear L on unmade lane *(Royal Oak Lane)* at second junction. *(**Sussex Diamond Way** joins VGW from R here.)*
d) Follow lane past houses for 700m to junction with Tk(Bw) just past Hurstwood Farm Equestrian Centre and Holiday Cottages. *The house on your L used to be the Royal Oak beerhouse, but is now a private home.*

*For the Hurstwood (formerly Maypole) pub KA along Royal Oak Lane (**NP**) as it winds L then R for 650m down to Chillies Lane in High Hurstwood, where you will find the pub on your left. Old Maypole Farmhouse is a Grade II* listed building.*

Mondays to Fridays only to/from Uckfield, Buxted, Poundgate and Crowborough.

E(6.10) *[TQ 499 260]*
a) Opposite postbox, TR (signed Royal Oak and Mount Pleasant Farms) on Tk (concrete as far as farms) and follow this for 350m to Rd *(Burnt Oak Road)*.
b) TL along Rd for 75m then TR through KG beside electricity pole. *(The route has been briefly diverted here: it used to go through the garden beside the road.)*

E(6.9) *[TQ 496 262]*
a) KA down field on Fp through bracken and brambles.
b) Go through broken KG to follow Fp in trees beside garden and house, passing a dip that may be boggy. *Beware low overhead branches, and towards the end note possible air raid shelter on your R and ornamental pond down to your L through young plantation.*
c) Go through another KG beside brick shed.
d) Descend field half L past tennis court towards church and go through third KG to Rd *(Church Lane)*.

E(6.8) *[TQ 494 264]*

a) With Holy Trinity Church at ***High Hurstwood*** to your R, TL down lane (**NP**) to junction with *Chillies Lane* (private car park on your L).

To/from Buxted, Poundgate and Uckfield (Monday to Friday only).

Note: The original VGW route turned right here, up the lane, to join footpath Buxted 24, which has

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been closed since 2012 due to a landslip. As there has since been no sign of it reopening, we decided to permanently divert the route as shown below in paragraphs E(6.7) and E(6.6), which is slightly longer but equally pleasant. If Buxted 24 eventually reopens, we will offer it as an alternative route.

E(6.7) *[TQ 493 264]*

a) TR on lane (**NP**) for 10m then TL through gate/gap to descend Fp into woodland, bearing R and L then across wooden FB over branch of the ***River Uck***.
b) Go through KG then climb faint Fp up grassy slope (CB 270°) and beside line of trees, with woodland over to R, later bearing slightly R to another KG.
c) Continue in same direction up faint Fp in next field, veering slightly away from its R side, to go through KG onto lane *(Perrymans Lane)*.

E(6.6) *[TQ 487 264]*

a) TR along lane (NP) for 150m (ignoring first field gate) then at bend KA to leave lane past another field gate at entrance to Oaks Farm into ***Quarry Wood***. *(Sussex Diamond Way continues ahead here. Note signs: "Woodlands managed for forestry nature shooting: keep to footpaths".)*
b) Follow Tk (Fp, may be very muddy in places) around RH bend for 600m to reach and cross stile beside former quarry.
c) KA up broad, enclosed tree-lined Fp for 340m to reach fingerpost and flight of steps on R, where the original route joins the diversion.
d) KA along enclosed Fp for another 200m, passing Stroods house on your R. *Note: some older maps may show a slightly different route at Stroods.*
e) Go through gate and KA across grass to fingerpost beside gate and cattle grid, with lake down to your L.

Point E(6.5) has been deleted on this diverted route.

E(6.4) *[TQ 487 277]*

a) Cross concrete Tk and climb steps, then bear L through trees up to next fingerpost.

E(6.3) *[TQ 487 277]*

a) TL on fenced Tk(Fp) for 75m and enter wood, with cottage on your L.
b) KA for 230m.
c) Cross stile and follow R side of field to first corner.
d) Cross another stile then KA along side of wood.
e) In 270m at path junction TL to pass old stile.

E(6.2) *[TQ 490 285]*

a) KA on fenced Fp between fields to gate on L at end.
b) TR to follow L side of field.
c) With partly concealed pill box on your L, cross stile into muddy paddock.
d) TR to follow fence bending L.
e) Go through metal gate, then KA through yard between farm buildings on concrete Tk.
f) As Tk bears L, KA to cross stile, then follow fenced Fp across field.
g) Cross stile to Rd *(A26 Uckfield Road)* where Section E of the VGW (South-North) ends at:

E(6.1) *[TQ 492 289]* ***Poundgate***.

Buses to Uckfield, Lewes and Brighton serve the stop on this side of the road. Buses to Crowborough, Eridge Station and Tunbridge Wells serve the stop opposite.

The Crow & Gate pub.

In Crowborough – see VGW Companion.

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

E(6.21)
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.

E(6.19)
Scantlings Farm is the home of Best Ironwork Ltd., which specialises in bespoke metalwork – hence all the metal junk! To quote their website: "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." They have very kindly provided wooden Vanguard Way signs here.

E(6.18)
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 that bears her name.

E(6.16)
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. They were replaced centuries ago by a majestic, straggling, pollarded horse chestnut tree, which in 2011 collapsed and was replaced by an Indian horse chestnut.

The straggling village of **Buxted** (1.5km 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 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.

E(6.14)
The **East Croydon to Uckfield railway line** (also known as the Wealden Line) was opened in 1858 for the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. It originally ran on to Lewes but that section was closed in 1968 - there is a campaign to restore it.

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E(6.13)
The **River Uck** rises from several springs in the low hills south of Crowborough, a few kilometres to the northeast. It 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. You will cross it again further along at location E(6.6).

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.

E(6.11)
The **Sussex Diamond Way** shares its route with the VGW for the next 1.5 km, and you will see its waymarks. It runs for 97 km (60 miles) between Midhurst and Heathfield, and was named to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Ramblers' Association.

E (6.8)
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 village is home to the Engineer Brewery (which describes itself as a 'nano' brewery), whose beers are on tap at the Hurstwood pub.

The charming little Grade II listed church, Holy Trinity, is of an unusual design by the noted Victorian architect Ewan Christian, with its partly half-timbered porch tower and flat bellcote. It was built in 1871 with later additions including the tower and elaborate chancel ceiling. It was described by Pevsner as 'Arcadia indeed' (because of its location next to the rhododendrons of the parsonage garden),and 'perfectly formed, with a fairy-tale air'.

E(6.6)
Quarry Wood. The following was taken from a sign that used to stand by the old quarry, but has now collapsed into the undergrowth: "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.

E(6.1)
At **Poundgate** was located another of the gates into the fenced Ashdown Forest, which was beside a pound (enclosure) for livestock. But the name of the pub, Crow and Gate, is thought by some to be a corruption of Crowborough Gate, so this may have been an alternative name for the same gate. Nearby is Crowborough Warren, an army training camp. During World War 2, the 23rd Army Brigade was stationed there before going to North Africa with General Montgomery in 1942. The pub sign was 'borrowed' by the 40th Tank Regiment, with the intention of carrying it into battle, but the irate landlord retrieved it before this could happen. However, in 1986 that original sign was presented to the regiment and is displayed at their annual reunions.

The nearby woodlands were used to conceal contraband during the heyday of smuggling in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. They were also notorious for illicit stills, producing 'moonshine' spirit.

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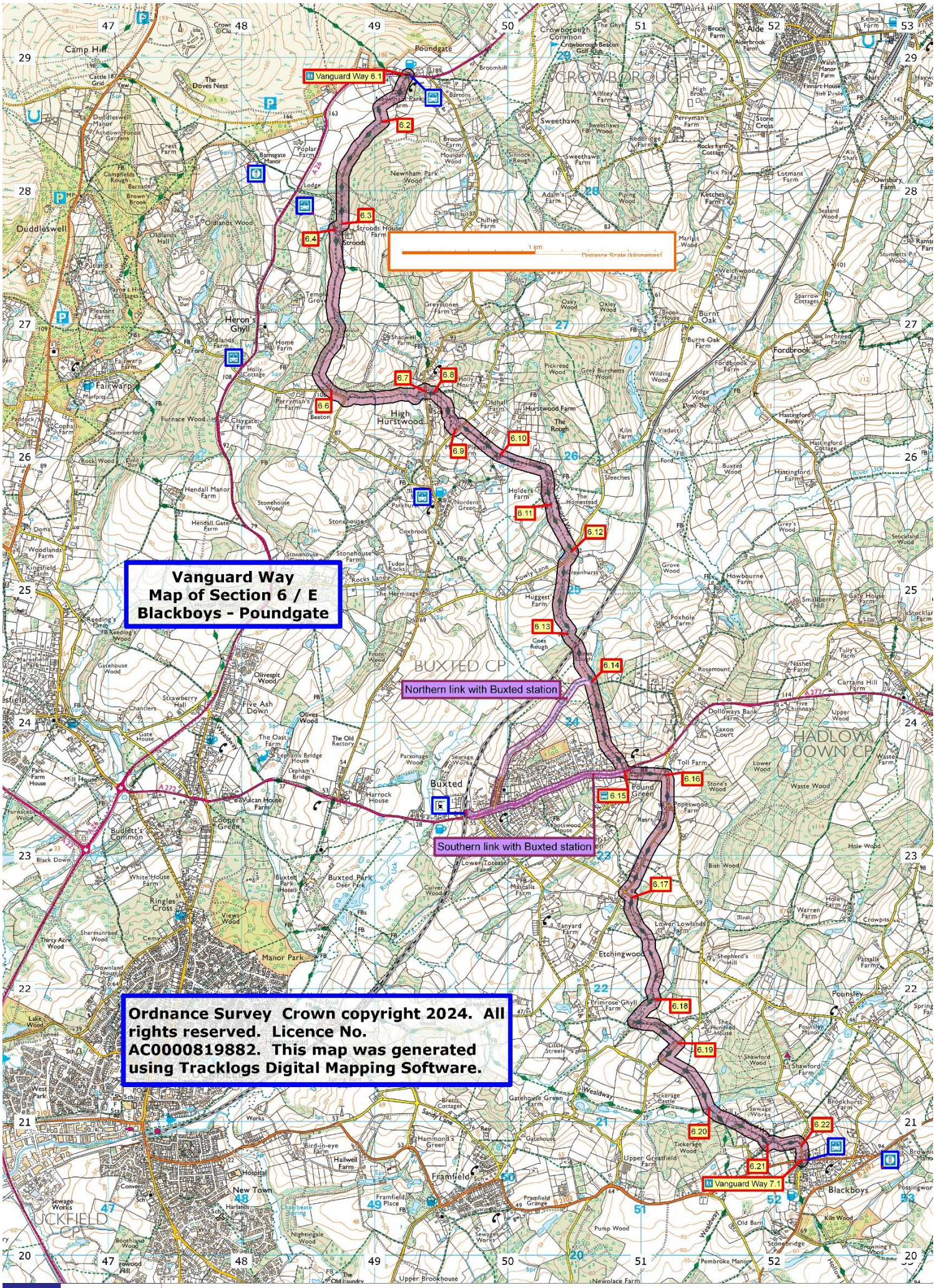

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