



Wallingford to Pangbourne River Thames Easy Trail

Route Summary

This trail takes you through a very rural part of the Thames so enjoy the surrounding rolling hills as you travel along. Don't forget to take time out to visit the historic town of Wallingford before you start.

Waterways Travelled - River Thames

Type Of Water - Flat Rural river. This is a one way route and requires a car shuffle.

OS Map - 170 Abingdon, Wantage & Vale of White Horse or 175 Reading and Windsor

Distance - 10 miles

Estimated Duration - 3 to 4 hours

Portages - 3 - For those with limited mobility, locks can be used, as an alternative to portage

Start

The start is from the [car park](#) to the north of Wallingford Bridge
The Street
Crowmarsh Gifford
Wallingford
Oxfordshire
OX10 8EB

Wallingford can be reached from A4130 or A4074. If coming from A4074 from Crowmarsh Gifford as you travel along the road leading to the bridge, known as The Street turn, right before the bridge crosses the river and there you will be able to park and launch your canoes from the park.

Finish

The [car park](#) next to the [Adventure Dolphin Canoe Club](#), Pangbourne is your finish point. This is a Pay and Display car park.

Whitchurch Road
Pangbourne
Reading
Berkshire
RG8 7DA

We have taken great care to ensure the currency, accuracy and reliability of this information. We cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions but where such are brought to our attention, the information will be amended accordingly. Users should be aware that environmental conditions outside of our control can change the nature of the Trail within a short space of time. It is recommended that weather and water conditions are checked beforehand, and tide timetables where applicable.

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Licence Information

A licence to paddle the river is included in the [Canoe England membership](#) fee. Otherwise a [Thames Licence](#) is required. (Take your Canoe England membership card with you as it is your licence as well)

Trail Description

Launch north of Wallingford Bridge from the park and paddle down under the bridge. You are going with the flow on this trail. It is a relatively easy entry point. There are public toilets here too. Don't forget to check to see if you are required to Pay and Display. (There is a basic campsite here so you could make it an overnight stop on a longer journey. The campsite is basic but you can explore nearby [Wallingford](#) with its restaurants, shops and historic sites at the same time!)

After going under Wallingford Bridge you pass the outskirts of Wallingford. As you canoe along with the flow of the river you pass by Wallingford Rowing Club (one of several on this stretch) and then head out in to countryside. There is a lot of rolling countryside here but there are plenty of places to stop and even a hostelry or two. The Beetle & Wedge Hotel is the river front. This is the where there was a ferry between Moulsoford and South Stoke. Further downstream is Cleve Lock which is followed half a mile later by [Goring Lock](#). This is the shortest distance between two locks on the River Thames.

To portage here you need to go left of the lock island and get out on the grass. The portage is on to the grass. There was a wooden landing stage but it has been washed away. (November 2012) It is possible to portage on the lock side but this can be quite high when the river conditions are low,

Goring is a lovely waterside village with many interesting building along the river banks. There are plenty of places to stop here and places to buy food in the village. From Goring into Pangbourne the river once again passes through open countryside and past [Beale Park](#) on the right bank.

As you come in to Pangbourne you pass Pangbourne School Boathouse and then The Swan public house on the right. Travel past The Swan and portage Whitchurch Lock on the left hand side where there is a special canoe portage. After putting back in travel downstream for a 100 metres and under Whitchurch bridge (this is an old fashioned Toll Bridge) finish your journey on the right hand side in

the big field (ideal for picnics) just below [Adventure Dolphin Canoe Club](#), Pangbourne. There is a Pay and Display car park where you can leave your car.

Additional Information

There is an [Environment Agency](#) website where information concerning river levels can be obtained for the River Thames. It is important to check this as the River rises and falls quite quickly in wet or dry conditions.

[Wallingford](#) is a small old town steeped in history on the banks of the River Thames. From the medieval bridge over the Thames to the grassy banks of its ancient fortifications, it proclaims a colourful past. It's a lovely place to explore.

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Safety Information

Spending an afternoon canoeing can be a fun way to experience nature, get a great workout and spend time with family and friends. However, it can also be a dangerous journey, if safety guidelines are overlooked. Always follow these basic rules and comply with navigation rules – keep to the right of on-coming boats. Please be careful at points along the trail where there are sharp bends on the waterway and keep a look out at these points for oncoming traffic.

Wear appropriate clothing

Always wear shoes. Rocks, rough terrain and river beds present serious hazards to boaters without the proper attire. Nearly 90per cent of all boating injuries are attributed to lack of proper footwear. Other canoe safe clothing includes hats, additional dry clothing towels, and layered items which can easily be removed.

Be sure to

- Know the weather forecast before you set out canoeing.
- Check your equipment.
- Observe the navigation rules for this waterway.
- Check to see if there are any events on the waterways when you wish to travel.

Use the checklist below to make sure you have everything you need.

Checklist:

1. Boat
2. Paddle
3. Buoyancy Aid
4. Bailer/sponge
5. Small First Aid Kit
6. Penknife
7. Mobile telephone (in a waterproof bag....Please note that in some areas due to the location mobile telephone reception might be nonexistent)
8. Fresh drinking water
9. Sun cream, hat and sunglasses
10. Light waterproof jacket
11. Footwear
12. Licence

ALWAYS be certain to let others know where you're going and when you're expected to return.

Specific Environmental Information

Please ensure you don't remove or damage any plants or animals from the waterway as they may be protected or harmful if transferred to other catchments.

Canoeists and kayakers take very seriously environmental concerns and already follow existing voluntary environmental codes of conduct, including Canoe England's own guidance notes outlined in the "You your canoe and the environment" publication.

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By following the simple steps below you can ensure your presence is not detrimental to the freshwater environment, minimize and avoid accidentally disturbing wildlife and their habitats.

- Find out about the area before you go, noting its sensitive places, species and breeding seasons.
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home with you.
- When clearing litter left by others, handle it with care.
- Leave the environment as you find it
- Keep noise to a minimum.
- Do not “seal” launch or drag boats to avoid wearing away natural banks. Float your canoe for launching, lift out when landing and carry it to and from the water.
- Do not damage bank side vegetation when launching or landing.
- Where possible keep to any designated paths or launching points.
- On rivers, avoid paddling over gravel banks in low water conditions – they may contain fish spawn.
- Constantly assess wildlife. If you see signs of disturbance move away quietly.

Be the eyes and ears on the water. Report pollution, wildlife problems, damage, incidents etc to the relevant authorities.

Canal & River Trust - Emergencies- Telephone 0800 47 999 47

RSPCA for wildlife and animals in distress – Telephone 0990 55 59 99 (24 hours)

Environment Agency - Telephone 0800 80 70 60 (24 hours)

(May 2013)

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