



Sponsored Walk Along the Thames Path, Pangbourne Meadows to Purley on Thames and back.

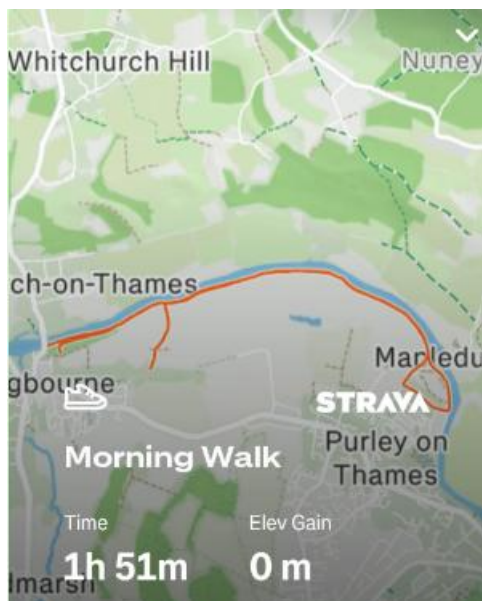
Essential Information for Participants

Thank you for being willing to take part in our 10 for Torch fund raising week. Here are some instructions to help you plan for the day and ensure you stay safe. We hope you enjoy the walk.

The walks are on Friday 11th September at 2pm and Saturday 12th September at 10am.

Please aim to be in the meadow 15 mins before the start so we can sign everyone in.

We anticipate it should take around 3 hours in total, 2 – 2.5hr to do the complete walk plus additional time for a break when we get to Purley. It's a lovely riverside walk with views of the river, boats, and Mapledurham Estate along the way and its worth keeping your eyes open for a kingfisher.



To make the route 10km, shortly after leaving Pangbourne Meadow we will be taking a short detour off the main Thames Path, to do a loop along a single track, plus we will walk to the Mad Duck café and do a short section on one of the paths of Purley just to add on some additional distance.

The Thames Path is very rutted in places due to the hot weather, but recent rain has also made it muddy in parts so we would ask people to be careful and watch your footing and to wear suitable shoes.

Please remember to bring water and dress for the weather. If it is hot, bring sunscreen and consider wearing a hat. Take care on uneven ground and narrow

sections of the path, keep away from the river edge and always follow organiser instructions.

If you would like to do the walk but 10km is too far for you, why not just do half the route and finish in Purley. You could leave a car in Purley, and we can make arrangements for you to have a lift down to Pangbourne Meadows.

Car Parking – There are several places to park

- i) Some spaces in car park at Pangbourne Meadows - Thames Avenue, Pangbourne, RG8 7BY, these are free but the car park is also used for the play park so can be busy. When you drive down Thames Avenue, turn left at the bottom and the right down a narrow entrance way to get to the car park.
- ii) Adventure Dolphin Centre on Whitchurch Road (RG8 7DA), there is a small Dolphin Centre car park, but it is primarily for centre users and can fill up quickly.



- iii) Station Road Car Park, Station Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7AN is 2 to 3 minute walk from Pangbourne Meadow - £2.70 for up to 4 hours, you can by cash, card or pay by phone using the [Pay-by-Phone](#) parking app, location code **7181**. This is the main car park next to The Elephant Hotel and has the Pangbourne Community Centre in it.

Toilets – There are public toilets near the play park in Pangbourne Meadows, however the ladies and disabled loos are currently out of action. Ladies may have to use the public toilets in the Station Road car park next to Pangbourne Village Hall.

The public toilet at Mapledurham lock is also currently closed, however at Purley, there is a café The Mad Duck a few minutes' walk off the Thames Path. Please buy a drink to take away to show support. Café closes at 4pm.

First Aid – There will no trained first aider on the walk, but Sharon George (07870 641817) will carry a basic first aid kit. If anyone needs emergency assistance call 999.

Refreshments – Please bring with you any drinks and snacks you might need. Pangbourne has a Co-op supermarket and a Costa coffee shop.

Route - Meet in Pangbourne Meadows close to Whitchurch bridge at the Torch flag.

We will set off from here walking across the meadow towards Purley. At end of meadow follow track over wooden bridge into the next meadow. At end of meadow cross the wooden walkway and go through gate.

Now for the short detour to make up the distance - turn right away from river and follow track alongside the fields (often has horses in it as the land belongs to stables), this track is narrow in places so probably need to walk in single file. Be aware of low hanging branches in places.

If we are a big group we will wait at end of this track to regroup at gate, once everyone has arrived, we will turn back and walk back down the same track and rejoin the main Thames Path.

When we get back to main path, turn right and just stay on this track all the way to Mapledurham Lock, stay on the path all the way, once the track ends you will go through a kissing gate into a large field, there could be cows in this field. Cross this field, and go through another gate, you will then walk over the fish pass and keep going to the lock.

Walk through lock and out through gate, keep left and keep walking with river on your left. After two fields you will come to some houses, go through gate onto a gravel path, and after a short distance turn right along Winteringham Way to the Mad Duck cafe at back of Purley Social club.

On leaving the café we are going to keep walking along Winteringham Way to end, walk through gap and turn right onto path, in a short distance the track will bring you back into field with the lock. We will head back through the lock and walk along the same route as the outward route straight into Pangbourne Meadow without taking the detour along the side track.