

THAMES PATH STAGES 5 AND 6

STAGE 5

Stage 5 of the Thames Path was walked on the weekend of Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th August 2013. This stage of the walk started at Wallingford. The walk had to leave the River Thames in Wallingford to divert through some streets, then it returned to the river. From this boathouse, Wallingford bridge is visible in the distance.



In this stretch of the river, more boats are seen.



We passed a boat house.



We stopped for lunch at a riverside pub.



There were several boats to be seen here.



We passed a modern style house, with palm trees in the garden.

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After a long stretch with no locks, we reached the first lock of the day, Cleeve Lock, showing typical Thames Conservancy architecture.



There were many boats, including what looked like an Oxford college barge, to be seen upstream from Goring lock.



There were boats in Goring Lock at the time.



Not long after, we approached Goring lock.



After we passed Goring, we approached the Goring Gap, where the Thames cuts through the hills of the Berkshire Downs

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and the Chilterns. At this point, the hillside neared the river.



Soon after here, the path left the riverbank and went quite steeply through the hills beside the river.

This day's walk ended at Whitechurch, across the river from Pangbourne.



Pangbourne lock was the final lock of the day.



The walk continued on Sunday 4th August from Pangbourne to Reading.

Walking away from Pangbourne, the hills were now on the other side of the river as we had now passed through the Goring Gap.



The next lock was Mapledurham.

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The Thames Path now deviates away from the river. Unfortunately a path back to the river was closed, so we had quite a long walk through the outskirts of Reading before we could return to the river.



After a stop for a picnic lunch, we continued into Reading, passing under Caversham Bridge.



We now walked to Reading Bridge, where the walk ended.



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STAGE 6.

Stage 6 of the Thames Path was walked over the weekend of Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th October 2013. This stage of the walk started at Reading Bridge.



The River Kennet joins the Thames downstream of Reading in an industrial area, with the Kennet flowing under a railway bridge by a gas holder.

The next lock was Caversham lock.



The river was now getting wider and more pleasure boats were seen.

The next lock is Sonning lock.



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Sonning Bridge has an imitation post box stuck on it.



church and bridge.



The boat, the New Orleans, was moored here.

The next lock is Shiplake lock.



The next lock was Marsh Lock.



We approached Henley, with views of the

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Saturday's walk ended at Hambleden lock.



with its famous mill in the background.



On the Sunday, the walk restarted at Hambleden lock.

Just past the lock was the weir.



Further along, we saw a typical view of the Thames, with boats moored at the riverbank.



The next lock was Hurley, where we stopped for lunch.

The next lock was Temple lock where a board gave the distances to Oxford and London.

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After this, the heavens opened and a heavy thunderstorm deluged the walking party.

Marlow, with its impressive bridge, was approached in the rain.



The Thames Path diverts away from the river in Marlow, so the lock was by-passed.

This stage of the walk ended at Cookham.