



**Description:** A lovely walk to search out the source of the river Thames. We will set off from Kemble Station car park and meander through pleasant meadows until we reach the marker stone for the source of the great River Thames. This is a flat walk, but mostly on grassy or uneven paths.

On our return we will pass the Lyd Well spring, where the first visible waters of the Thames often appear after rainfall.

There may not be much water in this stretch of the Thames - it is often dry in the upper stretches, with the young river flowing underground, but the walk is still picturesque and highly enjoyable.

**Distance:** 3 miles.    **Duration:** Around to an hour.    **Difficulty:** Easy.

**Refreshments / toilets:** Approximately halfway along this route there is the option of an 8min detour to a pub for a toilet stop if required. Unfortunately, the toilets at the station are currently closed.

**Start point:** Kemble Station Car Park (parking charges apply, so make sure you have a ticket).

The car park address is Station Car Park, Windmill Road, Kemble, GL7 6AN.

The what3words address for the station car park entrance is [///protester.spare.cult](https://www.what3words.com/#!/en/protester.spare.cult)



*Marker post at the Source*



*Bridge at the Lyd Well Spring*

### Directions from Kemble Station:

From the trains: Alight the train at Kemble Station and take the exit from Platform 1 signed 'Thames Walk', then follow lane through the car park to Windmill Road.

From the Windmill Road Car Park: Follow the lane through the car park until you come to a T Junction with Windmill Road.

Turn left and walk along Windmill Road for approx. 80 metres. Shortly after you pass the painted 30mph markings in the road you will see on your right a Thames Path Footpath sign. Behind this is a metal farm gate and stile. Cross this and you will see a track to follow in front of you.

Follow this footpath across fields for approximately 300m until you see a gate with a stile on the right-hand side. Once across the stile there are two visible paths in the grass. Take the path to the left).

Follow this track along the side of the field until you come to a gate. The gate opens onto a farm track – check both ways for farm traffic before crossing. There is a gate opposite – cross over and go through the gate. Follow this path along the edge of the field until you see a Thames Path post in the hedgerow to the left. You will need to look carefully, as this can become overgrown at certain times of the year when it is between maintenance visits.

At this point you have a choice of continuing along the edge of the field or taking a slightly more direct route across the centre of the field. Both tracks are well walked and visible. \*If there is flooding on this route, take the path to left as it is raised and less prone to flooding, it leads you around the edge of the field to the same gate.

Follow the track through the centre of the field for around 1km until you reach the gate and a main road, which is the A433. To access the road there is a set of stone steps that lead to the gate. The road is directly on the other side of the gate - beware of fast-moving vehicles as you exit the gate and cross the main road.

As you stop to cross the road you will be able to see a green Thames Path sign on the opposite side of the road. This directs you back onto the Thames Path National Trail, which passes through a gate and once again drops off the main road and into fields. The track is fairly clear, as it is driven by the farmer. Follow for approximately 1 km.

Pass through a gateway with a yellow topped marker to the left. Continue along the track, keeping to the left of the line of trees.

Continue walking until you see a pale stone marker in the distance. Once you get closer, you'll also see a Thames Path Finger post marking the source of the river Thames.

Congratulations! You have made it to the source of the great River Thames! Do not be surprised if you don't see any water at this point – the source often appears dry, although water will be flowing underground.