



**Description:** Marlow is a bustling, fashionable town that sits on the Thames halfway between Oxford and London. On this walk there are plenty of off-lead opportunities for your four-legged friends, but please always ensure dogs are on leads near livestock.

This walk explores the riverside from Marlow downstream to Bourne End. Along the way you will see the physical characteristics of the Middle Thames – its width and its bends – along with tranquil fields and beautiful views. A pub lunch in Bourne End is an optional extra!

**Distance:** 6 miles for the round-trip      **Duration:** 3 hrs (allowing for stops)

**Difficulty:** Moderate (can be muddy and slippery)

**Refreshments / toilets:** There are toilets in Marlow and Bourne End, but none on the walk between.

**Car Parking:** Gossmore Recreation Ground Car Park, off Gossmore Lane, Marlow, SL7 1SZ – free parking. What3Words address is [///taking.disgraced.staples](https://www.what3words.com/#!/en////taking.disgraced.staples)

**Train** – Marlow has a station which is just a 10-minute walk from the starting point of Gossmore Car park.

**Bus** – Marlow has a good network of buses, including connections from Henley and High Wycombe.



*View towards Bourne End*





**From Marlow train station** - walk down Station Road and turn left on to Lock Road. Follow Lock Road to the end, then turn right onto Gossmore Lane. Almost immediately on your left you will see an entrance for Pergola Field on the right, signposted for the Thames Path.

Walking through Pergola Field, join the riverbank. There are dog bins located on the path. Exit the field past the football pitches on Gossmore Recreation Ground on your left and head under the A404 bridge. **It is possible to park at the recreation ground and join the path at this point if you have travelled to Marlow by car.**

From here you are on the Thames Path which will take you all the way to Bourne End. The path sweeps round to the left through fields. Beware, livestock are often kept in these fields and although the path is fenced off it is a good idea to keep your dog on the lead, but don't worry, there are better spots further downstream for them to be off lead.

Through the next gate the path widens as you enter Riverwoods. Dogs will enjoy being let off the lead and exploring in the trees. The trees on the bank begin to thin here, so take a look at some of the stunning buildings that line the route on the opposite bank.

Emerging from the woodland there is a long stretch of fields. Warning signs tell you to keep dogs under control as there might be cattle, but use common sense as often the fields are empty and pups can run free. The fields are sectioned off with regular gates, so just keep your eyes out. If you have any concerns, keep your dog on the lead. There are also some mini beaches where the bank has fallen away, making it easy and safe to enter the water if your dog (or you!) likes a paddle.

From the tranquillity of the fields you will emerge back into civilisation at the Upper Thames Sailing Club. This is a good place to put dogs back on leads as the route is more urban from here. You can enter the community of Bourne End via Wharf Lane for a spot of lunch or a mooch around the shops.

To return to Marlow, you can either retrace your steps on the route you came by, or jump on a train at Bourne End station where direct trains run to Marlow throughout the day.