

Description:

Although this is an urban stretch of the Thames Path, the green spaces of Christchurch Meadow make this a very picturesque walk. You will see three of Reading's six bridges – Christchurch, Caversham and Reading Bridge. This walk is step-free, making it accessible for most people, however, there is one steeper slope to be aware of, which is marked on the map below. (Full route description on the next page)

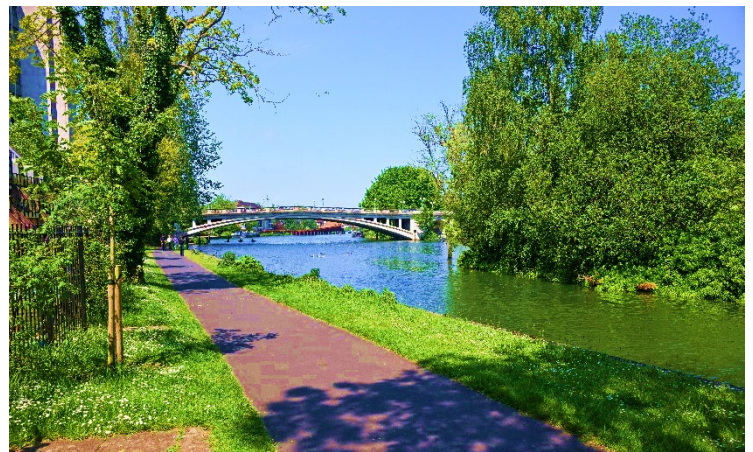
Distance: 2.3 miles **Duration:** 1-2 hrs **Difficulty:** Easy (Step Free)

Parking: Parking and accessible parking can be found at Reading Station and the Thames Promenade Car Park.

Refreshments / toilets:

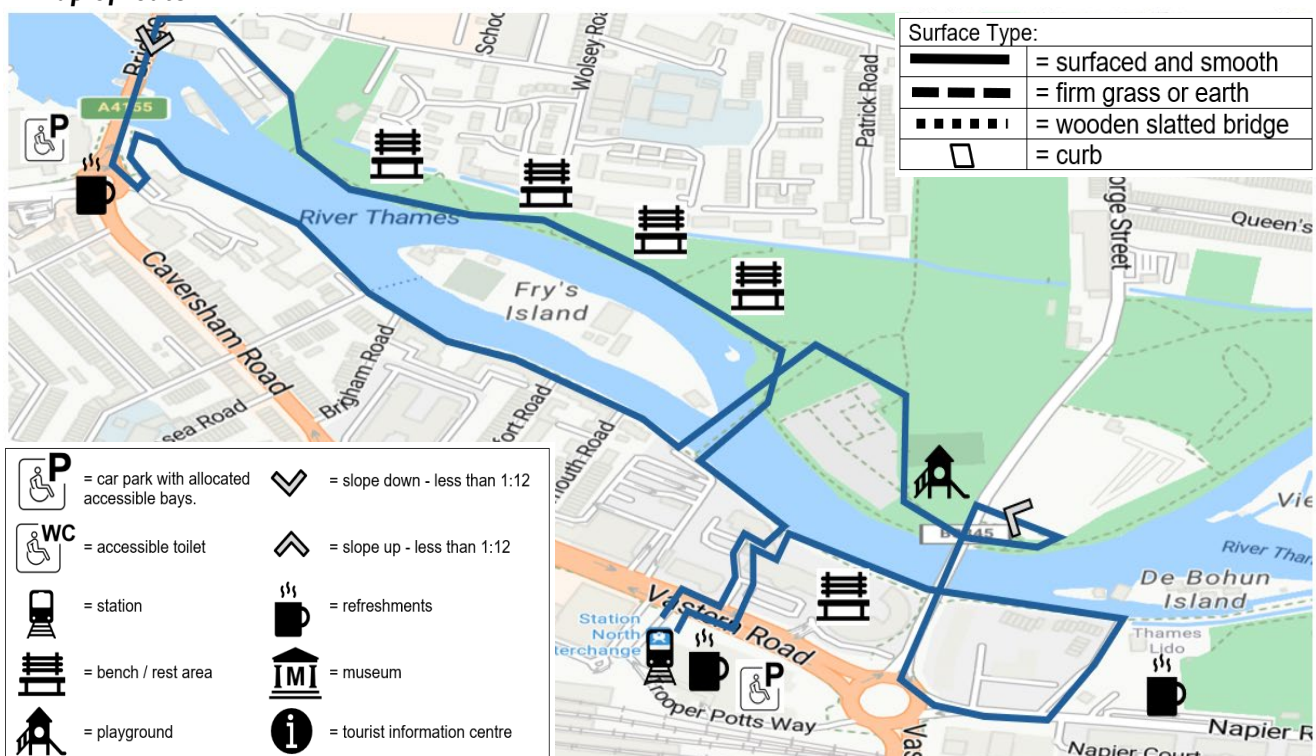
There are toilets (including accessible) at Reading Station.

Refreshments can be found at various points along the route, and include café's pubs, and in the summer an ice-cream van in Christchurch Meadows.



Thames Path at Reading Bridge. Credit Mike Green Photography

Map of route



Full Route Description:

Start at Reading Train Station. The best starting point is the rear of the station. The what3words address for the start point is [///vital.stays.hunt](#)

From here we use the station road to walk a short distance to the Vastern Road (the large main road). Make use of the pedestrian crossing point to cross the road, and the slightly to your right you will see a small side road called Norman Place.

Turn onto Norman Place and follow it for a short distance until you see a cut through next to the river Thames.

As we emerge onto the bank of the river you can look left and see the first bridge we will use – Christchurch Bridge. This is a pedestrian and cycle bridge. Walk to the bridge and cross, enjoying views of the Thames as you go.

Once over the bridge turn left and follow the path along a pleasant stretch through Christchurch Meadows until you come to the end of the park (near the Reading University Boat Club. A small road called Promenade Road will lead you from the park up to a main road called Bridge Street.

Turn left onto Bridge Street, where you will see Caversham Bridge in front of you. Cross Caversham Bridge, staying on the left-hand side, and once across the bridge you will see a small opening and path back down to the river.

Take this small path and once you reach the river turn right. This is the Thames Path National Trail. Follow the trail until you come back to Christchurch Bridge (the bridge we crossed at the start of our walk).

To create our figure of eight loop we will now cross back over Christchurch Bridge, but once across we will turn right this time, towards the small outdoor pool and tennis courts.

Close by you will be able to see the impressive structure of our third bridge – Reading Bridge - follow the paths through the park until you reach the bridge. Take the small tunnel under the bridge and then keep your eye out for the path to the left which cuts up a fairly steep slope to George Street (the main road). Cross over Reading Bridge, staying to the left of the bridge.

Walk on the pavement until you come to the large roundabout and take the first exit onto Napier Road. Follow this for a short while until you see Kings Meadow Road on the left, and signs for the Reading Lido. Follow this road until you meet the river again.

Turn left onto the river and you are once again on the Thames Path National Trail. Follow the trail until you get the cut through on the left that we used at the start of our walk – it will take you back to the Norman Place and you can re-trace your steps back to the station