WALLINGFORD WALK

THAMES PATH
NATIONAL TRAIL

Description: This lovely circular route includes some of Wallingford centre and also allows us great views of the town and Oxford University Boat Club from the opposite bank as we walk through the Riverside Meadows.

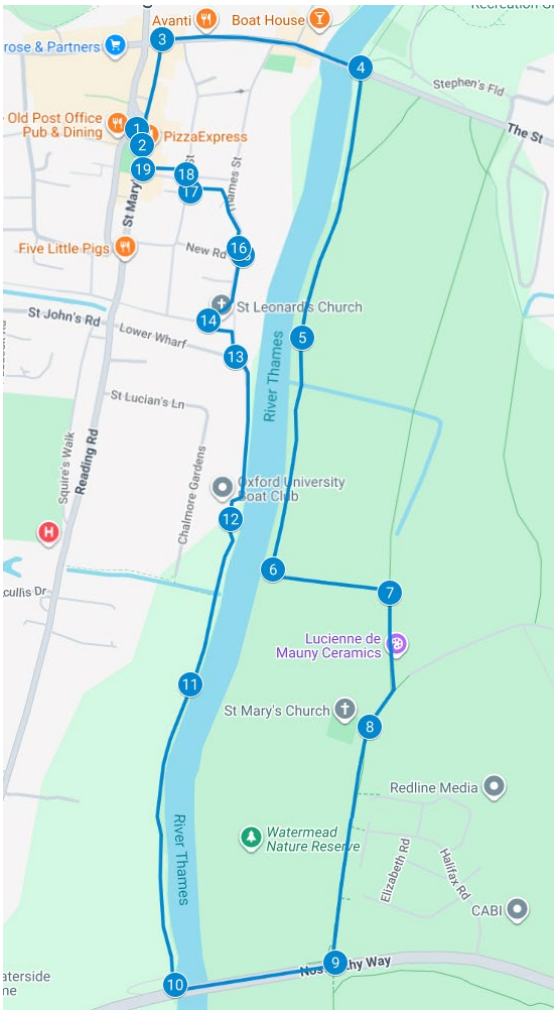
This is certainly a walk for architecture or church lovers because we start next to St Mary-le-More Church and we'll pass St Peters Church, a grade II* listed building, St Leonard's Church which is believed to be of Saxon origin and pass through the quaint hamlet of Newham Murren with its pretty 12th Century Church.

Distance: 2.5 miles. **Duration:** 1 ½ hours. **Difficulty:** Easy

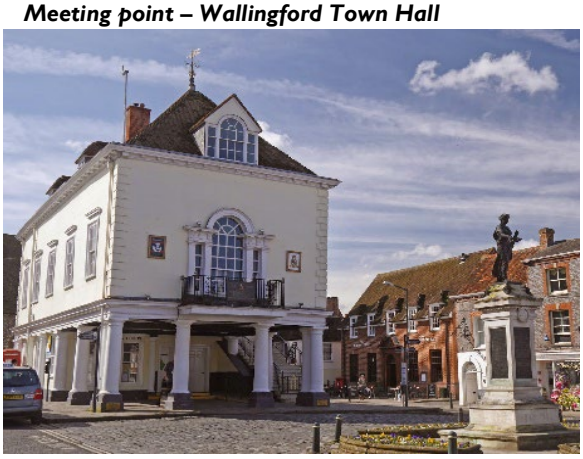
(Please note that while this walk is categorised as Easy, there are kissing gates and narrower sections, so may not be suitable for wheelchair users.)

Refreshments / toilets: There are public toilets in Cattlemarket carpark, which is just a 3-minute walk from the start / finish point, as well as a variety of pubs, cafes and shops within the town for refreshments and toilets.

Start point: Wallingford Tourist Information Office, which can be found in Wallingford Town Hall Market Place, Wallingford OX10 0EG.
Parking can be found a 3-minute walk away at Cattle Market Car Park, Off Wood Street, Wallingford OX10 0AU.



Meeting point – Wallingford Town Hall



St Peters Church, in view across Wallingford Bridge



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Route Description:

(1)Start your walk at Wallingford Tourist Information Office, which can be found in Wallingford Town Hall, Market Place, Wallingford OX10 0EG. If they are open pop in and pick up some leaflets for other activities in the area.

(2) From the Town Hall, walk along St, Mary's Street past Costa Coffee and the Corn Exchange to the High Street, cross over and turn right. (3) Walk until you reach the bridge passing St Peters church with its unusual spire off to the right. In the middle of the bridge turn left down the steps to the riverside, then turn left and cut under the bridge.

(4) Follow the path alongside the river for about 500 yards over two footbridges and several kissing gates. (5) You will see a very large, modern boathouse on the opposite bank of the river (Oxford University Boat House).

(6) Turn left before reaching the trees and walk across the field to the fence, turning right at the footpath sign. (7) Continue into a farmyard, keeping left and then exit the farmyard through a gate on your left and onto a small farm road, where you bear right.

(8) The path passes Newnham Church which is now redundant. (The key can be obtained from the cottage next door if you wish to see it).

(9) When you reach Winterbrook Bridge turn right and cross it. (10) Immediately after crossing the bridge, follow the slope down to the right and through a gate to the Thames Path. Turn left and follow the river northwards back towards the town for about half a mile, noting the Old Thames Conservancy House and its flood marks; also the new Oxford University boathouse which you saw from the other bank.

(11) Continue along the Thames Path. (12) Pass the Oxford University Boat House, the Thames Path cuts through here - go over the footbridge and continue.

(13) Look for the sign indicating the Thames Path turns off to the right through a covered walkway. Skirt around St. Leonard's churchyard. (14) Bear right at the church onto St. Leonard's Lane (which shortly changes into Thames Street) and follow the road straight ahead until you come to a wall and gate where the road curves left.

(15) This is Castle Priory and was the home of Judge Blackstone who, rumour has it, rearranged the road to give himself more room to build his house! On the other side of the road, at this point, is a brick archway into a car park

(16) Cross the road and go through the archway and, keeping the wall on your right, walk to the car park exit. At the exit of the car park turn right into Wood Street, go past the car showrooms and then turn left into Hart Street. At the end of this road, turn right back to the Town Hall. You have now reached the end of the walk.