

Wallingford to Pangbourne River Thames

Start - Wallingford, Oxfordshire (OX10 0BL)

Length - Ten miles and three locks (It is possible to use the locks instead of getting out to portage them therefore this route is suitable for those with ambulant problems).

Licence - A Thames Licence is required (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/recreation/boating/31605.aspx>)

Canoe England Membership includes a Thames licence (take your membership card and sticker with you)

Duration - 1 day

Wallingford (<http://www.wallingfordtown.co.uk/>) is a small old town steeped in history on the banks of the River Thames. From the medieval bridge over the Thames to the grassy banks of its ancient fortifications, it proclaims a colourful past. It's a lovely place to explore

Wallingford can be reached from A4130 or A4074. If coming from A4074 from Crowmash Gifford as you travel along the road leading to the bridge, known as The Street turn, right before the bridge crosses the river and there you will be able to park and launch your canoes in the park car park.

Launch - Launch north of Wallingford Bridge from the park. It is a relatively easy entry point. There are public toilets here too. Don't forget to check to see if you are required to Pay and Display.

(There is a basic campsite here so you could make it an overnight stop on a longer journey. The campsite is basic but you can explore nearby Wallingford with its restaurants, shops and historic sites at the same time!)

General Description - After going under Wallingford Bridge you pass the outskirts of Wallingford. As you canoe along with the flow of the river you pass by Wallingford Rowing Club (one of several on this stretch) and then head out in to countryside.

There is a lot of rolling countryside here but there are plenty of places to stop and even a hostel or two. The Beetle & Wedge Hotel is the river front. This is the where there was a ferry between Moulsoford and South Stoke.

Further downstream is Cleve Lock which is followed half a mile later by Goring Lock. This is the shortest distance between two locks on the River Thames. Goring (<http://www.goring-on-thames.co.uk/>) is a lovely waterside village with many interesting buildings along the river banks. There are plenty of places to stop here and places to buy food in the village.

From Goring into Pangbourne the river once again passes through open countryside and past Child Beale Park (<http://www.bealepark.co.uk/>) on the right bank.

As you come in to Pangbourne you pass Pangbourne School Boathouse and then The Swan public house on the right. Travel past The Swan and portage Whitchurch Lock on the left hand side where there is a special canoe portage. After putting back in travel down stream for a 100 metres and under Whitchurch bridge (this is an old fashioned Toll Bridge) finish your journey on the right hand side in the big field (ideal for picnics) just below Adventure Dolphin Canoe Club, Pangbourne (<http://www.adventuredolphin.co.uk/>) There is a Pay and Display car park where you can leave your car.