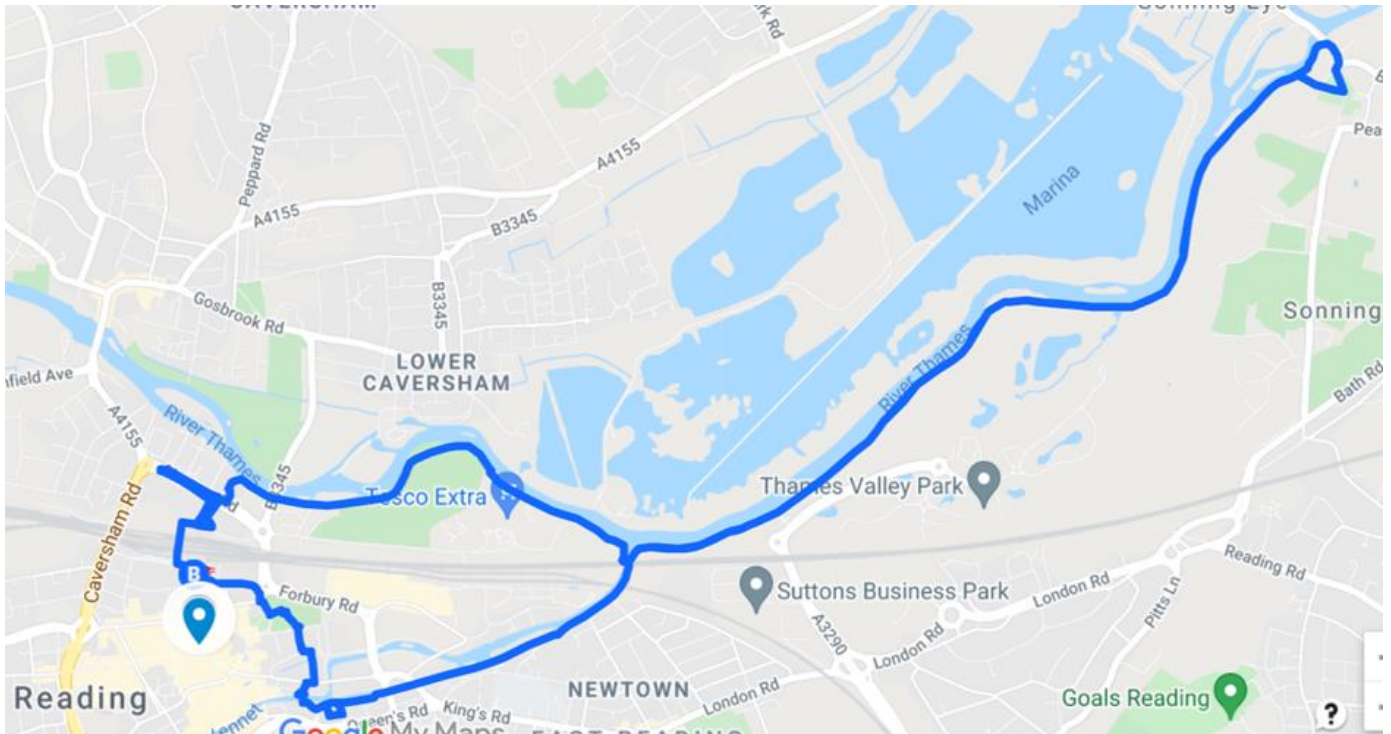


Exploring the Rivers Thames & Kennet in Reading

Getting to the river Thames from Reading station - Go under the subway to the north side of the station, cross Vastern Road and take the road to the right (Norman Place) to the river (It passes to the left of COVEA insurance). You are now on the Thames Path which goes West to Mapledurham, Pangbourne and Goring and East to Sonning.

Walk East along the Thames Path - When you reach the river turn right and head towards Reading Bridge, passing Clearwater Court, the HQ of Thames Water, on your right. 100 metres after the bridge, you will see the back of the Thames Lido, a great place to eat, drink and unwind. The café/restaurant is open to everyone and you can book a swim or spa session. The Lido is based at Caversham Lock. Cross the lock bridge to get to the weir. You can cross the weir to get to Caversham. It is also now home to the Reading Hydro Energy project and there is a lovely new mural to celebrate on the back wall.



If you carry on along the south bank you will follow the edge of Kings Meadow and enter woodland. This stretch is popular as a mooring area and runs for about 500 metres before you reach the point of intersection of the Thames and River Kennet. Through the woodland to the right is a large Tesco store, ideal for picking up a picnic. Once you reach the horseshoe pedestrian bridge, cross and then turn left and back on yourself along the River Kennet to head back into Reading. You pass a couple of nice pubs and a lock. If you keep going along the Thames you will walk past Wokingham Canoe Centre, through Thames Valley Park and onto Sonning, home of George Clooney, Jimmy Page and Teresa May among others (about 4 miles from central Reading).

Walk West along the Thames Path - Once you reach the Thames, turn left. You can continue your walk along the south side or cross Reading's pedestrian Christchurch Bridge and walk along the north bank through Christchurch Meadows. Both have lovely views of Fry Island, which is home to a bowls club and boat rental business.

Once you reach Caversham Bridge, you can walk up into Caversham Village for refreshments or picnic materials (Waitrose, delis, cafes) or turn left off Caversham Bridge Road along the A4074, which after about 300 metres will lead you to the lovely historic Caversham Court Gardens, which reach down to the river. Walkers along the north side can continue along the Warren and then on to Mapledurham (an hour or so).



On the south side under Caversham Bridge is Reading Rowing Club, which is sited at the start of Reading Promenade. Outside the Crowne Plaza Hotel, at Caversham Pier, Thames River Cruise offer trips to Mapledurham, Goring or circular cruises. Every August, The Prom plays host to the world famous Reading Festival. You Can follow the Thames Path all along the south side to Tilehurst Station and then get the train back to Reading or carry on?

Below is an easy Thames riverside walk of an hour between Caversham and Reading bridges:-

