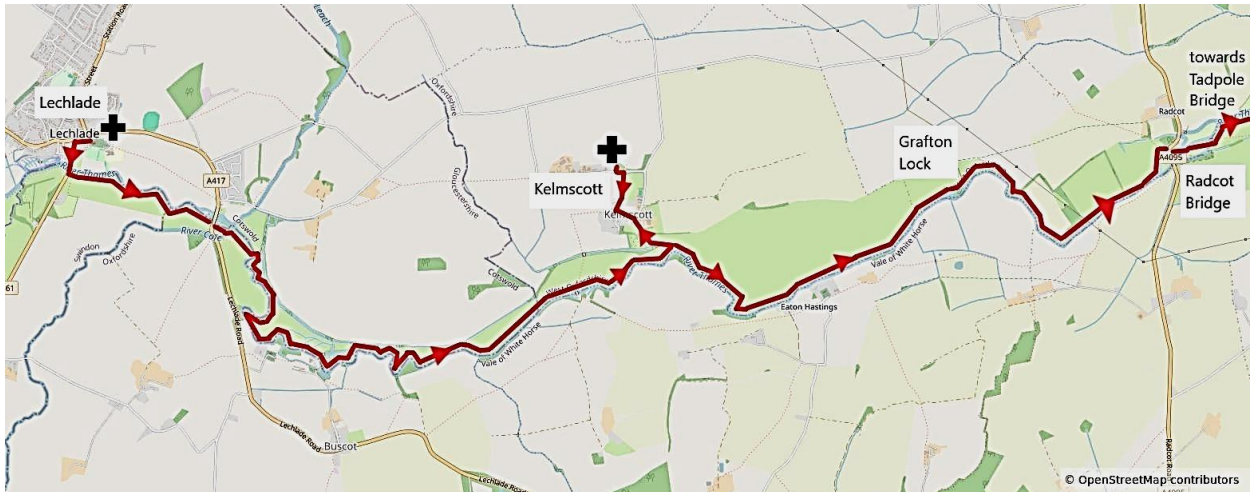


### Day 3: Lechlade to Newbridge



*Today's walk begins at St Lawrence Church in the market place at Lechlade. The building was completed in 1476, but is probably on the site of an earlier Saxon church.*

*The route follows the Thames Path to Newbridge, with good stopping points at Kelmscott, Radcot Bridge and Tadpole Bridge, all of which have pubs close to the river. At Kelmscott, a 10-minute walk through the village takes you past Kelmscott Manor, the home of William Morris, one of the founders of the Arts and Crafts movement, to St George's Church. This has outstanding 13<sup>th</sup> century wall paintings and fabrics donated by the Morris family. The walk ends at Newbridge, which has a pub at each end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century bridge – the 'Maybush' and the 'Rose Revived'.*

**Distance:** 17 miles

**Duration:** 7 hours, not including breaks

**Level of difficulty:** Easy but long

**Maps:** Ordnance Survey Explorer 170, 180

**Car parking:** pay and display car parks in Lechlade ([lechladeonthames.co.uk/visiting-lechlade/car-parking](http://lechladeonthames.co.uk/visiting-lechlade/car-parking)); the Newbridge pubs have car parks, but request permission from the landlords.

**Public transport:** see [bustimes.org](http://bustimes.org)

**Refreshments:** cafés and pubs in Lechlade; pubs at Kelmscott, Radcot Bridge and Tadpole Bridge; the Maybush and Rose Revived pubs at Newbridge

**Toilets:** public toilets in Lechlade; pubs at Kelmscott, Radcot Bridge and Tadpole Bridge; the Maybush and Rose Revived pubs at Newbridge

## Day 3: Lechlade to Newbridge

### Short Walk Option:

1. Lechlade to Kelmscott. 4.5 miles. Directions 1 to 6.

### Directions:

1. From **St Lawrence Church**, walk through the market place, continue past the library and information centre and turn left at the traffic lights into Thames Street.
2. Cross over the river by Ha'penny Bridge with its old Toll House (no toll charge now!) and go down the steps on the right-hand side to the river. Walk under the bridge via two gates to reach the riverside park.

#### Lechlade

There is archaeological evidence of habitation in the locality from the Iron Age, and of a Saxon burial ground (500 - 700) within the town. Cropmarks identified by aerial photography have indicated a nearby Neolithic 'cursus' (a long monumental enclosure). The Manor of Lechlade was given to Henry de Ferrers by William the Conqueror, and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Lechlade Priory, an Augustinian house, was founded in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, initially as a nunnery, and lasted until its dissolution in 1472. St John's Bridge was built in 1229 by the founders of the Priory on the site of an old ford across the Thames. The present bridge was built in 1886.

3. Continue along the path to reach St John's Lock, where you will see the fine statue of Old Father Thames, which was originally commissioned in 1854 for the grounds of Crystal Palace.
4. After St John's bridge, the River Cole comes in from the south, and we cross from Wiltshire to Oxfordshire. We then cross into Gloucestershire, but as we approach Kelmscott we enter Oxfordshire again.
5. On the way to Kelmscott, the path passes several World War 2 pillboxes, which formed Stophline Red along the Thames to prevent invasion forces from reaching the Midlands.
6. At Kelmscott, take the signposted track to Kelmscott village, passing Kelmscott Manor, the home of William Morris. On the days when this is open, the café (which has toilets) is free to visit.
7. At the junction, take the left-hand turning, passing the Plough Inn and the Morris Memorial Hall to arrive at a T-junction. Ahead on the left is **St George's Church**, which is very deserving of a visit.

#### Kelmscott

The nave and chancel of the parish church (St George), the oldest parts of the building, were built in about 1190. 13<sup>th</sup> century wall paintings in the north transept. Nearby Kelmscott Manor (c 1570) was the country home of William Morris from 1871 until his death in 1896.

8. Retrace your steps to the river and turn left along the Thames Path towards Radcot Bridge. At Grafton Lock, there is some seating and a grassed area that is a good place to stop for lunch.

### Day 3: Lechlade to Newbridge

9. Continue to Radcot Bridge, possibly the oldest bridge on the Thames, with parts dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and the Ye Olde Swan Inn.
10. Follow the signed Thames Path past Radcot Lock and Rushey Lock to reach Tadpole Bridge, and the Trout Inn. Continue through Chimney Meadows Nature Reserve and Shifford Lock Cut. At Shifford, the Anglo-Saxon King Alfred (the Great) held the first recorded English parliament in 890 AD.
11. The path continues to Newbridge, with its two pubs, the Rose Revived and The Maybush, on either side of the bridge and on opposite banks.

#### Newbridge

The bridge is another contender for the oldest of all the bridges crossing the Thames, dating back to c1250 and built by the monks of Deerhurst Priory on the orders of King John.

#### Timings for Wednesday 20 August (approximate):

09:00 - 09:30	Registration, briefing and look around <b>St Lawrence Church</b> GL7 3AB
09:30	Set off from Lechlade
11:15 - 12:15	<b>St George's Church, Kelmscott</b> (4½ miles)
13:15 - 13:45	Grafton Lock (7 miles)
14:15	Radcot Bridge (8 miles)
17:00	Tadpole Bridge (15 miles)
18:00	Arrive at Newbridge (17 miles)
Contact: David Pope, 07413 713 515	

With thanks to John Dewhurst, Churchwarden of All Saints, Kingston, for the information in the panels