

Wareemba Ave to Thornleigh Station



3 hrs 45 mins

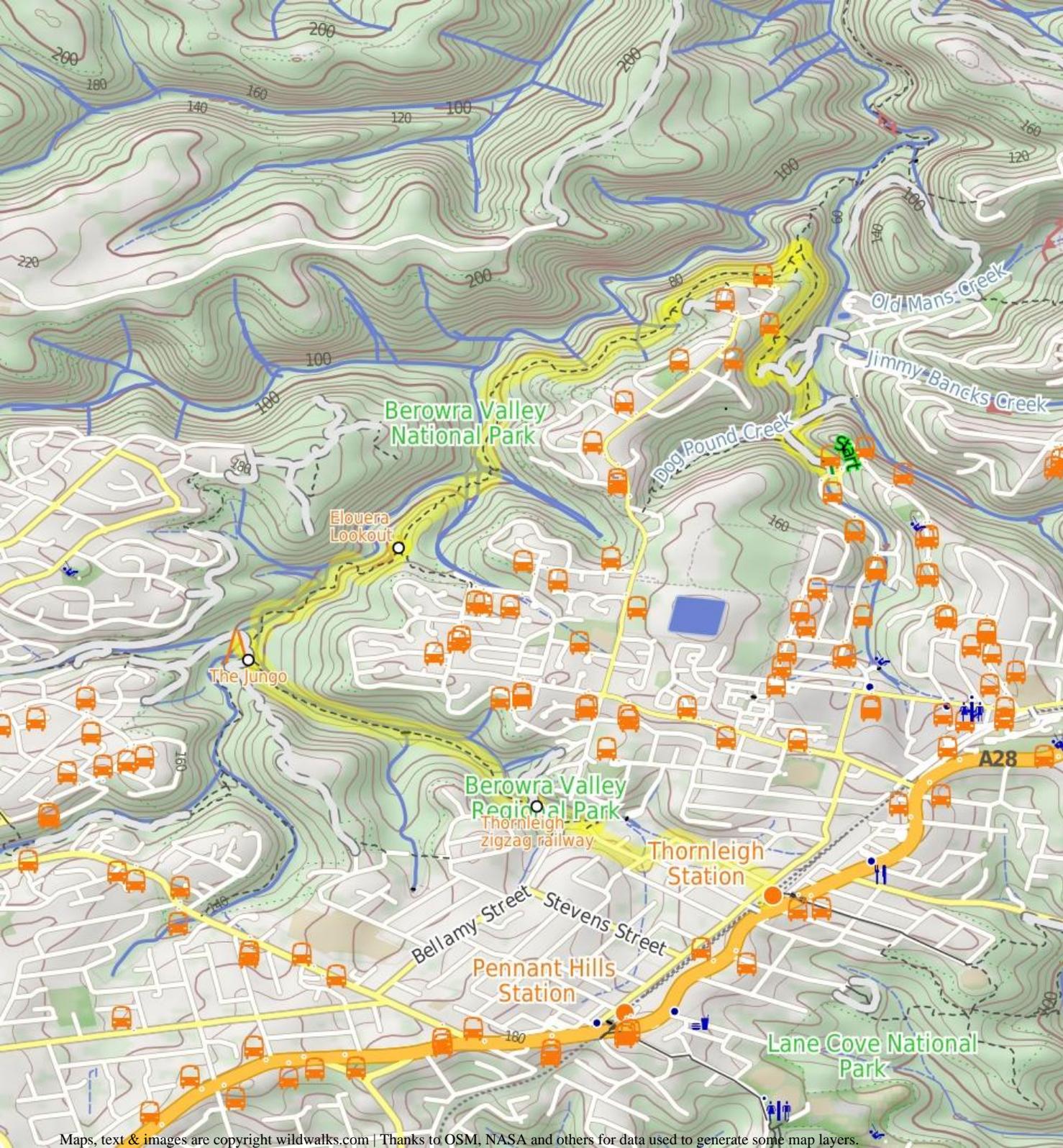
Hard track

4

8.6 km One way

▲ 473m

This pleasant half day walk starts from Wareemba Avenue in Thornleigh and winds down into the valley along service trails and bush tracks. The walk then follows a section of the Blue Gum Walk to the Great North Walk. From here the walk follows the Great North Walk to Thornleigh train station. Along this walk you will see a dense and thriving forest filled with Blue Gums and Bracken Ferns, plenty of wild flowers and a wide variety of native animals.



Elouera Lookout

This fenced lookout is on the Benowie Track close to Westleigh. There are uninterrupted views from the clifftop across the Berowra Creek valley, which is rare for the area. As well as being on the Great North Walk, this lookout can be accessed by a short walk from Elouera Rd, Westleigh. This section of fenced rock platform is about 100m long, and there is some limited shade from the casuarina near the lookout if you want to take a rest.

The Jungo

The Jungo is a relatively small clearing and campsite near the junction of Berowra and ZigZag Creeks at a well signposted intersection. There is often water in the creeks (treat well before drinking) but there are no facilities. Speculation on the source of the name 'Jungo' includes the Aussie tendency to abbreviate words ('Junction' gets corrupted to 'jung-o' etc) as well as a possible derivation from one of a few similar sounding aboriginal words.

Thornleigh zigzag railway

The Thornleigh zigzag railway originally ran from the main rail line near Thornleigh to an historic quarry, near present day De Saxe Cl, Thornleigh. There are only minor fragments still visible today. The 'Heritage Trail' in Thornleigh has interpretive signs for the railway and the old Thornleigh Quarry. A book is available with some detail on railway and associated quarry: 'Sydney's Forgotten Quarry Railways' by John Oakes, ISBN 0 9757870 3 9

Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM Metropolitan District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Sydney Region](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Berowra Valley National Park](#))
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

1:25 000 Map Series:91304S HORNSBY

1:100 000 Map Series:9130 SYDNEY

Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.



**Grade 4/6
Hard track**

Length	8.6 km One way
Time	3 hrs 45 mins
Quality of track	Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)
Signs	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Experience Required	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
Weather	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)
Infrastructure	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)



Mobile phone coverage depends on many factors, this graph displays the probability of mobile coverage along this walk. Although hopefully close, actual coverage will vary from what is shown here. Please always carry a PLB in remote areas.

Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walk's overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

Getting there You can get to Wareemba Ave (Near Vale Rd), Thornleigh (gps: -33.7097, 151.0807) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available. You can get back from Thornleigh Train Station (gps: -33.7319, 151.0781) by car, train or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/watt>

0 | Wareemba Ave (Near Vale Rd), Thornleigh

(470 m 10 mins) From the small bridge on Wareemba Ave, just down the hill from Vale Rd, this walk follows the management trail around the green gate, past the large fern tree, and crosses Larool Creek at the concrete causeway. On the other side of the creek, the track soon comes to an intersection with a less-used management trail, on the right.

Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the clear management trail up the hill, away from the houses. The trail passes through a pine and acacia forest before coming to an intersection with an indistinct track on the left - this is just after the end of the flat section of track.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail down the fairly steep hill to an intersection at the causeway over the creek.

Turn right: From the intersection, the walk crosses Larool Creek using the concrete causeway and follows the management trail along the rock face. The track heads down the hill with the occasional view of the creek (below on the left) and soon passes a concrete column supporting the rock on the right. The track passes a few round concrete pipe covers and then comes to an indistinct intersection, where there are two round pipe covers, an electrical junction box and a pipe bridge crossing the creek on the left.

0.47 | Int near Pipe bridge

(260 m 6 mins) Turn left : From the well-hidden intersection, this walk heads from the concrete lids down the rough track and under the pipe bridge, where it cross the creek and heads up the bank to a track at the other end of the bridge. From here, the walk follows the bush track through the open bracken and blue gum forest for a while, before the forest becomes more dense. The track soon joins onto the Blue Gum Walk, marked with a small post.

0.73 | Int of Blue Gum and Pipeline tracks

(280 m 8 mins) Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the Blue Gum Walk marker along the management trail, winding up the hill. The trail soon turns sharply to the right, and then meanders up the spur to an intersection with a grassy management trail (on the right) marked with another Blue Gum Walk post.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the Blue Gum Walk marker along the concrete management trail. The trail climbs steeply up the hill until it comes to the intersection with the Blue Gum Walk, at the base of a set of wooden steps on the right.

1.01 | Int of Blue Gum Walk at bottom of wooden steps

(820 m 21 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, the walk climbs up the wooden steps and follows the bush track. The track continues up the side of the valley through the tall blue gum forest and the bracken ferns, until

reaching the unmarked intersection with the power line track (just below the power lines).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the bush track north, keeping the valley down to the right. The track winds along the side of the ridge, through the lush blue gum forest with houses up to the left, to the intersection with the 'Great North Walk'.

1.83 | Int of the GNW and the Blue Gum Walk (SW)

(690 m 18 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows 'The Jungo' sign south along the clear track, soon keeping the wide valley to your right. About 100m further, the walk comes to an intersection with the unsignposted Blackfellows Head track (on your left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the main track, keeping the valley down to your right. The track leads downhill for just over 100m and crosses a small, rocky gully (below some houses), where the rocky track then continues to meander fairly gently down along the side of the hill for about 300m. The track then leads down much more steeply for a short time before walking among the rock outcrop and finding a three-way intersection with the signposted 'Quarter Sessions Rd' track (on your left).

2.52 | Int of the GNW and the Quarter Sessions Road track

(2.2 km 54 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the main track south, downhill, keeping the wide valley to your right. After about 100m, the track crosses a small (often dry) creek, then after another 110m, a rocky creek on a small flat timber bridge. After leaving this gully, the track gently winds down along the side of the hill for about 800m, passing through a pleasant casuarina forest then crossing another small (often dry) creek. The track leads over a rise and down some timber steps before passing among the pleasant grass trees for about 200m (crossing a couple of small creeks with timber plank spans and coming to a flat timber bridge. Crossing this bridge, the walk leads over a rise to come to the edge of Berowra Creek. The track soon crosses another flat timber bridge, then starts to climb steeply for just over 250m. The walk then starts to flatten out, following the rocky track for about 200m to find a fence. Following this fence, the walk comes to Elouera Lookout, where there is an intersection with the 'Westleigh' track (on your left).

4.67 | Elouera Lookout

This fenced lookout is on the Benowie Track close to Westleigh. There are uninterrupted views from the clifftop across the Berowra Creek valley, which is rare for the area. As well as being on the Great North Walk, this lookout can be accessed by a short walk from Elouera Rd, Westleigh. This section of fenced rock platform is about 100m long, and there is some limited shade from the casuarina near the lookout if you want to take a rest.

4.67 | Elouera Lookout

(1.1 km 29 mins) Continue straight: From Elouera Lookout, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign along the track, keeping the fence and valley to your right. At the end of the fence, the walk passes through casuarina forest for a short distance before passing alongside another (shorter) fenced cliff. About 50m past this fence, the track bends right and leads steeply downhill (tending further right to find some GNW arrows) where the track then flattens out for about 170m. The walk crosses a mossy gully on a large flat rock then, just shy of 250m later, crosses a flat timber bridge. The track then leads among grass trees beside Berowra Creek for a further 250m, and comes to a sandy beach and intersection, beside a creek crossing. Here, the walk turns right and crosses Berowra Creek - this creek may become impassable after rain. The eroded track leads (steeply at first) up the hill for about 70m, coming to an intersection with a wide management trail, marked a 'Great North Walk' sign.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk'

sign along the wide trail as it bends left and leads downhill along the concrete section. The trail leads down across a usually small creek, then heads up to the well-signposted intersection beside the Jungo campsite, where a 'Fishponds' sign points back down along the trail.

5.82 | The Jungo

The Jungo is a relatively small clearing and campsite near the junction of Berowra and ZigZag Creeks at a well signposted intersection. There is often water in the creeks (treat well before drinking) but there are no facilities. Speculation on the source of the name 'Jungo' includes the Aussie tendency to abbreviate words ('Junction' gets corrupted to 'jung-o' etc) as well as a possible derivation from one of a few similar sounding aboriginal words.

5.82 | The Jungo

(1.4 km 25 mins) Veer left: From the intersection at the Jungo, this walk follows the 'Bellamy Street' Great North Walk sign through the campsite and along the pleasant track, leading into, then through, the ferny forest for about 700m before crossing a side creek on a timber bridge. The track then continues in a similar manner for another 700m, coming to a T-intersection with a concrete bike track, beside a large bridge (over Zigzag Creek, on your left) where a sign points back along the 'Great North Walk'.

7.25 | Thornleigh zigzag railway

The Thornleigh zigzag railway originally ran from the main rail line near Thornleigh to an historic quarry, near present day De Saxe Cl, Thornleigh. There are only minor fragments still visible today. The 'Heritage Trail' in Thornleigh has interpretive signs for the railway and the old Thornleigh Quarry. A book is available with some detail on railway and associated quarry: 'Sydney's Forgotten Quarry Railways' by John Oakes, ISBN 0 9757870 3 9

7.25 | Zig Zag Creek Bridge int

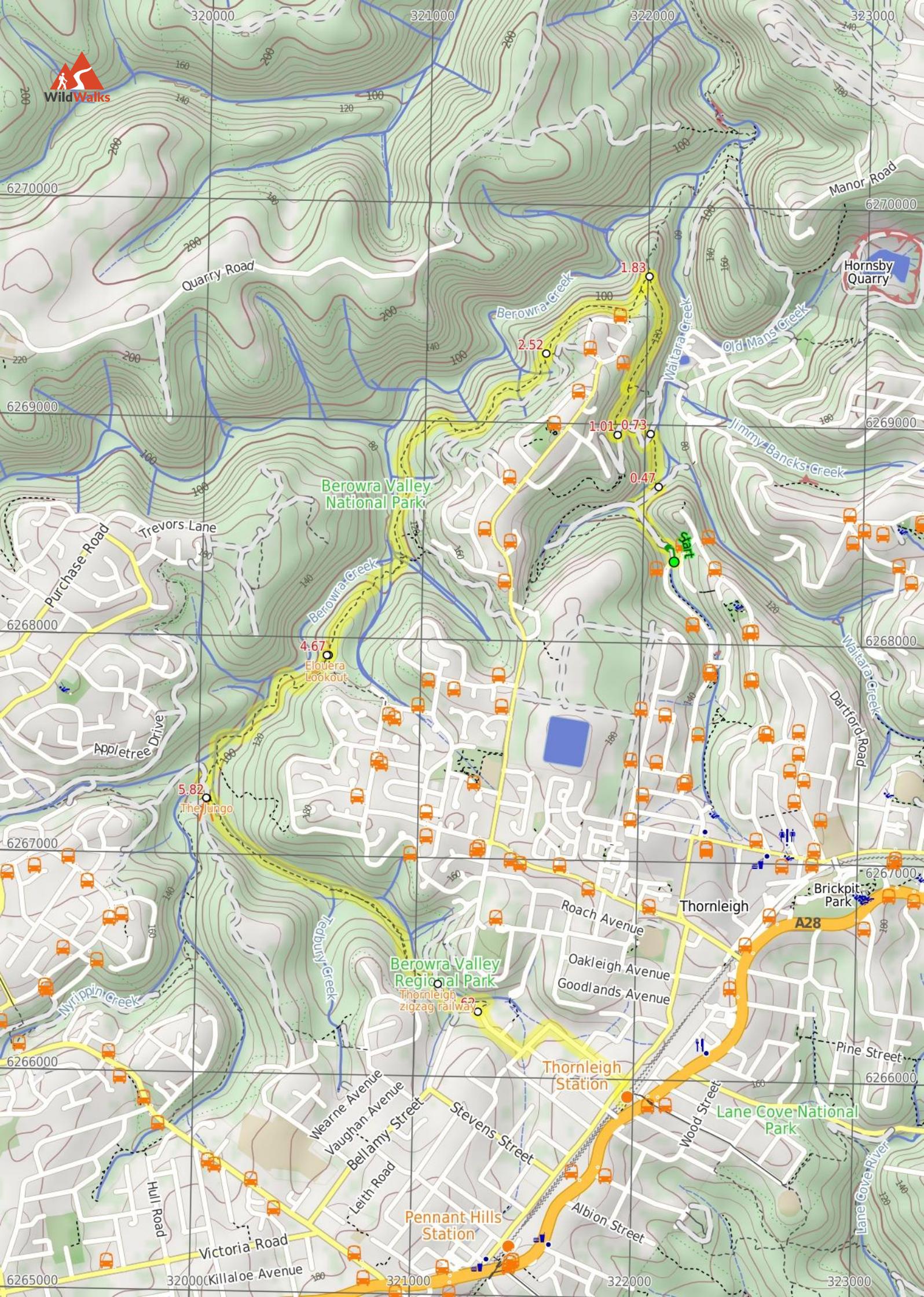
(140 m 2 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the concrete trail up the hill, away from Zig Zag Creek and the bridge. Just after crossing over the culverted creek (with green side rails), this walk comes to an intersection marked with a 'Great North Walk' sign (with a narrower track on the left). A sign points back down the hill to 'The Jungo'.

7.39 | Int of Bike Trail and Morgan Rd tracks

(230 m 4 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Sydney Cove' sign along the narrow track away from the wide concrete trail. The track leads behind the house (on your right) following along the rocky side of Zig Zag Creek. After the third house, in a small clearing, the track turns right, heading up between the houses a short distance to come to the top of the turning circle at the end of Morgan Road, Thornleigh.

7.62 | Morgan Rd

(990 m 18 mins) Turn left: From the end of Morgan Street, this walk heads up along the road to left into 'Tillock Street'. This street soon bends right to become 'Eddy Street' following the footpath and GNW arrows to the top of the hill where there is a set of traffic lights. The walk cross 'The Esplanade' at the lights to then turn right walking past the car park, and through a small park to find a large 'Great North Walk' sign at the (north bound) entrance to Thornleigh train station.



Summary navigation sheet for the Wareemba Ave to Thornleigh Station



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Wareemba Ave (Near Vale Rd), Thornleigh -33.7097,151.0807 (GR Hornsby, 221684)	6 -25	470 m 10 mins	From the small bridge on Wareemba Ave, just down the hill from Vale Rd, this walk follows the management trail around the green gate, past the large fern tree, and crosses Larool Creek at the concrete causeway.
0.47	Int near Pipe bridge -33.7066,151.0799 (GR Hornsby, 221687)	8 -13	260 m 6 mins	Turn left : From the well-hidden intersection, this walk heads from the concrete lids down the rough track and under the pipe bridge, where it cross the creek and heads up the bank to a track at the other end of the...
0.73	Int of Blue Gum and Pipeline tracks -33.7044,151.0795 (GR Hornsby, 220690)	42 -3	280 m 8 mins	Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the Blue Gum Walk marker along the management trail, winding up the hill.
1.01	Int of Blue Gum Walk at bottom of wooden steps -33.7045,151.0779 (GR Hornsby, 219690)	58 -58	820 m 21 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, the walk climbs up the wooden steps and follows the bush track.
1.83	Int of the Great North Walk and the Blue Gum Walk (SW) -33.6979,151.0795 (GR Hornsby, 220697)	73 -43	690 m 18 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows 'The Jungo' sign south along the clear track, soon keeping the wide valley to your right.
2.52	Int of the Great North Walk and the Quarter Sessions Road track -33.7011,151.0744 (GR Hornsby, 215693)	130 -152	2.2 km 54 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the main track south, downhill, keeping the wide valley to your right.
4.67	Elouera Lookout -33.7136,151.0637 (GR Hornsby, 206679)	58 -82	1.1 km 29 mins	Continue straight: From Elouera Lookout, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign along the track, keeping the fence and valley to your right.
5.82	The Jungo -33.7195,151.0578 (GR Hornsby, 200673)	38 -16	1.4 km 25 mins	Veer left: From the intersection at the Jungo, this walk follows the 'Bellamy Street' Great North Walk sign through the campsite and along the pleasant track, leading into, then through, the ferny forest for about 7...
7.25	Zig Zag Creek Bridge int -33.727,151.0689 (GR Hornsby, 211664)	7 0	140 m 2 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the concrete trail up the hill, away from Zig Zag Creek and the bridge.
7.39	Int of Bike Trail and Morgan Rd tracks -33.7281,151.0697 (GR Hornsby, 212663)	6 -4	230 m 4 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Sydney Cove' sign along the narrow track away from the wide concrete trail.
7.62	Morgan Rd -33.7283,151.0711 (GR Hornsby, 213663)	47 -7	990 m 18 mins	Turn left: From the end of Morgan Street, this walk heads up along the road to left into 'Tillock Street'.