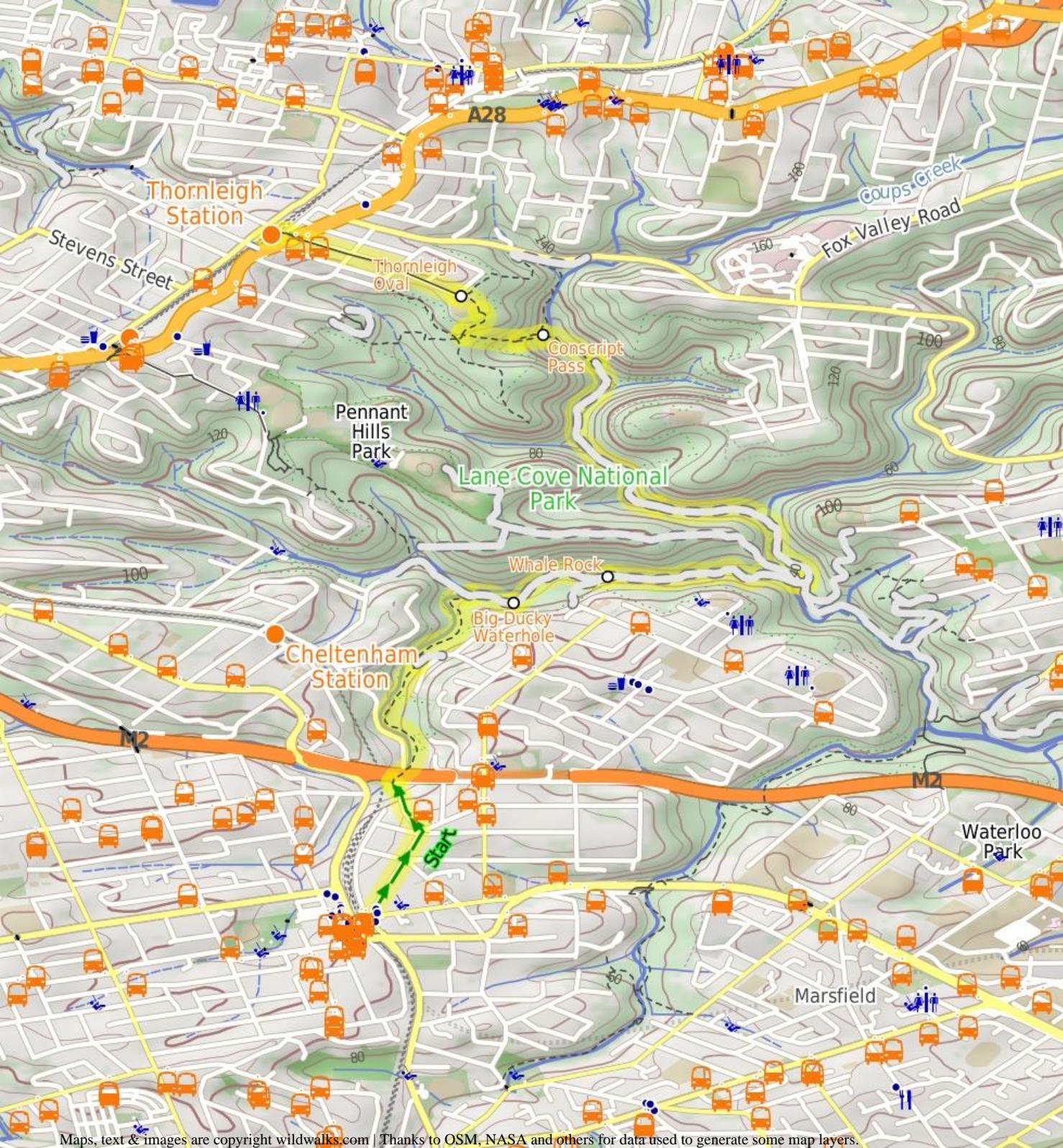


Epping to Thornleigh Station



3 hrs

8 km One way

Hard track

↑ 209m

4

This walk, between Epping and Thornleigh Stations, follows Devlins Creek then Lane Cove River as they wind through the valley. There are a number of interesting rock features to enjoy along the walk. The walk starts and ends near shops, so you can fill up with a coffee or a bite to eat at each end. From Whale Rock, the track becomes wide and very easy to follow.

38m

170m

Lane Cove National Park

Big Ducky Waterhole

The servicetrail loops around the top of the Big Ducky waterhole and there is a nice rock overhang in which to break. Is also a popular bird watching area. Unfortunately, recently there has been large quantities of rubbish in the area. (If going down to the waterhole please consider carrying out some of the rubbish if every walker carries out a bit it will make a difference)

Whale Rock

This is a large boulder that looks eerily like a whale, complete with eye socket. It is a good place to break and climb around the Rock.

Conscript Pass

Conscript Pass is a small sandstone pass between the Lane Cove River and Thornleigh, on the Great North Walk. During the 1930s, some stone steps were built through a cleft in the rock as part of a public works program, in response to the depression. The pass has two main engravings. Firstly 'Conscript Pass' is followed with a downwards pointing arrow and a series of initials and numbers. On another wall (that you face when walking up) is engraved 'B Stevens' followed a surprisingly good caricature of the then Premier of NSW, Bertram Stevens. Stevens (later knighted) replaced Jack Lang in 1932 as Premier of NSW, when Lang was dismissed by the Governor (just two months Lang after opening the Sydney Harbour Bridge).

Thornleigh Oval

Thornleigh Oval is found at the intersection of Handley and Ferguson Avenues, Thornleigh. There is a large playing field, tap water, public toilets and some shelter in the awning of the club house. The oval has a car park, and a number io signs for the Great North walk and other local tracks.

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 ([Lane Cove National Park](#), [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, 91303N PARRAMATTA RIVER

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 km One way
Time	3 hrs
Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
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 Epping Station (gps: -33.7725, 151.0824) by car, train 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/etts>

0 | Epping Station

(940 m 18 mins) The walk exits Epping Station on the Oxford St side. The walk then crosses Cambridge St and continues down Oxford St. The walk follows the footpath past the shops down Oxford St passing Chester St, Surrey St. Just after Surry St the walk turns left onto Derby St to the end. Nearing the end of Derby St the walk tends left around the yellow gate and onto the concrete driveway which veers left off the road. The walk continues towards the tunnel to come to an intersection just before the tunnel entrance.

0.94 | Int of Derby street service trail

(1.5 km 25 mins) Veer right: From the intersection this walk follows the Great North Walk arrow up the couple of steps then down along the footpath through the tunnel under the M2 (keeping the creek and wider management trail to your left). Out of the tunnel this walk follows the track as it winds up and around the fenced sewage vent and then continues through the dense bushland in the gully passing a sign marking the entrance to Lane Cove National Park. A little while later the track leads to a signposted intersection with the 'Belinda Crs' management trail.

Turn left: From the intersection the track follows the Whale Rock sign down the service trail which narrows into a bushtrack and follows Devlin creek through the gully all the way along until it widens out into a rocky service trail again and comes to the intersection of the Cheltenham service trail.

2.43 | Int of Epping Trk and Malton Rd Trail

(190 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection the track follows the Lane Cove River arrow along the servicetrail for a while before it loops around the top of Big Ducky Waterhole.

2.61 | Big Ducky Waterhole

The servicetrail loops around the top of the Big Ducky waterhole and there is a nice rock overhang in which to break. Is also a popular bird watching area. Unfortunately, recently there has been large quantities of rubbish in the area. (If going down to the waterhole please consider carrying out some of the rubbish if every walker carries out a bit it will make a difference)

2.61 | Big Ducky Waterhole

(480 m 8 mins) Continue straight: From the top of Big Ducky Waterhole the continues through the valley keeping Devlins Creek below on the left of the track all the way to Whale Rock.

3.09 | Whale Rock

This is a large boulder that looks eerily like a whale, complete with eye socket. It is a good place to break and climb around the Rock.

3.09 | Whale Rock

(3.3 km 1 hr 3 mins) Continue straight: From Whale Rock the track follows the Penant Hills Park arrow along the service trail as it winds through the valley, crossing several small concrete creek crossings until it comes to the signposted intersection of the Pennant Hills ovals service trail.

Continue straight: From the intersection the track follows the Thornleigh via Great North Walk arrow down the short but steep hill and across the river at the causeway. On the other side of the river the track comes up to the intersection of the Great North Walk service trail.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Thornleigh Station' sign past the 'Lane Cove Valley' map, initially keeping the other trail and river to your left. The trail follows the valley floor, keeping the river just to your left, for a bit over 500m, to then cross the Lane Cove River at a rocky ford. This crossing may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain. On the other side of the river, this walk continues along the trail for about 400m (with the river now close by on your right) to come to an intersection with a faint track (on your left, that leads up towards Pennant Hills Park).

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail, keeping the river just to your right. After about 60m, the trail bends right and crosses the Lane Cove River at a rocky ford, then continues along the valley floor among the fern trees (and concrete pipe access points) for about 900m to cross the Lane Cove River again at another rocky ford. (These crossings may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain). The trail then continues along the valley floor (with the river now on your left) for just over 150m to come to an intersection at the bottom of the sealed Morona Ave trail (on your right), marked with a 'Lane Cove Valley' map/sign and a GNW arrow post.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post along the valley floor, away from the two trails, keeping the river just to your left. The track soon narrows, leading past a water depth indicator, and becomes rocky for about 150m before coming to a faint intersection, where GNW arrow post points left. Here, the walk turns left and crosses the Lane Cove River using the concrete stepping stones (this crossing may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain) to follow the 'Thornleigh Station' sign up the timber steps for about 40m and find a GNW registration box (damaged at time of writing). The track bends sharply right and zigzags up the rocky hill for another 30m, before bending sharply left to find the 'Conscript Pass' and 'B Stevens' engravings (at the third metal hand rail).

6.39 | Conscript Pass

Conscript Pass is a small sandstone pass between the Lane Cove River and Thornleigh, on the Great North Walk. During the 1930s, some stone steps were built through a cleft in the rock as part of a public works program, in response to the depression. The pass has two main engravings. Firstly 'Conscript Pass' is followed with a downwards pointing arrow and a series of initials and numbers. On another wall (that you face when walking up) is engraved 'B Stevens' followed a surprisingly good caricature of the then Premier of NSW, Bertram Stevens. Stevens (later knighted) replaced Jack Lang in 1932 as Premier of NSW, when Lang was dismissed by the Governor (just two months Lang after opening the Sydney Harbour Bridge).

6.39 | Conscript Pass

(100 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From 'Conscript Pass', this walk heads up the stone steps through the cleft in the rock to follow the track and more stone steps uphill for about 100m, coming to a T-intersection with Lorna Pass track, marked with a GNW arrow post.

6.49 | Int of the GNW and Lorna Pass tracks

(580 m 14 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Thornleigh' sign uphill along the rocky track, keeping the valley to your left. The track leads up a series of timber steps for about 230m, becoming steeper

as they go, to come to a clear T-intersection signposted with a large 'The Great North Walk' sign, and a stone 'Lorna Pass' arrow pointing back down the track.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post and 'Thornleigh Station' sign uphill along the wide rocky track. After just over 150m, the track bends left (ignoring a faint track on your right) and heads uphill for another 40m to come to the back (south-east corner) of Thornleigh Oval, marked with a 'Lane Cove National Park' signpost.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post along the fence line around the oval, keeping the oval to your left. After about 100m, this walk passes in front of the clubhouse (there are toilets and a water tap on your right) to pass a 'Great North Walk' sign and come to the corner of 'Handley' and 'Ferguson' Avenues in front of the 'Thornleigh Oval' sign.

7.07 | Thornleigh Oval

Thornleigh Oval is found at the intersection of Handley and Ferguson Avenues, Thornleigh. There is a large playing field, tap water, public toilets and some shelter in the awning of the club house. The oval has a car park, and a number of signs for the Great North walk and other local tracks.

7.07 | Int of Handley and Ferguson Avenues

(810 m 14 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Thornleigh Station' sign across the road to follow the footpath beside 'Handley Ave'. After about 130m, the walk crosses Clifford Ave then after about 250m, crosses 'Orchard St' to follow 'Station St' almost directly ahead. About 190m along 'Station St', this walk continues straight across 'Wood St' (you can get to Parkway Plaza if you turn right here) and continues for just over 200m to find a footbridge beside Pennant Hills Rd. Here the walk heads up the ramp and crosses over the busy road then down the ramp (or steps) to find the intersection with Railway Parade.

7.88 | Zacs Great Food

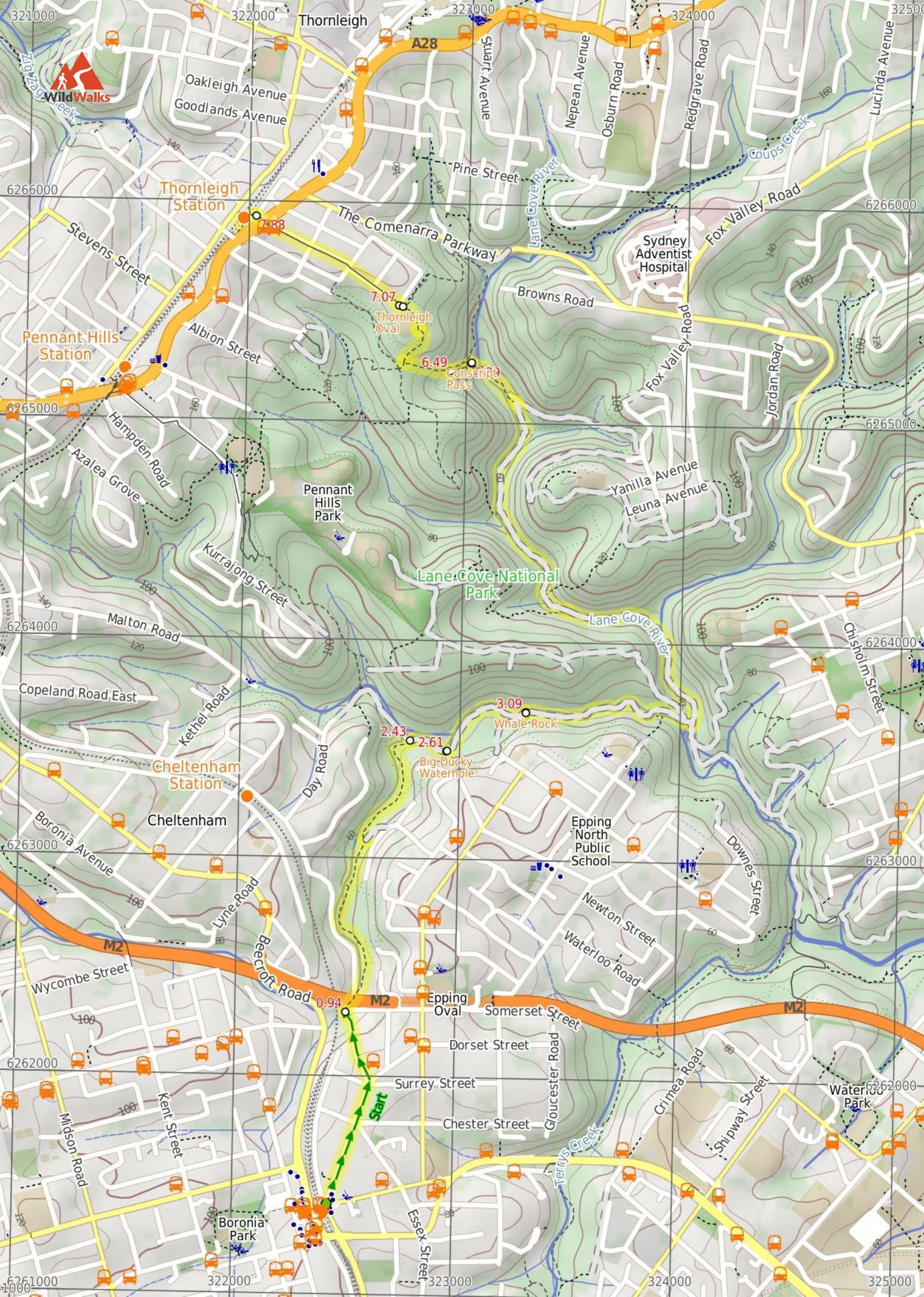
(0 m) This restaurant can be found on Pennant Hills road just a stones throw from the station. They are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner with a continental menu ranging from about \$20. for a meal. The opening hours are from 6.00 am to 10.00 pm from Tuesdays to Saturdays, and closed Sundays and Mondays. For more information on bookings call (02) 9484 6799.

7.88 | Subway

(0 m) This branch of the popular sandwich chain Subway, who make a variety of subs and sandwiches as you order them. For more details contact the store on (02) 9481 4200 or visit at Shop 2, 291 Pennant Hills Rd, Thornleigh, NSW 2120. [More info.](#)

7.88 | Int of Railway Parade and Pennant Hills Road overp

(110 m 2 mins) Veer left: From the base of the steps, this walk follows the GNW arrow across 'Railway Pde', heading towards the train line. At the fence, this walk veers left and leads along the pedestrian alley for about 60m before turning right and climbing up the railway bridge steps, coming to the 'Thornleigh' Train Station.



Summary navigation sheet for the Epping to Thornleigh Station



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Epping Station -33.7725,151.0824 (GR Parramatta River, 224614)	3 -33	940 m 18 mins	The walk exits Epping Station on the Oxford St side.
0.94	Int of Derby street service trail -33.7646,151.0834 (GR Parramatta River, 225623)	7 -21	1.5 km 25 mins	Veer right: From the intersection this walk follows the Great North Walk arrow up the couple of steps then down along the footpath through the tunnel under the M2 (keeping the creek and wider management trail to you...
2.43	Int of Epping Trk and Malton Rd Trail -33.7534,151.0865 (GR Parramatta River, 228635)	3 -1	190 m 3 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection the track follows the Lane Cove River arrow along the servicetrail for a while before it loops around the top of Big Ducky Waterhole.
2.61	Big Ducky Waterhole -33.7539,151.0883 (GR Parramatta River, 229635)	6 -9	480 m 8 mins	Continue straight: From the top of Big Ducky Waterhole the continues through the valley keeping Devlins Creek below on the left of the track all the way to Whale Rock.
3.09	Whale Rock -33.7522,151.0922 (GR Parramatta River, 233637)	102 -65	3.3 km 1 hr 3 mins	Continue straight: From Whale Rock the track follows the Penant Hills Park arrow along the service trail as it winds through the valley, crossing several small concrete creek crossings until it comes to the signpost...
6.39	Conscript Pass -33.7378,151.0896 (GR Hornsby, 230653)	19 0	100 m 3 mins	Continue straight: From 'Conscript Pass', this walk heads up the stone steps through the cleft in the rock to follow the track and more stone steps uphill for about 100m, coming to a T-intersection with Lorna Pass t...
6.49	Int of the GNW and Lorna Pass tracks -33.7382,151.0885 (GR Hornsby, 229652)	50 0	580 m 14 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Thornleigh' sign uphill along the rocky track, keeping the valley to your left.
7.07	Int of Handley and Ferguson Avenues -33.7354,151.086 (GR Hornsby, 227655)	18 -4	810 m 14 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Thornleigh Station' sign across the road to follow the footpath beside 'Handley Ave'.
7.88	Int of Railway Parade and Pennant Hills Road overpass steps -33.7317,151.079 (GR Hornsby, 220659)	1 -1	110 m 2 mins	Veer left: From the base of the steps, this walk follows the GNW arrow across 'Railway Pde', heading towards the train line.