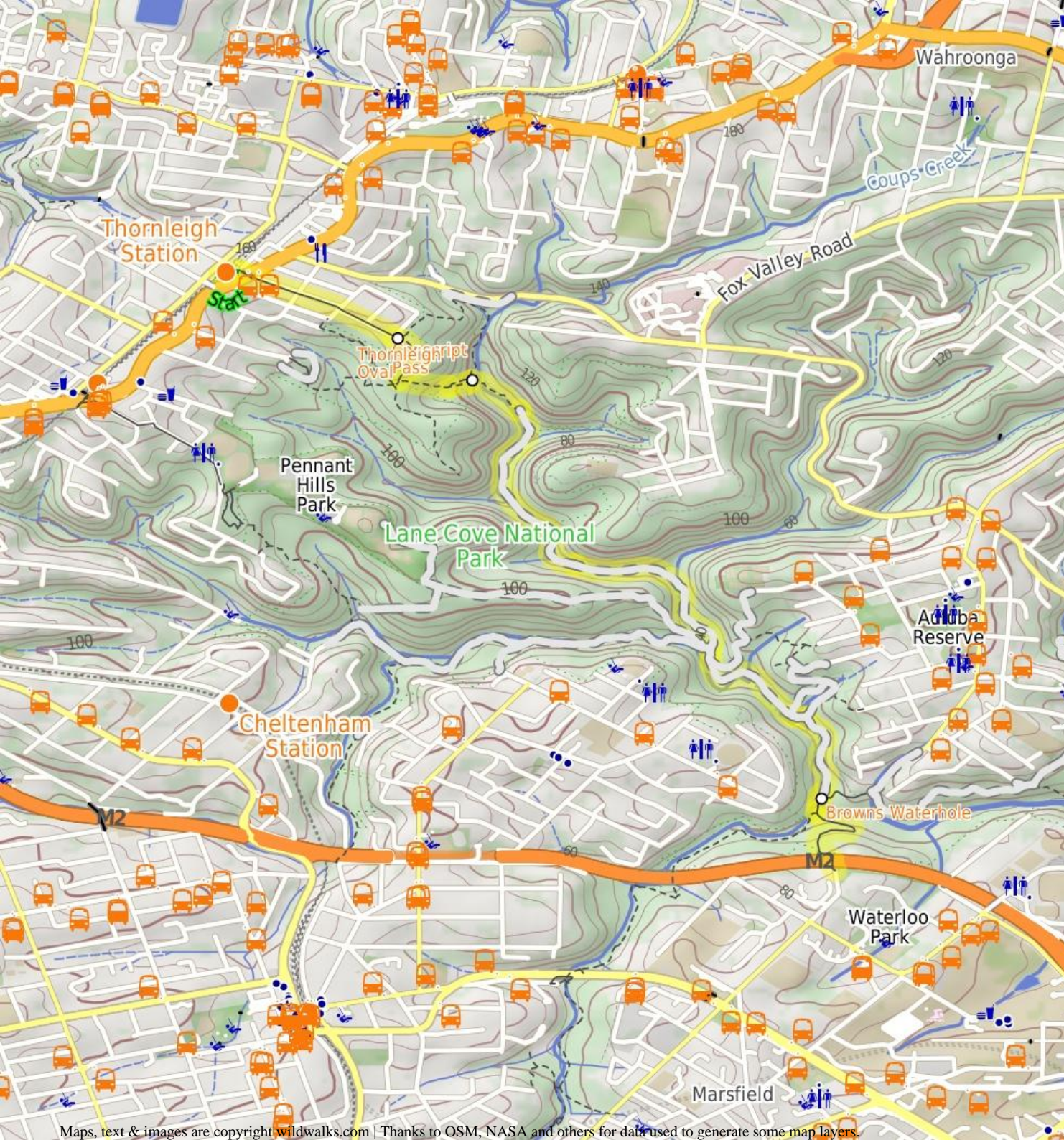


## Thornleigh to Marsfield



2 hrs 30 mins

Hard track

6.1 km One way

↑ 106m

4

Following the Great North Walk, and the upper reaches of the Lane Cove River South, this walk explores dense bushland surrounding the river. You will experience a variety of trails along this walk, from steep bush tracks to wide biketrails. The common feature, however, is how well managed these trails are. The section just south of Thornleigh is the highlight of the walk as the bushtrail winds its way around the hill.

30m

170m

Lane Cove National Park

## 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.

## 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).

## Browns Waterhole

Browns Waterhole is a wide, shallow section of the Lane Cove River, downstream of a concrete weir. There is a concrete shared cycle/footpath crossing over the top of the weir, linking Kissing Point Road, South Turramurra to Vimiera Rd, Macquarie Park. On the western side of the waterhole, there is a picnic table and small clearing with a view over this section of the river.

## 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

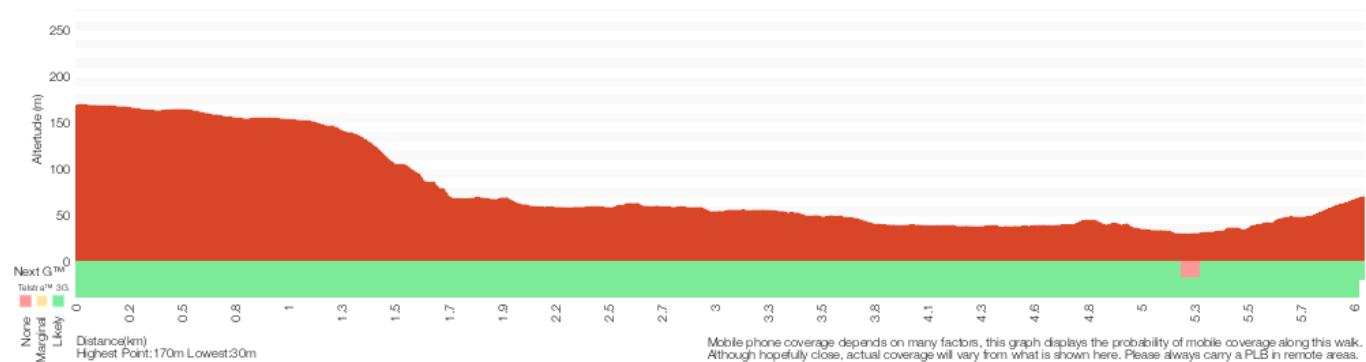
## Grade

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

<b>Length</b>	6.1 km One way
<b>Time</b>	2 hrs 30 mins
<b>Quality of track</b>	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
<b>Signs</b>	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	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 Thornleigh Train Station (gps: -33.7319, 151.0781) by car, train or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

You can get back from End of Vimiera Rd (gps: -33.765, 151.106) by car 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/ttm>

### 0 | Thornleigh Train Station

*(920 m 16 mins)* From the top of the bridge over 'Thornleigh' Train Station, this walk heads towards the Pennant Hills Rd, keeping the main building of the station to your left. The walk soon heads down some steps and turns left, following a 'The Great North Walk' sign down along the pedestrian alley for about 60m to come to 'Railway Parade'. Here the walk crosses the road to find a GNW arrow post at the bottom of the pedestrian overpass bridge.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post up the concrete steps (or ramp) to cross Pennant Hills Rd using the overpass. On the other side of the road, this walk follows 'Station St' down away from the main road. Just over 200m along this footpath, this walk continues straight across 'Wood St' (you can get to Parkway Plaza if you turn left here) and, just under 200m further along 'Station St', crosses 'Orchard St' to continue (almost) straight ahead beside 'Handley Avenue'. After about 250m, the walk cross Clifford Ave then about 130m later, crosses the intersection of 'Handley' and 'Ferguson' Avenues to find the signposted gate at the front of 'Thornleigh Oval'.

### 0.92 | 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.

### 0.92 | Int of Handley and Ferguson Avenues

*(350 m 7 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads around the gate towards 'Thornleigh Oval' to follow the 'Sydney Cove' sign in front of the clubhouse (there are toilets and a water tap on your left). Here the walk follows the fence line around the oval, keeping the oval to your right, for 100m to come to an intersection with a track (on your left, at the south-east corner of the oval) marked with a large 'Lane Cove National Park' sign. Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post, downhill past the 'Lane Cove National Park' signpost and heading into the bush. The rocky track leads downhill for about 40m before bending right (ignoring a faint track on your left) and heading down the side of the hill for another 150m to three-way intersection, where a 'Thornleigh Station' sign points back up along the track.

### 1.28 | Int of GNW and BP scout camp tracks

*(230 m 7 mins)* Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the GNW arrow post and the stone 'Lorna Pass' arrow downhill along the track. The track leads fairly gently down at first, but soon leads moderately steeply down a series of timber steps, becoming less steep again to come to an

intersection with a track (on your right), marked with a GNW arrow post and a 'Thornleigh' sign pointing back up the track.

### 1.5 | Int of the GNW and Lorna Pass tracks

*(100 m 3 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post directly down the stone steps. The walk leads fairly steeply down the steps for about 100m, then flattens out for a few meters and heads down a set of stone steps through a cleft in the rock, to find a metal hand rail and the pass marked with 'Conscript Pass' and 'B Stevens' engravings.

### 1.61 | 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).

### 1.61 | Conscript Pass

*(330 m 8 mins)* Continue straight: From 'Conscript Pass', this walk heads downhill along the rocky track as it zigzags down for about 30m to a GNW registration box (damaged at time of writing). Here, the track bends sharply left and continues downhill for about 40m to then follow the 'Browns Waterhole' sign across the Lane Cove River using the concrete stepping stones (this crossing may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain). On the other side of the river, this walk turns right, following the GNW arrow post along the track (with the river just to your right) for about 150m to come to a Y-intersection with the sealed Morona Ave trail (on your left), marked with a 'Lane Cove Valley' map/sign and a GNW arrow post.

### 1.94 | Int of the GNW and the Morona Ave trail

*(1.2 km 21 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the GNW arrow post along the mostly flat trail, keeping the river a short distance to your right. The trail leads along the valley floor for about 150m to cross 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. Here the trail bends left (keeping the river on your left) and leads along the valley for about 60m to come to an intersection with a faint track (on your right, that leads up towards Pennant Hills Park).

### 3.11 | Int of GNW and the Pennant Hills Park track

*(960 m 17 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the mostly flat management trail down through the valley, keeping the river a short distance to your left. After about 400m, the trail crosses the Lane Cove River at a rocky ford (This crossing may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain) then continues through the valley for another 500m to come to a three-way intersection. This intersection is just past a 'Lane Cove Valley' map, and above a concrete ford (on your right) and has a 'Thornleigh station' sign pointing back along the trail.

### 4.06 | Int of GNW and Whale Rock trail

*(660 m 11 mins)* Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Lane Cove River Park' sign, gently uphill along the management trail, keeping the river to your right. After about 80m, the trail leads to a Y-intersection with sealed management trail (on the left), marked with a STEP Track map/sign. Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'The Great North

Walk' sign along the mostly flat management trail, initially keeping the sealed 'Canoon Rd' trail up to your left. The trail undulates through the tall forest and valley (weedy in places), keeping the river to your right, for just shy of 600m to come to an intersection marked with a 'STEP track' sign (on your left).

### 4.72 | Int of GNW and the STEP track (east)

*(570 m 12 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows GNW arrow post down the short, fairly steep hill, following the management trail over a small culverted creek. The walk then heads gently uphill for about 30m to come to a clear three-way intersection, marked with a GNW arrow post.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post south-east, gently up along the wide trail, keeping the main valley to your right. The trail leads gently up through the valley for about 400m, then under some high tension power lines, where there is a mostly clear view over the river (to your right). Here the trail continues for another 80m to come to an intersection with a wide concrete path (just past the 'Caution' sign), beside the Lane Cove River crossing (on your right), marked with a 'The Great North Walk' sign.

### 5.29 | Browns Waterhole int

*(90 m 2 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, this walk crosses the causeway of Browns Waterhole. (Caution is needed during and after rain, may become impassable) From here the track continues up the hill on the other side until reaching a small picnic area signposted as 'Browns Waterhole'.

### 5.38 | Browns Waterhole

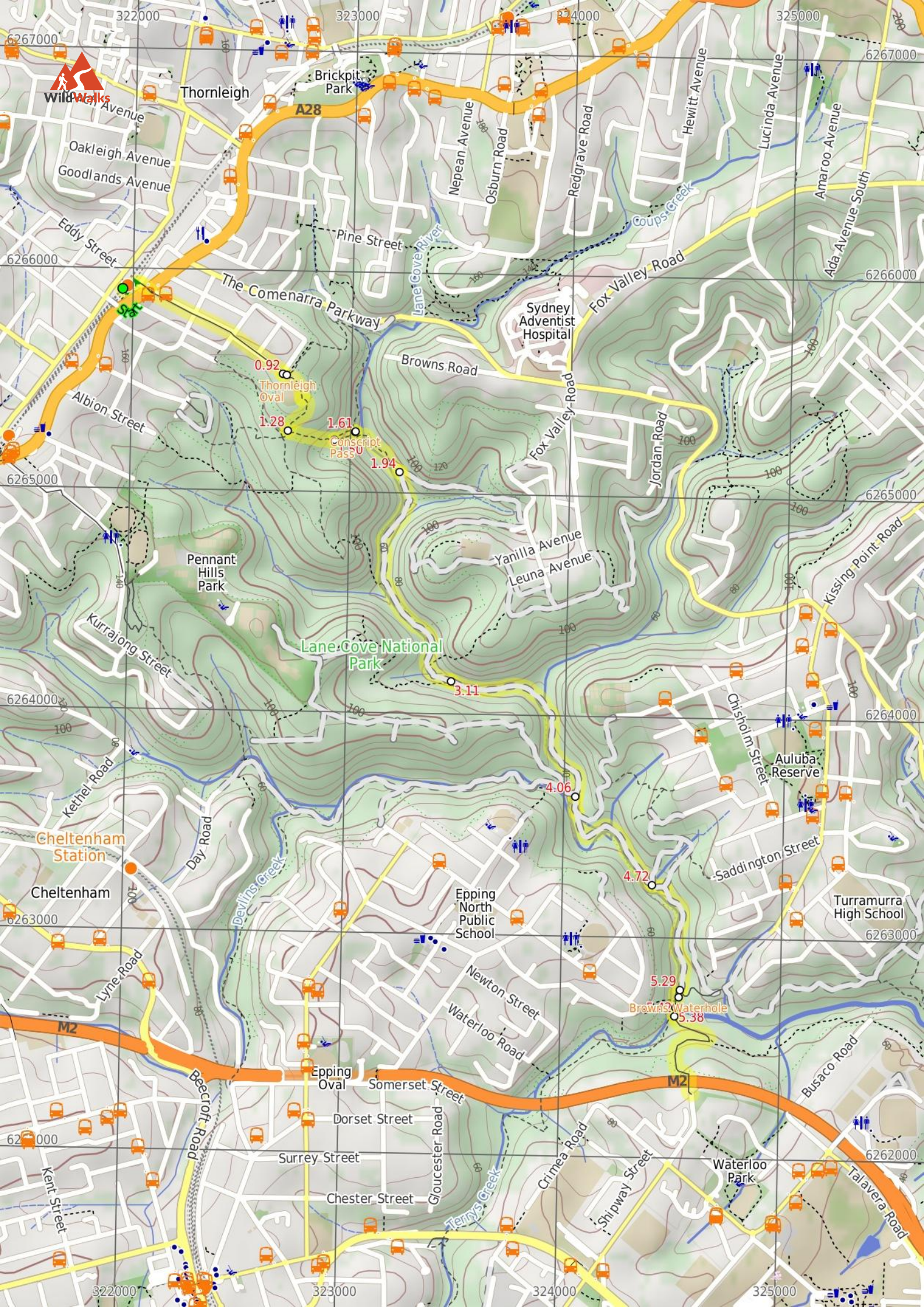
Browns Waterhole is a wide, shallow section of the Lane Cove River, downstream of a concrete weir. There is a concrete shared cycle/footpath crossing over the top of the weir, linking Kissing Point Road, South Turramurra to Vimiera Rd, Macquarie Park. On the western side of the waterhole, there is a picnic table and small clearing with a view over this section of the river.

### 5.38 | Browns Waterhole

*(40 m 1 mins)* Continue straight: From Browns Waterhole, at the picnic tables, this walk follows the concrete management trail away from the river, up the gentle hill until reaching the large green 'Terrys Creek Walking Track' sign.

### 5.42 | Int of Terry's Creek Walking Track and Brown's Wat

*(630 m 14 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads south up the concrete track. The track soon starts to zigzag up the side of the valley and past a 'Lane Cove National Park' sign, just before the tunnel under the M2. The track heads through the tunnel and follows the foot path to the end of Vimiera Road, Epping.



## Summary navigation sheet for the Thornleigh to Marsfield



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Thornleigh Train Station -33.7319,151.0781 (GR Hornsby, 220659)	5 -19	920 m 16 mins	From the the top of the bridge over 'Thornleigh' Train Station, this walk heads towards the Pennant Hills Rd, keeping the main building of the station to your left.
0.92	Int of Handley and Ferguson Avenues -33.7354,151.086 (GR Hornsby, 227655)	0 -16	350 m 7 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads around the gate towards 'Thornleigh Oval' to follow the 'Sydney Cove' sign in front of the clubhouse (there are toilets and a water tap on your left).
1.28	Int of GNW and BP scout camp tracks -33.7378,151.0862 (GR Hornsby, 227653)	0 -34	230 m 7 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the GNW arrow post and the stone 'Lorna Pass' arrow downhill along the track.
1.50	Int of the GNW and Lorna Pass tracks -33.7382,151.0885 (GR Hornsby, 229652)	0 -19	100 m 3 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post directly down the stone steps.
1.61	Conscript Pass -33.7378,151.0896 (GR Hornsby, 230653)	8 -24	330 m 8 mins	Continue straight: From 'Conscript Pass', this walk heads downhill along the rocky track as it zigzags down for about 30m to a GNW registration box (damaged at time of writing).
1.94	Int of the GNW and the Morona Ave trail -33.7395,151.0917 (GR Hornsby, 232651)	15 -29	1.2 km 21 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the GNW arrow post along the mostly flat trail, keeping the river a short distance to your right.
3.11	Int of GNW and the Pennant Hills Park track -33.7481,151.0943 (GR Hornsby, 235641)	8 -25	960 m 17 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the mostly flat management trail down through the valley, keeping the river a short distance to your left.
4.06	Int of GNW and Whale Rock trail -33.7528,151.1003 (GR Parramatta River, 241636)	9 -8	660 m 11 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Lane Cove River Park' sign, gently uphill along the management trail, keeping the river to your right.
4.72	Int of GNW and the STEP track (east) -33.7564,151.1041 (GR Parramatta River, 244632)	14 -24	570 m 12 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows GNW arrow post down the short, fairly steep hill, following the management trail over a small culverted creek.
5.29	Browns Waterhole int -33.7607,151.1055 (GR Parramatta River, 245628)	5 -1	90 m 2 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk crosses the the causeway of Browns Waterhole.
5.38	Browns Waterhole -33.7614,151.1053 (GR Parramatta River, 245627)	3 0	40 m 1 mins	Continue straight: From Browns Waterhole, at the picnic tables, this walk follows the concrete management trail away from the river, up the gentle hill until reaching the large green 'Terrys Creek Walking Track' sign.
5.42	Int of Terry's Creek Walking Track and Brown's Waterhole Servicetrail -33.7618,151.1052 (GR Parramatta River, 245626)	39 -6	630 m 14 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads south up the concrete track.