

CURAC Easter 2021 Walk Records

The Madingley Grind

0: Saturday 24th April

12 miles

Walk leader: Stephanie

After leaving Cambridge on the Coton Footpath we pass through Coton and past the American Military Cemetery, and then meander through Madingley on our way to Dry Drayton. From here we return to Cambridge via the Beck Brook and the new section of Huntingdon Road.

Duration: 10 am to mid-afternoon.

The Fens

4: Saturday 22nd May

Distance: 17km (+ optional 8km)

Walk leader: Aneesh

This walk will take us across some classic southern Fenland landscapes. We'll start in the village of Reach. Reach is the starting point for the Devil's Dyke (another Rambling Club favourite!), but we'll instead head in the opposite direction, taking us across open fenland: Burwell Fen, Adventurer's Fen, and Baker Fen. We won't go directly on to Wicken Fen (one of the last undrained fens!), but hopefully we'll nonetheless encounter some of the Konik ponies the National Trust are using to graze this landscape. From here we'll walk along Wicken Lode to the Cam. The remainder of the walk will be along the eastern side of the Cam, back towards Cambridge. We'll hopefully see some good birdlife here: the last time I walked along the Cam at this time of year, I saw lapwings, crested grebes, cormorants, herons, egrets, and some pretty crazy geese. Looking over our shoulders, we might also spot Ely Cathedral looming over the fens. We'll cross the river near Waterbeach. Here, people can either get a train back to Cambridge, or continue walking along the riverside path to Cambridge.

Please remember to bring a mask, water, lunch, and sensible shoes!

Meet: 9:40 at the Emmanuel Road ER4 bus stop, for the 9:50 bus to Reach.

Return: around 4pm, perhaps later if walking from Waterbeach-Cambridge

Cost: £5 for Cambridge-Reach bus, £2.30 for the Waterbeach-Cambridge train if using (this might include a rail replacement bus service...)

Marvelling at M11

5: Saturday 29th May

Distance: 10 miles

Walk leader: Petr

From the library we'll head westwards, rambling through the fields of West Cambridge. After crossing M11, we make our way to Barton through Barton Road Firing Range. We'll continue to Grantchester, crossing M11 once more, and then back to town via the Meadows path.

Meet: 8:20 in front of the Cambridge University Library

Return: around 1PM

Taking the Fen Rivers Way to Ely

6: Sunday 6th June

Distance: 18 km / 11 miles

Walk leader: Balint

We will pick up where the Waterbeach walk left off. We follow the Cam downstream, along its western bank, seeing some marinas, a small bit of fenland, and likely many, many swans along the way. Then, we cross the river in an attempt to catch a glimpse of the Kingfishers Bridge Nature Reserve, which, right now is mostly closed to the public due to the breeding season. Finally, we will make our way to Ely via the eastern bank of the river.

Meet: 8:45 at the railway station for the 9:04 train to Waterbeach

Return: 16:21

Cost: £3.40 (or £2.20 with railcard/groupsave) (super off-peak return to Ely)

Further Travels on the Fen Rivers Way (Downham Market to King's Lynn)

8: Saturday 19th June

Distance: 21 km / 13 miles

Having walked the Waterbeach to Ely section of the Fen Rivers Way earlier in the term, today we complete the most northerly section from Downham Market to King's Lynn. This route features the river Great Ouse (now rather wide and tidal), fields of sheep, a ruined church, and plenty of fenland.

Meet: 09:20 at the train station for the 09:35 train to Downham Market

Return: 16:44 train from King's Lynn, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:37

Cost: £5.50 with railcard/groupsave (otherwise £8.40) [Return to King's Lynn]

Oxford to Aylesbury or Cambridge

9: Saturday 26th – Sunday 27th June

Distance: 37km / 23 miles or 129km / 80 miles

Walk Leader: Stephanie

The annual Varsity March is a mammoth two-day walk between Oxford and Cambridge, completed within 48 hours without any sleep! There is a choice between walking the full distance or just the first section, returning to Cambridge by train from Aylesbury after the first day. Once again this year we'll be raising money for Jimmy's Cambridge and the Oxford Gatehouse; please consider sponsoring us at www.justgiving.co.uk/team/varsitymarch2021. If you'd like to take part in some or all of the walk, or would like more information, please sign up in advance by emailing Stephanie (sgs30@cam.ac.uk)

Meet: 06:50 at Parkside coach station bay 16 for the 07:05 bus to Oxford (NOT the main Drummer Street bus station)

Return: 21.18 Aylesbury train arrives in Cambridge at 00.04, otherwise sometime on Sunday night or Monday morning

Cost: Bus is £10.20 with a student card (£13.50 without); train is £29.20

GroupSave/railcard (£44.30 without) if returning from Aylesbury.