

# Easter 2023

## Cambridge University Rambling Club (CURaC)

Welcome to the first term card of the club since the pandemic. Walks will be running every week of the term (plus an extra in week 7), including a finish with the annual Varsity March from Oxford to Cambridge. With the exception of that, all walks are between 12-27km (7-17 miles) and take place over the course of a day.

Meeting point is outside the train station unless stated otherwise (is Drummer Street bus station for weeks 5 & 6). Tickets are usually purchased as a group at the station to utilise group save discounts and to simplify then paid by everyone else on the train, though if you have a railcard feel free to buy yourself in advance (I would recommend using the trainpal app if you wish to do so). You should bring a packed lunch, plenty of water, good walking boots and probably waterproofs and suncream just in case (check the forecast).

Walks are listed below by date, then on the next page by location, then after that including full details. Any questions can be directed to the club's president, Kiarn, at [rambling@cambridgesu.co.uk](mailto:rambling@cambridgesu.co.uk) or to the walk leader for the walk (email in walk details).



The term card features a background image of a coastal landscape with a blue sky and sea. At the top center is the Cambridge University Rambling Club logo, which includes a turtle and the text 'CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB'. Below the logo, the title 'EASTER TERM 2023 TERM CARD' is displayed in large, bold, grey letters. The card lists eight walks, each in a colored box with a white background for the text. The walks are numbered 1 through 8, with some dates and locations handwritten in black ink. Walk 1 is on Sun 30 April in Norfolk. Walk 2 is on Sun 7 May in Hertfordshire. Walk 3 is on Sun 14 May in Buckinghamshire. Walk 4 is on Sat 20 May in Suffolk. Walk 5 is on Sun 28 May in Cambridgeshire. Walk 6 is on Sun 4 June in Cambridgeshire. Walk 7a is on Sat 10 June in East Sussex. Walk 7b is on Sun 11 June in Essex. Walk 8 is on Sat 17 June & Sun 18 June in Oxford to Cambridge.

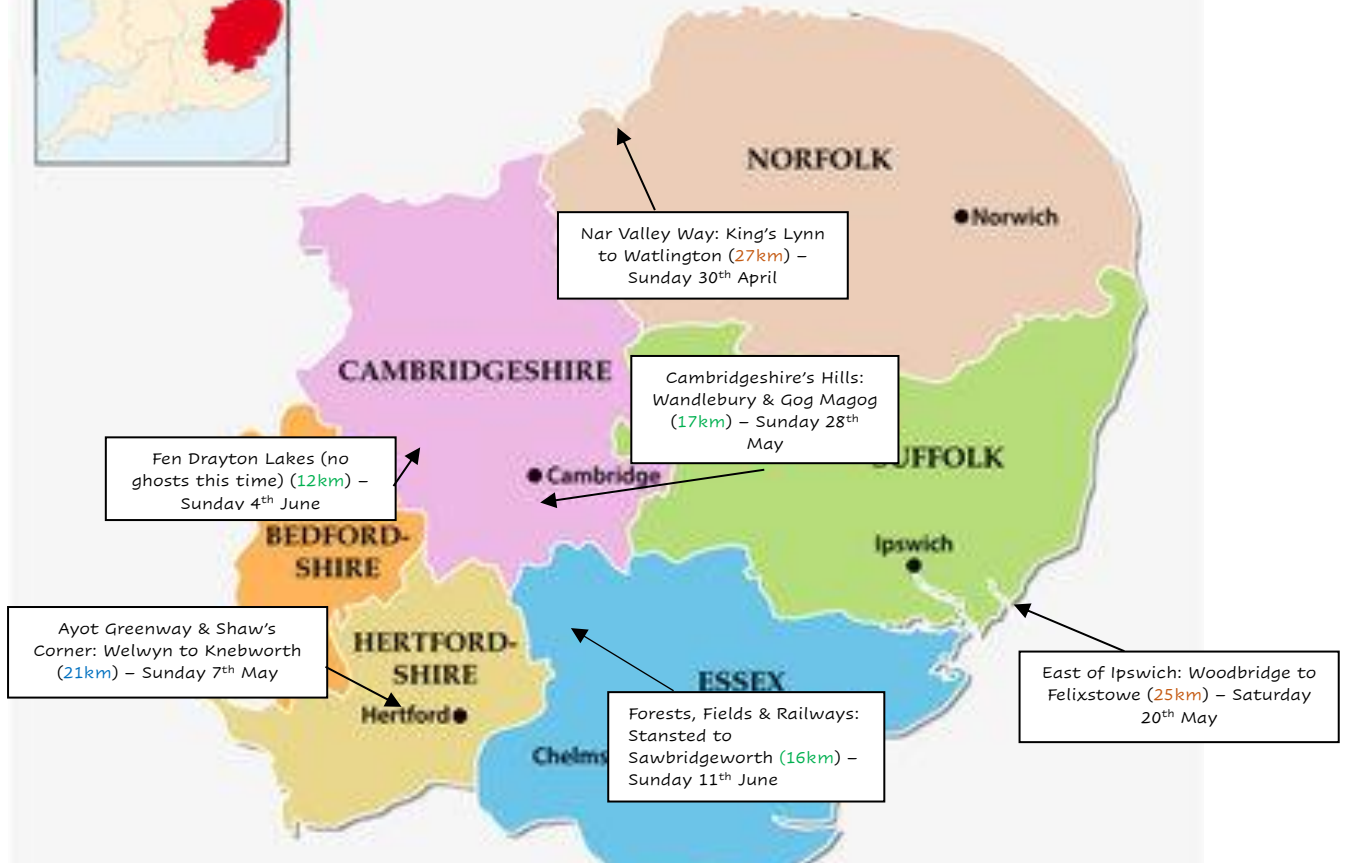
**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB**

**EASTER TERM 2023 TERM CARD**

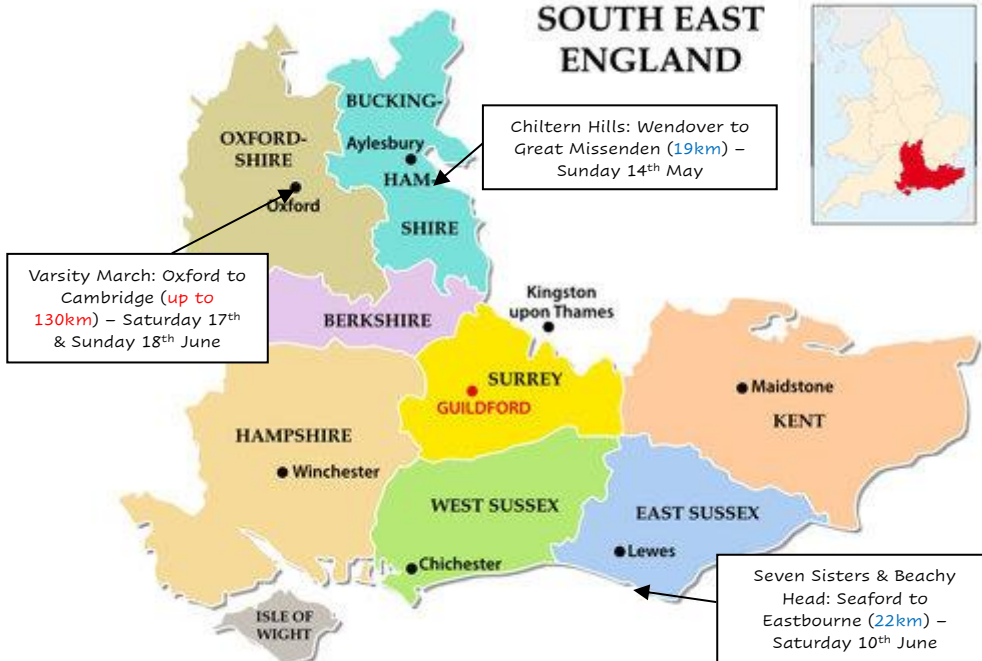
- 1) Sun 30 April (Norfolk)**  
Nar Valley Way: King's Lynn to Watlington (27km/17 mi)
- 2) <sup>Sun 7</sup> ~~Sat 8~~ May (Hertfordshire)**  
Ayot Greenway & Shaw's Corner: Welwyn to Knebworth (21km/13 mi)
- 3) <sup>Sun 14</sup> ~~Mon 15~~ May (Buckinghamshire)**  
Chiltern Hills: Wendover to Great Missenden (19km/12mi)
- 4) Sat 20 May (Suffolk)**  
East of Ipswich: Woodbridge to Felixstowe (25km/15mi)
- 5) Sun 28 May (Cambridgeshire)**  
Cambridgeshire's Hills: Wandlebury & Gog Magog (17km/11mi)
- 6) Sun 4 June (Cambridgeshire)**  
Fen Drayton Lakes (12km/8mi)
- 7a) Sat 10 June (East Sussex)**  
Seven Sisters & Beachy Head: Seaford to Eastbourne (22km/14mi)
- 7b) Sun 11 June (Essex)**  
Forests, Fields & Railways: Stansted to Sawbridgeworth (16km/10mi)
- 8) Sat 17 June & Sun 18 June (Oxford to Cambridge)**  
Varsity March (up to 130km/81mi; to Aylesbury: 37km/23mi)



# EAST OF ENGLAND



# SOUTH EAST ENGLAND



1: Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April

### Nar Valley Way: King's Lynn to Watlington

Walk Leader: Balint (dratini0@gmail.com)

Distance: 27km/17mi

County: Norfolk

We head to the coastal city of King's Lynn, just to head immediately head back inland, along the Nar Valley way, largely following the riverbank and/or towpath. Not long after we pass Lake Geneva (not the real one, just a fishing pond) we leave the river, and turn towards Shouldham Warren. Finally, we get back on the train in Watlington.

**Meet:** 8:45 for 9:03 to King's Lynn

**Return:** Back in Cambridge by 18:16

**Cost:** £6.05 (return to King's Lynn)

2: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May\*

### Ayot Greenway & Shaw's Corner: Welwyn to Knebworth

Walk Leader: Kiarn (kt506@cam.ac.uk)

Distance: 21km/13mi

County: Hertfordshire

We begin in Welwyn Garden City, heading into Sherrardspark Wood and across to Ayot Little Green where we join the Ayot Greenway, part of an abandoned rail branch line (that used to link the East Coast mainline at Welwyn to the Midland Mainline near Luton and the West Coast mainline near Leighton Buzzard). Today it forms a cycle trail from Ayot Green to Wheathampstead which we follow for most of its length. We then turn off up paths to Ayot St Lawrence and Shaw's Corner, the old residence of Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw). We then continue to and along the River Mimram, through Codicote and Mardley Wood before following the railway line for the last couple km to Knebworth.

**Meet:** 8:35 at station for 8:55 to Welwyn Garden City

**Return:** Back in Cambridge by 17:27 (potentially an hour earlier)

**Cost:** £9.55 (return to Welwyn Garden City)

3: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May

### Chiltern Hills: Wendover to Great Missenden

Walk Leader: Christopher (cet34@cam.ac.uk)

Distance: 19km/12mi

County: Buckinghamshire

This week we venture a bit further afield for a joint walk with the Oxford University Walking Club in the Chilterns, slightly more hilly terrain than usual. From the market town of Wendover we head south west on the Ridgeway National Trail and ascend Coombe Hill where we'll hopefully be rewarded with good views. Skirting Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence, we continue along the Ridgeway through undulating woodland. We then pass Grim's Ditch and Little Hampden before descending to Great Missenden along the South Buckinghamshire Way.

**Meet:** 9:05 at station for 9:22 to King's Cross

**Return:** Back in Cambridge by 21:00

**Cost:** £31.20 (£28.80 with Oyster + Railcard) ( [£24.20 (return to King's Cross, return Harrow to Wendover) + £7 (£4.60 with Oyster + Railcard) for "Underground"] )

4: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May

### East of Ipswich: Woodbridge to Felixstowe

Walk Leader: Kiarn\* (kt506@cam.ac.uk)

Distance: 25km/15mi

County: Suffolk

Disembarking the train in picturesque Woodbridge we head south towards Kyson Point and Martlesham Creek. Following small country lanes we eventually reach the village of Hemley where we join a footpath leading through the marshes along the banks of the River Deben to Felixstowe Ferry. From there we walk past a Martello Tower, a golf course, and Cobbolds Point towards the pier of the Victorian seaside town Felixstowe, which nowadays is also home to the UK's largest container port.

Recommended reading: M. R. James's "Oh, Whistle, and I'll Come to You, My Lad".

**Meet:** 8:25 in front of the Railway Station for the 8:47 train to Ipswich

**Return:** Back in Cambridge by 19:41 if we are fast, otherwise 20:41.

**Cost:** £17.85 (return to Felixstowe plus single Ipswich to Woodbridge)

\*This walk was organised by Ben who is unfortunately no longer able to lead it due to a family emergency.

5: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May

### Cambridgeshire's Hills: Wandlebury & Gog Magog

Walk Leader: Kiarn (kt506@cam.ac.uk)

Distance: 17km/11mi

County: Cambridgeshire

We set off up the strangely named "Worts' Causeway" then along The Roman Road to Wandlebury Country Park, where we reach Wandlebury Hill, Cambridgeshire's most prominent hill with 43m Prominence and 82m elevation. After exploring the park we cross the road to head over the fantastically named Gog Magog hills and Villedomer Wood then across some fields to the River Granta before making it back up to The Roman Road to return to Babraham. We also pass Beechwoods which we could go through on the way back to add 1km if people want.

**Meet:** 9:10 at Drummer Street Bus Station for 9:20 to Babraham

**Return:** Back in Cambridge by 16:00 (buses every 15 minutes so no point being precise)

**Cost:** £4 (singles to & from Babraham)

6: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

### Fen Drayton Lakes, no ghosts this time

Walk Leader: Balint (dratini0@gmail.com)

Distance: 12km/8mi

County: Cambridgeshire (historically Huntingdonshire)

We will largely be following the same path as we did for the last Halloween walk, except we will be doing it by full daylight, hopefully, keeping any ghosts at bay. We will start by visiting a bird hide overlooking the huge ferry Lagoon. We will then follow the River Ouse, up to Brownhill lock. We will then revisit Holywell, and I'm sure we will be able to see the church a lot better this time. Finally, we will follow the shady Parson's Drove to Saint Ives.

**Meet:** 10:45 at Drummer Street for the 10:55 bus to Drayton Lakes

**Return:** Back in Cambridge by 16:35

**Cost:** £4 (singles to & from Fen Drayton)

7A: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June

### Seven Sisters & Beachy Head: Seaford to Eastbourne

Walk Leader: Yuen (yuensanlo@gmail.com)

Distance: [22km / 14mi](#)

County: East Sussex

This classic cliff-top walk – one of the finest coastal walks in England – affords stunning (and very famous) views of the white cliffs of the Seven Sisters, and the renowned Beachy Head, before ending in the elegant seafront town of Eastbourne. There is quite a lot of climbing and descending on the walk – indeed, apart from the section around Cuckmere Haven and the finish along the Eastbourne seafront, almost none of the route is flat – but somehow in the grandeur of the scenery the effort is not noticed. In summer, the walk also offers opportunities for a dip in the sea!

**Meet:** 7:30 for 7:53 to Gatwick Airport

**Return:** Back in Cambridge by 21:33

**Cost:** £31.85 (return Cambridge to Seaford (split at Gatwick), single Eastbourne to Lewes)

7B: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June

### Forests, Fields & Railways: Stansted to Sawbridgeworth

Walk Leader: Kiarn

Distance: [17km/11mi](#)

County: Essex

We set off from Stansted airport to the Village of Takeley where we join the Flich way, an abandoned railway line connecting Bishops Stortford to Braintree. We follow it to the edge of Hatfield Forest (which is nowhere near Hatfield). We walk through the forest, passing a lake and Shell House, before exiting into another wood called Wall Wood. We then head across fields following the Harcamlow Way through the countryside of Essex before departing off it to head to Sawbridgeworth station for our journey back.

**Meet:** 9:25 at Railway station for the 9:45 to Stansted Airport

**Return:** Back in Cambridge by 17:20 (probably 16:40)

**Cost:** £14.05 (return to Sawbridgeworth, single Audley End to Stansted)

8: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June

### Varsity March: Oxford to Cambridge

Walk Leader: Stephanie ([sgs30@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sgs30@cam.ac.uk))

Travel logistics: Kiarn ([kt506@cam.ac.uk](mailto:kt506@cam.ac.uk))

Distance: up to 130km/81mi (37km/23mi for Oxford to Aylesbury)

Counties: Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire

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, walking just the first section or walking an intermediate distance and getting a taxi to a station. We hope to be joined for at least the first section by Oxford University Walking Club, and once again this year we will be raising money for the homelessness charities Jimmy's Cambridge and the Oxford Gatehouse. Please consider sponsoring us, or asking your friends to sponsor you (if you plan to walk the initial 37 km to Aylesbury or further), at <https://www.justgiving.com/team/varsitymarch2023>. Email Stephanie if you want to be added to the list on the page.

**Meet:** 6:00 for 6:14 to King's Cross (ideally with your train tickets, both so we don't rush and because the GWR ticket to Oxford is an advance single. We will not be using groupsave so people can change their minds). Then we meet the Oxford group at St Mary's Church in Oxford at 9:00.

After leaving Oxford we first climb Shotover hill (170 m) and make our way through Shotover Country Park to Wheatley. From here we follow the Thame River valley, passing through the pretty villages of Waterstock, Shabbington, Long Crendon, Chearsley and Cuddington on the Thame Valley Walk, Bernwood Jubilee Way and the Midshires Way. Then, in a deviation from the normal route due to HS2 construction, we make our way through the villages of Stone and Hartwell to Aylesbury, where we will all have a pub dinner before the two groups part. Those wishing for only the day trip will leave here and catch the train back to Cambridge, likely getting back around 11-12 at night. The rest continue on into the night.

### **Full Version Only:**

After a pub dinner in Aylesbury, we invite anyone who wishes to continue walking to join us as we head into the night along the Grand Union Canal towpath to Marsworth and Pitstone and then on to Ivinghoe, the village that inspired the title of Walter Scott's most famous novel. As the dawn slowly approaches, a series of bridleways, quiet roads and footpaths then takes us through the villages of Northall and Eaton Bray, past Totternhoe Nature Reserve, and along the Chiltern Way to Houghton Regis. Skirting the north edge of Luton, we then pick up the Ickniel Way which takes us over Telegraph Hill (180 m) and through the Pegsdon Hills Nature Reserve to the villages of Pirton and Ickleford where it will be possible to replenish supplies in the village shops.

Still on the Ickniel Way, we then make our way over the East Coast main line to Letchworth, where there will be the opportunity to buy food for lunch at Morrisons supermarket or, if you have had enough walking by this point, to get a train back to Cambridge.

We then continue through Norton and over Gravelpit Hill (95 m) to Ashwell, from where the long, straight track of Ashwell Street takes us to Meldreth and another opportunity to buy supplies or to get the train home if you wish.

Finally, as night begins to fall once again, we make our way through Shepreth and Barrington, over Chapel Hill (65 m), and through Haslingfield and Grantchester to finally arrive back in Cambridge either late Sunday evening or in the early hours of Monday morning.

**Return:** Late **Sunday evening** for full. By **00:04** (or earlier) on Saturday evening (technically Sunday) for Aylesbury

**Costs:** **£24.25** (£35.40 without railcard) [£21.55 / £32.70 for trains: return Cambridge to Kings Cross (I think 50p is worth having the chance to change your mind), single London to Oxford (7:52 – 8:43) + £2.70 for underground], additional cost for returns listed below:

Return from Aylesbury: **+£11.90** (£16.30 without railcard though I suspect group save may be possible here) [single Aylesbury to Harrow (£8.40/£12.80) + £3.50 (£2.30 with Oyster + Railcard) for underground]

Return from Letchworth: **+£5.65** (£8.60 without railcard)

Return from Meldreth: **+£2.35** (£3.60 without railcard)