

Cambridge University Rambling Club

Easter 2024 Termcard

If you are new, hello and welcome to [Cambridge University Rambling Club](#)! We run walks of around 10-30km around the countryside of East Anglia and occasionally further afield. Details and contacts for all the walks are included below. **You do not need to sign up in advance** to come on a walk (*except for the Varsity March*). Simply turn up at the meeting point at the given time (the meeting point is usually outside the **front of the train station** or at **Drummer Street bus station** where the buses are used).

You should bring a packed lunch (unless stated otherwise), a bottle of water and waterproofs in case of rain. Walking boots are recommended though not as strongly in this term than in others. Your only expense will be the bus or train fare (given below) and our annual £1 membership fee. Usually for trains all tickets will be purchased by the walk leader/another committee member to utilise the Group Save discount then everyone can pay them back on the train journey. Bus tickets are simply bought on the bus.

Any questions feel free to email the club president Kiarn Turner at rambling@cambridgesu.co.uk

Sunday 21st April: Wandering in the Woods

Broxbourne to Cuffley (17km / 11 miles)

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

Meet: 10:15 at the railway station for the 10:31 train to Broxbourne

Return: Back in Cambridge by 17:48

Cost: £12.50 (return to Hertford + single Cuffley to Hertford)

This walk largely follows an alternative route of Hertfordshire Way between Broxbourne and Cuffley and takes in lots of the woodland west of Broxbourne, most of which is part of Hertfordshire's only SSSI (Broxbourne Woods).

We begin from Broxbourne station heading southwest along the New River then skirting around the edge of the town to reach Hoddesdon Park Wood. We then pass through Woods of many names such as Danemead Wood, Cowheath Wood, and finally Wormley Woods, the largest in the area. We cross the railway into Newgate Street then head through Home Wood into Cuffley where we'll catch the train back.

Saturday 27th April: Chiltern Hills (joint walk with OUWC)

Wendover to Great Missenden (19km / 12 miles)

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

Meet: 7:55 at the train station for the 8:14 train to London King's Cross

Return: train from Great Missenden, arriving back by around 21:00

Cost: £30.50 (return to Kings Cross, return Amersham to Wendover + underground Kings Cross to Amersham)

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. There will be a possibility of having dinner in Great Missenden, Amersham or near Kings Cross (depending on times and people's desires).

Sunday 5th May: Bogs and Royalty

Dersingham to King's Lynn (22km / 14 miles)

Dersingham to Castle Rising (14km / 8 miles)

Leader: Balint (dratini0@gmail.com)

Meet: 8:45 at the Railway Station for the 9:03 to King's Lynn

Return: Back in Cambridge by 19:16 (earlier if returning from Castle Rising)

Cost: £8.40 (return to King's Lynn + bus to Dersingham) (+£2 if you wish to leave at Castle Rising, +£6 (£5 for students) if you wish to enter Castle Rising)

We walk through a bog, then ramble past 2 of the nicest (in my opinion) estates. Starting at Dersingham, we walk through the Dersingham Bog to Wolferton, before stomping our way back to Sandringham, which houses one of the Royal Family's residences. We will have time to take a look at St. Mary Magdalene Church, where many members of the Royal Family were baptised. We then head southwest to Castle Rising, whose castle is 'amongst the finest surviving examples of its kind anywhere in the country'. There will be time to explore before either rambling or taking a bus back to King's Lynn (please buy your own train tickets if you wish to leave at Castle Rising).

Note: Although the route doesn't head into Castle Rising Castle, do feel free to explore. Do note that Castle Rising Castle has a £6 (£5 for students) entry fee.

Sunday 12th May: Slightly Longer Drayton Lakes Walk

Swavesey to Fen Drayton (17km / 10 miles)

Leader: Balint (dratini0@gmail.com)

Meet: 10:00 at NEW SQUARE BUS STATION for the 10:15 bus to Swavesey

Return: Back in Cambridge by 16:45

Cost: £4 (bus singles)

Starting in Swavesey we walk past the former site of a priory and cross middle fen to meet the river Ouse to cross it at Brownhill Sluice. After visiting the village of Holywell, and the well for which it is named, we cross the river once again by the outskirts St Ives. Finally, we spend some time exploring the Fen Drayton Lakes Nature Reserve, where we finally get back on the coach back to Cambridge.

Saturday 18th May: A Lark through the Brecks

Kennett to Bury St Edmunds (28km / 17 miles)

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

Meet: 08:30 at the Railway station for the 8:47 to Kennett

Return: Back in Cambridge by 18:40

Cost: £9.50 (return to Bury St Edmunds)

This walk takes us across Suffolk's Brecks, rambling along rivers, through woodland and through Breckland's characteristic heathland. We will begin in Kennett, first heading towards Kentford where we pick up the Icknield Way for several km through the villages of Herringswell and Tuddenham. We then ramble across heathland over Tuddenham Heath and Icklingham Plains. We'll pass Icklingham village on our way to West Stow country park, home to an Anglo-Saxon village set amongst the Heath and Woodlands. We join the River Lark at Lackford Lakes then continue along the river through more woodland before we return back into more open landscape. Eventually we reach the town of Bury St Edmunds where we will catch the train back to Cambridge.

Saturday 25th May: An Essex Stroll

Great Chesterford to Audley End (11km / 7 miles)

Leader: Ben (bm515@cam.ac.uk)

Meet: 10.00 at the train station for the 10.20 service to Great Chesterford

Return: Back in Cambridge by 14:51

Cost: £6.45 with Railcard/GroupSave (return to Audley End)

From Great Chesterford, we set off on the Icknield Way along bridleways and ridiculously small country lanes. We pass through the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin at Strethall, a Grade I listed church dating back to the early 11th century. We then make our way to Littlebury Green and, after passing Green Wood, we descend towards Wendens Ambo and Audley End station.

Saturday 1st June: Waterbeach, Queen's Fen & Anglesey Abbey

Waterbeach & Lode Circular (14km / 9 miles)

Leader: Alfie (aw2041@cam.ac.uk)

Meet: 10:20 at the Railway Station for the 10:35 to Waterbeach

Return: Back in Cambridge by 15:07

Cost: £1.80 (return to Waterbeach)

Starting at Waterbeach Station, we will walk up the Cam before turning down the Lug Fen Droveaway, skirting the border between Queen's Fen and Bottisham Fen. We will then turn off the main track, making our way down to the remains of an Augustinian Priory and Anglesey Abbey in Lode. Next, we will pass through Stow cum Quy Fen, joining the Harcamlow Way and Fen Rivers Way, eventually ending up back at Waterbeach Station.

Sunday 9th June: Norfolk Coast - Downs, Dunes & The Sea

Hunstanton Circular (21km / 13 miles)

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

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

Return: Back in Cambridge by 20:17 (probably 19:17)

Cost: £10.40 (return to King's Lynn + Bus to Hunstanton)

From Hunstanton, we head east across Ringstead Downs and to Ringstead itself before turning north along some quiet lanes to Green Bank. We then walk along Green Bank to Thornham. Shortly after Thornham we reach the sea and turn back westwards to follow the shore across Holme Dunes before reaching Old Hunstanton. We walk along Hunstanton's promenade and then finally turn back inland to return to the bus station.

Saturday 15th June: Norfolk Broads - Between Bure and Yare

Acle to Reedham (20km / 12 miles)

Leader: Ben (bm515@cam.ac.uk)

Meet: 8:40 at the Railway Station for the 9:00 train to Acle

Return: Back to Cambridge by 20:47. [Possibly 19:12 depending on our speed.]

Cost: £15.70 with Railcard/GroupSave for day-return to Great Yarmouth(!)

We take the train to Acle on the River Bure and join the Weavers' Way heading south. Early on we reach the peak of this walk, from where at 15m above sea level we can see Great Yarmouth on the coast. After passing through the village of Halvergate we walk through the Halvergate Marshes. We there encounter several drainage mills and will be able to thoroughly enjoy the flatness and emptiness of Norfolk. Eventually we reach the tiny and remote Berney Arms railway station where we join the Wherryman's Way. We head west along the River Yare to Reedham, where a Victorian swing bridge is in operation, for the train home.

This walk was cancelled due to forecast of lightning making the route potentially unsafe. We instead walked from Great Yarmouth to Winterton-on-Sea along the coast (14km / 9 miles).

Saturday 22nd – Sunday 23rd June: Varsity March

****sign-up required****

Oxford to Cambridge (131km / 82 miles)

Oxford to Aylesbury (37km / 23 miles)

Leader: Stephanie (sgs30@cam.ac.uk)

Meet: 6:00 at Cambridge Railway Station for the 6:14 to Oxford OR 9:00 at St Mary's Church, Oxford

Return (Aylesbury): Back in Cambridge around 23:00

Return (Cambridge): Depends heavily on pace but typically around midnight on Sunday night

Cost: £39.15 with Railcard / £58.00 without (return to King's Cross, return London (any) to Oxford + underground)

+£6.30 with Railcard / £8.20 without for those returning from Aylesbury (off-peak single Aylesbury to Princes Risborough + underground)

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), the donation page can be found at <https://www.justgiving.com/team/varsitymarch2024>. Email Stephanie to sign up. Please buy your own train tickets in advance as we won't all stay as a group due to people dropping out.

Oxford to Aylesbury

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 Ickford, 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.

Aylesbury to Cambridge

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 Icknield 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 Icknield 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.