



Easter 2025 Termcard

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 most of this term's walks apart from our final one, the Varsity March (details below). 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).

You should bring a packed lunch and water. Strong boots and waterproofs are also recommended. 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 to utilise the Group Save discount and then everyone can pay them back on the train journey.

If you have any questions, email the club's president, Alfie, at rambling@cambridgesu.co.uk or the relevant walk leader (emails in walk details).

Sunday 4th May: A Tour of the Flood-Prone Ouse Valley

St Ives to Godmanchester

Distance: 27km / 17mi

Leader: Balint (yellow.oil1947@dratini0.hu)

(Don't worry, it's not flooded this week). We start at the Fen Drayton Lakes Nature Reserve, a quarry-turned-nature-reserve, which seems to get used as a floodwater reservoir on some wet winters. Arriving in St Ives, we use the spans of the St Ives bridge which form a causeway over Hemingford Meadow, a traditional flood meadow. Once we have reached Godmanchester via its Eastside Common and the dismantled railway, we visit its picturesque Island and Roman lakes. Finally, we follow the Ouse Valley Way back to central St Ives, passing by the famous Cromwell statue.

Meet at 09:25 for the 09:35 Bus to Drayton Lakes.

Back in Cambridge by 19:15 (or 18:00, if we are fast).

Cost: £4 (two single fares).

Saturday 10th May: Chiltern Hills (Joint Walk with OUWC)

Wendover to Great Missenden

Distance: 19km / 12mi

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

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. N.B. Because we are travelling further away from Cambridge than usual the return time is uncertain.

Meet at 08:00 at the train station for the 08:14 train to London King's Cross.

Return: train from Great Missenden, arriving back by around 20:30.

Cost: £29.60 with railcard on train and tube, £33.00 with GroupSave or railcard only on train, £44.60 without (Super Off-Peak Day Return Cambridge to London King's Cross + Oyster/contactless on tube + Off-Peak Day Return Amersham to Wendover.)

Saturday 17th May: Fen Rivers Way

King's Lynn to Cambridge

Distance: 76km / 47 mi (full route) or 48km / 30 mi (to Ely) or 18km / 11 mi (to Downham Market).

Leader: Jasper (jnw35@cam.ac.uk)

We will follow the Fen Rivers Way, a long distance footpath between King's Lynn and Cambridge, following along the banks of the Great Ouse and the Cam rivers. Starting at King's Lynn we will follow the tidal section of the river to Denver where Denver Sluice acts as the heart of the flood defence system that protects the fens. We will stop here for lunch before continuing along the Ouse towards Ely where, if we make good time, we will enjoy excellent views of Ely cathedral. We'll stop in Ely for dinner before finally joining the Cam for the stretch to Cambridge, passing through several nature reserves and sites of special scientific interest which we will enjoy by torchlight as it will be dark by this point. We will finish the route on the banks of the Cam at Jesus Green.

Note: This is a challenging route due to the distance involved, people wishing to complete the full route should have the following items. Walkers who are not appropriately equipped will not be permitted to walk the full route.

Light shoes (e.g. trail shoes, trainers, lightweight boots), heavy boots will be too exhausting over the long distance.

Snacks, walking this route will burn several thousand calories so bring enough food to replenish your energy as we walk.

Water, you will need to consume several litres of water over the duration of the route. We will be able to refill water bottles along the route but you should be able to carry 2 litres of water with you at any time.

Head torch, the Ely to Cambridge section of the route will be walked in the dark. If you do not have a head torch you will not be allowed to continue past Ely.

Finally, it is recommended that anyone thinking of attempting the full Varsity March distance in June should attend this walk to get a taste of what the March will be like.

Meet at 6:20 at the station for the 6:35 to King's Lynn.

Back in Cambridge by Sunday morning.

Cost: £7.10 (super off-peak single to King's Lynn), people departing early will also have to buy a train ticket back to Cambridge.

Sunday 25th May: John Bunyan, Knights Templars and Haunted Chapels

Hitchin Circular

Distance: 21km / 13mi

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

Starting at Hitchin Station, we will walk through the town before reaching more open countryside at Hitchin Hill. We will head up a gentle hill to Wain Wood where John Bunyan once preached in the 17th Century. We will then walk through the village of Preston, passing the site of Temple Dinsley, a preceptory of the Knights Templars, to Hitch Wood. The path from there takes us past the (allegedly) haunted Minsden Chapel and up to Little and Great Wymondley. Finally, we will walk back into Hitchin to the station.

Meet at 09:15 at the station for the 09:28 to Hitchin.

Back in Cambridge by 17:29.

Cost: £7.50 (return to Hitchin).

Saturday 31st May: Norfolk Broads: Between Bure and Yare

Acle to Reedham

Distance: 20km / 12mi

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

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, 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. There we encounter several drainage mills and will be able to thoroughly enjoy the flatness and emptiness of Norfolk and the Broads. 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.

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

Back in Cambridge by 20:44. [Possibly 19:12, depending on our speed and whether we'd like to go to a pub in Reedham.]

Cost: £16.55 with Railcard, otherwise £24.80 (unfortunately GroupSave is not available). Buy a day return to Great Yarmouth(!)

Sunday 8th June: Water, Woods, and Walking: St Neots to Huntingdon via Grafham Water

St Neots to Hinchingsbrooke

Distance: 25km / 16 mi

Leader: Jasper (jnw35@cam.ac.uk)

Starting at St Neots on the river Ouse, we will head north west departing the river and heading through the countryside towards Grafham Water where we will stop for lunch on the shores of the reservoir. Grafham water is one of the few spots in Cambridge where fossils can be found if one is lucky. After lunch we will follow the shore of the reservoir covering around a third of its perimeter, before leaving it just beyond Grafham village. From there we will head east through Brampton wood to Hinchingsbrooke country park where we will finish our walk just at the outskirts of Huntingdon.

Meet: 9:00 at Drummer Street bus station for the 9:15 to St Neots.

Return: Back to Cambridge by 19:25. Possibly earlier depending on pace.

Cost: £4 (two single fares)

Saturday 14th June: Pride and Peterborough

Stamford to Peterborough

Distance: 27km / 17mi

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

From Peterborough, we will walk along the River Nene, passing Ferry Meadows Country Park. Just before the village of Castor, we will head north through Castor Hangland National Nature Reserve, Southey Wood and skirt past Hills and Holes National Nature Reserve. From there, the Roman road of Ermine Street takes us past Burghley Park and into Stamford, a quaint town used as Meryton in the filming of Pride and Prejudice.

Meet: 08:45 at the station for the 09:00 to Stamford.

Back in Cambridge by 18:15.

Cost: No GroupSave so £23.30 with and £35.00 without railcard (return to Stamford). If you buy an advance ticket or split tickets with Trainline/other providers, it will be cheaper.

Saturday 21st June: The West Runton Squiggle

Cromer to West Runton

Distance: 20km / 12 mi

Leader: Kiarn (kiarn.turner@gmail.com)

We begin the bizarrely shaped route in Cromer where we join the Weavers Way and follow it across fields to Felbrigg Estate, a 211 hectare estate owned by the national trust. We explore its woodlands and pass the elegant country house. After leaving the estate we head to Beacon Hill and Roman Camp, home to the highest point in Norfolk at 105m above sea level. We then descend to Beeston Regis to climb the Beeston Bump at 61m situated right on the coastline and then follow the coast along to West Runton. For anyone who wishes for a shorter walk it will be possible to leave here. Otherwise we continue on up to Ingleborough Hill (79m) for stunning views over the surrounding coast and woodlands. We then head back up through the lovely woodlands between here and Beacon Hill before returning to West Runton via Town Hill (44m).

Meet: 8:00 for the 8:20 to Norwich.

Back in Cambridge by 20:44 (likely earlier).

Cost: £16.55 (return to West Runton).

Saturday 28th - Sunday 29th June: The Varsity March

Sign-Up Required

Oxford to Cambridge (131km / 82mi)

Oxford to Aylesbury (37km / 23mi)

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

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. 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.

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: £31.75 with splitsave and railcard / £47.70 with only splitsave (single journey to Oxford via London King's Cross and Underground)

+ a ticket from Aylesbury back into London if stopping after the first leg.