



Lent 2025 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 most of this term's walks (except March March 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 and a bottle of water. Strong boots and waterproofs are also recommended. In the earlier parts of term warm clothing will likely be necessary and you may wish to carry a torch in case it gets dark (the walk description should say if this is likely). 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.

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

Saturday 25th January: Heaths, Groves and Larks (attempt 2)

Thurston to Bury St Edmunds

Distance: 21km / 13mi

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

We will head south from Thurston through Mill Heath, continuing down to Rougham and then past Colville's Grove. Passing both Little and Great Welnetham and crossing the River Lark in the process, the walk takes us up through Sicklesmere and onto the St Edmund Way which we will follow to the station in Bury St Edmunds.

Meet: 08:30 at the station for the 08:46 train to Thurston.

Back in Cambridge by 17:41.

Cost: £11.85 (return to Thurston)

Sunday 2nd February: Leisurely stroll along the Ouse

St Neots Circular

Distance: 17km / 11 miles

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

We begin our stroll by heading North following the banks of the Ouse. We pass by the nature reserve of the Paxton Pits, located close to Little Paxton (a village which is curiously much larger than Great Paxton). We then continue along the Ouse, until we turn inland to reach the village of Southoe. From here, we cross Diddlington wood and pass by Little Paxton wood, to finally return to St Neots, crossing the River Kym next to one of the few remaining fords in Cambridgeshire.

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

Back in Cambridge at 16:05 or 17:05 (Return buses depart hourly at :30)

Cost: £4 (Singles to/from St Neots)

Saturday 8th February: Lovejoy Country

Bury St Edmunds to Lavenham

Distance: 28km / 17 miles

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

Departing in Bury St Edmunds we head past the cathedral and the Pillar of Salt — Britain's first internally illuminated road sign — to follow the St Edmunds Way through the rolling hills of the Suffolk countryside. In the early 1990s this part of East Anglia was popularised by a TV show about a cunning antique dealer called Lovejoy. The length of the walk will be rewarded since Lavenham, our destination, is especially quaint and features many timbered, colourful, and occasionally crooked houses. Depending on our precise arrival time we might be able to go to a pub before the bus takes us back to Bury for the train home.

Meet: 8:30 at the station for the 8:46 to Bury St Edmunds

Return: Back in Cambridge by 19:41

Cost: £9.55 for GroupSave / Railcard day return to Bury St Edmunds, plus a few pounds for the bus.

Sunday 16th February: Abandoning the Roman Road

Horseheath to Haverhill

Distance: 21km / 13 miles

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

We return to Horseheath where we left off last term to continue to Haverhill, this time abandoning the Roman Road and instead climbing up to a high point (122m) around the remains of RAF Wrattling Common before winding our way down into the Stour Valley at Thurlow. We then follow the Stour Valley Way down towards Kedington where we turn right to head into Haverhill for the bus back.

Meet: 9:35 at Drummer Street Bus Station for the 9:45 to Horseheath

Return: Back in Cambridge by 18:33 (potentially 17:33)

Cost: £6 (bus singles)

Sunday 23rd February: Through Fields to Therfield Heath

Baldock to Royston

Distance: 20km / 12 miles

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

We will make our way up to Clothall from Baldock Station and continue through undulating countryside past Redhill, Roe Green and Sandon. We will eventually reach Therfield (high-point of 167m) and then follow the Icknield Way up to Therfield Heath on the edge of Royston. From there, it is only a small distance to Royston Station.

Meet: 9:10 at the train station for the 9:28 to Baldock.

Return: Back in Cambridge by 16:30.

Cost: £6.05 (return to Baldock).

Saturday 1st March: Still doesn't have a name

Great Chesterford to Newport via Saffron Walden

Distance: 20km / 12 miles

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

Starting in Great Chesterford, we head upstream along the River Granta (a tributary of the Cam) before climbing to almost 100m on our way to the market town of Saffron Walden. We then walk through the grounds of Audley End before following the Harcamlow Way down Beechy Ride and then to the pleasant valley of Debden Water. From Debden Park we pass through Cabbage Wood and then descend to Newport.

Meet: 10:05 at the Railway Station for the 10:20 train to Great Chesterford

Return: train from Newport arriving back by around 17:51

Cost: £6.65 with railcard/GroupSave (return to Newport, Essex)

Saturday 8th March: Ayot Greenway and Shaw's Corner

Welwyn to Knebworth

Distance: 21km / 13 miles

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

Starting in Welwyn Garden City we follow the Ayot Greenway (a dismantled railway) and the Hertfordshire Way to the village of Ayot St Lawrence. We will catch a glimpse of Shaw's Corner, the former residence of the poet George Bernard Shaw, and look at the unusual Palladian church. We then head east towards Knebworth House and Park, the venue of numerous music festivals and concerts. From Knebworth station we take the train back home.

Meet: 9:10 at station for 9:26 to Welwyn Garden City

Return: Back in Cambridge by 17:53

Cost: £10.10 (GroupSave / Railcard day return to Welwyn Garden City)

Saturday 15th March: Further Explorations of the North Downs

Dorking Circular

Distance: 23km / 14 miles

Elevation Gain: 470m

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

After last lent exploring some of the hills to the northeast of Dorking, this time we head southwestwards to Leith Hill, the peak of the greensand ridge and second highest point in South East England. We head out of Dorking towards the Nower then ascend through Squire's Great Wood to Broadmoor. We then make a left turn and follow the Greensand Way up the valley to the top of Leith Hill, reaching 295m (likely the highest CURAC will go outside of trips). We then pass over Highashes hill and along Abinger Bottom back to Broadmoor. We then rejoin the Greensand Way in the other direction and follow this back to Dorking.

Meet: 8:10 for the 8:26 to Stevenage

Return: Back in Cambridge by 21:39 (possibly 20:39)

Cost: £21.85 (Cambridge to Dorking return (split at Reigate))

Saturday 22nd March: March March March!

March to Cambridge

Distance: 53km / 33 miles

Leader: Colin (colin@ps116.org.uk)

The March March March is a mammoth expedition across the Fens between the towns of March and Cambridge, originally invented by Jonathan Partington in 1979 and all completed within a single day in March! See the website (<http://www.marchmarchmarch.org.uk/>) for more info. Walking across the incredibly flat landscapes of the fens, we will pass through Wimblington, Doddington, Chatteris, Somersham, Bluntisham and Over before following the guided busway to Chesterton then joining the Cam back into central Cambridge. For any considering attempting the annual Varsity March (82 mile walk from Oxford to Cambridge without sleep) in late June, this may act as something of a warmup. (Note often recently the walk has ended in Histon at the 46km mark). This walk does contain notably more roadside walking than the club usually includes (the CURAC version of 2009-2012 contained less but was also 66km long). Please email Colin at the address above if you plan on going.

Meet: 7:45 at the Railway station for 8:00 to March

Return: Sometime Saturday evening

Cost: £2.95 / £4.50 without railcard (single to March)