



Easter 2026 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 apart from if you wish to challenge yourself with the Varsity March, our final walk of term (details can be found below). Simply turn up at the meeting point (usually outside the train station or Drummer Street bus station) at the given time.

You should bring a packed lunch and water. Boots or other sensible walking shoes and waterproofs are also recommended. Your only expense will be the bus or train fare (given below) and our annual £1 membership fee. To utilise the GroupSave discount for trains, all tickets will usually be purchased by the walk leader who can then be paid back via bank transfer.

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).

Saturday 2nd May: Mills and Bluebell Woods

Cambourne to Cambridge

Distance: 20km / 13mi

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

In a walk inspired by the club's second ever ramble, we begin from the centre of Cambourne and the Cambourne Nature Reserve, heading past Bourn Windmill and the Bourn Brook towards the village of Bourn. We then pass through Caldecote to join the Harcamlow Way, through Hardwick Wood (where we will hopefully find Bluebells), over a 66m high point by Hardwick, then along Whitwell Way to Coton. We then make it back into Cambridge past West Cambridge and the University Library.

Meet at 10:35 at Drummer Street Bus Station for the 10:49 to Cambourne

Back in Cambridge by approx. 17:15.

Cost: £3 (single to Cambourne).

Saturday 9th May: Chiltern Hills (Joint Walk with OUWC)

Wendover to Great Missenden

Distance: 19km / 12mi

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

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 at 08:25 at the train station for the 08:42 train to London King's Cross.

Back in Cambridge approx. 19:14 to 20:43.

Cost: £36.29 (complicated split ticketing nonsense - London travelcard, single from Harrow-on-the Hill to Wendover, and single back from Great Missenden to Harrow-on-the-Hill).

Sunday 17th May: An Offley Big Adventure

Letchworth to Hitchin

Distance: 24km / 15mi

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

Starting at Letchworth Station, we take the Icknield Way up to the village of Pirton. From there, we turn south-west and follow Wood Lane past Knocking Hoe Nature Reserve and Tingley Wood. We diverge from the Icknield Way to ascend Deacon Hill and follow the chalk ridge along to Pegsdon Hills Nature Reserve (part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) before turning south down Lilley Hoo to the village of Great Offley. Finally, we walk into Hitchin via Charlton.

Meet at 09:30 at the train station for the 09:51 to Letchworth Garden City.

Back in Cambridge by 17:50.

Cost: £7.85 (return to Hitchin).

Sunday 24th May: Drayton Lakes Figure of Six

Drayton Lakes to St Ives

Distance: 13km / 8mi

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

For an easy Sunday walk, we get off the bus in the middle of RSPB Drayton Lakes, a nature reserve created from some old quarry pits, housing several bird hides. We then walk around the outer edge of the reserve, making sure to see all the major lakes. Once that's done, instead of looping back on ourselves, we meet the Great Ouse, and follow it all the way to St Ives.

Meet at 10:05 at Drummer Street Bus Station for the 10:16 bus to Drayton Lakes.

Back in Cambridge by 15:49.

Cost: £6 (two singles).

Saturday 30th May: Hobson's Park, Byron's Pool & Grantchester

Cambridge Circular via Grantchester & Trumpington Meadows

Distance: 13km / 8mi

Leader: Anand (art71@cam.ac.uk)

Beginning from central Cambridge, we'll follow the River Cam south through Sheep's Green and Paradise Nature Reserve on the way down to Grantchester Meadows. After reaching Grantchester, we'll continue southwards to Byron's Pool nature reserve and Trumpington Meadows Country Park. From there we'll follow the busway to Hobson's Park before finally following Vicar's Brook back to Coe Fen and central Cambridge.

Meet at 13:00 at Great St Mary's Church.

Back in Cambridge by approx. 16:30.

Cost: Free!

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th June: 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.u)

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:

- 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.

Walkers who are not appropriately equipped will not be permitted to walk the full route.

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 6:10 at the station for the 6:21 to King's Lynn.

Back in Cambridge by Sunday morning.

Cost: £7.45 (single to King's Lynn). People planning to depart early should buy a return ticket.

Saturday 13th June: Wandering By The Wash

Hunstanton Circular

Distance: 21km / 13mi

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

Starting from Hunstanton, we leave the town and skirt Hunstanton Park, dipping down into a small valley containing Ringstead Downs Nature Reserve. We pass through the village of Ringstead and follow some small country roads to Thornham. From there we take the coastal path, following it through salt marshes, past Holme next the Sea and back into Hunstanton. We will be accompanied by spectacular views of the sea that reach all the way across The Wash to Lincolnshire on a clear day.

Meet: 08:25 at the train station for the 08:45 to King's Lynn.

Back in Cambridge by 19:36 (or earlier).

Cost: £14.85 (return ticket to King's Lynn + return bus ticket to Hunstanton).

Saturday 20th - Sunday 21st 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 6:12 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: ~£30-£50 depending on railcard, split tickets and advance tickets. Those departing the walk early will also have to buy a ticket back.