

# CURAC Easter 2022 Walk Records

## **The Edge of the Chilterns**

2: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Walk Leader: Benjamin, bm515

Distance: 15 miles / 24 km

Disembarking the train in Letchworth Garden City we follow the Icknield Way west. After passing through Ickleford and Pirton we eventually reach the border to Bedfordshire. We then walk through the Pegsdon Hills Nature Reserve, which features hills of up to 180 metres. Afterwards we head back into Hertfordshire on the Chiltern Way, arriving in Hitchin via Great Offley.

Meet: 08:35 at the Railway Station for the 08:54 train to Letchworth.

Return: Back in Cambridge by 17:11

Cost: £6.05 with GroupSave / Railcard (£9.20 without)

## **Thetford Forest**

3: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May

Walk Leader: Tadek (tw474)

Approx. 12 miles / 20 km

Meet: 8:30 at the Railway Station for the 8:51 train to Brandon

Return: from Thetford at 17:36, for arrival back in Cambridge at 18:20

Cost: Return ticket to Thetford £15.40 (or £10.30 with GroupSave/Railcard)

## **Chiltern Hills – Wendover to Great Missenden (with Oxford Walking Club)**

4: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Walk Leader: Christopher (cet34)

Distance: 12 miles / 19 km

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 approximate.

Meet: 08:00 at the train station for the 08:22 train to London King's Cross

Return: train from Great Missenden, arriving back around 20:00 (or possibly 21:00 if we're delayed) Cost: £23.85 with a railcard (£36.20 without) (both prices assume use of Oyster/contactless to pay for tube in London) (Off Peak Day Return Cambridge to London King's Cross + Oyster/Contactless on tube + Day Return Harrow-On-The-Hill to Wendover)

## The Varsity March

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Distance: 81 miles / 130 km (Oxford to Cambridge) or 23 miles / 37 km (Oxford to Aylesbury)

Walk Leader: Stephanie (sgs30)

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 or just the first section, returning to Cambridge by train from Aylesbury after the first day. We will be joined by Oxford University Walking Club, and once again this year we will be raising money for the Oxford Gatehouse and for Jimmy's Cambridge, two charities who carry out vital work among the homeless and poorly housed in Oxford and Cambridge. Please consider making a donation or asking your friends to sponsor you by visiting our JustGiving pages at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/varsitymarch2022-gatehouse> <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/varsitymarch2022-jimmys>

### Details:

Meet: 06:00 at the train station for the 06:14 train to Oxford (via London)

Return: 19:33 or 20:33 train (depending on walking speed) from Aylesbury (via London) arrives in Cambridge at 23:04 or 00:04, otherwise sometime on Sunday night or Monday morning if walking all the way back.

Cost: Train is £41.40 with a railcard (£62.80 without), plus £3.20 railcard (£4.90 without) if returning from Aylesbury. [This is a return ticket to Oxford (the single fare is only 5p cheaper) plus a single from Aylesbury to Princes Risborough (the Cambridge to Oxford return ticket is valid via Princes Risborough but not via Aylesbury)]

If you plan to walk no further than Aylesbury then you are welcome to just turn up on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>, but if you think you might want to walk further and/or would like your name added to the list of walkers on our JustGiving pages please sign up by emailing Stephanie on [sgs30@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sgs30@cam.ac.uk). Please note that completing the whole walk represents a very significant mental and physical challenge, and even just the first day to Aylesbury is significantly longer and may be slightly faster paced than most of our rambles.

### What to bring:

- A packed lunch for Saturday, plus a packed breakfast to eat on the train if you like. We will stop for a pub dinner on arrival in Aylesbury on Saturday evening before those leaving at Aylesbury catch the train back to Cambridge. If you plan to attempt the whole walk you will probably want to bring a few extra snacks for the overnight section and possibly for the following day although there will be the opportunity to pick up food and water from shops that we will pass on Sunday morning.
- Water: 2-3 litres recommended depending on the weather; there will be a few opportunities to refill from shops and pubs along the route.
- If you plan to continue past Aylesbury you will need to bring an electric torch/flashlight for the overnight section.
- As always, waterproof clothing is recommended if the weather is wet, and if you plan to do the whole walk you might want to bring something warm to wear if it gets cold overnight even if it is hot and sunny during the day