

The District Councillor's four 10k's from Grantchester

A couple of years ago, the local District Councillor felt he was getting fat and unfit, so he started running in the countryside round his home village of Grantchester. Here are his four favourite routes, each about 10 km long, starting and finishing in Grantchester (on Broadway, near The Blue Ball and Rupert Brooke pubs).

Purple route (DC1) - Red Meadow Hill:

This hill rises to 50 metres, a veritable mountain in this area, and has fabulous views over Cambridge and its gleaming spires. The hill is well-known from afar as it's where the army's red flag flies when the nearby rifle range is in use. However, not so many people have trekked to the top to take in the wonderful views, which is a shame, so we are trying to encourage people to do so. The route also takes you along Grantchester and through part of Coton Countryside Reserve.

Green route (DC2) - Bourne Brook and Burwash Manor Farm:

This route takes you away from Cambridge, along the peaceful Bourne Brook (which later flows into the Cam), to the radio telescopes operated by the University's astronomy department. It then loops back through The Leys, an open recreational area in Barton, and back via Burwash Manor Farm.

Orange route (DC3) Great Field:

Before the Enclosure Acts of the late 1700s and early 1800s, England's fields were much bigger than they are today, and not divided by hedgerows. Great Field was the name of a large area west of Grange Road; it is now sub-divided by hedges, and is a glorious unspoilt agricultural area just outside the urban edge of the City. The route first takes you through Newham and along the Backs, before turning left by King's College Chapel, and out towards Great Field.

Blue route (DC4) - Hobson's Conduit:

Hobson's Conduit is a small canal that was built in the 1610s by Thomas Hobson to bring fresh water into the City from springs near Great Shelford. This route takes you through Newham and across Lammas Land, and then down along a pleasant shady part of the footpath alongside the conduit, before returning back across the river to Grantchester.

