

Frequently asked questions

Q1: Can I bring friends along to the walk, even if they haven't registered in advance?

A1: Absolutely! Walkers are welcome to register on the day. But bear in mind that it will cost £15 to register on the day, whereas advance registration is only £8.

Q2: Is the walk suitable for children?

A2: We welcome children of all ages (accompanied by an adult), and there'll be activities for children laid on at Chilford Hall, like storytelling and face-painting. Registration is free for children. However, if you are bringing a baby or toddler, you may find it easier to carry him or her in a backpack rather a buggy. The four-mile walk doesn't contain any stiles, but there is some rough ground; if you bring a buggy, we would recommend that two adults are available in case you need to lift it over any difficult patches.

Q3: Can the four-mile walk be negotiated in a wheelchair?

A3: Much of the route is along footpaths and bridle paths, including some rough ground. We think that, unfortunately, it would be difficult for wheelchairs.

Q4: How many people do I need to make up a team?

A4: Four or more adult walkers – there's no upper size limit. A team can also include children, provided there are four adults.

Q5: I want to enter a team, but I've only got three people. What shall I do?

A5: Try posting a message on the Cambridge Oxfam Walk Facebook page, or putting up a poster (which you can download from the Oxfam Walk website – look under the "Resources" tab) in your workplace or on a local noticeboard. You'll almost certainly find more like-minded walkers!

Q6: I've got a group of young people (under 16) who want to take part. Is it OK if only one adult accompanies the whole group?

A6: We don't have a hard and fast rule – it's up to your own judgement. Obviously you'll need more people to look after younger children. But do bear in mind that the group might want to split up, for example if some people walk faster than others; you would then need to have an adult accompanying each group.

Q7: Do I need to bring my own refreshments?

A7: We strongly advise you to carry water with you. There will be dispensers at each checkpoint to allow you to refill your water bottle. You might also like to carry a small amount of food with you, for example a banana or a cereal bar, but

sandwiches, cakes and hot drinks will be on sale at checkpoints on all the routes except the four-mile one. In addition, the Bistro at Chilford Hall will be open (see the Chilford Hall website for details), and there will be an icecream vendor near the Transit Tent by the Chilford Hall gates.

Q8: Are there toilets on the walk?

A8: Yes, there are toilets at Chilford Hall, and toilets (or portable toilets) at each checkpoint, including the Transit Tent at the bottom of Chilford Hall drive?

Q9: Can we bring our dog?

A9: Yes, but walkers must of course follow the Countryside Code, including keeping dogs on a lead in the vicinity of livestock and for the short sections of routes that are along public roads. Be warned that all the routes, apart from the four-mile one, contain stiles and/or kissing gates!

Q10: I said on my registration form that I'd be walking four miles, but now I think I can manage more. Can I change my mind?

A10: Yes, but please let us know when you check in at the start of the walk, to ensure we give you the correct walk directions and map.

Q11: Can I get to Chilford Hall by train?

A11: If you arrive at Cambridge station, a free Stagecoach bus will take you to Chilford Hall – look for the special Oxfam Walk bus stop – and you can get a return bus to the station after the walk.

Q12: What happens if I can't make it do Chilford Hall by the "latest start time" for the length of walk that I want to do?

A12: If you're a few minutes late, through no fault of your own, the desk marshals may, at their discretion, allow you to undertake your chosen walk length. But this isn't automatic, and you may be asked to walk a shorter route. This is to ensure that everyone has finished walking by 5.30 pm, when first aid and safety cover ends.

Q13: Can I Gift Aid my registration fee?

A13: No, because we are required to treat the registration fee as a contribution to the cost of organising the Walk. But Gift Aid can be claimed on the sponsorship money you raise, and on any additional donation that you make (provided the donation comes from a UK taxpayer), so do please encourage your sponsors to tick the Gift Aid box.

Q14: Do I need to wear hiking boots?

A14: The walk takes place on established paths but most of the route is unsurfaced, and, depending on the weather, may be muddy. You will need stout footwear

(definitely not high heels or sandals!) and hiking boots may be a good idea particularly if the weather is wet either on or just before the walk day. If your boots need an upgrade, our sponsors, Cotswold Outdoors are offering walkers a 15% discount!