



## Rushmere Country Park

**Parking addresses:** Rushmere Country Park, Herons' View Visitor Centre, Linslade Road, Heath and Reach, Bedfordshire LU7 0EB.

**Stockgrove Entrance:** Brickhill Road, Heath And Reach, LU7 0BA.

**Thrift Road Entrance:** Thrift Road, Heath and Reach, LU7 0AX.

**Parking:** There are three places to park that we know of. The Rushmere Country Park main entrance has by far the biggest car parking area, plus overspill facility. The older Stockgrove Park entrance has a considerably smaller car park, and a little roadside parking available. Both official car parks charge £3 per visit at the time of writing. Although these two places were named Rushmere and Stockgrove Country Parks, they are just two entrances to the same park these days - Rushmere Country Park. At peak periods the Stockgrove entrance rapidly fills up, and even the Rushmere car parks can reach capacity on the busiest of days.

Then there is the aptly named Thrift Road, which is a small street that terminates at another entrance to the park. You can park there for free, although local authorities would prefer that you did not, as it disappoints the neighbours. That said, there is also plenty of free parking in Linslade road, which is at the foot of Thrift Road.



Main entrance at Rushmere Country Park.



Plenty of parking at Rushmere main entrance.

**Walk:** We recommend parking where the authorities would prefer you to park; at the main Rushmere entrance. Then go to the visitor centre and pick up a free map of the park. There are suggested trails and probably the best one takes you from the Rushmere entrance to the Stockgrove entrance, via the lake. It takes 30 minutes or less. Bear in mind that this a wooded area, so there are plenty of tree roots to stumble on in places.

There is open, grassy ground at both ends of the park should you wish to take a picnic.

If you park in Thrift Road there is a fairly steep descent and ascent involved in the woods. That route into the park is generally harder work initially, and on a first visit the approved parking areas offer better navigation once inside the park.

**Food and drink:** There are two cafes, one at each entrance, and both offer hot food and snacks. The cafe at the main Rushmere entrance in Linslade Road, The Tree Tops Cafe, has a decked outdoor area that sits atop a large hill in the park and looks down onto a lake. In the spring there are Herons nesting in nearby trees, and there is a telescope setup to provide free viewing of the birds. At the time of writing they also have a live nest cam that sends images back to the visitor centre where they are displayed on a screen.