



Houghton Hall Park

Parking address: Houghton Hall Park, Park Road North, Houghton Regis, Dunstable LU5 5FU.

The park's website warns against using the postcode in your satnav - it evidently misdirects somehow. Instead use the name of the town and road.

Parking: The car park is pretty large, but the Houghton Hall Park website says that there are only 39 spaces – presumably because the others are allocated during the week.

Parking is free, but during weekdays you must display a ticket as evidence that you are not overstaying your welcome. Your welcome seems to extend to about three hours. At weekends no ticket is needed.

If you cannot get into the car park, you could try nearby Moore Crescent, which gets used for sports parking at weekends (Sunday football games). There is a sign on Moore Crescent for 'Woodland Walk' which will lead you into the park.



Parking is off Park Road North.



Free parking, display a ticket on weekdays.

Walk: Houghton Hall was commissioned as a private estate in 1700 by Alice Brandreth, it was part of a much larger land holding of one Henry Brandreth who once owned all of what is now Houghton Regis.

Houghton Hall Park now presents as a path running around the periphery of a number of large fields. Some are mowed and others are left to grow, presumably in order to support small wildlife: butterflies and such.

The park is popular with dog walkers, picnickers, joggers and those just out to stretch their legs.

Houghton Hall Park includes an impressive visitor centre with café, wooded areas, as well as the fields, plus a formal garden, part of which produces fruit and veg. It's well worth a visit, and justifies the management's claim to be a hidden gem.

Food and drink:

The Park has its own cafeteria which serves light snacks as well as cooked meals. You can eat inside or out.