

Cooper's Hill, AmptHill



Parking: Woburn Road, AmptHill, Bedford MK45 2GQ, or Station Road, AmptHill, Bedford MK45 2QR.

You can park in laybys on Woburn Road, or else in one of AmptHill Great Park's car parks. The park is directly opposite Cooper's Hill on the opposite side of the road.

Alternatively, you can park for free in Station Road on the other side of Cooper's Hill, which is a residential area (so less acceptable to locals). However, it does seem that as you progress along Station Road to where the entrance to Cooper's Hill is there are less parked cars there anyway. So it's probably not a problem.



Parking available in laybys.



The entrance to Cooper's Hill is adjacent to the rugby club, shown above.

Walk: Cooper's Hill is a part of the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It can be found directly across the Woburn Road from AmptHill Great Park; both places are worthy of strolling in.

The site was formerly known as AmptHill Warren. As with Sharpenhoe Clappers and Rowney Warren, rabbits were once introduced there to breed with a view to supplying meat and pelts. This was most likely done by the Normans.

Walking around Coopers Hill does not take too long, but it depends on how much up-and-over the hills you build into your walk. We stretched it out to 2.3 Km. It seems just about the right length for walking the dog, judging by the number of quadrupeds we saw there. Be aware that this is not a major day out, though – it's a short stroll in a pleasant place.

There is a very nice, well maintained memorial on the site, dedicated to those who served and fell in the two world wars. This deserves a look and perhaps a couple of minutes reading the names of the fallen.

By the way, I can't discover whether it was one Cooper or several Coopers that the hill was named after, so I don't know where the possessive apostrophe goes. Most websites I found don't bother with one, but The Wildlife Trust think there must have been just one Cooper, according to their placing.

Food and drink:

AmptHill Great Park (across the road) has a cafe, The AmptHill Park Hub, which serves hot food and offers indoor and outdoor seating. If you don't want to eat in the cafe you could try the Chequers pub at: AmptHill Rd, Houghton Conquest, Bedford MK45 3JP (currently closed - as at 24/9/2020). The pub has a nice big outdoor seating area which is popular in summer, but generally you can find a seat. It also has a children's outdoor play area.