



## Walk From Willington Dovecote

**Parking address:** Church End, Willington, Bedford MK44 3PX.

**Parking:** There is a small car park right next to the Dovecote. In the unlikely event that it is full, you can park on the grass either side of the quiet road beside the car park.



The small car park in Church End.



Walk to the right as you leave the car park, along this lane.

### Walk:

This circular walk begins at the large Dovecote built by John Gostwick at Willington in the 16th century.

Dovecotes are used to house pigeons, either for sporting purposes, or else in preparation for the table. In John Gostwick's case: a merchant, a judge, and a member of Parliament, the purpose of the dovecote would have been the latter.

The route shown in our video, below, circumnavigates a part of the Grange estate, an area previously dominated by poplar trees, which were used by Bryant and May for matchstick production. The trees were felled in the 1980s to make way for sand and gravel extraction.

The Grange estate is now at the heart of the Bedford River Valley Park, an area now set aside for wildlife habitation, walking, bicycle riding and waterborne recreation.

On our walk, we more or less just followed the circular route mapped out on the signs that have been put up for visitors.

### Food and drink:

There are three obvious places to eat here: the cafe at the nearby Danish Camp, Frost's Garden Centre, or, our personal favourite, The Blossom Cafe, which is within the Willington Garden Centre.

**Address:** 109 Bedford Road, Willington, Bedford MK44 3PR.

**Website:** They don't appear to have a website, but you can find them on Facebook.