

# MID SUMMER OUTING

On Wednesday 17<sup>TH</sup> July 2019

The Haslemere Gardening Society visited

Haslemere  
Gardening  
Society

## Houghton Lodge Gardens, North Houghton, Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6LQ



**Houghton Lodge** is a Grade II listed fishing lodge on the River Test in Hampshire, England, built circa 1800, possibly by John Nash for the Pitt-Rivers family in the "Cottage Orné" style. Surrounded by mature trees and lawns leading to the river, it has been owned by the Busk family since 1910.

**Houghton Lodge Gardens** is a notable estate in Hampshire set along the River Test, featuring water meadows in the east and five acres of landscaped parks and lawns. The early 19th-century grotto, lined with flint nodules and turrets, and the walled kitchen garden (Grade II listed) are highlights, boasting espalier fruit trees, a hydroponics greenhouse, and a range of vegetables and flowers. The meadows are managed as an Environmentally Sensitive Area without chemicals, now including a 15-acre meadow walk. While the gardens are open year-round, house access is limited to organised groups by appointment.

The estate centres around the 18th-century Cottage Orné, a rare rustic-romantic house, which remains private but visually anchors the gardens. Houghton Lodge features distinct themed "garden rooms," including a walled garden with an orchid house, whimsical peacock and dragon topiary, and Oriental-inspired areas with elements like the Nikko Bridge and Torii arch. Riverside meadows, home to alpacas and Hebridean sheep, add openness and connect the gardens to the chalk-stream borders of the River Test.

Seasonal changes bring varied displays: spring blossoms, vibrant summer borders, autumn colours from acers and orchard fruits, and pronounced winter structure, though winter access is usually restricted. Visitors can enjoy refreshments at the Glass House and Honesty Tea Rooms, often dining by the river. With its compact layout of about 14–15 acres, the gardens offer a leisurely half-day visit amidst diverse horticultural features.

Gardens

Telephone Number:: 01264 810502

Website: <https://houghtonlodge.co.uk/>

