

SHERDLEY PARK

Venue and Parking Information:

Sherdley Park, St Helens is very easy to find. From the East travel along the M62 to Junction 7. Leave the Motorway at 7 and travel right round the roundabout onto the St Helens Linkway. At the second roundabout turn right into Elton Head Road.

There are several possible parking areas: Approximately 200 metres after leaving the Linkway on your left (and before the entrance to the distribution centre on your right) is an entrance to the park. Turn into this road and park in the playground car park (approximately 300 metres). The advantage is that the park toilets are situated close to the left of this car park. You will need to walk through the centre of the park (400 metres) to reach the start and finish point. *Please note that parking is **NOT** available in the small parking area near the registration area.*

Further down the road from the Linkway is the Sports Centre car park. It is unlikely that places will be available. Toilets are available in the Sports Centre itself. There is a gate behind the Sports Centre which will be open so anyone can enter the Park on foot. The registration desk will be to the right and the start/finish point 400 metres straight ahead.

There is a third parking area. To reach this, travel to Marshalls Cross Road lights and turn left. Stay in the right hand lane until you reach the end of the park itself and you will see the Golf Range on your left. Park at the Golf Range and walk 200 metres back to the registration area.

Finally, there is a car park at Marshalls Cross railway station opposite the Sports Centre. However, we do not know if conditions apply so you could be penalised for parking.

SHERDLEY PARK is the largest park in St.Helens with over 200 acres of parkland, grassy knolls, copses, woodland and lake. It's named after the Sherdley family who in 1303 were recorded as freeholders of Sherdley Old Hall, its orchard and gardens. In 1543 the Sherdleys sold their estates to Richard Bold, with industrialist Michael Hughes purchasing it in 1798 for £3150.

Much of the estate - which in 1873 was recorded at 1,207 acres - was farmland occupied by dozens of tenant farmers. However, the estate also included parkland referred to as Sherdley Park on an Ordnance Survey map of 1846-7. The public were allowed limited access but a high wall (known as the long wall) surrounded the perimeter and the park was locked at night.

The Sherdley estate began to break up in the 1930s and Michael Hughes (III) died in 1938. Michael Hughes-Young inherited Sherdley Park and sold it to St.Helens Corporation in 1949 for £18,700. (*Hughes-Young became Lord St.Helens in 1964.*) The surrounding wall was demolished and in the early 1950s it was opened as a public park for the enjoyment of the citizens of Sutton and St Helens.

Sherdley Park has staged several cross country championship events, including County Championships, the Women's Inter-Counties, the Northern (most recently in 2004 and 2009). It is ideal for running in any weather as was seen in 2007 when the Manchester Area League match included, during the same afternoon, sunshine, hailstones, driving rain and cold winds.

Venue details provided by Host Club St Helens Sutton AC