

Heritage



# Heritage Guide to Milton Keynes



[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/heritage](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/heritage)





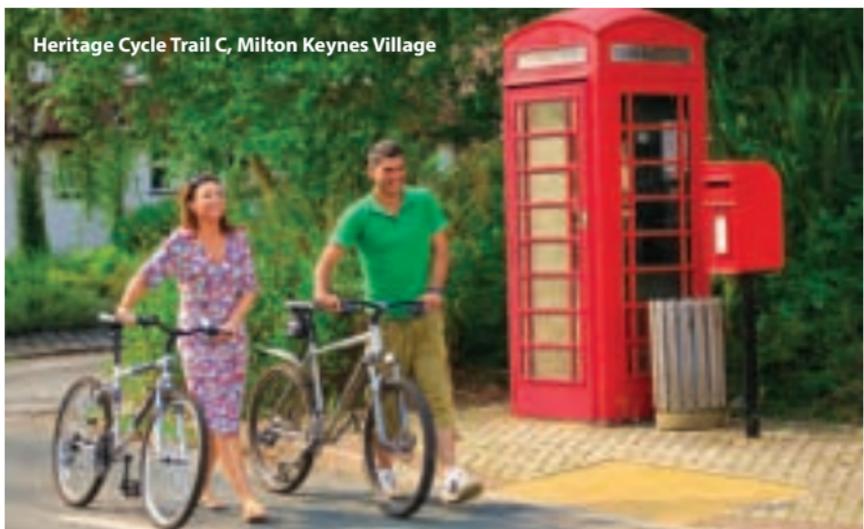
# Welcome

Welcome to the Heritage Guide to Milton Keynes. Inside is everything you need to know – where to discover hidden gems, what unique collections to see at our venues, when major events are on and how to get involved in exciting projects shaping the future of our borough.

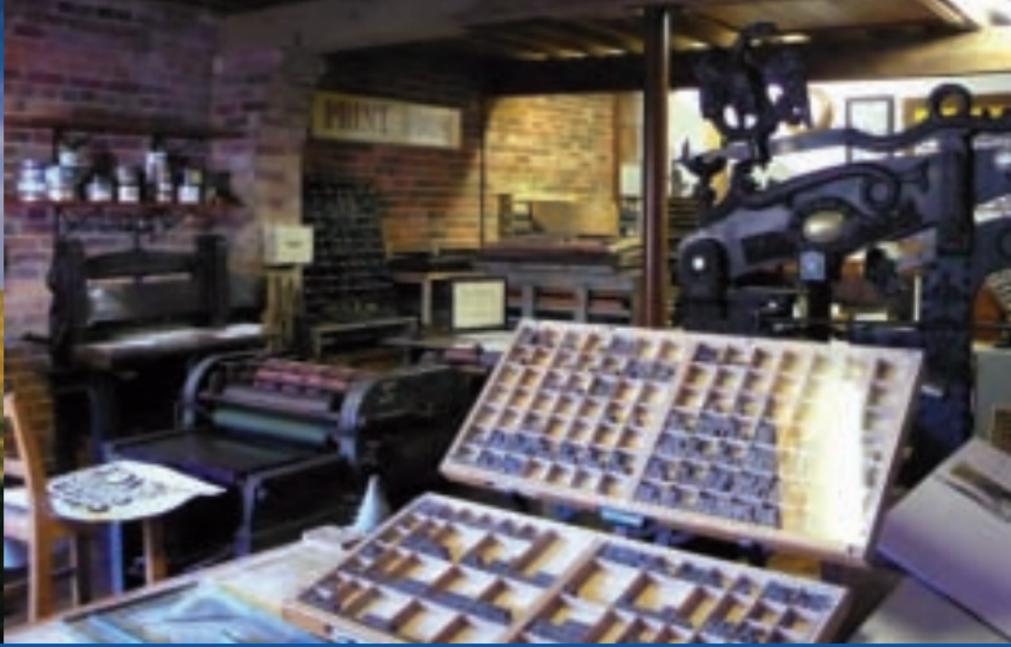
Milton Keynes is unique – where modern city combines with an attractive rural landscape, where the city area consists of historic towns and villages and over 20% is parks and open space. It is a place where people are rightly proud of their heritage.

Milton Keynes has always welcomed new residents and visitors alike and as the population continues to grow, projects will capture the heritage of people from all backgrounds living, moving and visiting here, giving a real diversity and strength.

We hope that you have fun exploring.



Heritage Cycle Trail C, Milton Keynes Village



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## **Disclaimer**

Venue information and text correct before going to print – please check with individual organisations before you travel.



Grand Union Canal, Wolverton Park

## A thriving future

### **The Future for Heritage**

A publicly approved plan exists to deliver the future for heritage. Agreed by key partners in Milton Keynes, it is visionary and innovative and offers people the chance to get involved through projects and programmes that will contribute to the growth of Milton Keynes and its economic vitality as a regional centre.

### **City Museum**

Milton Keynes and its public are fond of their museums with over 125,000 visits in 2009, and in the future more galleries will be developed across the borough so that the history of Milton Keynes is told in full.

### **City Archive**

Just as with its museum collections, the Milton Keynes archive collections are located at many different venues and partners will work together to make them more accessible including digitally.

### **City Centre Showcase**

Discover Milton Keynes has been the successful first phase pilot to test ideas for developing a permanent city centre heritage facility in Milton Keynes. Its evidence as a one-stop shop for transport, tourism and culture and work between partners from community, public and commercial sectors will help plan the next phase towards that facility.

### **Audiences and Programmes**

Heritage attracts a lot of different audiences and the future plan will ensure that everyone can participate and engage in it. New collections, events and volunteering programmes will enable people to have fun, learn more about heritage in Milton Keynes and give something back to the community.

# Venues to visit



## Milton Keynes Heritage Association

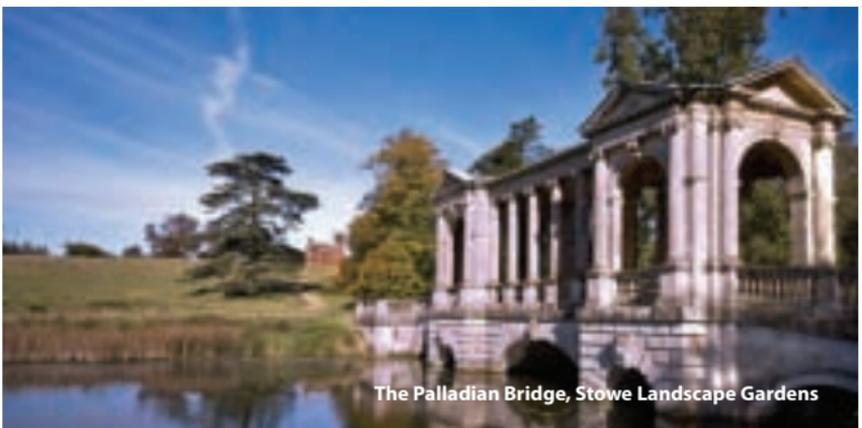
**Various locations. See website for details.**

**[www.mkheritage.co.uk](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk)**

Milton Keynes Heritage Association (MKHA) is a federation of over sixty heritage and community organisations interested in heritage and making it more accessible. Many are local historical and archaeological societies with extensive archives and museum objects of their own, some even having public reading rooms or access to historic venues such as Rectory Cottages in Bletchley and the Old Gaol, Buckingham (both pictured). Access is primarily via talks, lectures and their extensive online website.

The MKHA has a wide ranging membership that extends beyond the Milton Keynes borough boundary, recognising that organisations across Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire held historic links with the area, many of which continue to this day. Members of the MKHA who have venues to explore include:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Aylesbury</b>  | Buckinghamshire County Museum;<br>Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies |
| <b>Bletchley</b>  | Rectory Cottages; The Projected Picture Trust                        |
| <b>Buckingham</b> | Old Gaol; Stowe House Preservation Trust                             |
| <b>Walton</b>     | Open University Library and Archive                                  |
| <b>Woburn</b>     | Woburn Heritage Centre   |



# Museums

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## Milton Keynes Museum

McConnell Drive, Wolverton, MK12 5EL  
[www.mkmuseum.org.uk](http://www.mkmuseum.org.uk)

01908 316222

Milton Keynes Museum is a fantastic day out for all the family with interactive, themed galleries exploring the history of the area since 1800. Housed in a beautiful Victorian farmstead the large, changing selection of displays includes working telephones, old street of shops, agricultural barn, hall of transport and much more. Wonderful, homemade food in the Granary Tearoom.

**Open** Apr – Oct: Wed – Sun, 11.00–16.30; Nov – Mar:  
Sat & Sun, 11.00–16.30, plus Good Fri, Easter Mon & Bank Hol  
Mon, 11.00–16.30. *Charged entry. Check website for prices.*

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## Bradwell Windmill

Nightingale Crescent, Bradville, MK13 7UE  
[www.mkmuseum.org.uk](http://www.mkmuseum.org.uk)

Run by Milton Keynes Museum volunteers, Bradwell Windmill is located adjacent to the *Railway Walk* and Grand Union Canal and opens its doors to the public to show what life was like in a C19th mill. Built in 1817 from local limestone, it is one of the most unusual and important buildings in Milton Keynes. It can also be used for local community activities and events by arrangement with the Museum.

**Open** 1 Apr – 30 Sept: Milton Keynes Museum Special Event Days,  
Discovering Places and Heritage Open Days 1.30–4.30pm.  
For other opening times see Museum website.  
*Free entry.*

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## Cowper & Newton Museum and Gardens

Market Place, Olney, MK46 4AJ

01908 711516

[www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk)

Specialist museum housing collections of Olney and surrounding area – three floors of Georgian heritage and historic gardens. See where C18th poet William Cowper lived and worked and discover the life and work of his friend John Newton, who began his career as a slave trader, and who became an abolitionist, famous preacher and author of the poem 'Amazing Grace'. Find out about the town's history particularly its role in the lace industry.

**Open** 1 Mar – 23 Dec (closed Good Friday):

Tue – Sat and Bank Hol Mon: 10.30am–4.30pm.

*Charged entry. Check website for prices.*

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## Bletchley Park

The Mansion, Bletchley Park, MK3 6EB

01908 640404

[www.bletchleypark.org.uk](http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk)

Historic site of secret British codebreaking activities during WWII and birthplace of the modern computer. Different activities and exhibitions will occupy families for a whole day, from wartime toys to working computers. There's a wartime mini cinema and outstanding Churchill collection. The ornate Victorian Mansion was headquarters to intelligence staff during the war. Wander by the lake to relax and children can let off steam in the playground.

**Open** Weekdays: Apr – Oct, 9.30am – 5pm; Nov – Mar, 10.30am – 4pm; Weekends: Apr – Oct, 10.30am – 5pm; Nov – Mar, 10.30am – 4pm. *Charged entry. Check website for prices.*

# Museums

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## National Badminton Museum

**Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge, MK8 9LA**  
**[www.badmintonengland.co.uk/museum](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/museum)**

**01908 268400**

Located in the National Badminton Centre, the museum collects nationally and internationally important items from the sport of badminton from its earliest origins to present day. The museum is a series of well presented display cases throughout the centre, which visitors can explore using the museum self-guided tour. Its archive and information point is open on Tuesday mornings.

**Open** Mon – Sat, 9am – 8pm. *Free entry.*  
Office/Archive open Tue, 9.30am – 12.30pm.

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## Newport Pagnell Museum

**Chandos Hall, Silver Street, Newport Pagnell MK16 0EW**  
**[www.mkheritage.co.uk/nphs](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/nphs)**

Newport Pagnell is a historic town which lies just outside of the Milton Keynes city boundary and at the gateway to the rural part of the borough. Located within Chandos Hall and run by the Newport Pagnell Historic Society, this small museum has a fascinating permanent collection and programme of changing monthly exhibitions.

**Open** Sun, 2pm – 4.30pm. *Free entry.*

Buckinghamshire County Council looks after museum material on behalf of Milton Keynes at its museum in Aylesbury and its resource centre in Halton.  
For more information visit: **[www.buckscc.gov.uk/museum](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/museum)**

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## Living Archive

**205 Stratford Road, Wolverton, MK12 5RL**  
**[www.livingarchive.org.uk](http://www.livingarchive.org.uk)**

**01908 322568**

Living Archive is a continuing source of wonderful stories of the new city. Such stories have inspired community documentary plays, films, sculpture, song-writing, books, dance, videos, photos and exhibitions. As a result Living Archive has a considerable community archive of primary source materials available by request.

**Open** Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm. *Free entry.*  
Archive open by request.

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## MK City Discovery Centre

**Bradwell Abbey, Alston Drive, MK13 9AP**  
**[www.mkcdc.org.uk](http://www.mkcdc.org.uk)**

**01908 227229**

MK CDC is based on the site of a former Benedictine Priory and Scheduled Ancient Monument site at Bradwell Abbey. It promotes the historical, natural and built environments of Milton Keynes through fun activities. It also teaches about urban studies and the sustainable city, heritage studies and possesses an archive and library of the development of Milton Keynes as a city.

**Open** Mon – Sun all day. *Free entry.*  
Library/Archive Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm (by appointment).

Buckinghamshire County Council looks after archive material on behalf of Milton Keynes at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies in Aylesbury.  
For more information visit: [www.buckscc.gov.uk/archives](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/archives)

# Libraries

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## Local Studies & Family History Library

**Central Library, 555 Silbury Blvd, MK9 3HL      01908 254160**  
**[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/libraries)**

The Library has a comprehensive collection relating to the history of Buckinghamshire, the Milton Keynes Council area and Milton Keynes New Town. It includes books, electoral registers, local history society publications, local plans, maps, photographs, newspapers, statistics and trade directories. It works with the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies in Aylesbury, which holds the official archive collections for Milton Keynes to run classes. It also holds heritage exhibitions in its gallery space.

**Open** Mon – Wed 9am – 6pm, Thurs – Fri 9am–8pm,  
Sat 9am–5pm. *Free entry.*

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## Central & Community Libraries

**See website for individual locations and contact details.**  
**[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/libraries)**

Libraries are popular venues and much more than book, DVD and CD loan stores. They are also talk, exhibition and activity venues, information points, computer centres and training places – all important to delivering future heritage provision. Libraries are also heritage access points for the public in Milton Keynes, linked in to the Discover Milton Keynes showcase and other heritage activity. Library venues are:

Central, Bletchley, Kingston, Newport Pagnell, Olney,  
Stony Stratford, Westcroft, Woburn Sands, Wolverton. *Free entry.*

## Other venues

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### Artworks-MK

**Parklands, Great Linford,  
MK14 5DZ**

**01908 608108**

**[www.artwork-mk.co.uk](http://www.artwork-mk.co.uk)**

**Open** Mon – Fri 10am–4pm,  
Sat 10am – 12 noon. *Free entry.*

Set in the impressive grounds of Great Linford Manor near to the Grand Union Canal, within a number of historic and listed buildings, Artworks-mk is a leading independent arts and education charity established in 1974. It provides specialist equipped art and craft workshops, artist led workshop programmes, artist's studios and exhibition space from the site and is a popular arts, heritage and learning venue.

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### Inter-Action MK

**The Old Rectory, Waterside,  
Peartree Bridge, MK6 3EJ**

**[www.interactionmk.org.uk](http://www.interactionmk.org.uk)**

**01908 678514**

**Open** For specific events and  
by request.

Inter-Action MK creates imaginative collaborations focusing on groups often denied access to the arts. It was set up in 1975 and is based next to the Grand Union Canal on a Scheduled Ancient Monument complete with medieval pond, sensory garden and open space. A rich arts archive is also accessible on request.

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### MK Arts for Health

**Milton Keynes Hospital,  
Eaglestone, MK6 5LD**

**01908 243284**

**[www.mkartsforhealth.org.uk](http://www.mkartsforhealth.org.uk)**

**Open** By request. *Free entry.*

MK Arts for Health is leading the field in using heritage and arts to enhance patients' health and wellbeing through a number of ground-breaking projects and has worked to provide innovative heritage exhibition gallery areas in the hospital.

#### Public Art

There are over 200 pieces of public art in Milton Keynes, some of which are over 30 years old. Further Art Walks are available within the Arts Guide: **[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/arts](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/arts)**

# Areas to explore



## Historic towns and villages

### Central Area

[www.mkheritage.co.uk](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk)

[www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)

#### Introduction

Milton Keynes has a rich heritage and is a successful mix of new areas (known locally as 'grid squares') and historic towns and villages. Many of these places can be visited on the heritage cycling and walking trail routes, other leisure routes and also online via the local heritage portal [www.mkheritage.co.uk](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk)

#### City Centre

Although less than fifty years old, there are clues to what lay before in the street names and surrounding open spaces lying between historic Watling Street and the Grand Union Canal. Secklow mound behind the Central Library and Roman field boundaries in Campbell Park are just two to explore.

#### The Villages

Just outside the city centre lie some of the prettiest local villages. In the east lie Milton Keynes Village, which gave the city its name, Broughton, Willen and the Woolstones connected by the Ouzel Valley with churches, medieval buildings and manors, whilst to the west lies Loughton, with its historic inns on Watling Street.



Old Fountain Inn, Loughton

# Areas to explore



## Historic towns and villages

### North West Milton Keynes

[www.stonystratford.co.uk](http://www.stonystratford.co.uk)

[www.wolverton.co.uk](http://www.wolverton.co.uk)

#### Stony Stratford

Elegant former coaching town located at the junction of the old Roman Road Watling Street with the Great Ouse Valley, and where Richard III captured the 'Princes in the Tower', *Stony* is a great place to explore. Riverside walks, specialist shops and historic buildings including Cock and Bull Inns.

#### Wolverton

Planned 1830s railway town, Wolverton is at the mid-point of the London to Birmingham Railway and its junction with the Grand Union Canal. Its life as a railway town is reflected in its design and architecture and it has a good mix of leisure and cultural venues ranging from Living Archive and Milton Keynes Museum to a fortnightly farmers market and Secret Garden.

#### The Villages

From Calverton in the west of the city area to New Bradwell and Great Linford in the north explored via the Railway Walk, hidden heritage buildings and sites abound. From here moving north beyond the Ouse Valley is the rural north west and the villages of Haversham, Little Linford, Castlethorpe and Hanslope.



Cock Hotel, Stony Stratford

# Areas to explore



## Historic towns and villages

### North East Milton Keynes

[www.newport-pagnell.org.uk](http://www.newport-pagnell.org.uk)

[www.olney.org.uk](http://www.olney.org.uk)

#### Newport Pagnell

Civil War garrison town and spiritual home of Aston Martin, Newport Pagnell is a pleasing mix of specialist shops, pubs and restaurants. It is where the Ouse and Lovatt rivers meet, has many lovely walks with historic views around the town and Tickford Iron Bridge is the oldest in the world still open to traffic.

#### Olney

Located in the far north east of the borough, Olney is a Georgian town famous worldwide for its Pancake Race and the home of the hymn Amazing Grace. Specialist shops, antiques, tearooms Cowper and Newton Museum and a monthly farmers market are just some of the great things to see next to the Great Ouse.

#### The Villages

Too many to mention here but an area of country houses, good walks and fine buildings. From Newport Pagnell a circular route takes you past Tyringham and Gayhurst to Stoke Goldington and its well-known annual Steam Rally. From there it is east via Weston Underwood, to Olney located at the centre of several smaller villages. To the south lie Emberton, Sherington, Chichley and North Crawley.



# Areas to explore



## Historic towns and villages

### Milton Keynes South

[www.westbletchleycouncil.org.uk](http://www.westbletchleycouncil.org.uk)

[www.bfstc.gov.uk](http://www.bfstc.gov.uk)

#### **Bletchley**

Located on Watling Street, with the Grand Union Canal nearby and at the junction of two railways, Bletchley has always been an important transport hub and was the largest pre-Milton Keynes town. Home of Bletchley Park and the annual West Bletchley Carnival in summer, it is undergoing regeneration including new housing and recently unveiled hi-tech leisure centre.

#### **Fenny Stratford**

Although connected to Bletchley, Fenny Stratford has its own identity, including historic high street of buildings, independent shops and Fenny Lock on the Grand Union Canal. On Watling Street, it has its origins in Roman times as the nearby fort of Magiovinium, of which more can be found in the Roman Gardens of Dobbies Garden World.

#### **The Villages**

In the east lies Bow Brickhill located in the range of hills from which it takes its name, Wavendon with its Stables Theatre and the 'border town' of Woburn Sands shared with Bedfordshire. To the west lies Tattenhoe with its C13th church and Howe Park Wood leading to the historic Shenleys and Watling Street.



# Areas to explore



## Listed buildings, conservation areas and archaeology

[www.mkiobservatory.org.uk](http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk) (search for Heritage)

[www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/conservation-archaeology](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/conservation-archaeology)

### Listed Buildings

There are over 1100 listed buildings in Milton Keynes ranging from medieval churches to a C20th red telephone box, some of which are part of the heritage cycling and walking trails.

### Conservation Areas

Milton Keynes has 27 Conservation Areas and most of them are based around historic town and village centres. They are areas of particular architectural or heritage interest with special characteristics worth preserving.

### Archaeology

There are 49 scheduled ancient monuments, over 600 Heritage Interest Areas in Milton Keynes and over 9000 items as part of its Historic Environment Record. Archaeological advice is also part of any new development or growth and is given by Milton Keynes Council's Conservation and Archaeology unit.

### Want to find out more?

All buildings, conservation areas and archaeological locations are recorded online on the MKi Observatory or on English Heritage's Heritage Gateway, or book an appointment with an archaeological officer on 01909 252902 to research maps, plans and reports.



Bancroft Roman Mosaic

# Areas to explore



## Parks, woodland and open spaces

[www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/embertonpark](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/embertonpark)

Milton Keynes has a great wealth and variety of parks, woodland and open space that all have unique, individual characters, offering heritage, arts, leisure and play, woodland walks, wildlife watching, regular events and activity and much more.

### Campbell Park

Designed originally as a sculpture park, Campbell Park holds events all year round. It is also the headquarters of the Milton Keynes Parks Trust, an independent body managing 4,500 acres of parks, river valleys, woodland, lakesides and landscaped areas along the grid roads and providing extensive events and activity for Campbell Park and its other parks and woods.

### Emberton Country Park

Located in the north east, Emberton Country Park is a popular destination for walkers, campers and caravanners. Run by Milton Keynes Council's Countryside Team, alongside a number of local parks and open areas, it has recently undergone a makeover with its new archaeology timeline wall and self-guided nature trails.

### Woodland and Open Space

Milton Keynes has many areas of historic woodland, new wooded areas and open space with 20 million trees in the city area alone. Linford, Shenley and Howe Park Woods are examples of former ancient woodland that provide local leisure needs.



Great Linford Manor and Parklands

# Areas to explore



## Trails, redways and waterways

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/countryside)

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cyclemk](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cyclemk)

[www.destinationmiltonkeynes.gov.uk/heritage\\_cycle\\_trails](http://www.destinationmiltonkeynes.gov.uk/heritage_cycle_trails)

Milton Keynes is designed for trails exploration. Its 150 miles plus of pedestrian, bridleway and leisure path systems, the former known as Redways because of their colour, means you never need cross a main grid road in Milton Keynes, making it a popular cycling and walking destination for residents and visitors. Added to this are a number of waterway routes – Linear Parks created around its river valleys and the Grand Union Canal, provides easy local and long-distance walks for everyone. These routes are full of hidden heritage.

### Cycling and walking

For this reason in 2000, Milton Keynes Council Highways Team developed the Millennium Cycle Trail route through these Linear Parks for people to explore the heritage in the landscape either by bike or on foot. This was in addition to the number of walks available including the long distance paths and Boundary Walk.

### Heritage cycle trails

Since then, a number of heritage cycle trails have also been developed by the Heritage Unit. These are available throughout library and heritage venues or can be downloaded from the Council's heritage or cycling websites. The tourism body Destination Milton Keynes also offers them to download on its site and also has hotel cycling packages for visitors to the area.





## What to see and do

### Fantastic collections

Milton Keynes is fortunate to have archive documents and museum objects of significant local and national importance in its collections, which makes visits to our venues interesting and fun.

These collections are interpreted and displayed in many ways, and many more documents and objects lie in stores waiting to be catalogued and made available to the public. Organisations are working together to ensure that more objects can be made accessible and put on display, that there will be more venues such as libraries to exhibit them and that information is available via trails, websites and other new technology.

Unique to Milton Keynes is the fact that we also have a significant collection of public art – over 200 pieces across the city area alone. Added to this collection are arts archives at locations across the borough. Arts trails of Central Milton Keynes and Campbell Park are available in the Milton Keynes Arts Guide.

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/arts](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/arts)



Concrete Cows, Bancroft Park



Wildlife Fun Day, Bradwell Abbey

## What to see and do

### Events large and small

Heritage venues work hard in Milton Keynes to put on a variety of enjoyable exhibitions, activities and events throughout the year. More about these can be found from individual venues and from our tourism partners Destination Milton Keynes website:

**[www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk](http://www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk)**

The success of *Heritage Open Days* every second weekend in September in now regularly holding fifty FREE events, has encouraged organisations to come together more times in the year. Milton Keynes Council is co-ordinating this new Heritage Events calendar, which will provide significant event weekends, with exhibitions and activities for the public.

**[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/heritage](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/heritage)**

Former Royal Train Shed, Wolverton





Volunteers from MaD, Secret Garden, Wolverton

Photo courtesy of Make a Difference

# What to see and do

## Taking part is fun

Volunteers are the lifeblood of heritage organisations in Milton Keynes, giving their time and expertise across a range of venues, volunteering at museums, archives, in parks and at events. Working on collections, websites, wood clearing, wildlife recording helps make our heritage accessible to everyone living and visiting Milton Keynes.

A new partnership initiative will see exciting and challenging projects for volunteers and learners of all ages, including training, recognised qualifications and skills development and keeping people healthy and active through heritage participation.

Make a Difference are a community interest partner, offering 13–25 year olds a range of exciting opportunities, whilst Adult Continuing Education (ACE) runs a number of adult heritage courses in heritage and history. These and other organisations are working with heritage volunteers such as museums, archives, the Parks Trust, BTCV and NBDPAS to ensure more opportunities for heritage volunteering.

[www.mad-uk.org](http://www.mad-uk.org)

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/ace](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/ace)



New Bradwell Heritage Day

## Location of venues



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For MKHA venue locations across the borough see [www.mkheritage.co.uk](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk)

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For community library locations across the borough see [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/libraries)



Key Partners:

MILTON KEYNES  
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Destination  Milton Keynes

TheParksTrust  
MILTON KEYNES



mad  
make a difference

## More Information

### Have Your Say

We hope that you have found this guide useful. It will develop further and comments or suggestions would be welcome.

### Heritage Guidance

This guide has been put together by the Heritage Unit to show the fantastic and unique heritage Milton Keynes has to offer. It should not be used as a substitute for heritage guidance or taken as a definitive approach by the Council in terms of its Development Control, Conservation and Archaeological responsibilities. Please contact these areas of the Council for all technical issues and compliance.

### MK Council Heritage Unit

The Heritage Unit is responsible for co-ordinating the strategy and delivery of heritage in Milton Keynes. For more information on the Heritage Strategy and its Action Plan contact the unit:

### Milton Keynes Council

Heritage Unit

Saxon Court, Avebury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3HS

T 01908 253884

E [heritage@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:heritage@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/heritage](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/heritage)



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