

Cultural Routes

DISCOVER, CONNECT, EXPLORE

BLUE ROUTE - ANCIENT AND MODERN MILTON KEYNES

Full route - 10 miles

Short route - 5 miles

Estimated walk time: 3-4 Hours

Estimated cycle time: 2-3 hours



GET ACTIVE AND EXPLORE MILTON KEYNES WITH OUR CULTURAL ROUTES

Route Description:

Whether you walk, cycle or run, this route has something for everyone, showcasing the very best of Milton Keynes' arts and heritage to be discovered in the central and northern areas of the city.

We suggest starting at Milton Keynes Arts Centre and following the route along the Grand Union Canal to Campbell Park, but you are free to join the route at any point. Continue up through Campbell Park to the Light Pyramid, where you can enjoy the views out over North East Milton Keynes. If you are completing the shorter 5 mile route, you will leave the main route here and head up through the ancient Linford Wood, re-joining the main route on the Railway Walk Trail.

If you are completing the full 10 mile route, you bypass the busy City Centre on the Redway, eventually arriving at Station Square. Departing the urban area the route then takes you through North Loughton Valley Park where you can enjoy nature and history. You can visit the site of Bradwell Abbey and the City Discovery Centre, then continue along the route to see the iconic Concrete Cows and Bancroft's Roman Villa. Joining the Railway Walk Trail, look out for Bradwell Windmill, hidden among the trees, before arriving back at Great Linford Manor Park and the Arts Centre.

Visit www.pedallingculture.com to download the digital maps to your device.



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Milton Keynes Arts Centre - Linford Almshouses

The Arts Centre presents a programme of exhibitions, live events and educational activities. The historic almshouses, built in 1696, are now used as studios for artists.

Arachne Weaves: Linda Johns (2016)

The title 'Arachne weaves' refers to the myth of a mortal who was turned into a spider for daring to say her skill at weaving was greater than Athena's.

Milton Keynes Rose: Gordon Young (2014)

The Milton Keynes Rose is a public commemorative, celebratory and remembrance space with 106 granite pillars of varying height, inscribed with dates and events that have local, national or international significance.

St Andrews Church

A church called St Andrew's has stood on the hill since the 13th century.

What Lies Beneath: Rob Griffiths (2016)

This sculpture takes the form of a bench with relief carvings illustrating the food chain in the canal and a giant frog sitting peacefully unaware of all that lies beneath.

If you have time, venture across to **Margaret Powell Square** where you can visit **MK Gallery** and **MK Theatre** before following the trail down to **Milton Keynes Station Square**:

Gt Linford Brick Kilns

Used historically by work gangs of local residents to dig blue oxford clay from two pits to feed two furnaces. The bricks made were used to build new homes in places like New Bradwell and Wolverton.

Commemorative Plaque: Justin Tunley (2016)

Justin's sculpture maps the Gyosei Art Trail along the Grand Union Canal using small discs to show other art works.

O Wert Thou in the Cauld Blast: Ronald Rae (1984)

This granite sculpture of a couple comforting each other was carved by Scottish sculptor Ronald Rae.

Join the canal broadwalk and follow the canal

Gyosei Arts Trail

This trail commemorates the legacy of Gyosei International School UK who closed in 2012.

Cross the canal over a bridge and enter **Campbell Park**:

Campbell Park

Designed to be a sculpture park it is the largest City Centre Park in the UK.

You will then enter **North Loughton Valley Park**:

Bradwell Abbey & Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre

Bradwell Abbey sits on the remains of a medieval Benedictine Priory, founded over 800 years ago in 1135. MK Discovery Centre promotes Milton Keynes' history and environment and runs educational programmes

Autumn Splendour: Melanie Watts (2016)

Melanie created a mosaic in a range of stunning glass: a beautiful white barn owl is the focal point, swooping into the trees in Great Linford to capture its prey.

Head: Allen Jones (1990)

Two dimensional silhouettes are used to create a three-dimensional form, which invites you to explore

Concrete Cows: Liz Leyh (1978)

Constructed in 1978 the Concrete Cows are an iconic piece of Milton Keynes' history. Whilst you are at the original site of the cows, these are replicas, created by artist Bill Billings.

Shire Horse: Andrew Kay (2016)

Andrew created a powerful Shire Horse whose steady toil propelled the barges of yesteryear along the towpaths of the Grand Union canal.

Gnomon (Shadow Caster): Peter Bowker 1994

A gnomon is the stationary arm that projects the shadow on a sundial and this sculpture has been designed to act as a shadow caster.

Bancroft Roman Villa

Bancroft Roman Villa was discovered in 1971 and took 15 years to be excavated, revealing the historic site you see today.

Three Post Bench: Jeremy Turner (2016)

The oak posts and the head rail that top them are vehicles for robustly carved relief images that all make reference to the wildlife of the canal.

Onwards & Upwards: Robert Koenig (2011)

Carved from a single piece of eight-metre-high sweet chestnut.

Leave **North Loughton Valley Park** and head east along the **Railway Walk**

Local birds & plants: Laura Boswell (2016)

Seven enamel panels presenting local birds using a Japanese aesthetic - inspired by native birds and plants to the area.

Light Pyramid (The Beacon): Liliane Lijn (2012)

Made of steel and painted white the Light Pyramid overlooks great views of North East Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire. It is lit to commemorate special events

Bradwell Windmill

Built in c1810 by Samuel Holman and costing £500, Bradwell Windmill had a very short life span operating only sixty years before it closed.

Dragonfly: Ptolemy Elrington (2016)

Ptolemy transformed redundant and abandoned materials into the light and delicate form of a dragonfly, a symbol of courage, strength, and happiness in Japan.

War Veteran: Ronald Rae (1997)

A life size sculpture of a land mine victim depicts the human cost of war and is based on Rae's grandfather, who fought in the Battle of the Somme.

Leave the Railway Walk Trail and walk through **Linford Manor Park** to the Arts Centre to complete your walk.