

Cultural Routes

DISCOVER, CONNECT, EXPLORE

IRON ROUTE - ROMANS, RIVERS, TRAMS AND TRAINS

Full route - 9.5 miles

5 mile break point

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 northwestern area of the city, including Stony Stratford and Wolverton.

We suggest starting at Wolverton Train Station for those coming by train or via the Redway network. Alternatively, park in the Ouse Valley Car Park off Newport Road, and proceed in an anti-clockwise direction on the Sustrans National Route 6 through the Ouse Valley Park. As you pass through the Floodplain Forest Nature Reserve, following the contours of the River, be sure to look out for the wild Konik ponies introduced in 2017. If you are completing the shorter 5 mile version you will leave the route just before the Iron Trunk Aqueduct and head back to Wolverton, joining the main route at Stratford Road.

If you are completing the full 9.5 mile route, you will continue along the leisure path into Stony Stratford Nature Reserve, finally departing The Parks Trust land at Millfield and head along Willow Lane into Silver Street. You will pass the Stony Stratford market square and Wall Mural by Zoe Maslen (2016), before crossing the original Roman Road – Watling Street. Don't forget to explore the Old Tram Sheds before heading out of Stony Stratford back to Wolverton. You will pass the Milton Keynes Museum, always worth a visit, before stopping at Bancroft Roman Villa and then heading back through North Loughton Valley Park to your starting point.

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



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Wolverton Railway Station

Wolverton Railway Station was the reason for the development of Wolverton as a planned town in the 1830's.

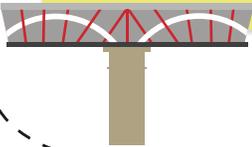
Leave the station and proceed down **Newport Road** to pick up the route in the Ouse Valley Park.

The Viaduct

Built in 1838 of red brick with stone capping, it carries the railway line 50 feet above the River Ouse.

The Iron Trunk Aqueduct

Made out of iron cast, the Iron Trunk Aqueduct was built by canal engineer Benjamin Beavon in 1811. This was a replacement to the brick structure which collapsed in 1808 on a winters night.



Look up to your left and see the 12th Century **Holy Trinity Church** on the hill top in Old Wolverton.

Wolverton Mill

There are records of a mill on this site since the 14th century. What you see today is a Grade II listed building, built in the late 18th century and converted to flats between 1996 and 1999.

Crossing over London road you will see the **Stony Stratford Bridge and Causeway**, built in the early 17th Century. A short detour towards the high street will enable you to see a plaque detailing Queen Eleanor's Cross.

Queen Eleanor's Cross

King Edward I erected 12 crosses to mark the resting place the Queens body on its journey to Westminster.

Continue back on the route into Millfields and then exit The Parks Trust land into the residential area of **Stony Stratford**.

Market Square

There has been a market in Stony Stratford since 1194 (by charter of King Richard I) until the early 1900s. The Crown Inn and Cox & Robinsons Chemists were both used for scenes in Withnail and I, a 1987 British film starring Richard E. Grant.

Wall Mural

On the corner of Horsefair Green and London Road is a mural by Zoe Maslen, who specialises in storytelling artwork that evolves from narrative, personality or history of a space.

Why not stop here and explore Stony Stratford more.

Destination Stop

The Cock and The Bull Hotels

Why not stop off here for some lunch in either The Cock or The Bull Hotels. The Cock and The Bull were among the earliest to open in the Milton Keynes area – in 1480.

Cross over **Watling Street**, the name given to an ancient trackway, paved by the Romans, and proceed up Wolverton Road, taking a short detour to the left down St Mary's Avenue to see the Old Tram Shed.

Tram Shed

The Wolverton to Stony Stratford tramway was opened in 1887. For almost 40 years Stony Stratford had a tramcar service with the largest tramcars ever to run through the streets of a British town.

Stony Stratford Markers : Alec Peever 2001

Five stone markers that greet visitors to Stony Stratford. Each marker is made of different stone with carving on each side.

Stepping Stones : Alisa Magnus 2012

Set back from the road is the result of a community based arts project in Wolverton Mill Play Area which was led by Artist Ailsa Magnus.



Follow the route for a further mile and a half until you come to the new extension at the **Milton Keynes Museum**.

Milton Keynes Museum

The Museum was founded in 1973 by local volunteers collecting items from farms and factories that were closing with the development of Milton Keynes. 2 new major galleries were built in early 2019. Milton Keynes Museum is home to fascinating stories, amazing re-creations and exhibits that visitors are encouraged to touch.

Enter **North Loughton Valley Park** and discover...

Bancroft Roman Villa

Bancroft Roman Villa was discovered in 1971 by Ray Bellchambers, a member of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation Board, when walking his dog after an exceptionally heavy rainstorm. It was excavated throughout the next 15 years. There is an interpretation panel on site



A short detour off the route, along the Railway Walk and you can discover...

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. The windmill is open on set dates throughout the year. Visit www.miltonkeynesmuseum.org.uk for times.



Destination Stop

Head back to Wolverton and take the opportunity to explore the town, its art and heritage and get some refreshments.

The Secret Garden

The Secret Garden was formerly occupied by four 'villas' built by the London & Birmingham Railway Company in the 1840s. They were demolished in the 1960s and the area was redeveloped into a community garden in 2005. A new piece of public art was added in 2007, The Ancestors by Bill Billings.

Destination Stop

Train Mural : Bill Billings 1984

Bill Billings MBE painted this black and white mural in 1984 and it shows the past, present and future of Wolverton, depicting elements of the railway works and showing the distances to landmarks along the canal.

By the Steel Rails Iron Horse: Sara Myers (2016)

This wall mounted metal art work references the Arts & Heritage of Wolverton.



Reaching Forward : Martin Heron 2012

acknowledges the history and heritage of Wolverton. The two figures reach out to each other across the Grand Union Canal and express a sense of moving forward while also appreciating the past.



You have finished your route and returned to Wolverton.