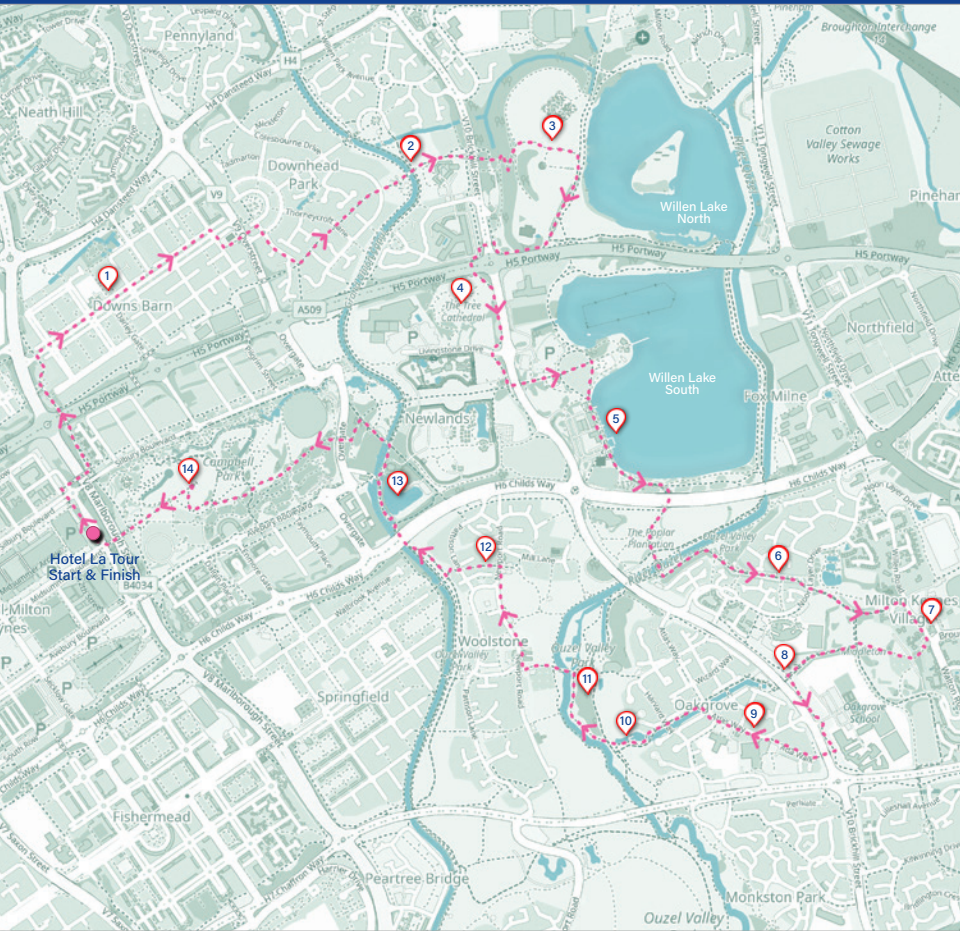


RTPI Young Planner's Conference 2022

Urban Explorations



TOUR

de

MK

Bicycle tour hosted by





Downs Barn & Downhead Park



These grid squares are named after “The Downes”, a field shown on a map of 1641, and Downs Barn an old farm barn. The road names have connections with horses. The Cross and Stable Church in Downs Barn was one of the earliest in MK. It was designed as a combined church and community centre. MKDC made a contribution to the bell tower as part of a budget to provide local landmarks throughout the city.



The Grand Union Canal



The 200-year-old Grand Union Canal weaves its way along the northern and eastern fringes of Milton Keynes, from Cosgrove in the north to Fenny Stratford in the south.

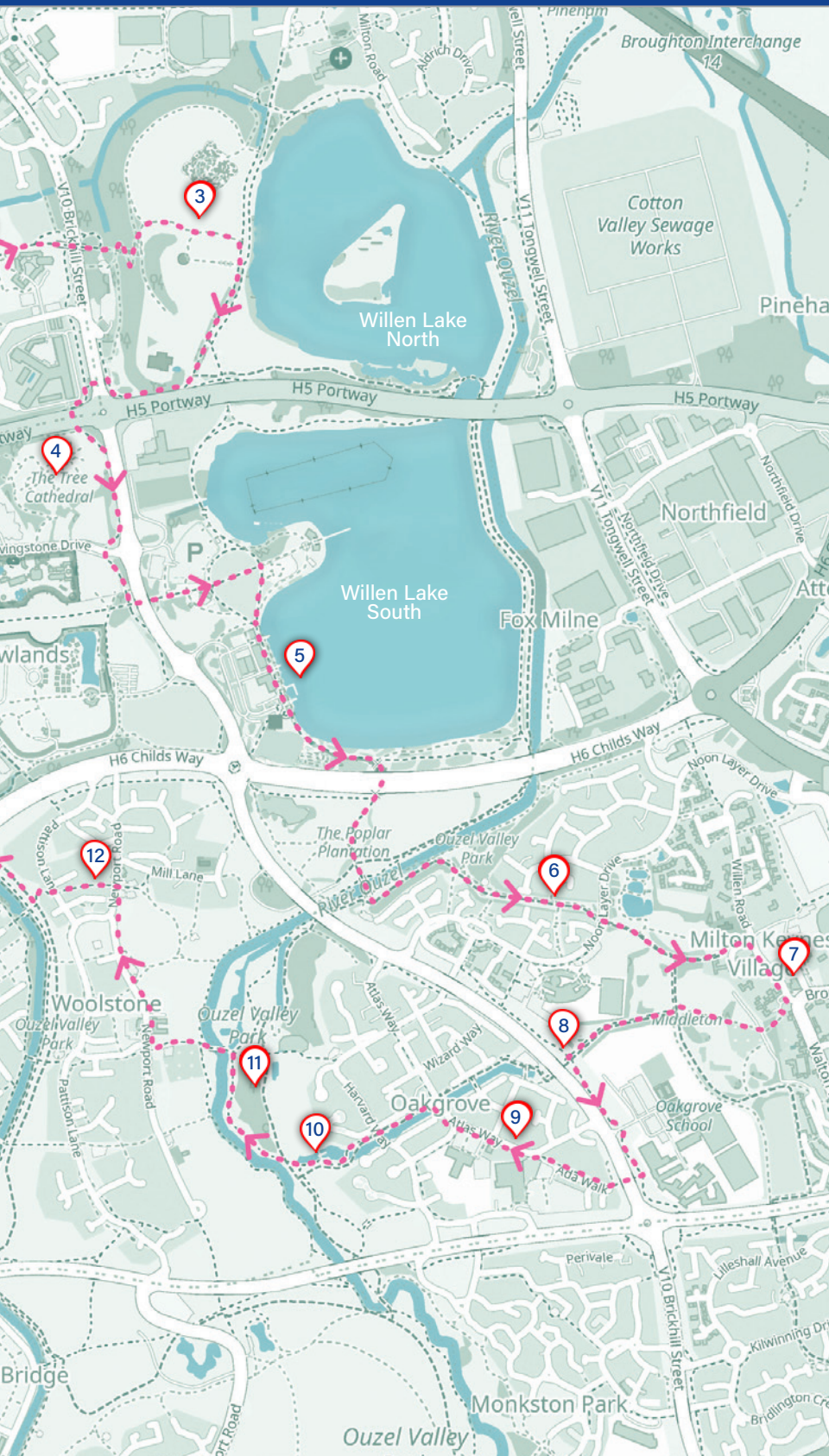
Poplar lined towpaths that link into the wider redway, bridleway and footpath network encourage people to use the canal for leisure, with a number of pubs providing opportunities to linger.



Peace Pagoda

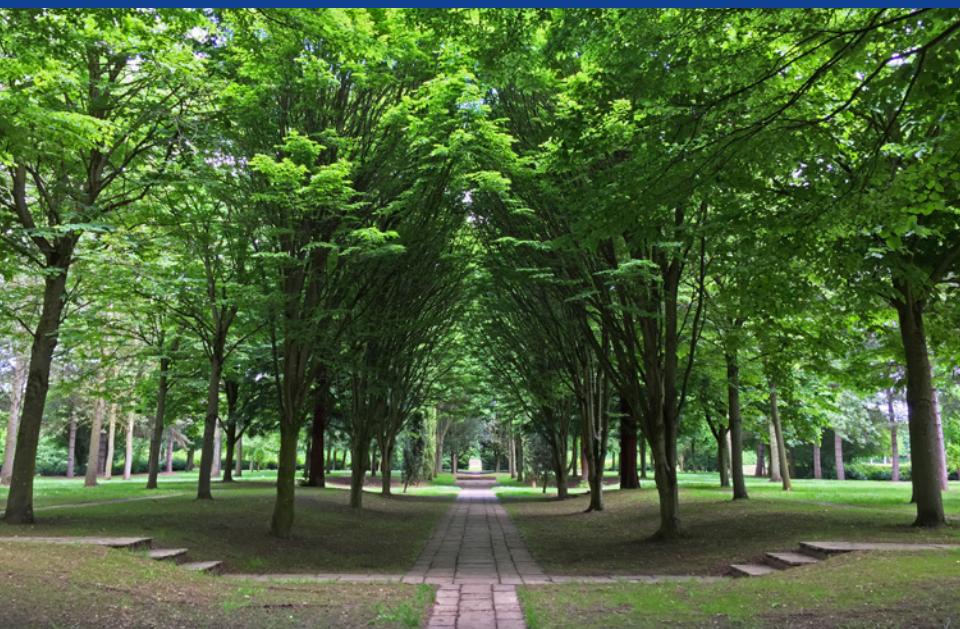


The Peace Pagoda, designed by Minoru Okha and Tom Hancock (1980), was the first of its kind in the Western hemisphere. It was built by the monks and nuns of the Nipponzan Myohoji, a spiritual movement. The Peace Pagoda enshrines sacred relics of Lord Buddha presented from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Berlin. The Pagoda frieze is of traditional design and tells the story of Buddha.





Tree Cathedral



The design of the Tree Cathedral is based on the outline of Norwich Cathedral and was designed in 1986 by landscape architect Neil Higson. He chose different species of trees to represent the character of the Cathedral's sections: hornbeam and tall-growing lime for the nave, evergreens to represent the central tower and spires, and flowering cherry and apple as a focus in the chapels.



Willen Lake



Willen Lake is Milton Keynes' largest lake covering approximately 40 hectares, and is a key balancing lake on the River Ouzel. It consists of a northern basin, which is a wildlife sanctuary and the southern basin which is used for watersports. Industrial uses such as the sewage works lie on the eastern side of the lake and are an integral part of the infrastructure of MK.



Linear Park



A network of linear parks are a major structuring element of the City and formed a cornerstone of the original MK master-plan. The system is based on river valleys creating 'strings' of public footpaths, leisure routes and horse riding trails and 'beads' comprising picnic areas, sculptures and play spaces.

The linear parks stretch across the City providing for a wealth of functions such as biodiversity, recreation, travel and SuDS. The hierarchy of linear parks range from strategic city-scale spaces, such as the Ouzel Valley, to more local inner-grid green links.



Milton Keynes Village



Milton Keynes Village existed long before the new city. Like many of the 16 original villages now within the City it has maintained a sense of distinction from the larger new development, without creating a divided place. The older village has developed a positive reputation as a premium location, with historic properties and character, and good access to the facilities and amenities of the new city.



Grid Corridor Underpass



Movement between grid squares and across the city by active modes was designed-in from the start as part of the original design thinking. Speeds of vehicular travel along the grid network mean at-grade crossings are not suitable. The design response takes an 'over or under' approach, with bridges or underpasses catering for active modes including horse riding, as well as for automated delivery robots. Both approaches are typical of the city-wide infrastructure across the grid squares and within CMK. A typical grid road section contains up to three grade separated crossings providing seamless pedestrian/cycle/equestrian links between adjacent grid squares and are often where local facilities are located.



Oakgrove Local Centre



Oakgrove Local Centre is a mixed use community hub at the heart of the new neighbourhood. The centre is home to shops, cafes, and apartments and close to a new primary school. A formal square provides a focus for the centre and is well used by the new community.



Oakgrove



Oakgrove was part of the Millennium Communities Programme intended to set the standard for 21st Century living and to serve as a model for the creation of new communities in England. The design and layout incorporates a mix of homes and a local centre. A rich landscape framework provides formal and informal open space as well as incorporating SUDs which help support a number of new habitats.



Ouzel Valley Park



The Parks Trust was established by Milton Keynes Development Corporation as an independent charity charged with maintaining the landscape of Milton Keynes. In order to fund works in perpetuity the Trust was endowed with extensive land and property holdings from which to generate an income. The Ouzel Valley Park is one of 171 parks maintained by the MKPT and is dotted with the remains of medieval villages and their associated fish ponds and 'ridge and furrow' grassland.





Woolstone



Woolstone is another historic village incorporated as part of the new city. Through careful layout and design, and attention to detail the village seamlessly integrates with its surrounds while retaining its own distinct identity. This was a key design concept for Milton Keynes. Of particular note is the housing designed by Aldington, Craig & Collinge (1985) at Rendlesham.



Campbell Wharf



Campbell Wharf, owned by the MKPT, is one of the recent developments in CMK. It offers 111 berths accommodating wide beams, narrow boats and cruisers. The marina is suitable for leisure and long-term moorings on the Grand Union Canal. A mix of apartments and town houses, with leisure facilities including a cafe and pub, are adding to the growing residential community at Campbell Park.

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Campbell Park



Campbell Park is named in honour of Lord 'Jock' Campbell of Eskan, the first chair of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation. Located at the heart of the new city it extends to half a square kilometre. The rich and varied landscape comprises events spaces, formal gardens, woodland, grazing pasture and a county standard cricket pitch. Mixed residential development is now coming forward around the park.