

# GO MILTON KEYNES!

## Old Routes through a New City

### A New City in an Ancient Landscape



'Underpass' by Boyd and Evans, 1983

Before Milton Keynes New Town was built, Milton Keynes village had been in existence since Saxon times. It was known as *Mideltone* in the Domesday Book as it was the middle settlement between Broughton and Walton.

Towns and villages, such as Bletchley, Newport Pagnell, Olney, Stony Stratford and Wolverton were also important settlements and as routes through the area changed, so did their fortunes, as first one then the other profited from a particular route.

This exhibition looks at the significance of the three most important routes that cross Milton Keynes:

- The Roman road of Watling Street, now the A5
- The Grand Union Canal
- The London and Birmingham Railway

These transport routes were all in their day important ways to travel through this area and they partly explain why the new town was built in such a strategic location between London and the rest of the country.