



# Trails

Heritage walks in and around Milton Keynes



## The Railway Walk

### Western Section



#### Wolverton to New Bradwell

Wolverton is the 'Western Gateway' for the Railway Walk and the reason for the original railway branch line. The coming of the London to Birmingham railway necessitated a central station to check and repair the trains and Wolverton, halfway and accessible to bringing in building materials via the Grand Union Canal, fitted the bill. From 1866 goods trains passed along the route and in 1867, railway workers were able to catch the train from their homes in New Bradwell to Wolverton Works.

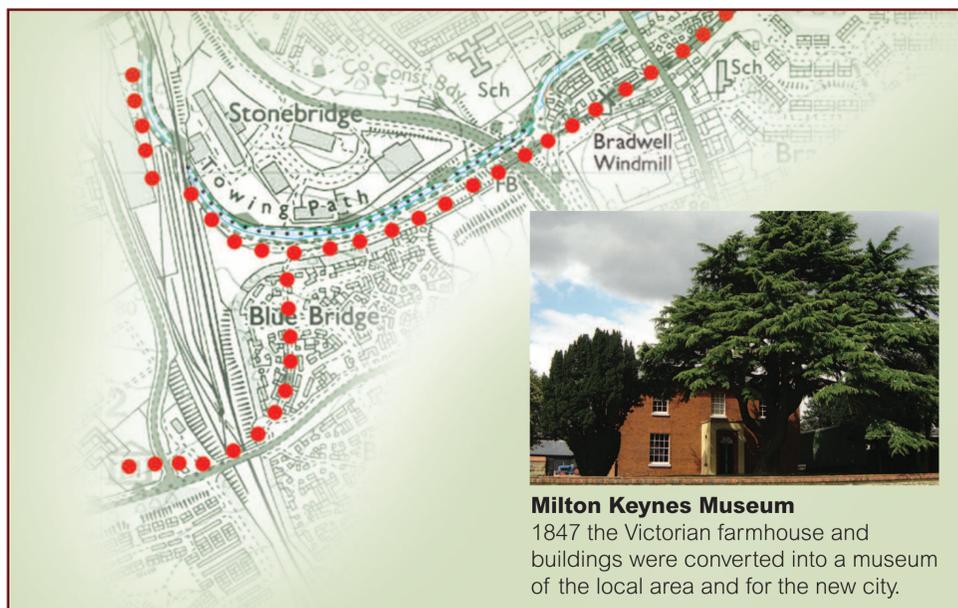


#### Secret Garden

Opened in 2005. Planting and mosaics remember the site's former use as four villas to house important Railway Works managers and the station master.

#### Railway Mural

Close to Wolverton Station, this long black and white mural of a steam train is the work of the late Bill Billings, completed in 1984.



#### Milton Keynes Museum

1847 the Victorian farmhouse and buildings were converted into a museum of the local area and for the new city.

### New Bradwell to Great Linford

This section between stations was the steepest part on the line. As water to make the steam was in short supply at Wolverton, the one train or Newport Nobby as it was affectionately known lled up at New Bradwell, except for Mondays when the water was needed for the housewives' wash day. Once full, it slowly climbed from New Bradwell as the line prepared to cross over the Grand Union Canal. Once over the canal the railway descended to Great Linford station located at Great Linford Wharf.



### Mid Section

#### Bradwell Windmill

Built c1810 by Samuel Holman and costing £500, Bradwell Windmill had a very short life span operating for only sixty years before it closed. It is unusual in having a fireplace (flour dust is notoriously explosive!).

#### New Bradwell

Planned town dating from 1858 as additional housing for workers for Wolverton Works. St George's Church, built in 1843, was the first church in the world built by a railway company mainly for its workers.

#### Artworks-mk

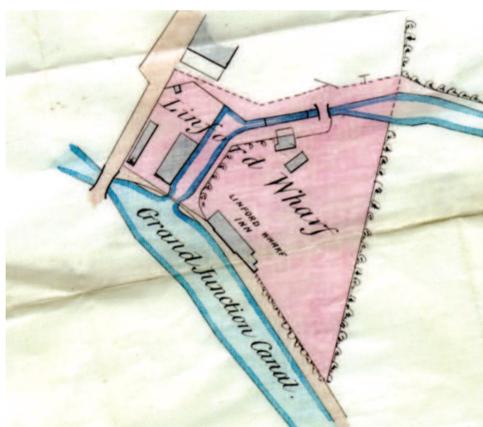
C13th church overlooks a C17th courtyard of stables and barn. This and nearby almshouses were created by Lord Mayor of London Sir William Pritchard. Today the courtyard forms the Artworks-mk, an arts and crafts centre with artists studios.



### Eastern Section

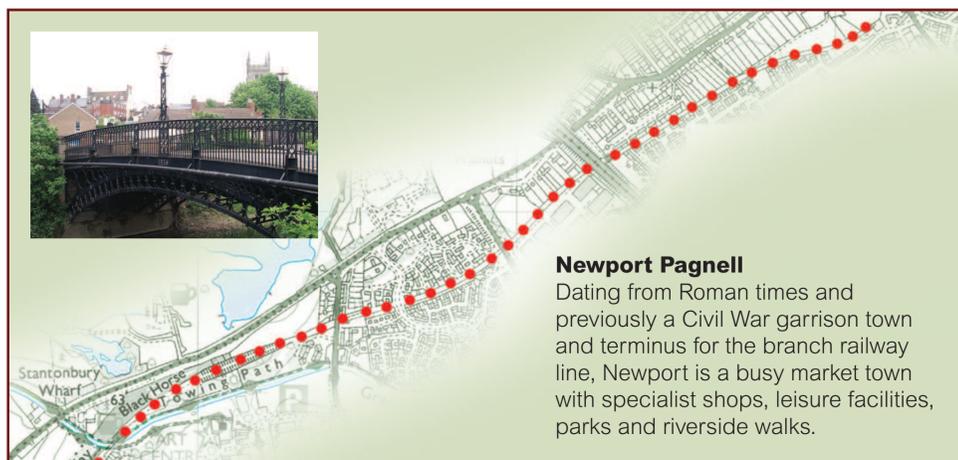
#### Great Linford to Newport Pagnell

Great Linford station was really only used by workers and schoolchildren, especially in the later years when buses and other road traffic became widespread. Newport Pagnell was the terminus of the line and although attempts were made from 1865 to extend the line to Olney, financial problems saw the line only reach Bury Field and the project was abandoned. The branch line survived through the wars thanks to the goods yard at Newport Pagnell but decreasing use finally led to its closure. The last passenger train left Newport Pagnell on 5th September 1964.



#### Black Horse pub

Near this location was Great Linford Wharf, where goods were unloaded and taken along the arm to Newport Pagnell and surrounding areas.



#### Newport Pagnell

Dating from Roman times and previously a Civil War garrison town and terminus for the branch railway line, Newport is a busy market town with specialist shops, leisure facilities, parks and riverside walks.



#### Hanson Environmental Centre

Formerly on the site of a gravel pit, this environmental study centre was set up to research how gravel pits could be returned to centres for conservation and wildlife. As it is a sensitive site, public access is limited to organised school visits, pre-booked groups and permit holders.



These panels can be downloaded from the Discover Milton Keynes website: [www.discovermiltonkeynes.co.uk](http://www.discovermiltonkeynes.co.uk) or scan the QR code.



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