

# Cultural Routes

## DISCOVER, CONNECT, EXPLORE

### CORNFLOWER ROUTE - WOODS, FROGS AND A TOOT

Full route - 8.2 miles

4 mile break point

Estimated walk time: 2-3 hours

Estimated cycle time: 1.5-2 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 southwestern area of the city.

We suggest starting at Howe Park Wood which has parking, electric vehicle charge points and a café, but if you're coming by train hop off at Milton Keynes Central and join the route at its northern end. After admiring the Frog Band by Emmanuel Changunda leave Howe Park Visitor Centre following the woodland trail to the route and head in an anticlockwise direction. Soon you will be in the beautiful Tattenhoe Valley Park which will lead you all the way to Furzton Lake.

If you are completing the full 8.2 mile route, you will continue along the Redway to the Teardrop lakes, finally departing The Parks Trust land and heading through Loughton, one of the original villages engulfed by the New Town development of Milton Keynes. As you approach Shenley take the time to visit St Mary's Church before spending time at Shenley Toot. An information board at the site will tell you more about this scheduled ancient monument and it's a great place to rest up before finishing the route via Westbury Arts Centre.

If you are using the shortcut, leave the route at Furzton Lake, after admiring the 2 pieces of public art there, and head west to Shenley Brook End. A short detour off route will take you to the Energy World Exhibition Site where you can see some housing that was designed to be very energy efficient and striking in design.

visit [www.pedallingculture.com](http://www.pedallingculture.com) to download the digital maps to your device.



**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

Destination  
Stop

### Howe Park Wood

In medieval times Howe Park would have been a vital local source of wood for the villagers of nearby **Tattenhoe**. When Milton Keynes Development Corporation bought the wood in 1968 it was a wet, dark, impenetrable thicket. Active management of the wood has transformed that picture and these days Howe Park Wood is one of the city's jewels. If you are around at dusk or early morning you may be lucky to see a badger or fox, or hear the strange barking of a Muntjac Deer. For more information on wildlife visit [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)

Take the time to explore the wood and visitor centre, making sure you find;

### Frog Band: Unattributed (installed 2015)

Donated from their original home of InteractionMK, the Frog Band now calls the ponds at **Howe Park Wood** home and consists of four individual band members; a singer, guitarist, one playing maracas and a drummer.



### Stained Glass Windows: Annette Reed (2015)

Local artist Annette Reed created four stunning stained glass windows depicting the changing seasons in **Howe Park Wood** to be part of the environmental education and visitor centre.

Departing the Wood and following the route in an anticlockwise direction you will pass

### St Giles Church

The first St Giles was built on this site around 1200AD. The yew trees in the churchyard have been dated from this time and were probably planted at the time the first church was established. This makes them 800 years old! The building you see today dates from circa 1538 AD.

Entering The Parks Trust land you will follow the route along the brook in **Tattenhoe Valley Park** up through **Emerson Valley** until you arrive at



Destination  
Stop

### Furzton Lake

Providing a striking landmark at Furzton Lake is the **Triple Star Head** sculpture by Romanian artist **Paul Neagu**, shaped like a comet with its tail erupting from the earth. Look out too for the **Silhouetted Portals by Wendy Hitchings** - wooden sculptures on the island near Lynmouth Crescent.

If you are taking the short route leave the lake and head west towards **Shenley Brook End**, de-touring slightly to see;

### Energy World Exhibition Site (1986)

Energy World was a demonstrative project of 51 houses constructed in Shenley Lodge that attracted international interest. A landmark in design and construction of low-energy housing, the houses were designed to be at least 30% more efficient than the building regulations then in force.

If continuing on the main route continue past;

### The National Bowl

The National Bowl is an entertainment venue in **Milton Keynes** on the site of a former clay-pit which was filled in and raised to form an amphitheatre. It has a capacity of 65,000.

Entering South Loughton Valley Park you will see

### Teardrop Lakes

The Teardrop Lakes are an important part of the city's balancing lake system, able to take storm waters to prevent flooding of housing areas. They also provide valuable leisure facilities for the city's residents, while the variety of habitats, including dense reed beds, makes the lakes an excellent spot to enjoy wildlife.

Leaving the green parkland behind take the opportunity to explore Loughton

### The Green

The Green, once the centre of Little Loughton, retains a rural atmosphere and you can still see buildings around The Green dating back to the 16th century. Originally there were 2 villages, Little Loughton and Great Loughton, separated by a brook, each had its own church, manor house and farm. They were joined together to form **Loughton village** in 1408.



### All Saints Church

The presence of a church at Great Loughton was recorded as early as 1219. The present building dates from the early 13th Century.

Continue on the Redway through the built up area, crossing the original Roman Road of Watling Street before arriving at

### Shenley Toot

This small pasture area is a Scheduled Monument, listed by Historic England, because in 1239 AD it was a moated motte and bailey castle, home to the family of Hugh, Earl of Chester. The earthworks that can be seen today are probably the remains of an 18th century manor's gardens on the same site. Across the V3 Fulmer Street is **Shenley Wood**, an excellent spot for picnics and well-provided with a range of seats, tables and benches. In the summer months, the meadow area near the car park on the west side of the wood is mown so that visitors can enjoy a picnic and relax among the wild flowers.

Leaving the Toot head south to

### Westbury Arts Centre

Westbury Arts Centre is a grade II listed 17th Century farmhouse building, which provides both permanent and temporary studio space to artists. A high quality events programme is delivered throughout the year for the public to enjoy. [www.westburyartscentre.co.uk](http://www.westburyartscentre.co.uk)



Finish your ride or walk back at Howe Park Wood.

