

Cultural Routes

DISCOVER, CONNECT, EXPLORE

GREEN ROUTE - RIVERS, LAKES AND DINOSAURS

Full route - 10.1 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 eastern area of the city.

We suggest starting at Caldecotte Lake, off H10 Bletcham Way, which has parking, refreshments at The Caldecotte Pub and a playground. Starting by heading away from the lake you will join the route at the River Ouzel, following its contours for a short time until you depart and pick up the trail around Caldecotte Lake, where you can watch sailors and birds enjoying the water. Re-Joining the River Ouzel and heading North to The Open University, you may like to take the opportunity to explore their Public Art Collection or explore Walton Lake on its Boardwalk into the reed bed. If you are completing the shorter 5 mile route, you will leave the main route here, cross Ouzel Valley Park and re-join the main route heading south towards the Grand Union Canal.

If you are completing the full 10 mile route you will continue to head north through the beautiful Ouzel Valley Park, the site where Bronze Age Gold Torcs and bracelets were unearthed and Medieval fish ponds. Arriving at Willen Lake, a great place to rest and enjoy the views, the route then takes you along the Grand Union Canal heading south to Peartree Bridge. As you leave the canal path you can make a short de-tour to see Triceratops by Bill Billings, well worth a visit before re-joining the route through Woughton on the Green and arriving back at Caldecotte Lake.

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



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Destination Stop

Caldecotte Lake

Caldecotte Lake is a beautiful parkland which is home to a variety of water birds, water fowl and insects. Offering boating, fishing, birdwatching and a trim trail it is worth exploring.

The Caldecotte Pub

The Caldecotte Pub windmill may be modern, however a watermill dating back to the late 1600s was excavated in the area now occupied by Caldecotte Lake South, near the deserted medieval village of Caldecotte.



Caldecotte Medieval Village and Manor

Situated immediately east of the lake are the visible and unexcavated remains of the medieval village of Caldecotte.

Ichthyosaur Park

During excavations of the lake in 1982 a fossil skeleton of an extinct sea creature that swam in warm sea that covered this area 150 million years ago was discovered. You can see the fossil at Central Library in Milton Keynes.



Join the River Ouzel and head North to the Open University

The Open University

The Open University or OU was formed in Milton Keynes in 1969 and is centred on the historic Walton Hall. It is Milton Keynes' biggest employer with over 5,000 staff on site and is the foremost distance learning institution in the world.

OU Public Art Collection

The University outdoor art collection consists of 17 permanent pieces set around the grounds. The collection is open to the public however the campus is a private estate. Please report to the security Lodge on site to inform them you are on site.



Walton Lake

Walton Lake is a disused 'balancing lake' allowed to fill with reeds, a boardwalk into the reedbed, linked to two bird hides, offers fantastic opportunities to see bird and waterlife up close.

Bronze Age Gold Torcs

Gold Torcs and bracelets dating from 110-800BC were unearthed from a dig in Monkston Park. They are now in the British Museum.

Medieval Fish Ponds

The medieval fish ponds date from a 14th century fish farm belonging to the manor house. They were built near the Ouzel so a supply of fresh water could be maintained.

Church Farm & Dovecote

Great Woolstone Church Farm and Dovecote was built in the late 1500s of timber with a brick front added in the 1700s. In the 1800s the farm was home to William Smith who pioneered the use of steam engines to plough fields-an example is on display at MK Museum.

Holy Trinity Church

Holy Trinity Church dates from the late 1200s although excavations revealed foundations of a Norman church and Roman occupation.

Arrive at Willen Lake South

Leda & The Swan: Michael Morse McDonald (1992)

Gifted by the artist to The Parks Trust in 1992, Willen Lake was chosen as an ideal location due to the proximity of the lake and the number of swans that grace the grounds and lakeside.

Optional short detour to The Tree Cathedral

Tree Cathedral

The Tree Cathedral's outline is based on Norwich Cathedral and was designed in 1986 by landscape architect Neil Higson. In springtime colourful bulbs represent the sun shining through stained glass windows onto the ground. A beautiful spot all year round.



Join the Grand Union Canal and head South for approx. 1.5 miles.

Grand Union Canal

Winding its way from Birmingham to London the first canal boats travelled through what is now Milton Keynes in 1805. Much trade was lost from the canal in 1838 when the London to Birmingham Railway opened but it still remains a well-used leisure route.

Just as the route leaves the canal this is your chance to take a short de-tour and find a hidden dinosaur. Continue down the canal path, crossing the next bridge over the canal. You will soon see...



Triceratops: Bill Billings

Created from concrete and chicken wire, the Triceratops at Peartree Bridge is by local artist Bill Billings. The Triceratops is repainted from time to time, with designs often coming from local school children. Plans are in place to update the paint design in late 2018.

Re-tracing your steps, re-join the route and explore Woughton on the Green

Woughton on the Green

The original village of Woughton On The Green was recorded in the Domesday Book as Ulchestone with a population c 120. The Green is a scheduled ancient monument site, the extensive earthworks evidencing the growth of the village until its decline after the enclosure in 1769.

Ye Olde Swan Inn

Ye Olde Swan originally constructed in the 1600s has historical associations with highwayman Dick Turpin

Pass through Simpson

St Thomas Church

The old church of St Thomas has been largely reconstructed and altered many times.

Simpson Manor House

Simpson Manor House is on the site of the medieval manor. The house itself was pulled down in around 1810

Arrive back at Caldecotte Lake

