Section 1
Willen Lake to Great Linford (2.6 miles)

Eco-Park is an innovative new visitor attraction, where children can discover more about the world around them, from the world of the dinosaurs to where our food comes from. Gulliver’s Land is a family theme park with rides, attractions, shows, restaurants and shops.

Cathedral of Trees The arching branches of woodland trees evoke the image and character of medieval gothic architecture. This ‘cathedral’ is based on the plan of Norwich Cathedral and different tree species are used to create its character.

The Grand Union Canal winds its way through Milton Keynes creating a haven of tranquillity. Canal boats first travelled from London to Birmingham, through what is now Milton Keynes, in 1805. The Canal prospered until 1838, when the London to Birmingham Railway opened and took away a great deal of trade.

The Brick Kilns at The Dell, Great Linford, were built in the late 19th century by George Osborn Price of Newport Pagnell, a coal and lime merchant and an agricultural chandler.

Great Linford A church called St Andrew’s has stood on the hill since the 13th century. Sir William Pritchard, Lord Mayor of London, built the core of the present Manor House in 1678. Today the manor is privately owned.

Artworks:mk, formerly 17th century Almshouses are now a leading arts and education charity providing specialist equipped art and craft workshops, artists’ studios and exhibition space.

Section 2
Great Linford to MK Museum (3.2 miles)

Bradwell Windmill on the southern bank of the Grand Union Canal, was built in 1817 (from local limestone) and used as a mill until 1871. Of particular interest is the early use of the universal joint enabling the sails to face into wind direction.

The Train Mural close to Wolverton Station, between bridges 71 and 71A. This long black and white mural of a steam train, commissioned by the Milton Keynes Inland Waterways Authority, is the work of the late Bill Billings. It was completed in 1984 and has been recently restored.

The Secret Garden was formerly occupied by four ‘villas’ built by the London & Birmingham Railway Company in the 1840s. Demolished in the late 1960s the area has been developed into a community garden, opened in 2005.

Wolverton railway station/depot was the reason for the development of Wolverton as a planned town in the 1830s. Halfway between London & Birmingham it was ideal for the servicing and refuelling of locomotives. Supplies to build the new railway town were transported by barge.

St George The Martyr Church in Wolverton, was built by the London & Birmingham Railway Company in 1843 for the special, but not exclusive, use of railway workers. The first church in the world to be built by a Railway company.

MK Museum was founded in 1973 by local volunteers collecting items from farms and factories that were closing with the development of Milton Keynes. Exhibits depict life from 1800 to the present day.
Section 3
MK Museum to Furzton Lake (4.6 miles)

Bancroft Park is a haven for birds and wildlife. Bancroft was once the site of a Roman Villa which has been partly restored to give visitors an idea of the layout. Here too are the city’s concrete cows, created by Canadian artist Liz Leyh.

Bradwell Abbey Site of 12th century Benedictine Priory with buildings including the 14th century Cruck Barn and Pilgrim’s Chapel. 17th century farm buildings were added and the site is today managed by and is the home of the Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre.

Lodge Lake is a popular park with visitors, who appreciate both the fishing and the chance to see wildlife such as herons, swans, little grebes or even kingfisher.

City Church (Christ the Cornerstone) was opened in 1992 as the first ecumenical city centre church in the United Kingdom. The Church has excellent acoustics and is a wonderful setting to hear live music. MK Theatre and Gallery form the focus of the Theatre District of Milton Keynes. The modern, 1400 seat theatre offers a wide variety of theatre, musicals, ballet, opera, music and comedy. Milton Keynes Gallery programmes contemporary, international exhibitions, with associated offsite events and project space.

Furzton Lake constructed in the mid 1980s as one of the ‘balancing lakes’ – designed to hold floodwater during heavy rain – is now a valuable environment for wildlife. Site excavations revealed a settlement from the late Iron Age (around 1000BC).

For 2008, Milton Keynes has revamped its three Heritage Cycle Trails A – C to be bigger and better than before. In addition, a brand new Trail D – North West Milton Keynes has been designed by a group of young volunteers supported by the Make a Difference Team. Trails start either at Willen or Furzton Lakes and take you around some of the magnificent scenery and hidden heritage that Milton Keynes has to offer. Additional Heritage Cycle Trails are planned for 2009, meanwhile, cycle, walk, jog or run and discover Milton Keynes for yourself.

Trail leaflets are available from Discover Milton Keynes, Silbury Boulevard, near door 7 of the centre:mk shopping centre, and local museums or libraries, or can be downloaded: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cyclenkm
www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk

Produced by Heritage Unit Milton Keynes, Milton Keynes Council.
Email: heritage@milton-keynes.gov.uk Web: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/heritage
Designed by Lionart: info@lionart.net
October 2008 Edition
6. Continue on redway into Blue Bridge, taking new black tarmac path on right into Railway Triangle. Follow path along canal (extreme care) to tunnel, Dismount and walk through tunnel – low roof. Remain on path and follow redway to Junction. (This path is narrow and right next to canal. FAMILIES with young children should take alternate route here. See 6A.)

7. Head up slope out of Secret Garden on foot to top. Turn left along road into Wolverton (take care – no redway and busy road) until reaching the Bank of England. Follow redway as Paynes Drive.

8. Turn right along McConnell Drive to MK Museum (visit approx 2 hrs). From museum continue to end of McConnell Drive then turn left to follow redway to Blue Bridge over railway.

9. Turn left immediately after Blue Bridge and left again, passing under H2 into Bancroft Park. Continue downhill (care – crossing road) to Bancroft Roman Villa. Walk bike on wooden bridge and turn right along the brook. The Concrete Cows are ahead on the right.

10. Carry on under the A1 Monks Way into Bradwell Abbey, turning right over Loughton Brook and under the railway to Bradwell Abbey, home of MK City Discovery Centre.

11. Keep buildings to your left and cycle through the courtyard around the cottages and field then turn left back onto the leisure route. Turn right following the brook on your left toward Lodge Lake. At lake turn left to follow route around lake and through Loughton Lodge.

12. Turn right over the bridge into Loughton Green, here you will see Manor Farm. (Optional – Follow Mill Route left down The Green and Leys Road until you reach the site of the medieval Ringpond. Turn right following the brook on your left toward Lodge Lake. At lake turn left to follow route around lake and through Loughton Lodge.)

13. Back at The Green head toward the Sports Ground taking the path to the left of the sports field gate and continue round until left over redway joining the redway at Paynes Drive.

14. Continue along redway as Paynes Drive becomes Airport Furlong. After passing Winn Grove turn right and follow redway in semi-circle to turn right between houses on redway.

15. Follow redway through housing to reach Knowl Hill roundabout. Turn left under H6 Childs Way into Knowl Hill and follow redway parallel to VW Wantage Street.

16. Continue along redway over Roebuck Way and after crossing Kelvin Drive turn right under VW Wantage Street into Elfield Park. Turn left, taking redway to pub/hotel complex.

17. At the Eco Home roundhouse turn left along Rutland Gate and under H7 Chaffron Way to Furzton Lake. Turn left again, taking redway to pub/hotel complex.

18. Continue around lake to turn left onto NCR51 and head away from lake over V4 Wantage Street into Elfield Park. Turn left, keeping National Bowl on your right.

19. Keep on NCR51 for some distance under H7 Chaffron Way and along Teardrop Lakes on left and A5 on right. Continue under H6 Childs Way into Loughton.

20. At local park turn right and take bridge over railway into Station Square. Turn left and use pedestrian crossing and head to left hand diagonal corner and exit up left hand side of Midsummer Boulevard to Midsummer Place shopping centre.

21. Turn right and circumvent the centre:mk shopping centre, passing City Church on Watling Street and on right MK Museum. Continue along shopping centre past John Lewis to the Theatre and Gallery.

22. At Gallery turn left to rejoin NCR51 and over bridge into Campbell Park. Follow NCR51 to the site of Pennylands Marina. Cross over and canal bridges. Flow between Gulls Land and Eco Park back to Willen Lake.