Section I
Furzton Lake to Lodge Lake (2.5 miles)

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).

Energy World (1986) was a pioneering construction project of 51 low-energy houses in the Shenley Lodge area. You can still see the Eco Home Round House, an unusual house withinsulating earth banks and two-storey conservatory as well as the Solar Clock and Javelin Sundial.

All Saints Church is the oldest surviving building in Loughton. The village was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Lochintone. Manor Farm is one of the oldest non-church buildings in MK. Dating from the early 1500s with later additions, the house was originally surrounded by a moat and is said to be haunted.

The Green, once the centre of Little Loughton, a separate parish, retains a rural atmosphere, helped by the development of the Loughton Valley Park. Here also are the medieval fishponds.

The National Badminton Centre is the training centre for England’s top squads and also houses MK’s newest museum (2006). Its collection is truly national in importance and includes medals, early racquets/battledores, shuttlecocks and a photographic and video archive.

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.

Section 2
Lodge Lake to Wolverton (2 miles)

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.

The Concrete Cows (1978), a leaving present to Milton Keynes Development Corporation by artist in residence Liz Leyh. Vandalised, painted pink, had pyjama bottoms added, acquired ‘mad cow’ graffiti and a calf kidnapped for ransom.

Bancroft Roman Villa was discovered in 1971. Excavations showed that the villa was originally made up of a farmstead and other buildings. One of the mosaics from the house is on display in Queen’s Court in the City Centre.

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.

The Phoenix is a new piece of artwork for Wolverton. The sculpture is a phoenix topping one of the Victorian cast iron station columns salvaged from the demolished station. Artist Tim Ward.

The Methodist Church is one of several community and cultural buildings in this area of Wolverton, which includes MADCAP arts centre, the Old Market Halls (home of the Town Council and the Library) and the Old Bath House on Stratford Road (home of Living Archive - the Heritage and Arts organisation.)
**Section 3**  
**Wolverton to Old Wolverton (2.8 miles)**

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

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 2005.

**The Grand Union Canal** was built to link London with the industrial Midlands. One of the last sections to be completed was the crossing of the River Ouse at Wolverton with the Iron Trunk Aqueduct.

**The Viaduct** was a Robert Stephenson structure for the London & Birmingham Railway Company, the first Company to link London to another major city. Built in 1838 of red brick with stone capping, it carries the railway line 50 feet above the River Ouse.

Old Wolverton, the original Wolverton, named after the de Wolvertons who held the manor. Sites along the Ouse Valley include the Norman motte-and-bailey, remains of medieval village, the mill, the Old Vicarage and Wolverton House.

**Holy Trinity Church** dates from the late 12th century, the first church in England to be built in the ‘Reformed Norman’ style. Set on the edge of Wolverton it is hidden from the modern town.

Heritage Site Information

**Refreshment Spot**  
The Galleon

**Wolverton House**

**Holy Trinity Church**

**Howe Park Wood** is a small surviving patch of ancient woodland, broken up by early settling farmers and their grazing animals. Howe Park has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its wildlife value.

**St Giles’ Tattenhoe** is a Grade II Listed Church from the 12th century within the Manor House site which itself is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is now surrounded by modern housing. Beyond the churchyard in the meadow is the site of the lost village of Tattenhoe.

**Section 4**  
**Old Wolverton to Furzton Lake (13.7 miles)**

**Watling Street** is the name given to an ancient trackway in England and Wales. The Romans paved the route and extended it through this area to Wroxeter.

**Stony Stratford** located on Watling Street was an important staging post for mail and passenger coaches travelling between London and the North. Travellers staying at the two main coaching inns vied with each other in their stories and tales giving rise to the saying ‘Cock and Bull’ Story.

**Shenley Brook End**, together with its neighbouring parish Shenley Church End and the districts of Shenley Wood and Shenley Lodge, are collectively known as ‘The Shenleys’. The Church of St Mary dates back to the 11th century.

**Shenley Toot** in 1239 AD was a motte-and-bailey castle, home to the family of Hugh, Earl of Chester. The earthworks that can be seen are probably the remains of an 18th century manor’s gardens.

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Heritage Site Information

**Refreshment Spot**  
The Cock / The Bull

**Shenley Church Inn**

**The Viaduct**

**Shenley Toot**

**Howe Park Wood**

**Picnic spot, Howe Park Wood**

**St Giles’ Church**

**Holy Trinity Church**

**The Cock Hotel**

**Watling Street milestone**

**Wolverton Works (c1920)**

**Secret Garden**

**Iron Trunk Aqueduct**

**Wolverton House**

**St Giles’ Church**

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START

1. Continue following NCR5, turn left onto Ashpole Furlong. *Short-cut route: Jump to No 14.
2. Turn left off Bradwell Abbey. Continue to follow NCR56 over bridge round fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
3. Continue through Bancroft Park, crossing under V4 Watling Street into Knowlhill.
4. Continue along NCR56 over bridge round fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
5. Continue to follow NCR56 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
6. Turn left to follow NCR56 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
7. Continue following Wymbush, then up and over wooden bridge into Bancroft Park.
8. Continue along NCR51 over bridge round fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
9. Continue to follow NCR51 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
10. Continue to follow NCR51 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
11. Continue to follow NCR51 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
12. Continue to follow NCR51 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
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16. Continue to follow NCR51 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
17. Continue to follow NCR51 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
18. Continue to follow NCR51 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
19. Continue to follow NCR51 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
20. Continue to follow NCR51 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.

SHORT CUT

1. Short-cut route: Jump to No 14. Turn left off Bradwell Abbey. Continue to follow NCR56 over bridge round fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
2. Continue to follow NCR56 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
3. Continue to follow NCR56 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
4. Continue to follow NCR56 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
5. Continue to follow NCR56 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
6. Turn left to follow NCR56 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
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19. Continue to follow NCR56 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.
20. Continue to follow NCR56 past the playing fields and turning right, head aroud the pavilion.

Heritage Cycle Trail D – Milton Keynes North West

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