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

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.
Mid Section

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 filled 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.

Bradwell Windmill
Built c1810 by Samuel Holman and costing £500, Bradwell Windmill had a very short life span operating 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 arts and crafts centre with artists studios.

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.
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.

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.

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.

Black Horse pub
Near this location was Great Linford Wharf, where goods were unloaded and taken along the arm to Newport Pagnell and surrounding area.
## Heritage Open Days Events along the Railway Walk Route

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western Section</th>
<th>Mid Section</th>
<th>Eastern Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Milton Keynes Museum**  
McConnell Drive, Wolverton, MK12 5EL  
*Sat 11am-4.30pm*  
Museum of local history featuring Victorian house, street of shops, telephones, ww2 garden, transport & farming. | **Bradwell Windmill Open Day**  
Mill Lane/Nightingale Crescent, New Bradwell, MK13  
*Sat 11.30am-4pm*  
Rare opening of one of the most unusual and important heritage buildings in Milton Keynes. Guides available. | **Aston Martin Exhibition**  
Library, St John Street, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8HQ  
*Sat 9am-1pm*  
*Aston Martin & Newport Pagnell* – exhibition highlighting the town’s links with the prestige car manufacturer. |
| **Discover Milton Keynes Revisited at Milton Keynes Museum**  
McConnell Drive, Wolverton, MK12 5EL  
*Sat 11am-4.30pm*  
Another chance to see many recent exhibitions from the Living Archive and Discover Milton Keynes Showcase. | **New Bradwell Heritage Group Open Day**  
Community Centre, Church St, new Bradwell, MK13 0DA  
*Sat 10am-4.30pm, Guided walks at 10.30am & 2.30pm*  
Local exhibition, family history. Bring along your old Bradwell photos to make a free calendar. Refreshments. | **Newport Pagnell Historical Society Museum**  
Chandos Hall, Silver St, Newport Pagnell, MK16 0EW  
*Sat 2-4.30pm*  
*Fun and Games in Newport Pagnell* exhibition. Museum located in historic hall. Artefacts, information and stories. |
| **Roman Day**  
Bancroft Roman Villa (Car park in Constantine Way)  
*Sat 10.30am-1pm Free admission with booklet/voucher*  
Step back in time and celebrate the roman era in Milton Keynes. Voucher at: www.mkheritageopendays.com | **Artworks-MK demos & open studios**  
artworks-MK, Parklands, Gt Linford, K14 5DZ  
*Sat 10am-4pm*  
Exhibition/Open Studios. Free workshops; activities, bicycle bazaar, craft, vintage & homemade goods for sale. |  |
| **Wolverton Park Heritage Open Day**  
Old Wolverton Road, Old Wolverton, MK12 5QB  
*Sat 11am-4pm*  
Historic former railway shed that once housed the royal train – now a mixed use community. | **Camphill Community Centre Open Day**  
Japonica lane, Willen Park South, K15 9JY  
*Sat 2-5pm*  
Camphill Open Day. See workshops in action, buy produce. Café on site. Stunning new wooden Chrysalis theatre. |  |

*For full listings on all venues and events go to: [www.mkheritageopendays.com](http://www.mkheritageopendays.com)*
Railway Walk – Timeline of Selected Dates

- **4000BC**
  - Stone tools found on the Bancroft Mausoleum site are evidence of activity during the Neolithic – a traverse (chisel) shaped arrow head used for hunting birds and two ground stone axes.

- **1817**
  - Grand Union Canal – arm extended from Great Linford to Newport Pagnell.

- **1838**
  - LNWR create railway between London and Birmingham with central station at Wolverton for train checks and repairs. Wolverton Works founded.

- **1850**
  - Wolverton population reaches 1,600 thanks to Works.

- **1860**
  - Wolverton reaches its limit. Land purchased at Bradwell for additional railway workers housing. New Bradwell formed as a result.

- **1863**
  - Wolverton to Newport Pagnell Railway Act passed through Parliament by NPRC. Canal arm closed and basin at Newport Pagnell filled in to provide large goods yard.

- **1865**
  - Newport Pagnell to Olney (extension) announced. Wolverton to Newport Pagnell arm of the Grand Union Canal purchased for railway and work begins.

- **1866**
  - Line opens to Newport Pagnell for goods traffic. Passenger trains begin a year later.

- **1867**
  - New Bradwell extended to 500 houses and 2,500 people.

- **1871**
  - Olney Extension: lines laid as far as Bury Field, Newport Pagnell but problems see the project abandoned in 1875.

- **1872**
  - NPRC disbands after selling the line to the LNWR Company.

- **1875**
  - LNWR = London North Western Railway
  - NPRC = Newport Pagnell Railway Company

- **1964**
  - Last passenger train runs 5th September. Line closed.

- **1970-78**
  - Heritage organisations established across the city, the basis of heritage provision today and at Stacey Hill Farm (now Milton Keynes Museum). Concrete Cows made.

- **1988**
  - Artists studios opened in Great Linford.

All images subject to copyright. With thanks to Milton Keynes Heritage Association, Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies.