



A Griffin Guide

# Relocating to Milton Keynes



A NEW TOWN FULL OF HISTORY



STANTONBURY  
International School





**The Whisper**, Andre Wallace, 1984  
Outside the Library on Avebury Boulevard



# Making a move?

Welcome to Stantonbury International School. We are proud to be part of the Griffin Schools Trust where we share the same focus on 'Proud Traditions', 'Wide Horizons' and 'High Achievement' in order to enable every single child to not only reach their academic ability but to excel beyond the classroom as a result of high quality enrichment and broad opportunities available for all of our students.

Many Heads claim their schools are special places but in reality schools can often be generic and similar in approach and ethos. We can honestly say that we are a unique school, we offer a different experience for our pupils in Milton Keynes, one that is rich in opportunity and diversity, where creativity is nurtured and minds are opened. Our emphasis on the sports and arts as well as genuine community engagement provides the backdrop to our individuality.

We are fortunate to have large school grounds including facilities such as a Leisure Center and Theatre for student and public use. As a member of staff you can benefit from free access to the Leisure centre facilities including the pool and gym as well as discounted theatre tickets. However, the real benefit of working for our Trust and for our school is the excitement of being part of a family of schools whose sole purpose is to shape and create inspirational learning opportunities for all of our pupils and world class professional dialogue where you will have the opportunity to flourish and become the teacher and the leader you want to be.





# History

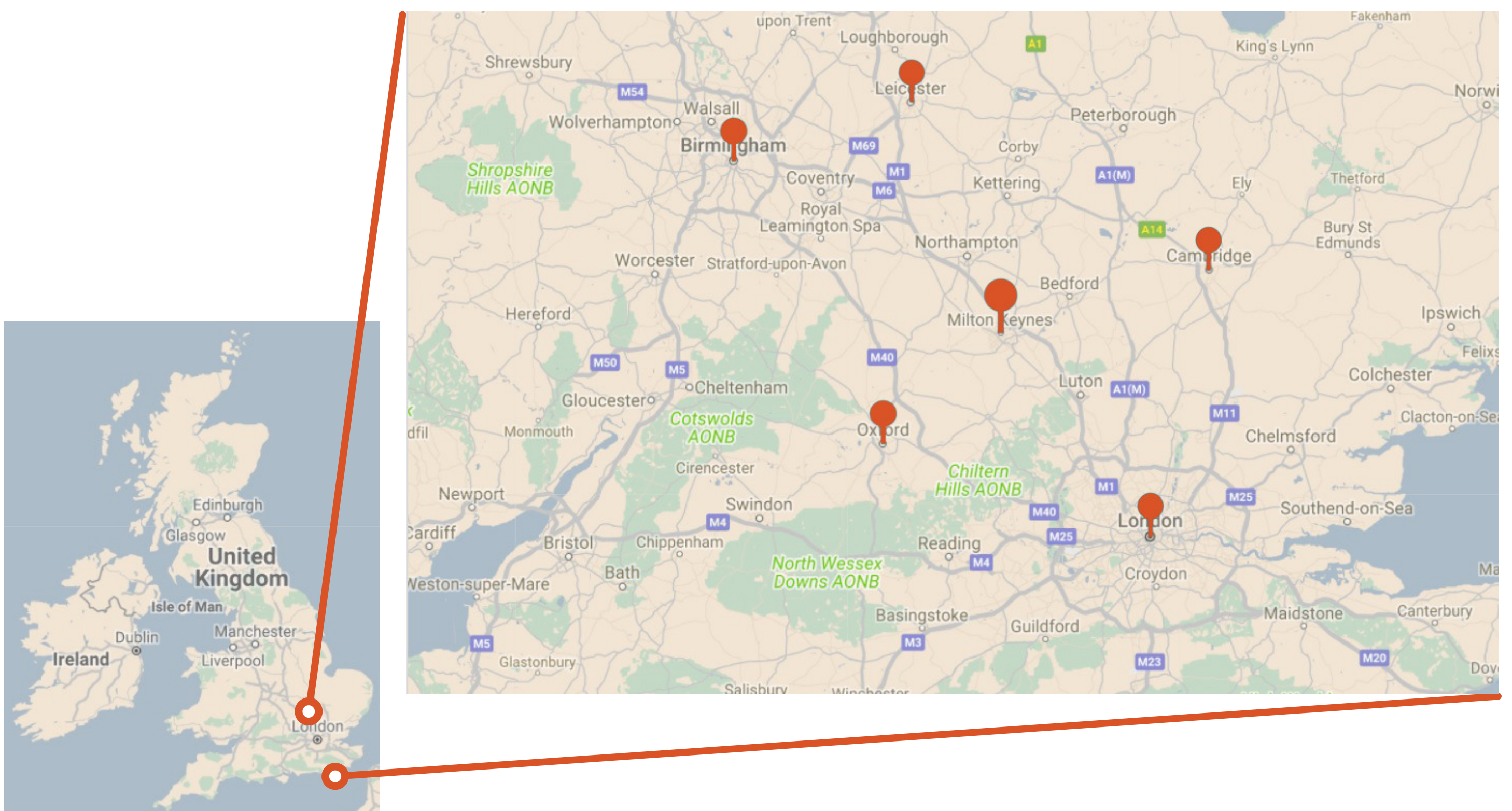
Milton Keynes is a 'new town' with a lot of history.

Officially created in 1967 by an Act of Parliament it became the largest new town development and a worldwide model city. Originally built to deal with the growing population in London, Milton Keynes has become a major regional center in its own right.

At its designation Milton Keynes encompassed the smaller towns of Bletchley, Stony Stratford, Wolverton and 15 other villages and farmlands. It is these settlements that bring a wealth of history to MK with archeological finds dating as far back as the Iron age.

## Location

Milton Keynes' location was purposely chosen due to it being in the middle of London, Birmingham, Oxford, Cambridge and Leicester. So not only does MK have excellent transport links but it also has access to a number of the UK's cultural hotspots.





# What to do in Milton Keynes

As a candidate for the European Capital of Culture 2023 Milton Keynes has a lot to offer.

## Culture and History

- Award winning galleries such as *MK Gallery* offering free exhibitions of international contemporary art and *Stani Gallery* showcasing a vast array of local art.
- There are over 200 public works of art around Milton Keynes, including the iconic Concrete Cows created in 1978 by the Canadian artist Liz Leyh.
- Multiple Theatres to choose from including:



- *Milton Keynes Theatre* - the most successful theatre outside London's West End with productions ranging from show stopping musicals to world-renowned opera.
- The aptly named *Chrysalis Theatre* that can transform from an outdoor performance space to a 200+ seat theatre.
- Our very own *Stantonbury Theatre* hosting national performances of drama, music, dance and musical theatre as well as student productions and open for hire within the community.

- *Milton Keynes City Orchestra* is the live classical music resource for Milton Keynes and the surrounding area and it has built an international reputation through performances of outstanding quality.

- Milton Keynes has a number of museums and areas of historical significance:



- *Bletchley Park* - once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers where Alan Turing cracked the Enigma Code. Now a heritage attraction and home of The National Museum of Computing.
- *Cowper & Newton Museum* – 18th century townhouse in Olney of Georgian poet *William Cowper* and his neighbour and friend *John Newton*; former slave trader turned abolitionist and author of the world famous hymn *Amazing Grace*.
- Medieval abbey ruins such as *Bradwell Priory* – dissolved during the reign of Henry VIII however the medieval pilgrimage trackways around it formed the basis of the current cyclist and pedestrian 'Redways' of Milton Keynes.
- Stately homes like Woburn Abbey, the ancestral home of the Duke of Bedford housing private collections of art and furniture.



# Sports

From countryside to city all within one town, Milton Keynes offers the most wide ranging sports making it hard not to find something you like. Below are just some of the activities on offer:



The 30,000 seater *Stadium MK* is home to League One football team *MK Dons* as well as hosting a variety of other events such as the 2015 Rugby World Cup, Milton Keynes Marathon and musical concerts.

- MK is home to the *National Badminton Centre*.
- Based at our school's athletic track is *Milton Keynes Athletic Club (MKAC)*, providing members with Track and Field, Road, Cross Country and Fell Race recreation, training and competition.
- *Xscape* offers two types of high thrill indoor activities:
  - *Snozone* for indoor skiing and snowboarding on real snow
  - *iFly* for indoor sky diving
- With over 50 miles of water in Milton Keynes there are lots of fishing opportunities. *Milton Keynes Angling Association (MKAA)* boasts of lake, canal and river opportunities.
- One such body of water is *Willen Lake* where you can also take part in a large array of Watersports including:
  - Sailing
  - Windsurfing
  - Wakeboarding
  - Kayaking

There is something for everyone at *Planet Ice* with courses in figure skating, ice dancing, ice hockey & speed skating as well as being the home to Elite Ice Hockey League team *MK Lightning*.

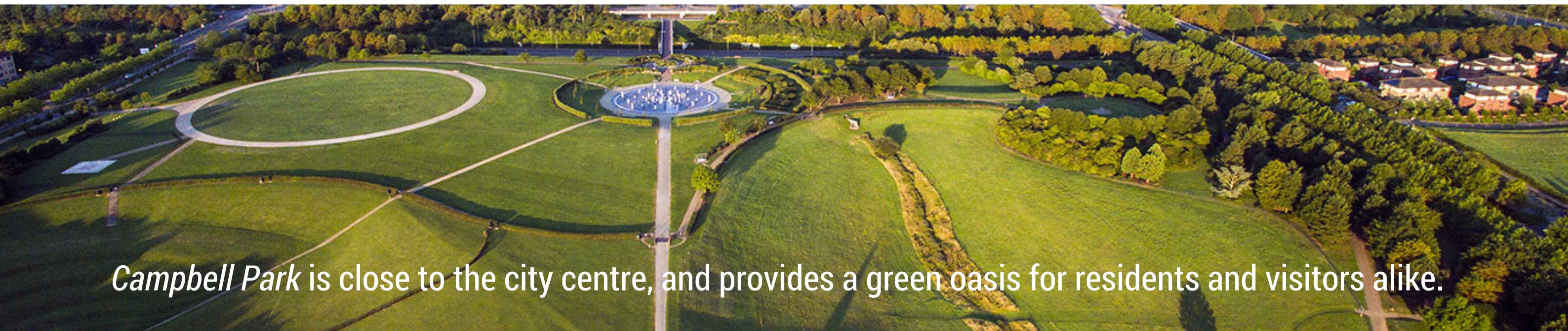


- The *Milton Keynes Redways* are a network of over 270 km of safe paths (generally surfaced with red tarmac) that criss-cross the entire city of Milton Keynes used by cyclists and walkers. With heritage trails and mountain biking routes cyclist of all abilities and interests will find something for them.
- There are 10 golf courses within the city centre and surrounding areas, including *Woburn Golf Club*, ranked one of the top 100 courses in the UK.
- You can try indoor Go-karting at *Formula Fast Go-karting*.
- At *Experience the Country* you can try 4x4 driving, Segway, archery, axe-throwing and much more.
- Check out the 'high-life' at *Aerial Extreme* high ropes adventure course.
- Head to *Bounce* for a 14,000 sq. ft. indoor playground with a sea of wall-to-wall interconnected trampolines.
- *Laser Planet* offers a hi-end feel and experience of the popular gaming concept of laser tag.

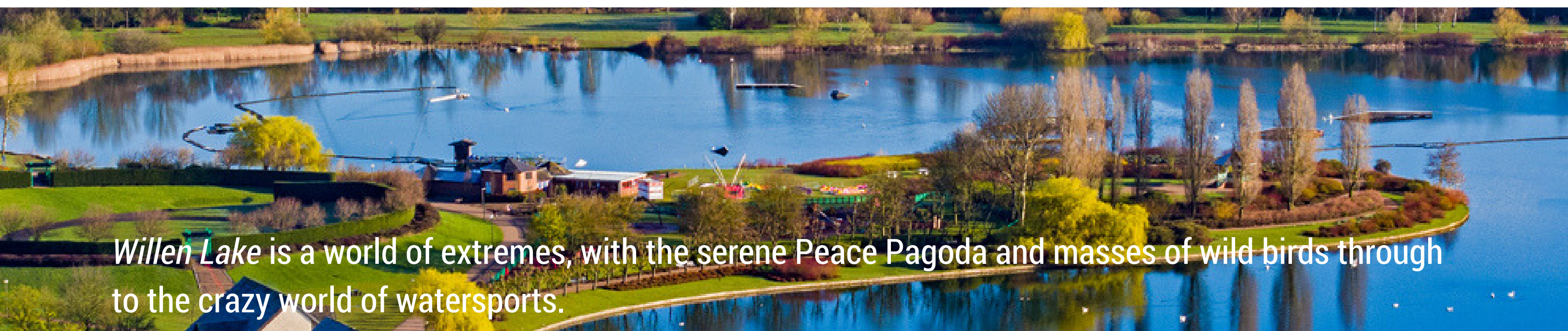


# Nature

Over 20% of Milton Keynes is natural spaces - boasting over 5,000 acres of parkland, rivers, lakes and woodland, including over 22 million trees.



*Campbell Park* is close to the city centre, and provides a green oasis for residents and visitors alike.



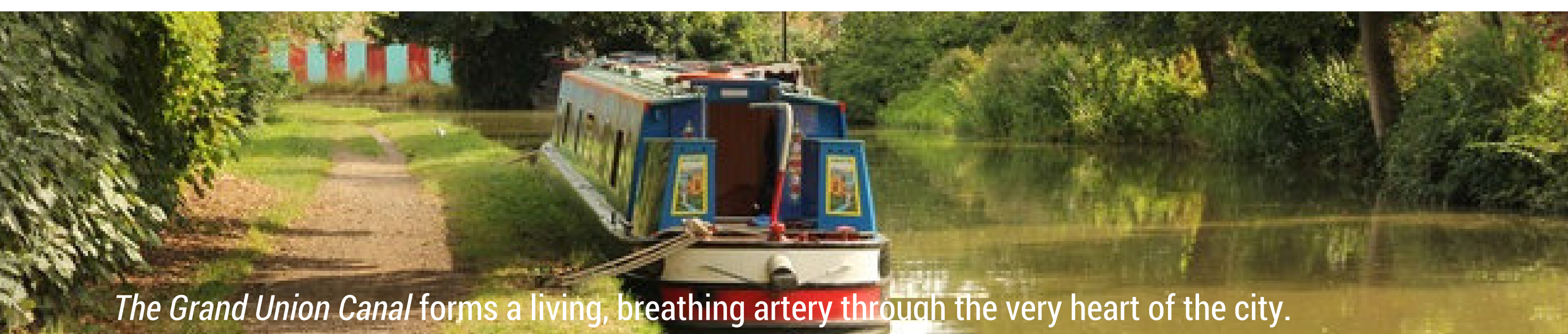
*Willen Lake* is a world of extremes, with the serene Peace Pagoda and masses of wild birds through to the crazy world of watersports.



The ancient woods of *Shenley*, *Howe Park* and *Linford* transport you to a wealth of wild flowers, animals and tranquil woodland walks



The *River Ouzel* winds its way through the city past traditional country pubs and the remains of a medieval community.



The *Grand Union Canal* forms a living, breathing artery through the very heart of the city.



# Shopping and Leisure

Central Milton Keynes is only 2.33km<sup>2</sup> making convenience part of its design. With over 400 shops, 350 restaurants and 300 pubs and bars you will always find what you are looking for in a short walking distance.

- Multiple malls hosting top high street brands and family favourite restaurants with plenty of parking at each location:
  - *Centre:MK*
  - *Intu Milton Keynes*
  - *MK1 Shopping and Leisure*
  - *Kingston Centre*
  - *The Hub*
- In the villages surrounding the centre you will find more *boutique* shops with designer brands and antiques as well as regular *farmers markets* and quaint country pubs.
- *The Stables* is Milton Keynes' premier live-music venue offering a wide range of musical genres including jazz, blues, folk, rock, classical, pop and world music.
- *National Bowl* is a 65,000 capacity outdoor live music arena that has seen the likes of David Bowie, Queen and Take-That perform.
- *IF: Milton Keynes International Festival*, awarded the EFFE label for remarkable festivals 2017/18, is a biennial 10 day programme of unexpected events in unusual places across Milton Keynes. Showcasing street art, performance, outdoor theatre, visual arts, music, comedy, dance and contemporary circus.
- The *Comedy Cow* brings the best in stand-up comedy to Milton Keynes operating out of a number of different venues including Red Dot bar at Stadium:MK.
- There are multiple cinemas including both *ODEON* and *Cineworld* showing the latest releases.
- *Casino MK* is the largest of its kind outside London.





# MK Living

- It has the fastest growing population in UK; currently estimated at 266,800 compared with a population of around 53,000 for the same area in 1961.
- Milton Keynes sees 53% year-on-year job growth outstripping the UK wide average of 25%.
- It has a relatively low crime rate compared to the national average.
- The Buckinghamshire borough of Milton Keynes not only offers city life but also a number of slower paced country villages, including; Bletchley, Stony Stratford, Wolverton and Newport Pagnell.
- House prices are on the rise - up 601% since 1986 which is above the national average of 586% making Milton Keynes a great price to invest.



## TO BUY

**2 bed flat**  
Price range: £66-250,000  
Average: £169,000

**3 bed house**  
Price range: £120-600,000  
Average Terrace: £230,000  
Average Semi-Detached: £260,000

## TO RENT

**1 bed:** £896 pcm

**2 bed:** £1,040 pcm

**3 bed:** £1,116 pcm

Being a 'new town' Milton Keynes has always been on the cutting edge, see below for a list of MK firsts:

- The UK's first solar powered house was opened in Bradville, MK in 1972
- MK started the country's first kerbside household recycling in 1992.
- MK was first place in the UK to require all new developments (homes and buildings) to be carbon neutral.
- Britain's first self driving 'pod' vehicle was unveiled in MK in 2015, and is being trialled in the borough.
- The Peace Pagoda, on the western edge of Willen Lake, was the first in the western world.



**Peace Pagoda**  
Willen Lake



# Surrounding areas

Due to its prime location Milton Keynes is a perfect base for both commuting and exploring.



- London - 30 minutes
- London Luton Airport - 35 minutes
- Birmingham - 52 minutes
- Oxford - 1 hour 20 minutes
- Cambridge - 1 hour 30 minutes
- Leicester - 1 hour 10 minutes
- Stratford Upon Avon - 1 hour 15 mins



Woburn Safari - 8 Miles



Tadcaster - 12 miles



Stowe House - 15 Miles



Silverstone - 18 Miles



Roald Dahl Museum - 32 Miles



Harry Potter Studios - 37 Miles



Blenheim Palace - 37 Miles



Oxford - 39 Miles



Cambridge - 48 Miles



Cotswolds - 50 Miles



Stratford Upon Avon - 55 Miles



Warwick Castle - 55 Miles



# Useful websites



<http://www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milton\\_Keynes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milton_Keynes)

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/>

<http://www.theparkstrust.com/>

<https://bletchleypark.org.uk/>

<http://www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk/>

<http://www.mkgallery.org/>

<http://www.stantonburytheatre.co.uk/>

<http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/milton-keynes-theatre/>

Orchestra - <http://www.mkco.org/>

<http://www.thecentremk.com/>

<http://www.thehub-miltonkeynes.com/>

<https://xscapemiltonkeynes.co.uk/>

<https://www.snozoneuk.com/>

<https://www.iflyworld.co.uk/locations/milton-keynes/>

<http://www.experiencethecountry.co.uk/>

Football - <https://www.mkdons.com/>

<http://www.redwayrunners.com/>

Athletics - <http://www.mkac.org.uk/>

Fishing - <http://www.mkaa.co.uk/>

Badminton - <http://www.nbc.uk.com/>

<http://www.woburngolf.co.uk/>





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