

Circular walk out through the Ouse Valley Park and back along the canal

Great variety on this walk – views of open countryside, a nature reserve, opportunities for bird watching from hides, an aqueduct, canal walk with canal-side pub for refreshments, and views of the former Railway Works' sheds next to the canal as you return into Wolverton.

About 9km (you can meander through the nature reserve via different paths) but shorter walks are possible to include just some of this route or by using public transport. A Milton Keynes Official City Atlas would be a good map to take to check your route, or OS Explorer map, 207. Take binoculars for bird watching. Good paths but check at times of potential wet ground if the Ouse is in flood.

1. From Still Green Cohousing, walk down Creed Street and cross at the mini-roundabouts, turning towards the railway station along Stratford Road. Walk along past the railway station to the mini-roundabout and cross the road to walk down to the bigger roundabout and through two under-passes to come out on to Newport Road. Turn right (East towards New Bradwell and Newport Pagnell) and after a short distance turn left into the Ouse Valley Park and Bradwell Allotments. *(There is a public car park here but only helpful if you intend doing part of the route and returning to your car.)* This part of the walk is about 15 minutes. *If you want to avoid this road walk through Wolverton and the care needed crossing the roads, catch the No 5 or 7 bus from Church Street and alight at the stop just past the entrance to the Ouse Valley Park.*

2. Follow the path beside the allotments to reach the river Great Ouse. *(To your right is a pleasant parkland area with seating, where it would be nice to just come and spend some time)* Looking north across the river, there are views of open countryside (pictured) up towards Haversham and the various lakes to this northern flank of Milton Keynes.



3. Turn left along the Redway following the riverbank with open country to your right (North) and a beautiful lake to your left (South, pictured) with plenty of birds on the water. *(This part of the walk is on a good surfaced path suitable for wheelchairs and motor scooters)*

4. After walking for 10 to 15 minutes, pass under a road bridge and you will see the railway bridge ahead of you. Between the two is a seating and picnic area. *(It would be possible to return into Wolverton from here but it is a road walk.)*



5. Meander through the nature reserve via the various paths, stopping in the hides if you wish to view bird life on another lake. Join the path to the North side of Manor Farm and follow this until you come to the canal aqueduct (pictured).



6. Walk up the steps, explore the aqueduct and then follow the towpath along the Grand Union canal towards Wolverton. After a short distance, you will see the Galleon Pub across the canal (pictured), which you can reach by going up some steps and across the road bridge. Meals are available here and there is a large pub garden. (An alternative place for refreshments at this point is the Old School café just a short distance along the road past the Galleon, but check opening times before

visiting. This is a social enterprise, an initiative of Future Wolverton <https://oldschoolwolverton.org/> .)

7. Return to the towpath and pass under the road bridge to return towards Wolverton. To the far side of the canal, as you approach Wolverton you will get some views of the old sheds of the Railway Works through the shrubbery (pictured).



8. When you reach the new development of apartments to your left, go up the steps to cross over the canal and out on to Stratford Road. Turn right and return to Still Green Cohousing, crossing the road at the mini-roundabouts, up Creed Street and back into Church Street.