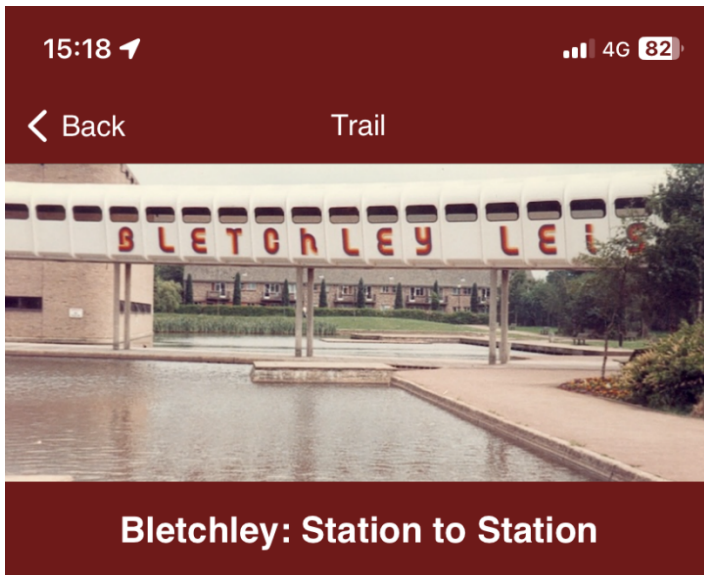




Agenda Item	
Council/Committee (and date)	Community and Environment Committee
Purpose of report	To note the completion of the Digital Heritage Trail
Strategic priorities	• Closer to our community • Proud of our past and future • Supporting wellbeing and safety • Robust with resources • Making things happen
Financial and risk implications	£5,748.00 £5k grant from Heritage National Lottery £1k grant from MKCC
Environmental considerations	Duty to consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective. (Environment Act 2021) Town Council commitment to work towards carbon neutrality in 2030
Community safety considerations	Duty to consider the impact of functions and decisions on crime and disorder in the local area. (S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998). Council must comply with all relevant health and safety legislation including HASAW etc Act 1974
Equality/inclusion implications	Duty to consider how policies and decisions affect people who are protected under the Equality Act 2010 and (Amendment) Regulations 2023.
Background	
The Digital Heritage Trail, funded by Milton Keynes City Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund, is now complete and available to the public. This exciting new addition to the town's heritage offering runs from Bletchley Train Station to Fenny Stratford Train Station and features 15 points of historical and cultural interest. Local volunteers played a key role in identifying and researching locations for the trail, ensuring it reflects the rich and diverse history of the area. Living Archive Milton Keynes were commissioned to build the digital trail, which is now accessible through the MK Trails app, available on both the App Store and Google Play. The trail offers an engaging and accessible way for residents and visitors to explore the town, keep active, and learn more about its past. It's a great example of community collaboration and digital innovation working together to preserve and promote local heritage. Next steps will focus on promoting the trail heavily across the area and installing signage at key locations to encourage people to download the app and take part. These efforts will help maximise visibility and engagement with this valuable new resource. Images attached to this report showcase highlights from the trail and the digital interface.	
Recommendations: none	
Report date: 3 June 2025	Filename: n/a



Author: John Fairclough



2 miles

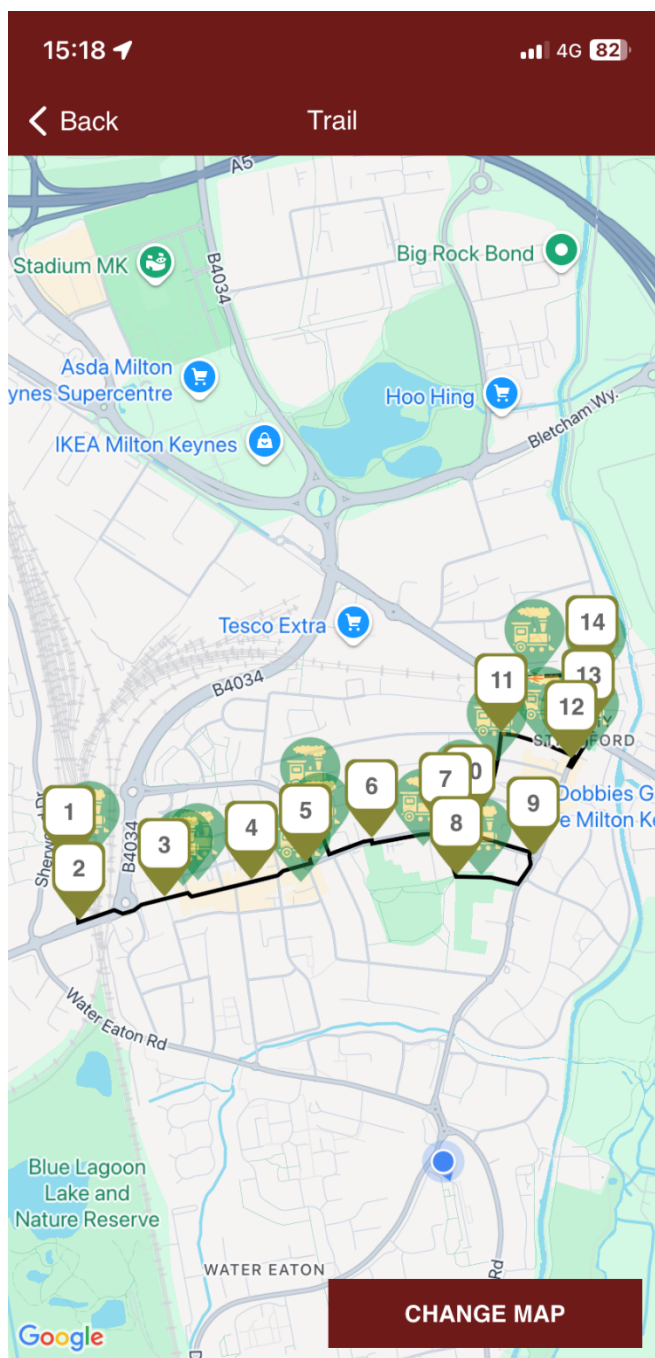
1 hour

Discover the history of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford railways, streets and buildings.

This trail takes you from the nineteenth century railway town of Bletchley to the ancient market town of Fenny Stratford. Starting at Bletchley Railway Station we follow the development of the township through the history of its transport links, its shops, its industries, and its residents.

The walk is suitable for all abilities, is approximately 2 miles long and should take between 45 minutes to an hour to complete. Trains run every hour from Fenny Stratford back to Bletchley Station.

Start Trail





15:19

4G 82

< Back

Bletchley Station



Bletchley Station, 2025



Bletchley Station

When the London to Birmingham railway line first opened in 1838, Bletchley Station was a simple level crossing on the road from Bletchley village to the nearby market town of Fenny Stratford. The railway network expanded quickly with lines to Banbury, Oxford, Bedford, and Cambridge. Bletchley became a major junction handling agricultural, industrial and passenger traffic in all directions. By 1888 the station included a sizeable goods operation, a large engine shed and a gasworks.

All of this needed railwaymen, who in turn needed places to live. Railway Cottages were built by the company to house their workers and the station extended to eight platforms with refreshment rooms, a post office, a Jacobean style hotel and a decorative portico over the main entrance.



0:00

- 1:15



*Dorothy Hendry remembers arriving in Bletchley by train
in the 1950s*



15:19

4G 82

Back

Turn left out of the station

Turn left out of the station and past the staff buildings towards the large signal box at the top of the station steps.

More about [Bletchley Station](#)

The black building opposite (an example of High-Tech architecture designed by the MKDC in 1976) is on the site of the old railway cottages.

<

Stop 1 of 14

>

15:18

4G 82

Back

Trails

 **Bletchley: Station to Station**
2 miles, 1 hour

 **Homeworld: Exhibition Site**
about a mile, approx. 1 hour

 **Netherfield Heritage Trail**
1.5 miles, less than an hour

 **Olney: Cowper's Rural Walks**
10km (6 miles), Allow 3 hours

 **Olney: Newton Walk**
approx 1.6km or 1 mile, approx 1 hour

 **Pilgrim Trail**
8.5 miles, 4 to 5 hours walk, 1 to 2 hours cycle

 **Pilgrim: Bradwell Abbey Family Friendly Walk**
just under two miles, approx one hour long

 **Pilgrim: Cycle ride**
six miles, about a one hour ride

 **Pilgrim: Shenley Walk**
three miles, approx one hour

 **Skate Trail**