



Redway nature trail **directions**. Look out for the Redway or parks trust direction signs at various points around the trail, these show the local districts, these are also shown on the map. Bear in mind that there are a large number of additional Redways and other paths that we have not shown on the map to avoid cluttering it up too much, so make sure you follow the directions carefully. North is towards the top of the map.

1. Facing Milton Keynes central station look to your left (south west), there is a Redway bridge over the tracks, this is part of national cycleway 51 which we follow in several places round the trail. Look out for the number 51 on blue Redway signs. Immediately over the bridge turn sharp left and follow the Redway down to the teardrop lakes.
2. Pass the lakes and leave the park going under the road bridge, continue straight on along a path beside a small stream.
3. This leads to a main road where you rejoin a Redway and bear left (east) past the entrance to The Bowl.
4. Continue on in this direction which may be a disused road in places, over the main A5 dual carriageway and west coast mainline railway lines and past the rubbish collection depot. After going under the next main road turn right (towards Redmoor and Beanhill) and take the Redway south along the side of Grafton street. At the next major intersection branch right under Grafton street towards Redmoor then immediately left towards Granby and Denbeigh north. You are still heading south but just switching sides of Grafton street.
5. At Granby roundabout it's a bit of a rabbit warren of different tracks, you want to head east which is a left turn, look for signs to Ashland or Simpson.

6. Continue straight on towards Simpson trying to avoid the building works (and sometimes blocked paths) that are going on around Ashland.
7. Eventually you go over the humped back canal bridge at Simpson. Turn left (north). There is the choice of either following the canal towpath or the minor road along to Woughton park. If you are following the towpath, then turn right (east) immediately after the footbridge over the canal. Either way pick up the Redway that heads towards Walton Hall.
8. Pass the reedbed, go through the hedge then immediately look for the left (north) turn onto a path which then heads along the river. We will now keep hugging the river all the way up to Willan lake.
9. Watch out for the gates and cattle grids through Ouzel valley park and keep heading north towards Willan
10. Follow one of the paths that stays close to the river then bend round to the right (east) towards the poplar plantation.
11. Choose one of the tracks through the poplar plantation being careful when crossing the miniature railway and going under the main road. At the south lake turn right (east) and follow a section of Redway for a while then branch left (north) onto a path heading along the shore of the lake.
12. Eventually the shore path goes under the main road, then quickly turns left over a tiny bridge. Now you want to head towards the bird hide, there is a bark path and normal path both heading in the correct direction (north east) parallel to the lake shore. After stopping at the bird hide continue on in the same direction but note that the path here is just a bark path so you may want to walk with the bike for a couple of hundred metres. You should see the peace pagoda and Japanese temple in the distance.
13. When your path joins up with the Redway you may want to walk over and look at the stone circle but after that take a left on the Redway heading towards South Willan lake and go under the main road again. Keep going until the ski tow centre and crazy golf, there will probably be lots of people at this point. Look out for a right (west) turn towards Newlands, this is just after the crazy golf and before the large mound. You will know when you have found the correct path as after the initial squiggles round the mound and under the road it has a long straight section rising up towards the canal in the distance.
14. Continue along the straight section and up over the canal. Its now a more or less straight line back towards the station and much of it is following cycle route 51 so look out for these signs which will start appearing part of the way through Campbell park.
15. Keep heading straight, you should have occasional views down to the right seeing the cricket pitch and pavilion.
16. Just before leaving the park there is the one 'serious' hill to be encountered on the trail, its only short but quite steep leading up to a viewpoint. From here head towards the theatre district going under the main road.
17. On the way back down to the station there are several possible routes, you can choose to avoid central Milton Keynes altogether if you really want, there is a Redway along the edge of Fishermead and Oldbrook. But we'll assume you want to head through central Milton Keynes as shown on the map. You can either use the bus lane section of the road or use the carpark sections of road that run parallel. I am never really sure which is best or indeed where cyclists are supposed to go since cycle route 51 appears to go right through one part of the shopping centre.
18. keep heading parallel to the main shopping centre. Don't try to rush here as there are so many cars and pedestrians to watch out for, take it easy. The gps I was using to draw the map shows that I walked my bike through Midsummer place although it does not depict the cookie I purchased and ate there.
19. Heading down through the business district is usually much easier than the shopping centre, especially at weekends, you may also be able to see the railway station in the distance. Keep going but look out for suitable underpasses to take you across all of the roads near the station, there is no need to mix with the traffic.