

About the photographer

Gill Prince is a local landscape, urban and travel photographer whose Milton Keynes images were selected for use as part of Destination MK's national 2016 advertising campaign, including poster sites across London. She sells stock images worldwide via the popular image library Alamy, as well as selling prints via her own website. Gill also takes on commercial commissions, and provides 1-2-1 photography tuition for people who are looking to get 'off auto' for the first time.

In 2015 one of Gill's images was Highly Commended in the international Urban Photographer of the Year awards, and she also exhibited in London at the Mall Galleries, as part of the Light & Land on the Mall exhibition. Her work has been published in a number of magazines, and her prints can also be seen on the wall within local Milton Keynes businesses.

If you would like to know more, please visit
gillprincephotography.com

1-2-1 Tuition : Commercial Commissions
Stock Photography : Prints for Sale

UNEXPECTED:MK



The Unexpected:MK photography book has been created as part of Milton Keynes' 50th birthday celebrations in 2017. The idea behind it is to challenge perceptions of the city as a 'concrete jungle' and to demonstrate what a beautiful and unique place it is to live and work.



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UNEXPECTED:MK

A Photographic Celebration of Milton Keynes at 50 by Gill Prince



UNEXPECTED:MK

A Photographic Celebration
of Milton Keynes at 50

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These 50 photographs were taken over a full year by local photographer Gill Prince, and include a selection of landscape, urban and architectural images. The book also contains extracts from the iconic Milton Keynes maps, both old and new, to illustrate the development of the city and to show exactly where each photograph was taken.

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£19.99

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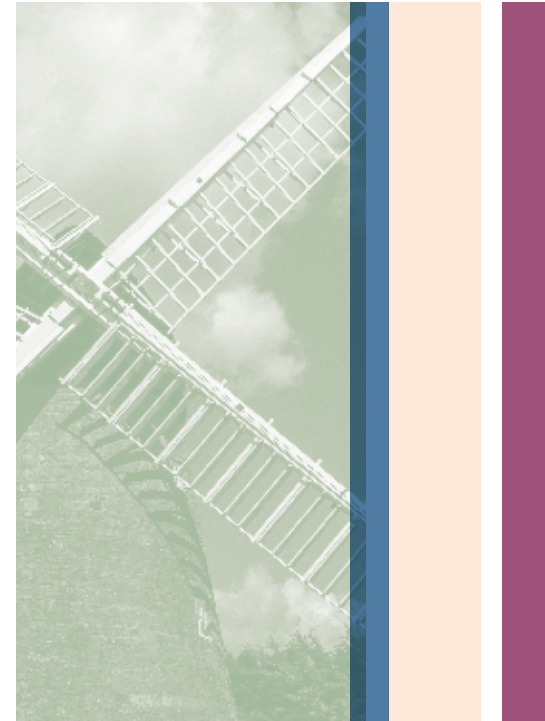
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£19.99



1967





UNEXPECTED:MK

A Photographic Celebration
of Milton Keynes at 50

by Gill Prince



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UNEXPECTED:MK

A Photographic Celebration of Milton Keynes at 50

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FOREWORD

Steven-Gordon-Wilson – CEO, Destination Milton Keynes

Over the last fifty years, Milton Keynes has grown from a series of small market towns to one of the UK's brightest and most enviable places to live, work and play. It is no coincidence that town planners, and those interested in how to build a city, travel here from all around the world to see how it's done.

As MK turns 50, it seems entirely appropriate that someone takes a 'snapshot' of how far we've come, as a real milestone marker that will form part of the developing history of the town. I've been privileged enough to work with Gill Prince on a number of projects and – having seen the breadth and quality of her photographic work – I think it's even more appropriate that she is the curator and custodian of this important piece of history.

In my capacity as CEO of Destination Milton Keynes; the official tourism and information provider for MK, we launched a national marketing campaign in 2016 called Unexpected MK, encouraging people to see, enjoy and share everything that is unusual and unexpected about the town. And having heard about the book, I was very excited to have the opportunity to carry on promoting that 'Unexpected:MK' message through such a great project, by suggesting to Gill that we also used this as a name for the book.

DMK was formed ten years ago to fill the gap left when government funded tourist boards become a thing of the past. As an official Destination Management Organisation, we rely on the input – both financially and intellectually – of Milton Keynes Council and of our members; comprising leisure attractions, hotels, restaurants and numerous other businesses who benefit directly from the growth of the visitor economy.

DMK manages MK's official Destination Management Plan which outlines how we, and the wider city stakeholders, will develop and grow the visitor economy for the good of Milton Keynes - as we embark on the next 50 years of our history and beyond. To find out more about Destination Milton Keynes, and more about Unexpected:MK and why we chose to support this brilliant book, please visit www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk.

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The production of this book has been funded entirely by sponsorship from local Milton Keynes businesses, and supported in many other ways by a wide range of organisations. Enormous thanks go to each and every one of them, without whom this book would not exist.

SPONSORS



destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk



xscape.co.uk



sekologistics.com



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open.ac.uk



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SUPPORTERS



milton-keynes.gov.uk



mk50.co.uk



mkcdc.org.uk



investmiltonkeynes.co.uk



heronmaps.com



A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEAD SPONSOR

Xscape Milton Keynes is proud to be lead sponsor of this excellent photography book. Xscape has been a part of the Milton Keynes skyline for over 16 years – a not unsubstantial part of the 50 years of history that Unexpected:MK is celebrating.

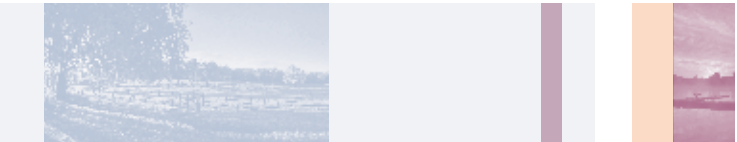
During this time, the building has become an iconic symbol of the city centre and beyond; there is rarely a pictorial representation of MK without our signature domed roof and glass frontage taking centre stage. It's fair to say that before us, the illuminated red pyramid of The Point was the one iconic image. But as Milton Keynes has developed, we have picked up the mantle and run with it, and we hope to keep our iconic status for many years to come.

With all of that in mind, it seemed a natural fit for Xscape to become lead sponsor of this brilliant project; for it to truly represent the point that MK has reached in its 50 years, it certainly needs to include a shot or two of Xscape! We know that Gill's photography is first class, and whatever image of Xscape she captures will be one that we're proud for people to look at for years to come. We think that this book is going to be part of the enduring legacy of the MK50 celebrations, and we're honoured to be able to be a part of its success.

The construction of Xscape Milton Keynes marked an important time, not only in the growth and development of Milton Keynes, but in the growth of the leisure industry as a whole. On the back of its success, two subsequent Xscape venues were built (though neither with the stylish domed roof, it must be said!) and from this, the UK's largest leisure portfolio grew. Now a part of one of the largest property companies in the world, Xscape Milton Keynes still retains its significance and flagship leisure destination status.

In many ways, the Unexpected:MK tag is very well applied to Xscape as also. Under this iconic domed roof, many will expect to visit an indoor real snow ski slope and a multiplex cinema. Unexpectedly though, more people have learned to ski on this snow slope than on any other slope in the country. Perhaps even more unexpectedly, the cinema contains not just 16 state of the art movie screens, but also a superscreen and the UK's first 4DX cinema experience. Not to mention the range of bars, restaurants and cafes; and top lifestyle and fashion retailers. What's more, it's free to walk through the front door and even to spectate at the snow slope, the skydiving tunnel and the climbing wall – as visitors only pay for the activities they use.

You can find out far more about Xscape - much of which you may not have been expecting - at www.xscape.co.uk. You can also keep up to date with how we continue to surprise with the unexpected, by following us on social media @XscapeMK.



This book is dedicated to my Dad, Peter Rushforth,
who introduced me to the wonderful world of photography
so long ago that I can't even remember a time
when I didn't know what an f stop was.

My love of photography, and the beauty it can capture,
is one of the greatest gifts you could have given me.
Thank you.

ABOUT UNEXPECTED:MK

"This book was first imagined over lunch with world renowned landscape photographer Charlie Waite in Summer 2015. I happened to mention that Milton Keynes would be 50 in 2017, and that I too would be the same age - having moved here in 1992 when we were both 25. Charlie immediately suggested that it would be a lovely idea to create a photographic art book to showcase some of the wonderful aspects of the city as it is now, an idea with which I wholeheartedly agreed – and so Unexpected:MK was conceived.

My first step was to speak with the MK50 team at Milton Keynes Council, who were very enthusiastic about the initiative – as they were especially looking for projects that would have a life span after the year itself. With their backing, I then started the process of raising funds, so that we would be able to professionally design and print the book.

Charlie had suggested that we could ask local businesses to come on board as sponsors, each of whom would then receive a proportion of the books to use as corporate gifts for Christmas 2016. This proved to be an excellent idea, and so the year was spent not only taking photographs of Milton Keynes but also engaging with the local business community – in order to generate the required funds in time to start production in the Autumn.

At this point I have to say a huge thank you to all of the organisations that have shared my vision and enthusiasm for this project - and to all of the people within them who have been willing to allocate valuable budget, so we could make this a reality. The book you are now holding is not just a result of my efforts, but also of the support and commitment of every one of our sponsors, without whom it would not exist.

On that note, I also wanted to thank a number of other people who have taken this journey with me. My husband, Rob Prince; my sister, Helen Rushforth; and my two amazing friends Debbie Sidwell and Catherine Coale. Between you, you have listened to me, supported me and encouraged me – through all the stages from 'I can't do this' to 'Can I do this?' and from 'I will do this' to 'I've done it!'. Thank you also to Shine Creative for the fabulous design, and to Hardings Print Solutions for the beautiful production – which have combined to bring the whole thing to life so perfectly.

The final 50 images that I eventually selected primarily feature areas of Milton Keynes which have been created in the last 50 years, as I wanted to focus on what has been achieved, rather than what was there before. A few exceptions have found their way in - the Grand Union Canal for example, and also a couple of stunning older buildings which, despite living here for 25 years, I had no idea existed until now!

And so, here you have it, 'Unexpected:MK – a photographic celebration of Milton Keynes at 50'. I love this city, which has been my home for the last 25 years, and I hope that these images will show people who live here, those who have only passed through, and many who have not yet visited at all, what an amazing, and unexpected, place it now is."

Gill Prince



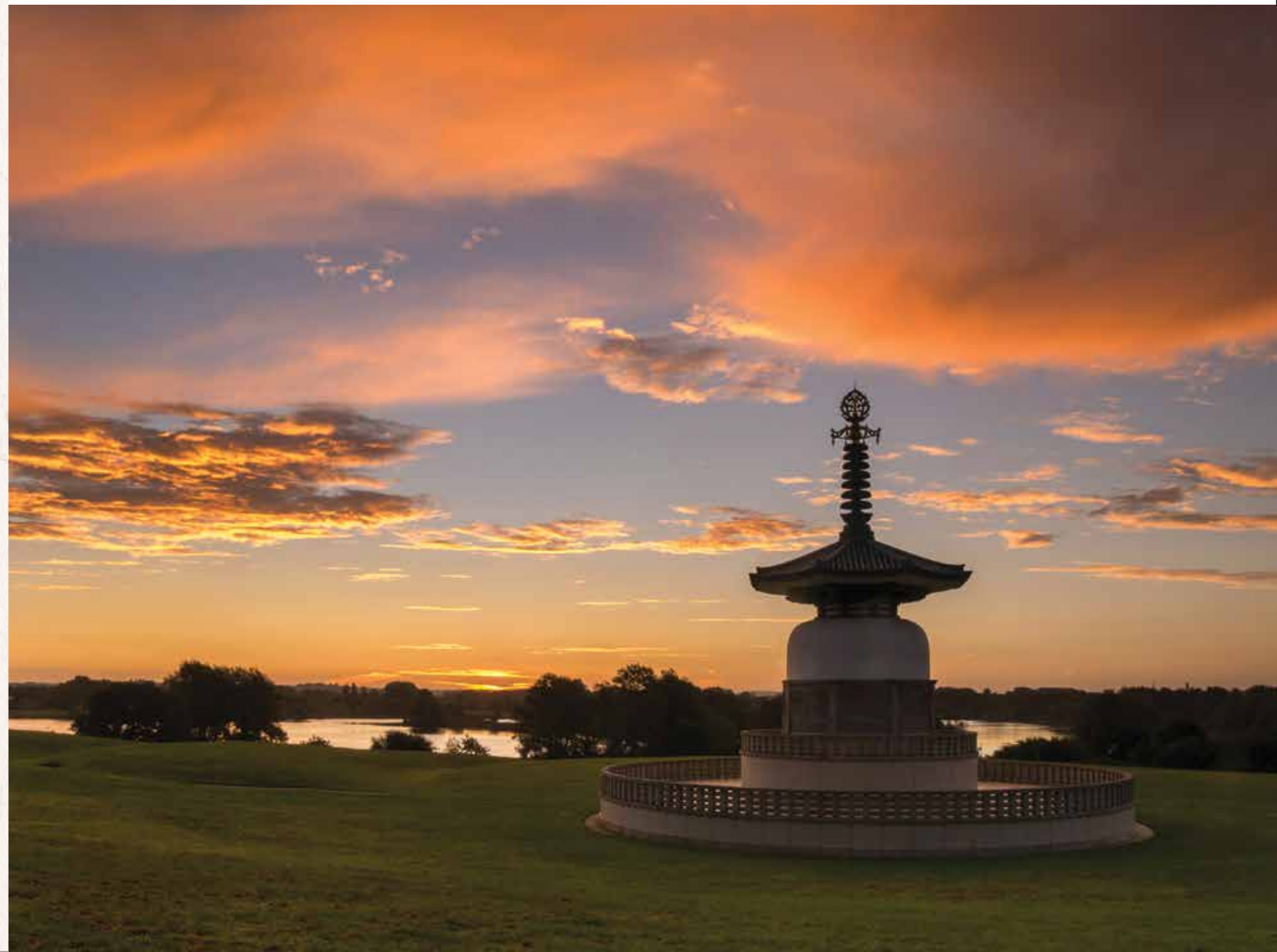


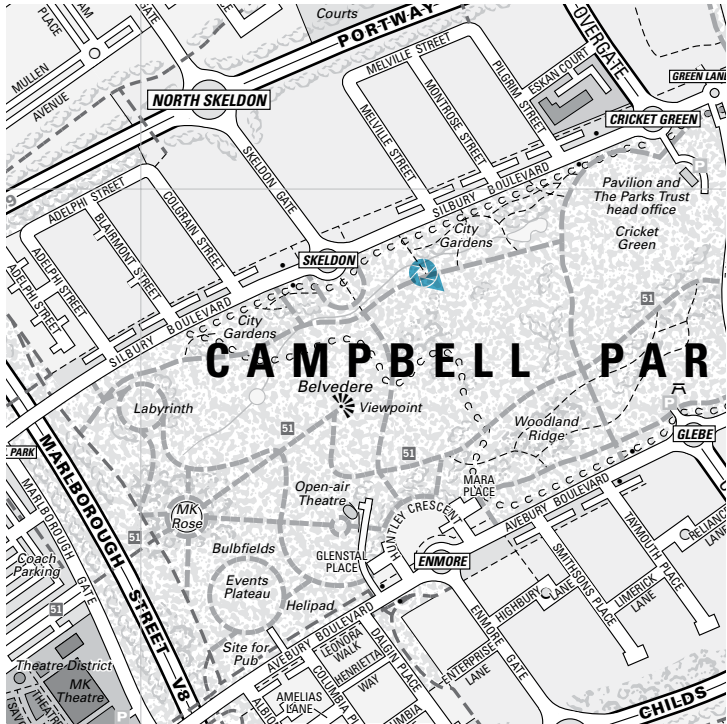
THE CIRCLE OF HEARTS MEDICINE WHEEL
WILLEN LAKE NORTH

1979

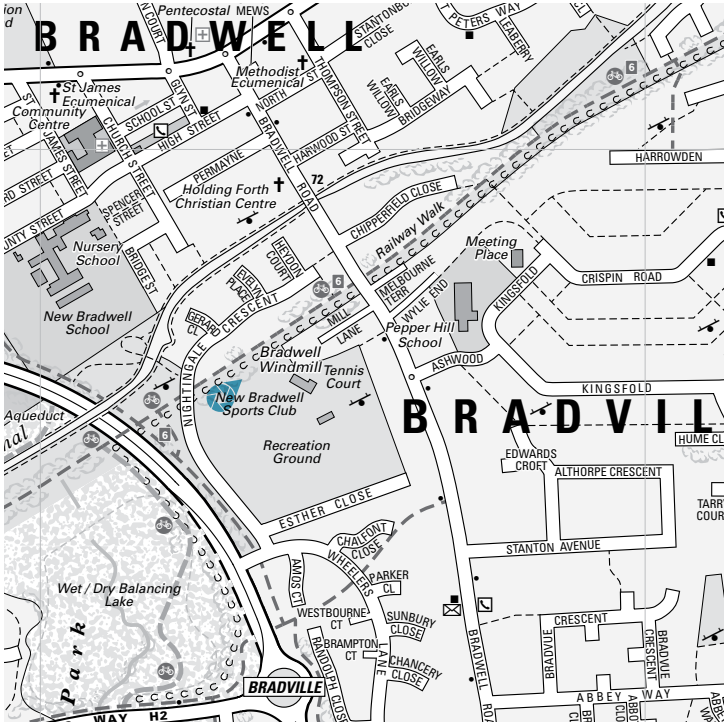


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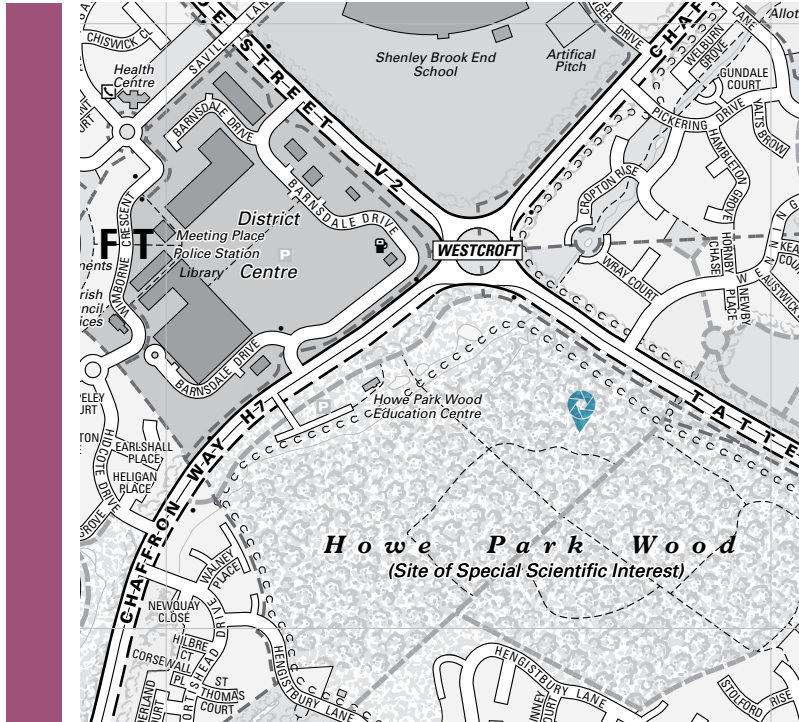


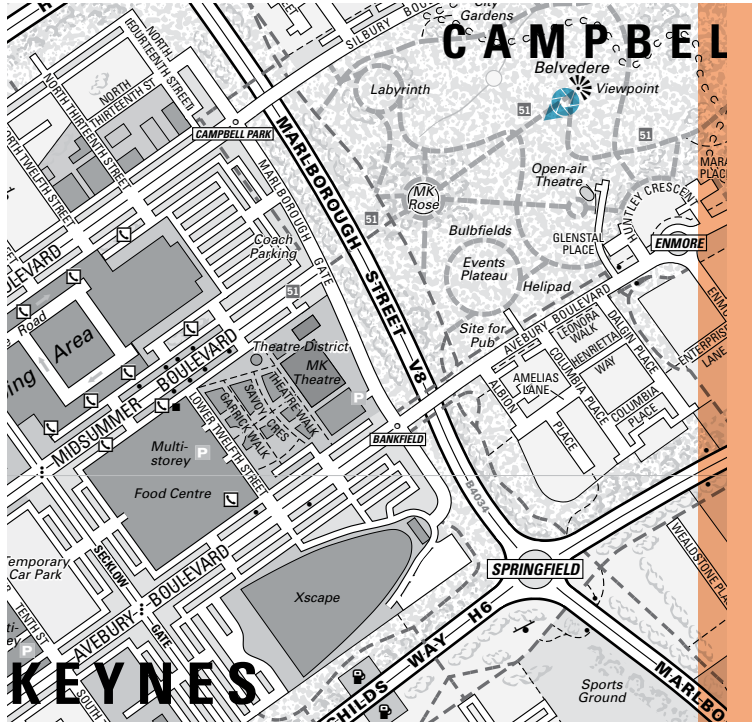


THE CAMPBELL PARK SHEEP



BRADWELL WINDMILL
BRADVILLE





MILTON KEYNES THEATRE AND MK GALLERY
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

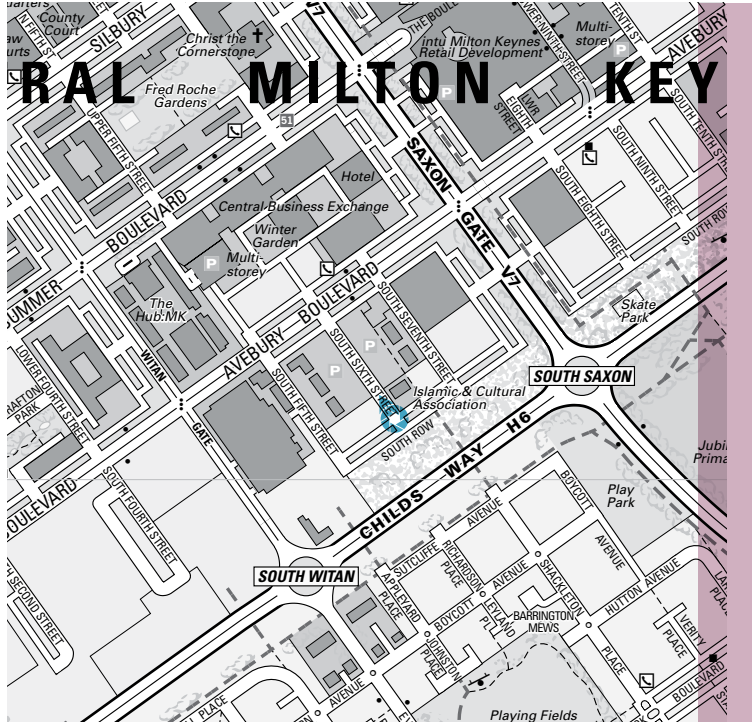
1981



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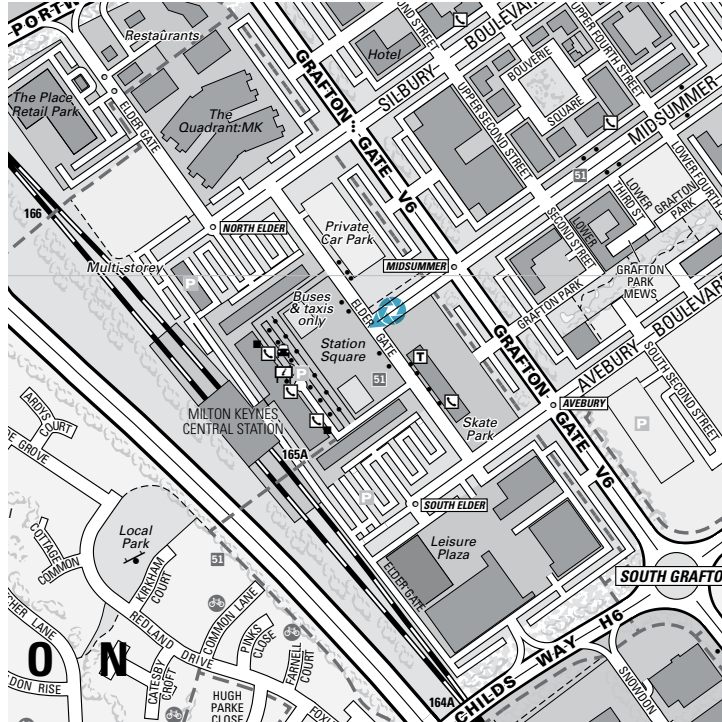
LODGE LAKE - LOUGHTON VALLEY PARK



THE VIZION RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

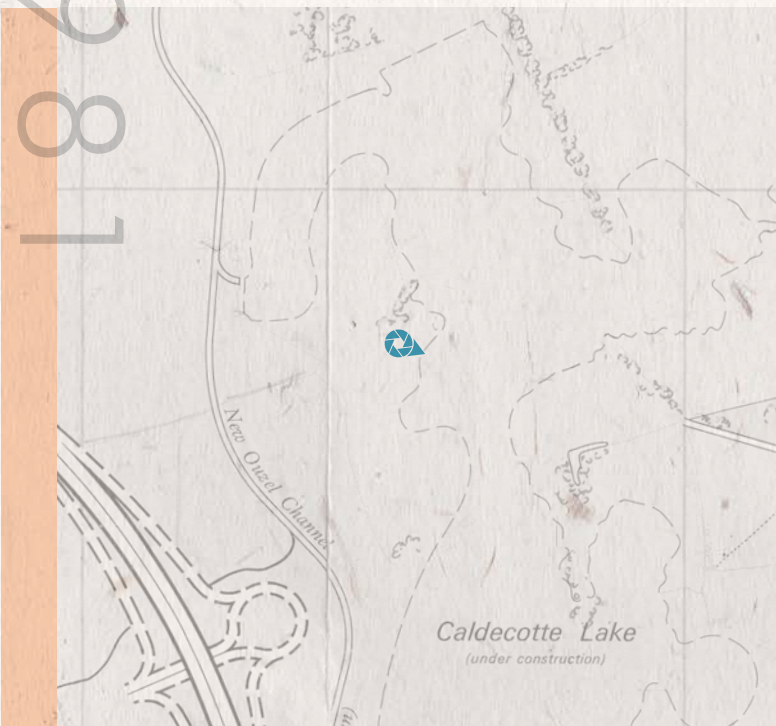
THE LIGHT PYRAMID BY LILIANE LIJN
CAMPBELL PARK





30

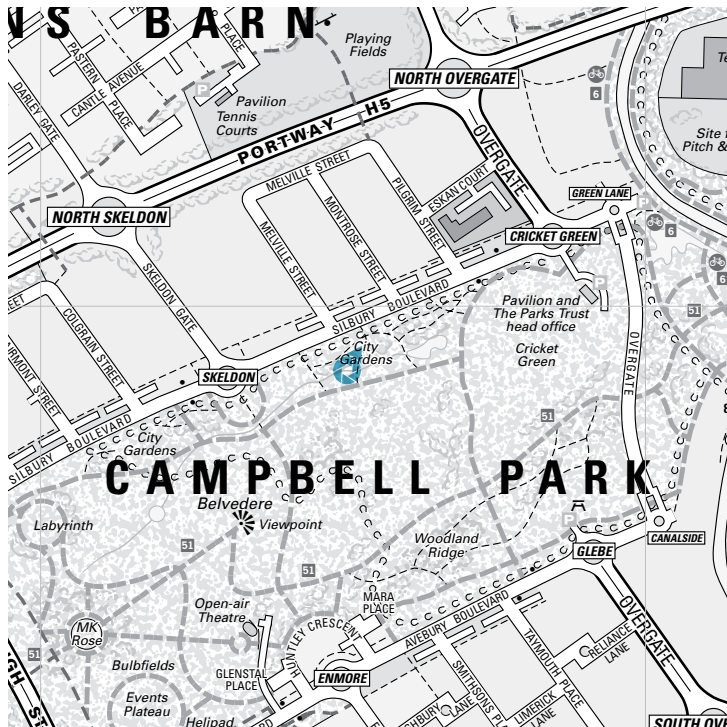
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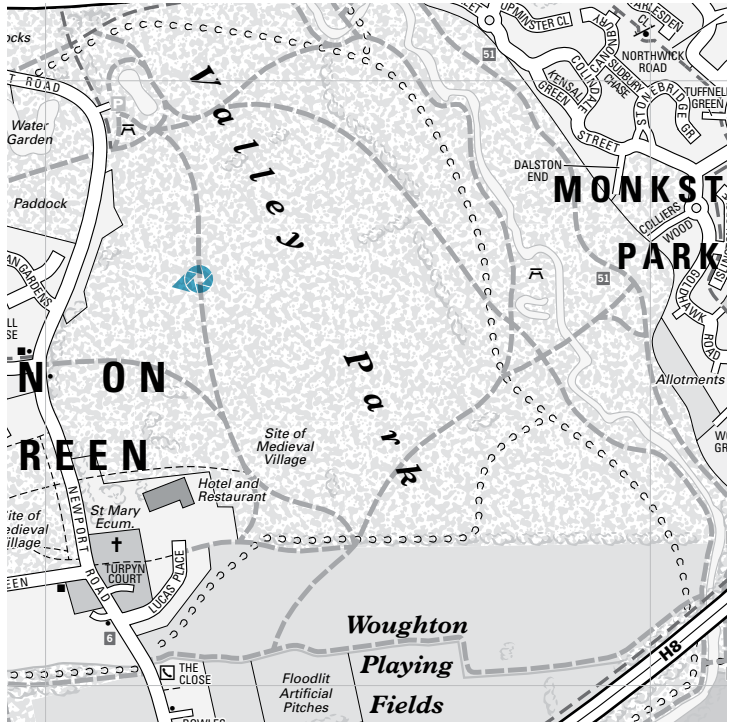
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CALDECOTTE LAKE

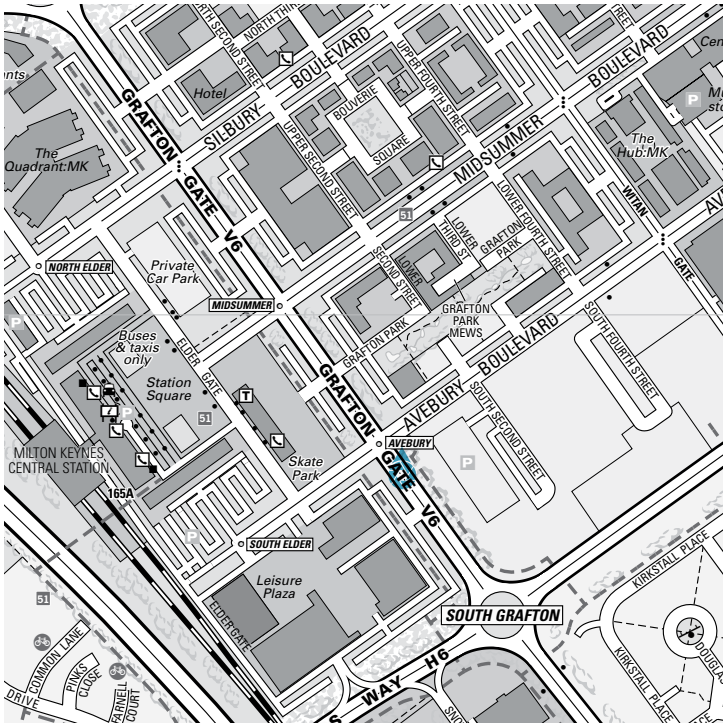


THE CITY GARDENS
CAMPBELL PARK

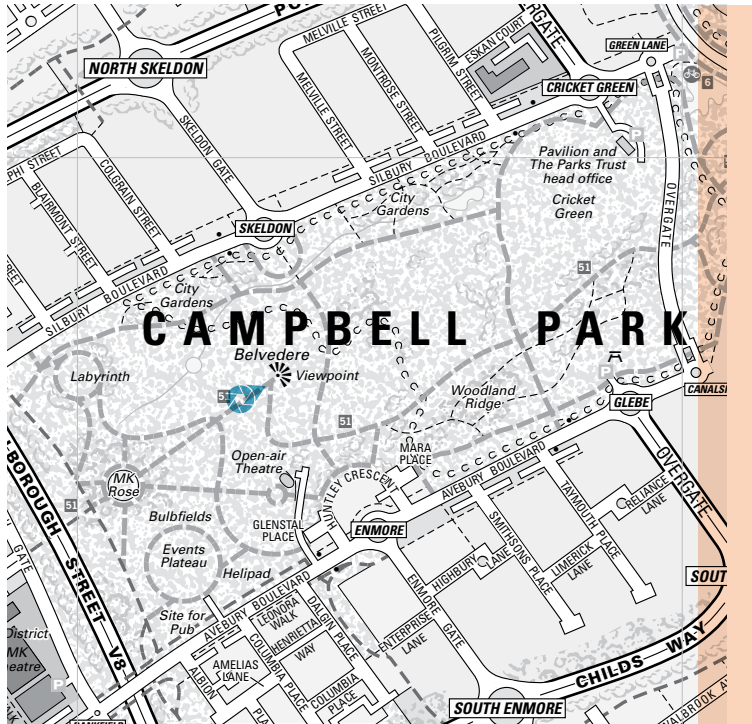


OUZEL VALLEY PARK
NEAR WOUGHTON ON THE GREEN





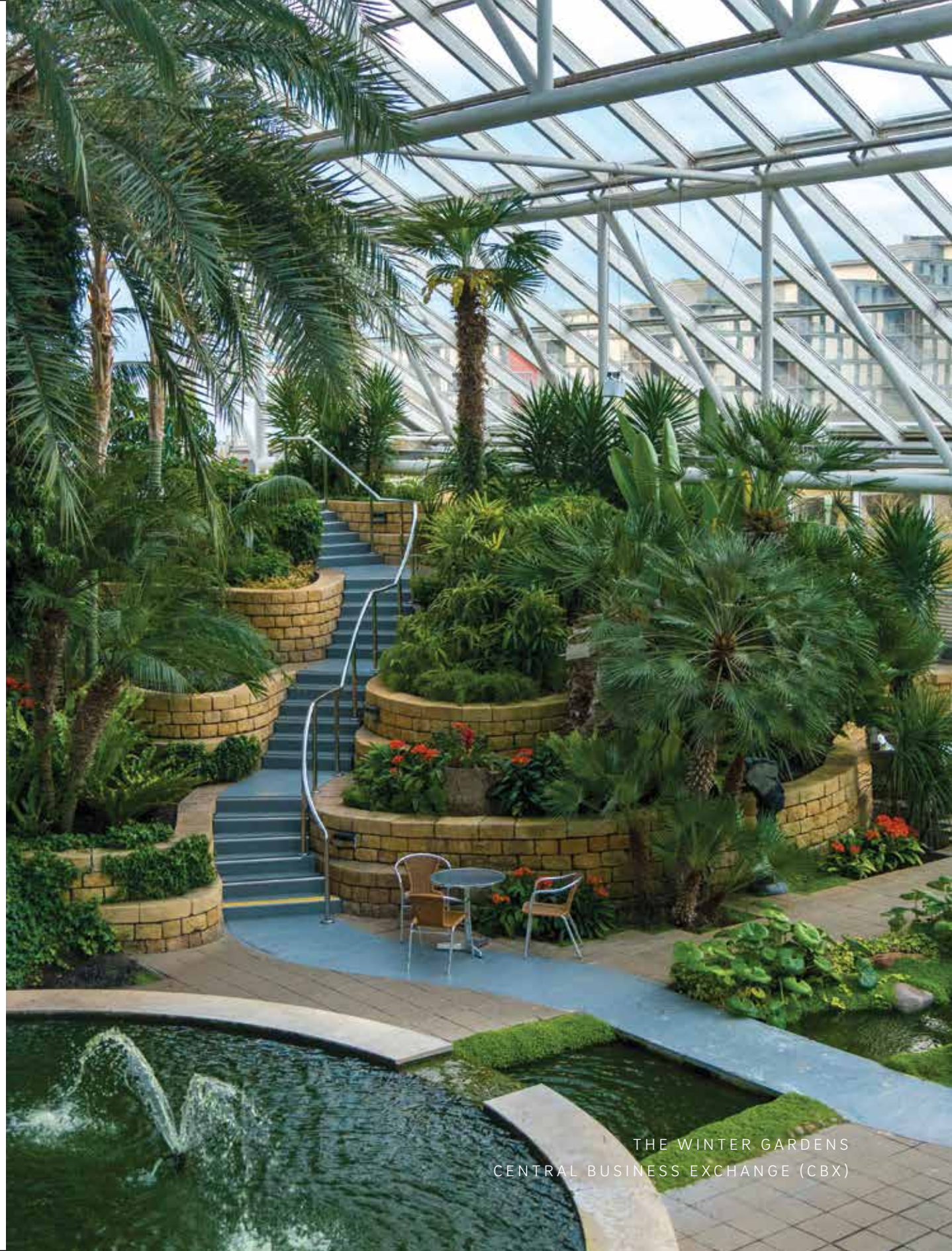
THE CENTRAL RESERVATION OF GRAFTON GATE
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES



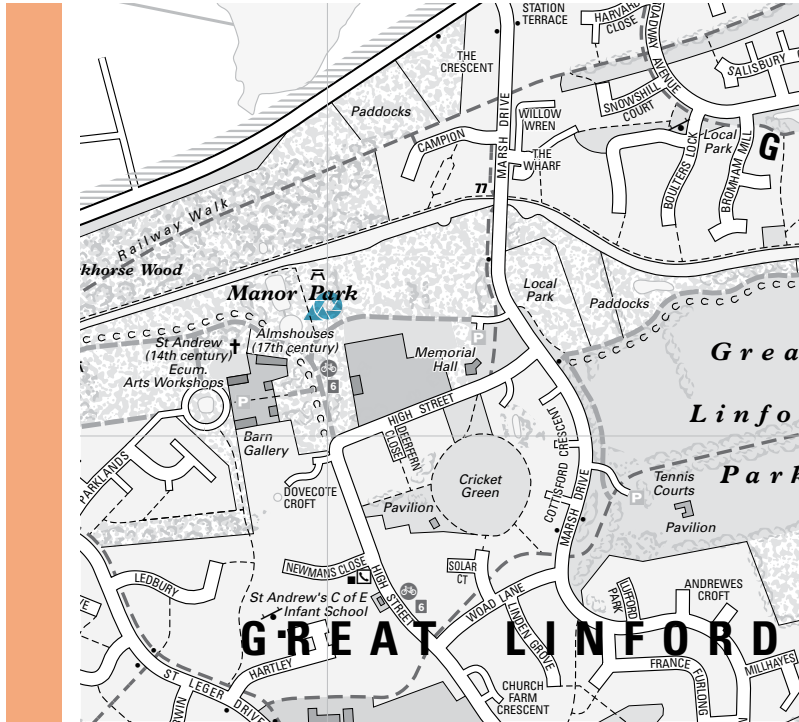
THE LIGHT PYRAMID BY LILIANE LIJN
CAMPBELL PARK



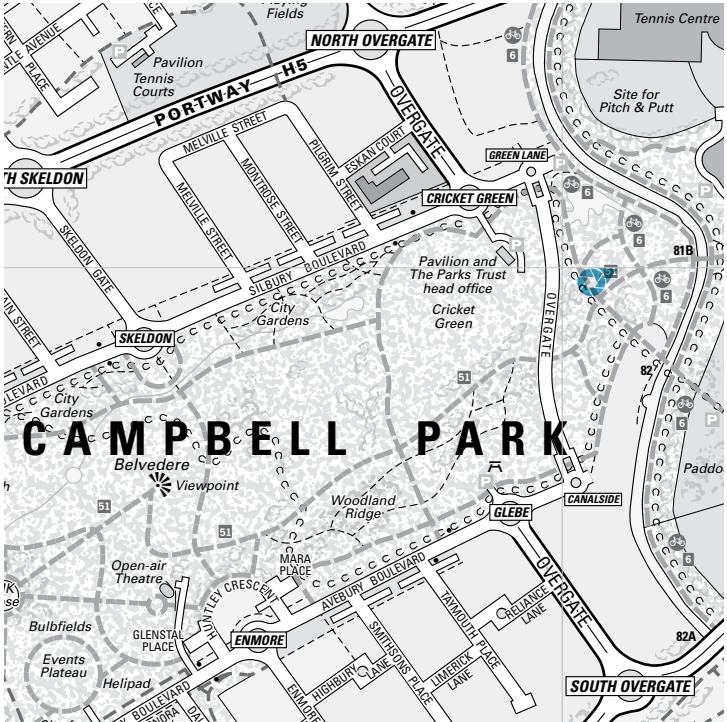
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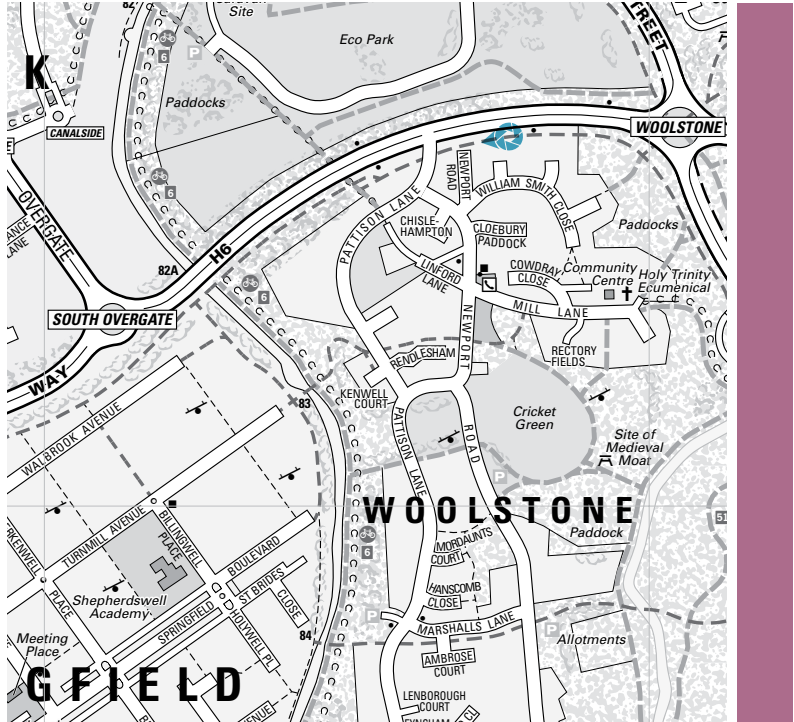
THE WINTER GARDENS
CENTRAL BUSINESS EXCHANGE (CBX)



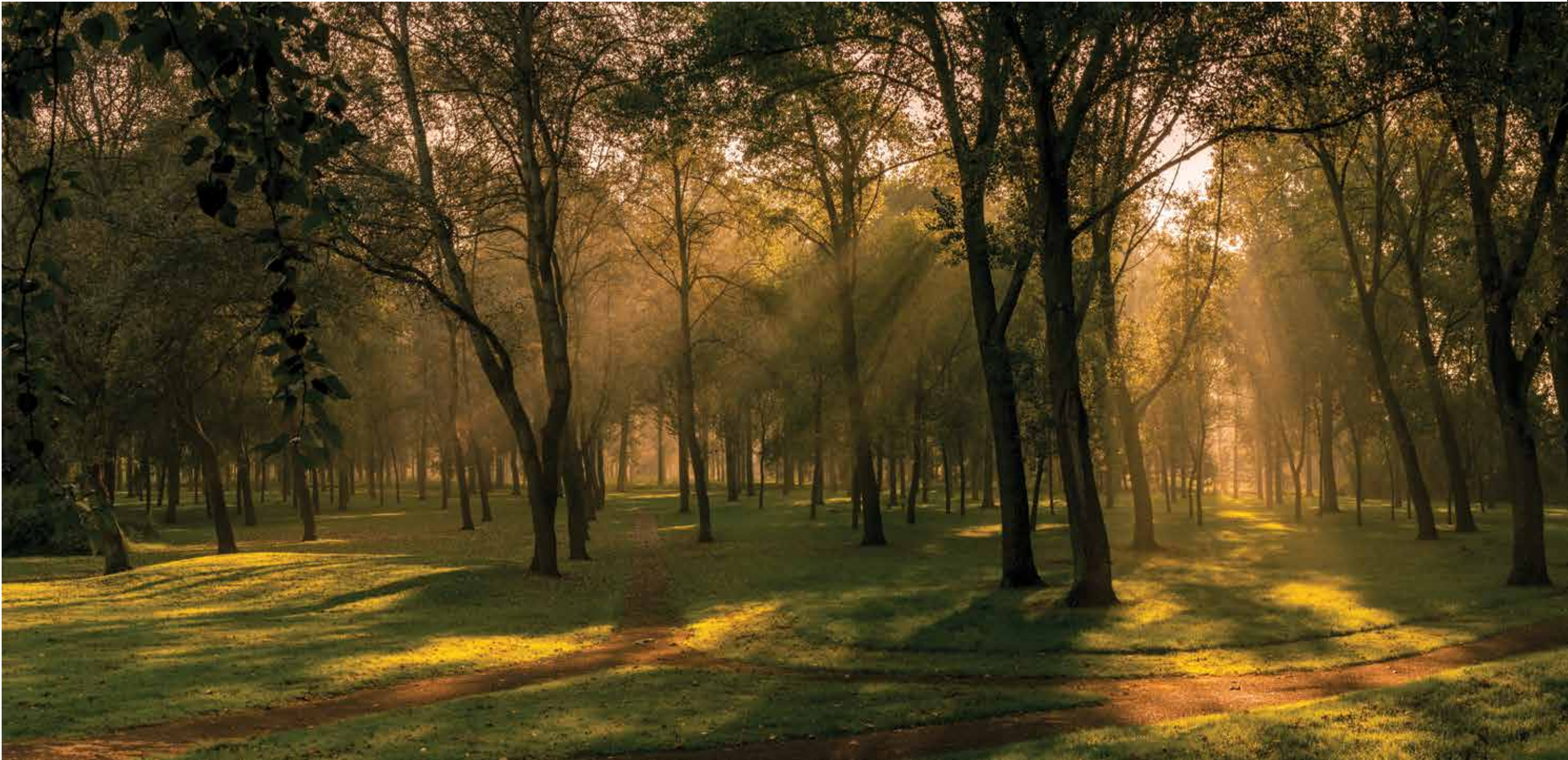
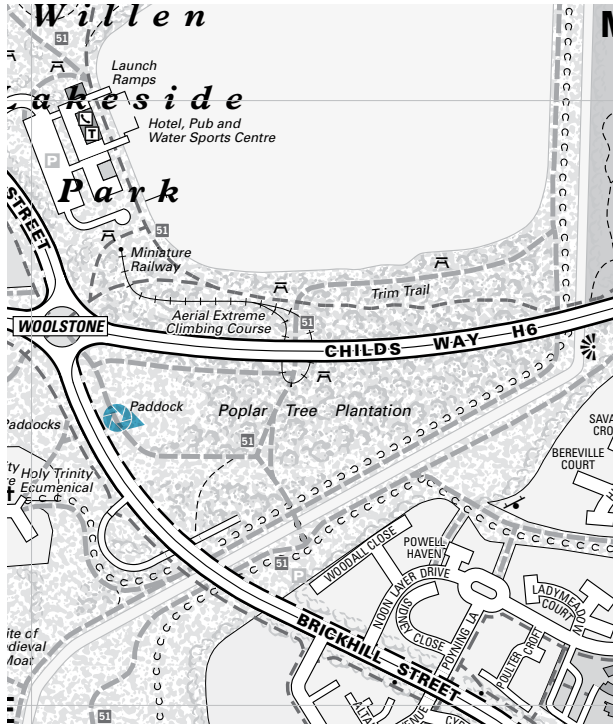
THE ALMSHOUSES
LINFORD MANOR PARK



THE HEAD SCULPTURE BY ALLEN JONES
CAMPBELL PARK

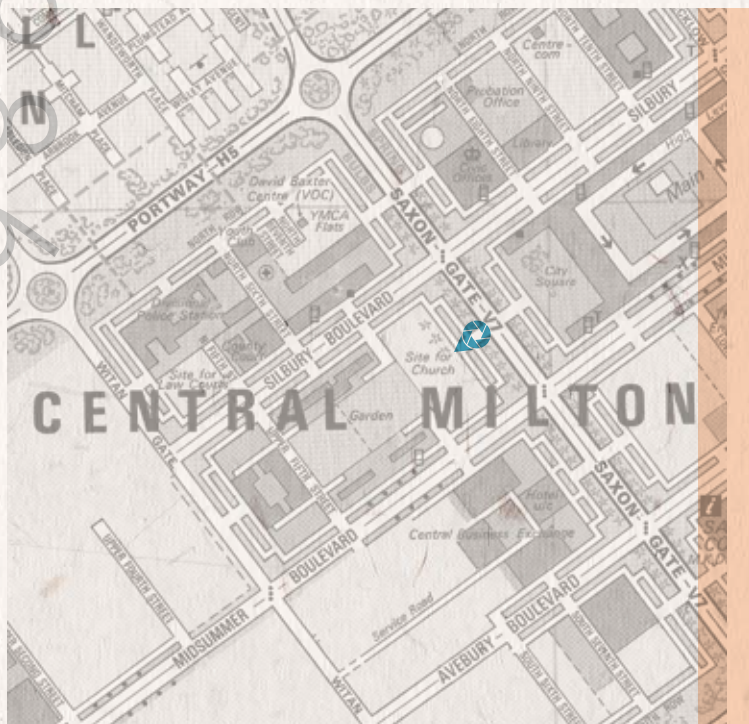


THE PATH ALONG CHILDS WAY (H6)
WOOLSTONE



THE POPLAR PLANTATION - MIDDLETON

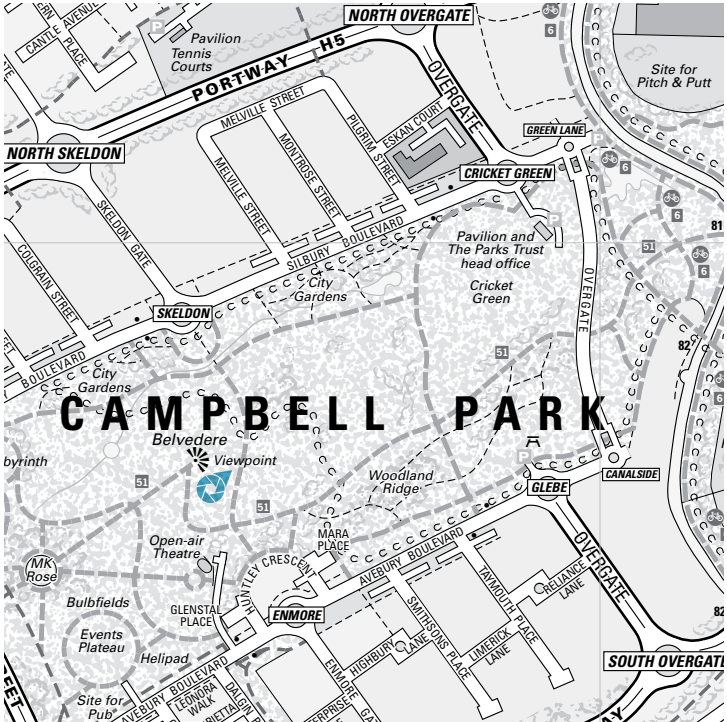
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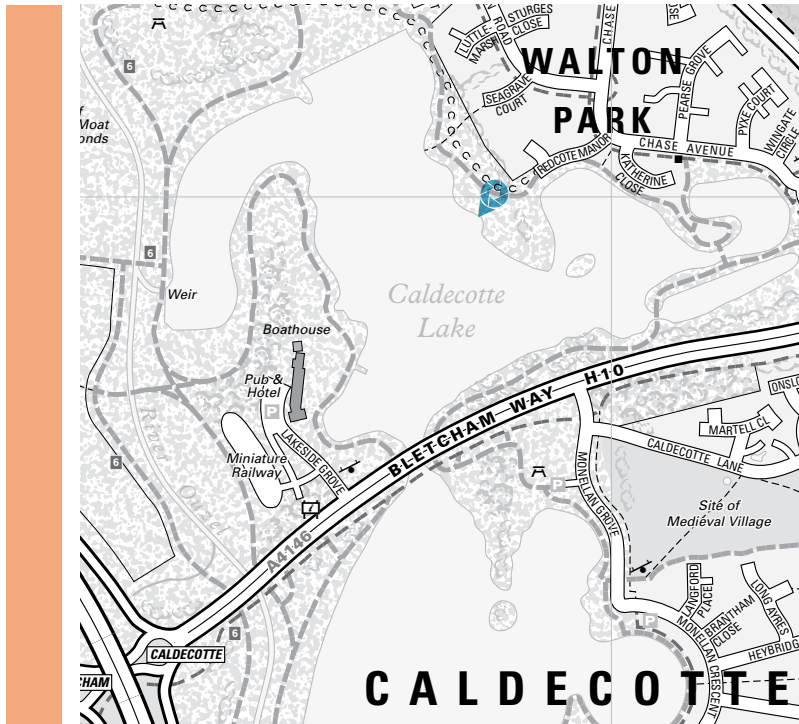
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THE CHURCH OF CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES



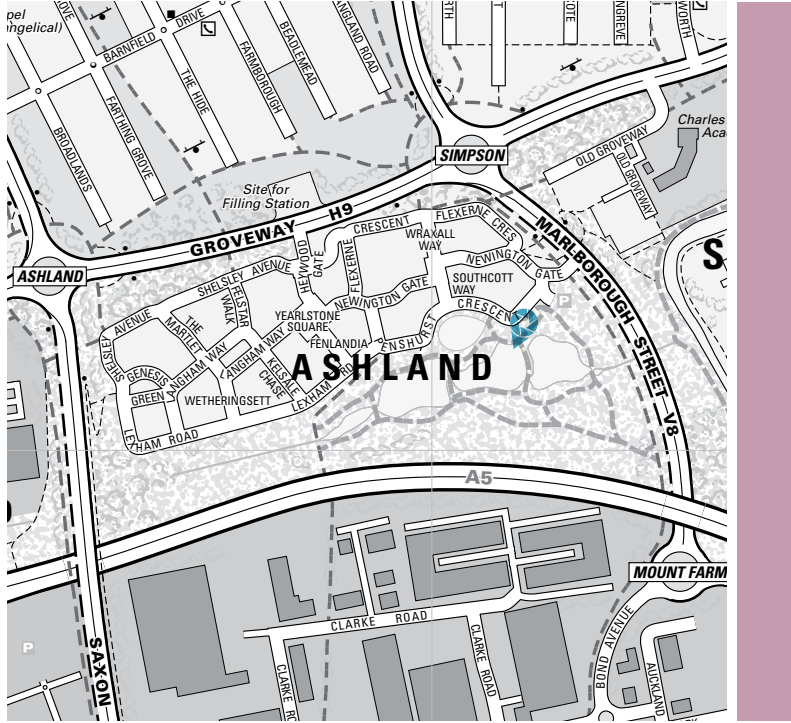
THE CRICKET PAVILION AND THE PARKS TRUST OFFICES
CAMPBELL PARK



THE CALDECOTTE ARMS - CALDECOTTE LAKE

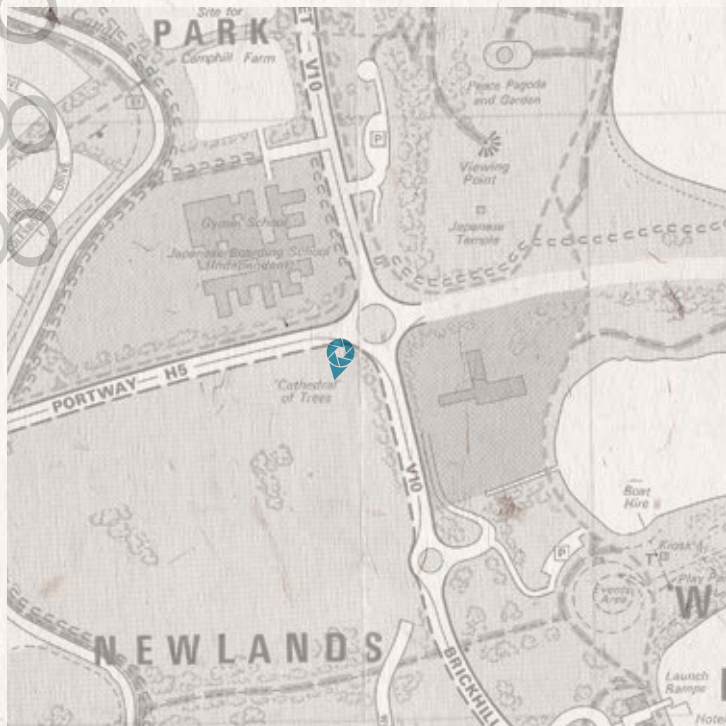


THE GRAND UNION CANAL
WOOLSTONE



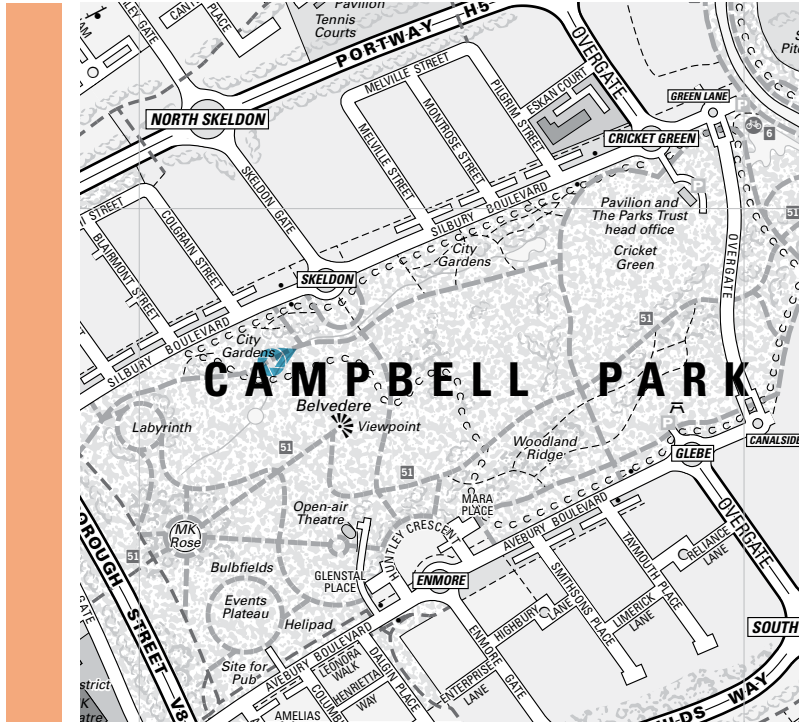
THE AREA AROUND ASHLAND LAKES AND ORNAMENTAL POND

1988



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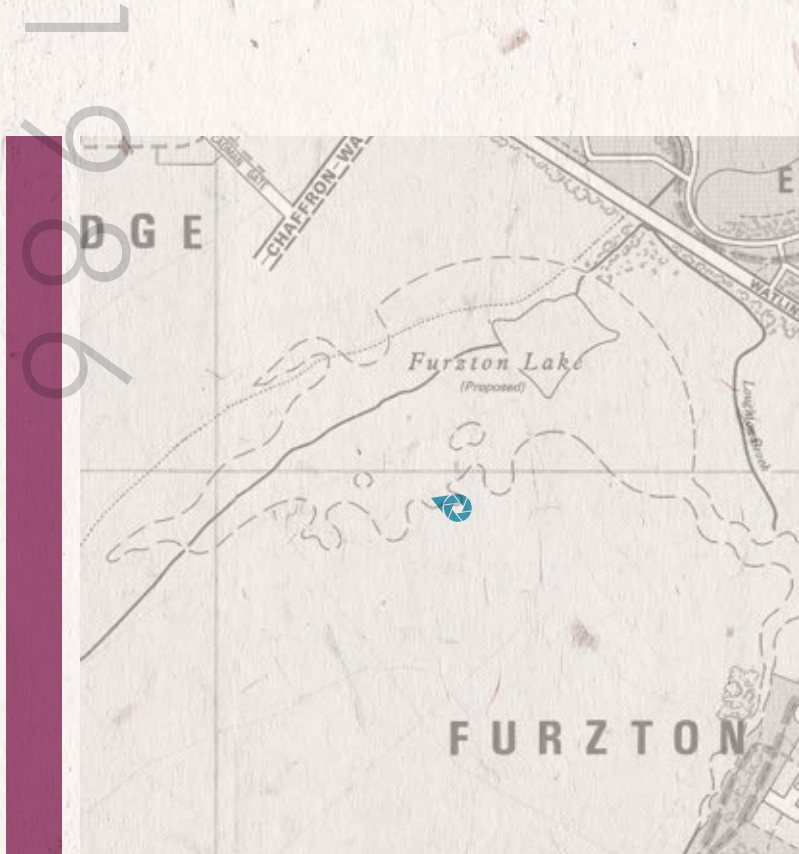




DESTINATION DINING
THE CENTRE : MK



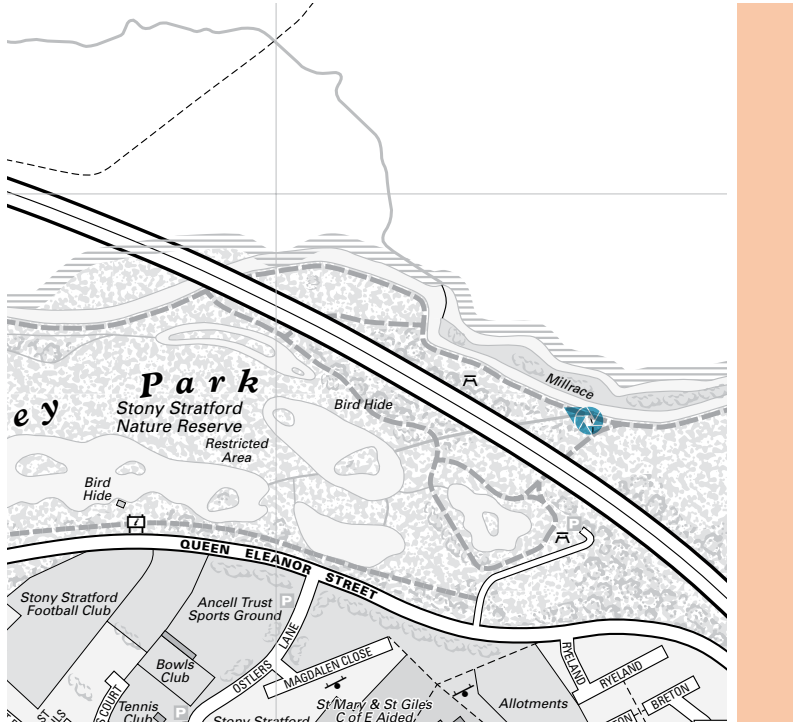




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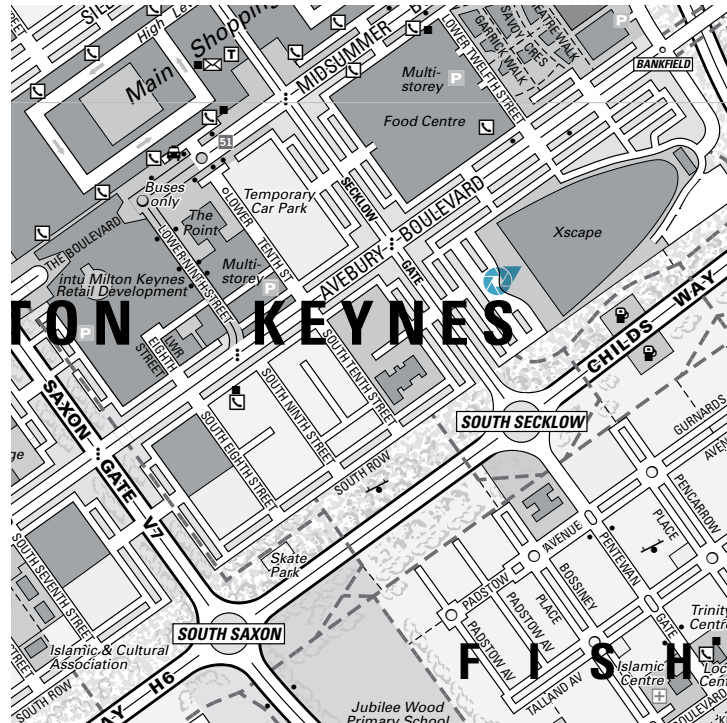


FURZTON LAKE - NORTH FURZTON



THE RIVER GREAT OUSE
OUSE VALLEY PARK

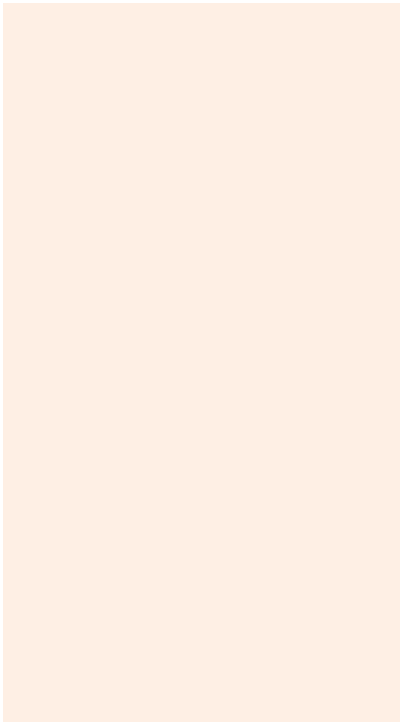
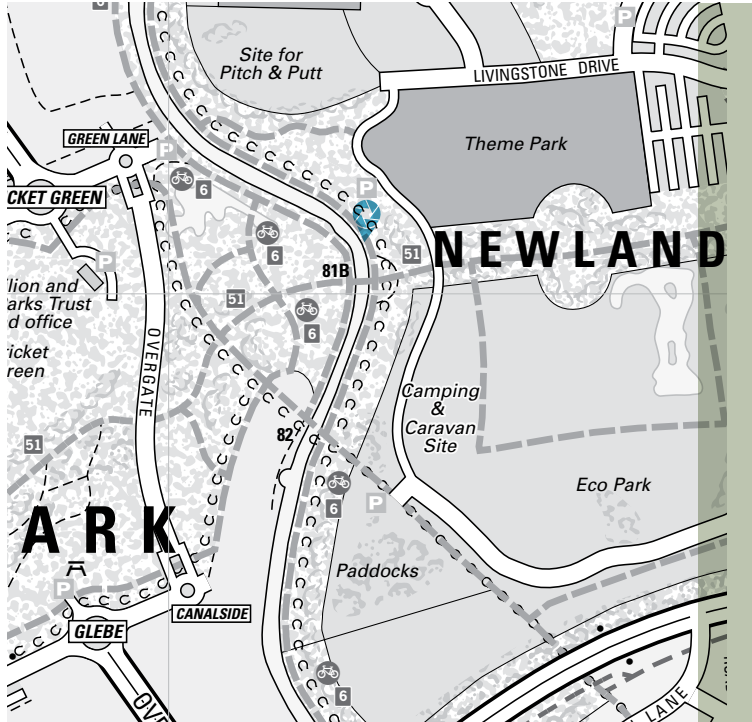




XSCAPE
MILTON KEYNES

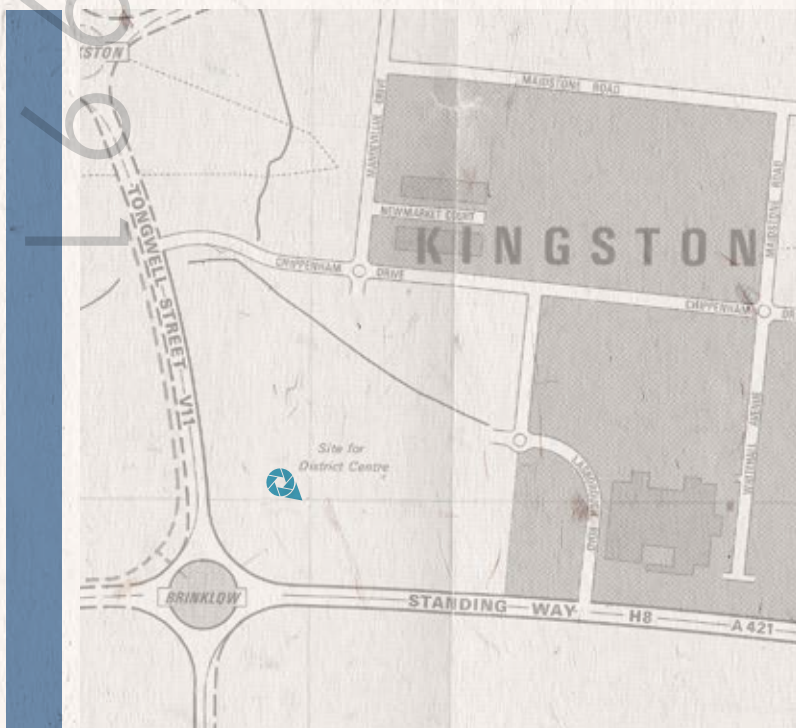


THE CHAIN REACTION SCULPTURE BY RAY SMITH
CAMPBELL PARK



THE TREE AVENUE ALONG THE GRAND UNION CANAL
NEWLANDS

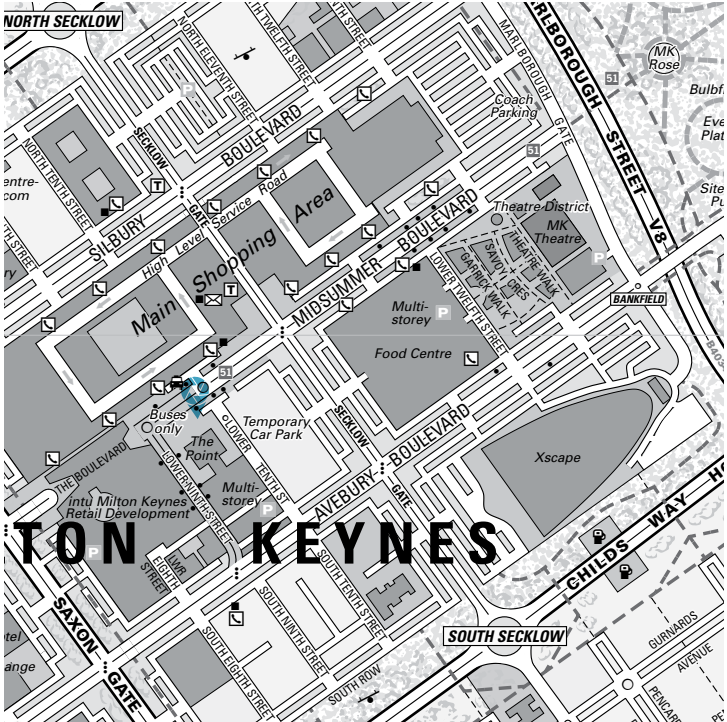
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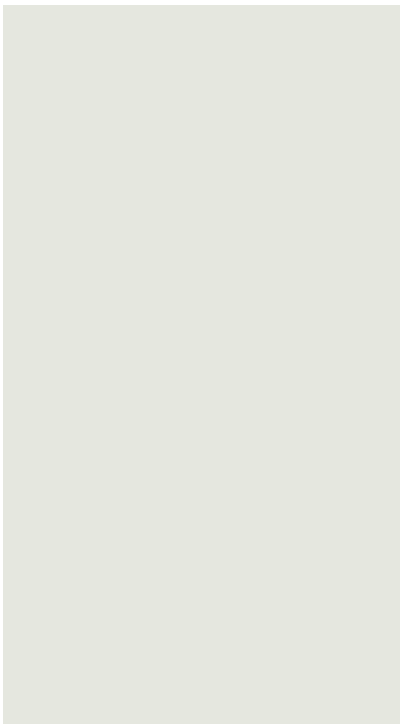
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THE POINT
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES



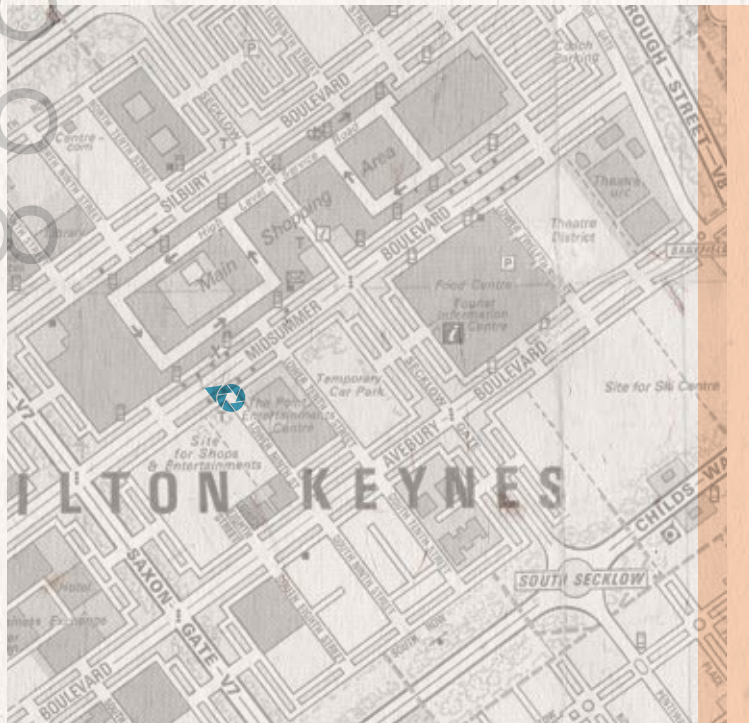
THE CENTRAL RESERVATION OF OVERGATE
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES



THE LAKE NEAR THE GRAND UNION CANAL
CAMPBELL PARK



1990



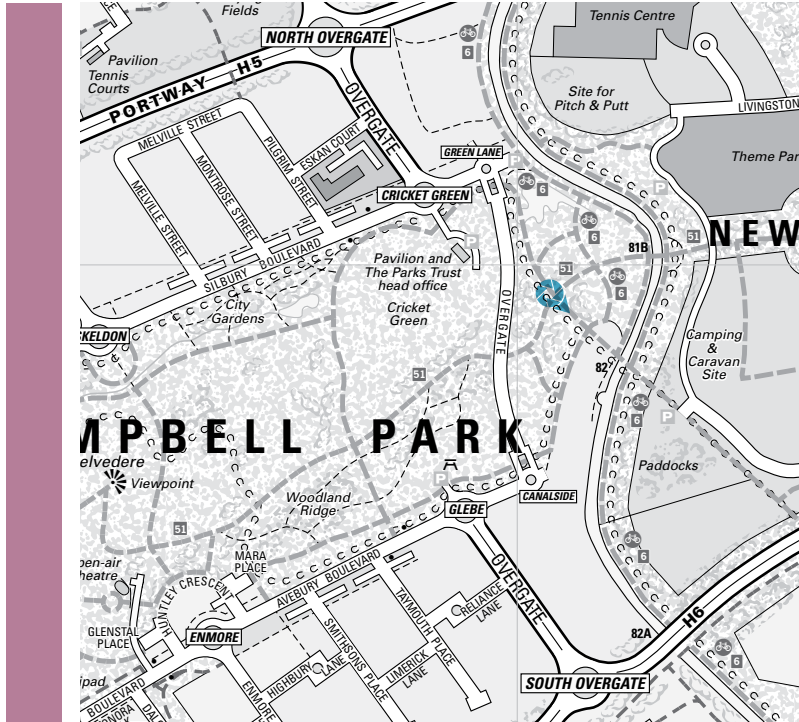
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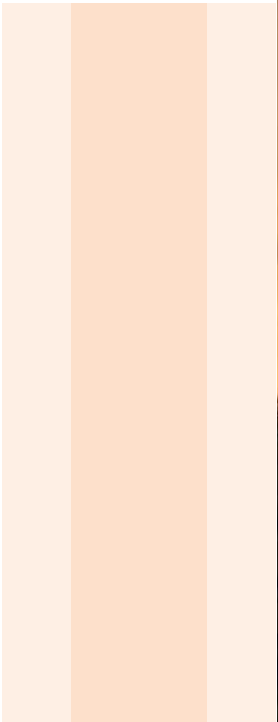
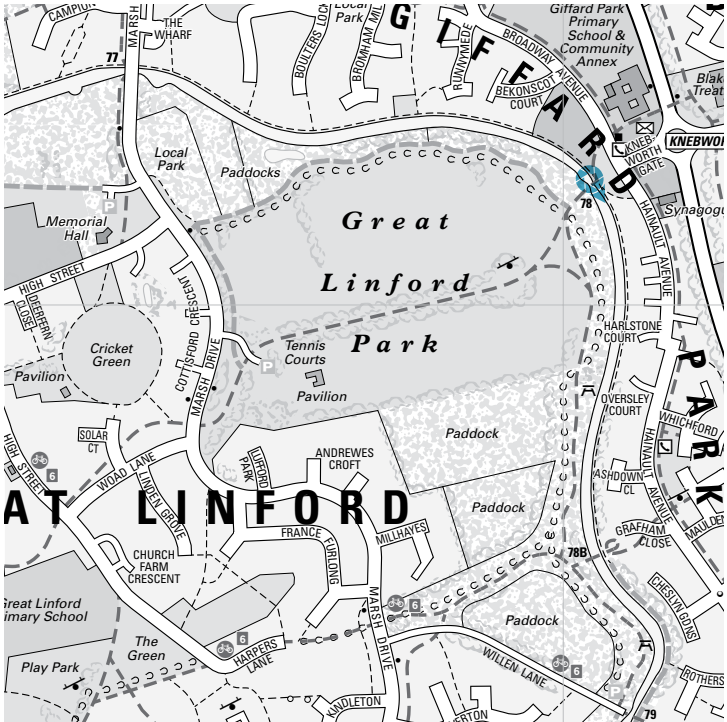


INTU SHOPPING CENTRE – CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

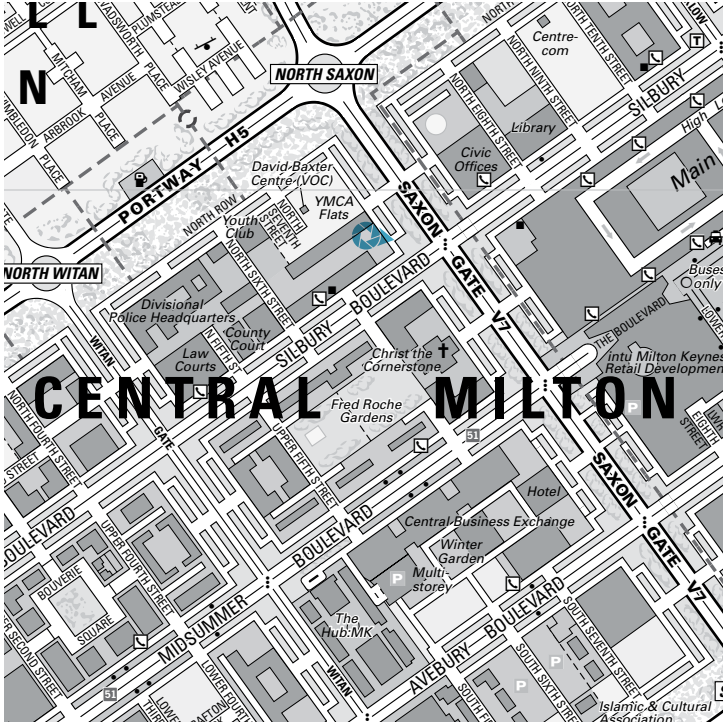
VIEW OF EAST MILTON KEYNES
FROM THE LIGHT PYRAMID IN CAMPBELL PARK





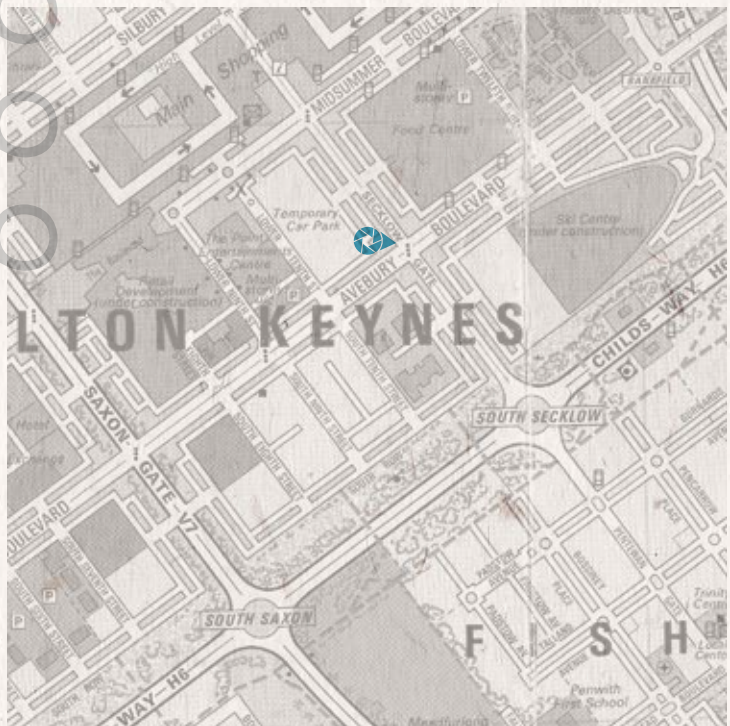


THE GRAND UNION CANAL
GREAT LINFORD PARK



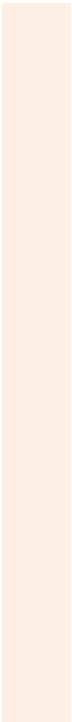
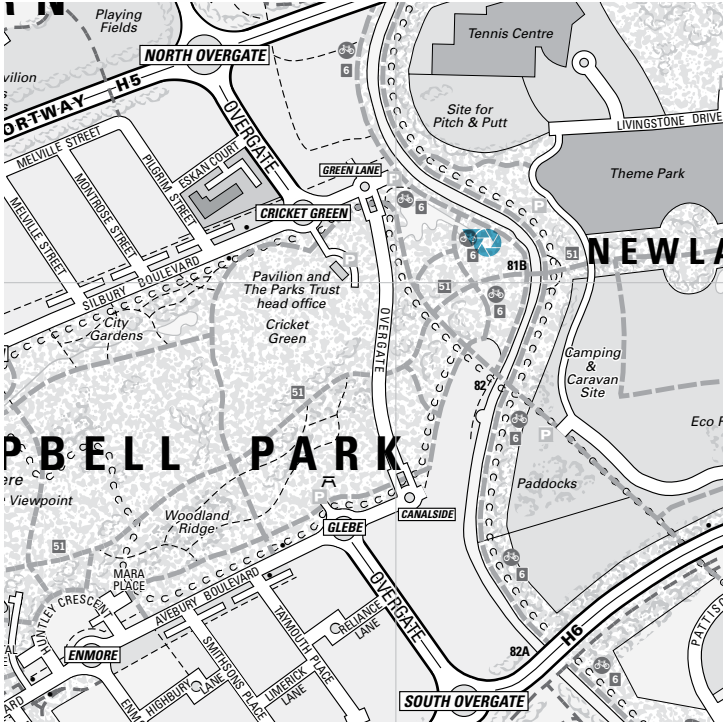
THE OCTO SCULPTURE AND REFLECTING POOL BY WENDY TAYLOR
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES





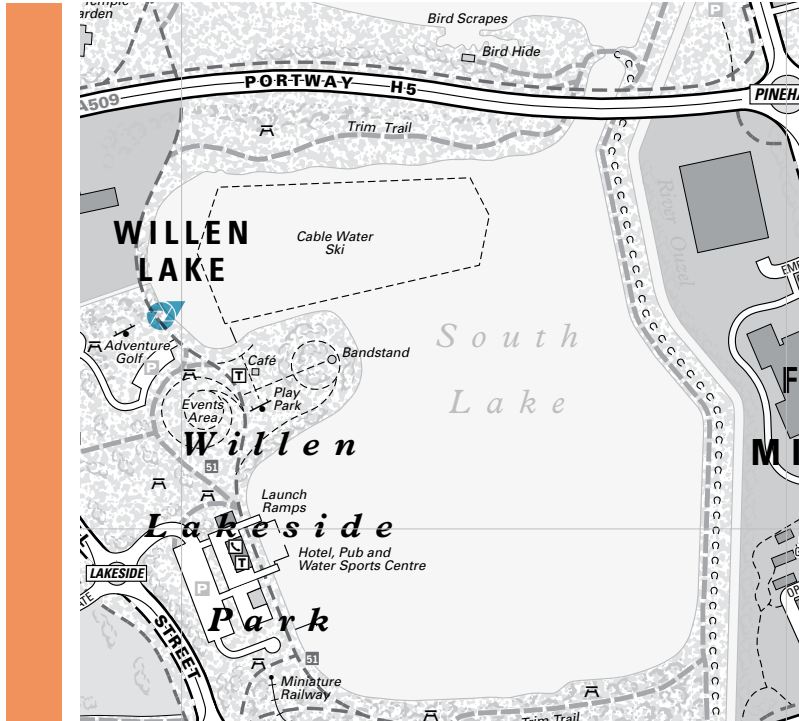
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THE BRIDGE OVER THE LAKE NEAR THE GRAND UNION CANAL
CAMPBELL PARK





WAKEMK WAKEBOARD AND WATERSKI CENTRE
WILLEN LAKE SOUTH

THE NEXT 50 YEARS AND BEYOND

"For me this last photograph very much represents the future of Milton Keynes. It was shot just a week before Unexpected:MK went to print, in Stanton Low Park at Oakridge Park - one of the new expansion areas, to the North of the city. The image of the family playing on the zip-wire long after sunset demonstrates all that is good about this amazing city as a place to bring up families and build lives, as I have done over the last 25 years. But more than that, the crescent moon rising up over the horizon represents all of the new beginnings which will take place here in the future - over the next 50 years and beyond."

Gill Prince





REPRODUCED FROM 2017 MILTON KEYNES MAP.
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2017

About the photographer

Gill Prince is a local landscape, urban and travel photographer whose Milton Keynes images were selected for use as part of Destination MK's national 2016 advertising campaign, including poster sites across London. She sells stock images worldwide via the popular image library Alamy, as well as selling prints via her own website. Gill also takes on commercial commissions, and provides 1-2-1 photography tuition for people who are looking to get 'off auto' for the first time.

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If you would like to know more, please visit
gillprincephotography.com

1-2-1 Tuition : Commercial Commissions
Stock Photography : Prints for Sale

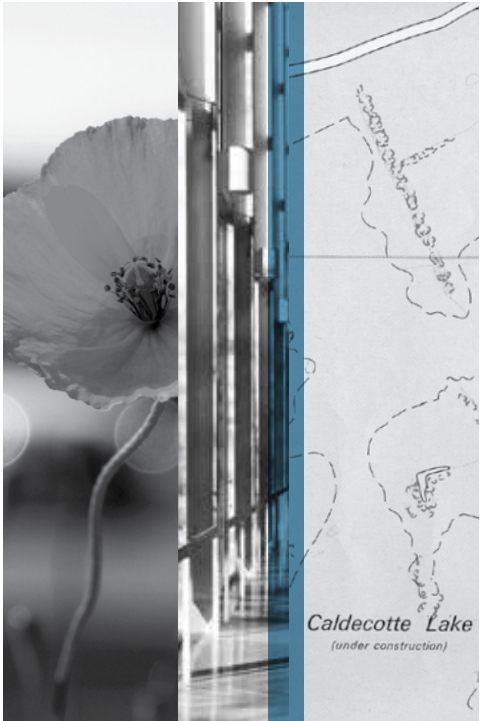


The Unexpected:MK photography book has been created as part of Milton Keynes' 50th birthday celebrations in 2017. The idea behind it is to challenge perceptions of the city as a 'concrete jungle' and to demonstrate what a beautiful and unique place it is to live and work.



UNEXPECTED:MK

A Photographic Celebration of Milton Keynes at 50 by Gill Prince



UNEXPECTED:MK

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