

Sustainability Appraisal Regulation 18 Appendix 1: Baseline Information

Population

A2.1 Data from the 2021 Census shows that Milton Keynes is one of the fastest growing local authorities in England. Between 2011 and 2021, the Milton Keynes population increased by 15.3% from 248,800 to 287,000. Nearby areas like Bedford and Central Bedfordshire have seen their populations increase by around 17.7% and 15.7%, respectively, while others such as North Northamptonshire saw an increase of 13.5% and Buckinghamshire saw smaller growth (9.5%). The percentage increase in England over the same period was 6.6%¹.

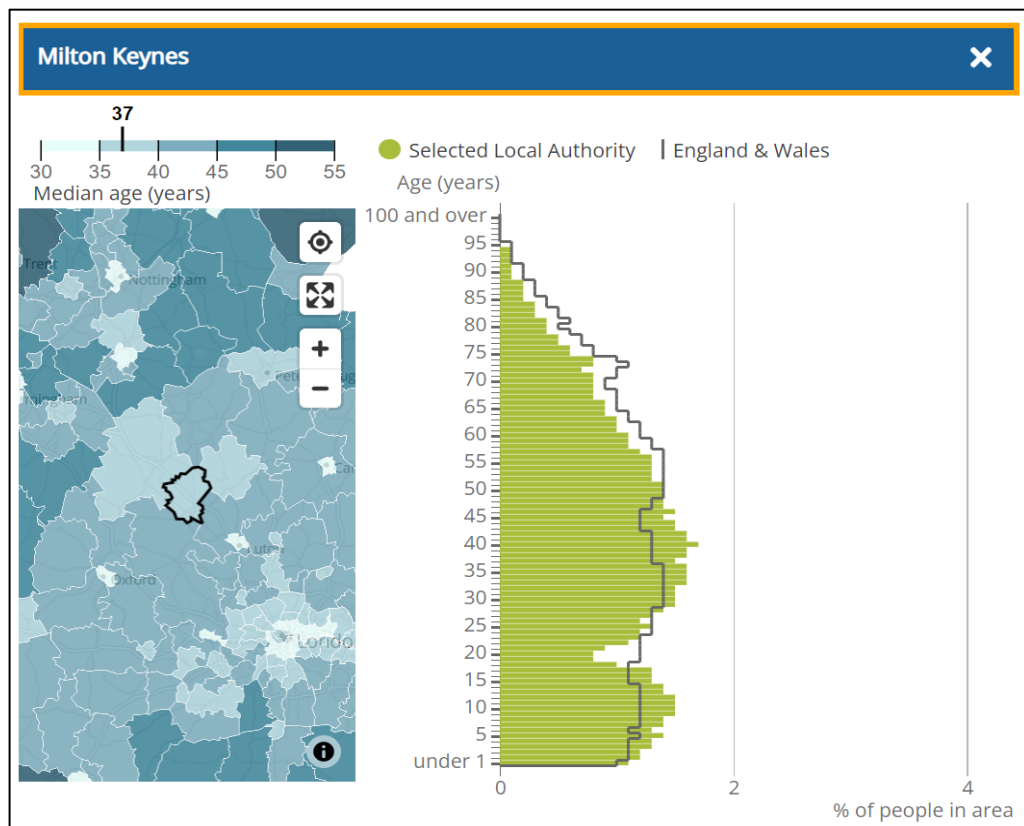


Figure A2.1: Age structure of the population, 2021, Milton Keynes compared with England and Wales average².

A2.2 At the time of the 2021 Census, the median age in Milton Keynes was 37 years. As the age profile in Figure A2.1 shows, the area has a greater proportion of children aged 0-17 and adults aged 29-48, and a smaller proportion of university-age young adults and adults aged 52 and over, when compared to the overall England & Wales age structure. This suggests the area is more popular with young families. Bedford Borough, Buckinghamshire, Central Bedfordshire, North Northamptonshire, and West Northamptonshire all similarly have a lower proportion of young adults aged 18-29 than

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E06000042/>

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwales/census2021unroundeddata>

the national average. This trend is more pronounced in Buckinghamshire where the proportion of those aged 29–36 is also less than the national average. The proportion of the population over 60 in Buckinghamshire is slightly more than the national average, whereas in the other authority areas (excluding Milton Keynes) it is roughly equal to the national average.

A2.3 Recent data from the 2021 Census shows that there has been an increase of 43.6% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 11.6% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 12.3% in children aged under 15 years³. Figure A2.2 shows the usual resident population in Milton Keynes by sex and five-year age group at the time of the 2021 Census. Between the ages of 0 and 24, the population was predominantly male however, above the age of 25 years the population is predominantly female.

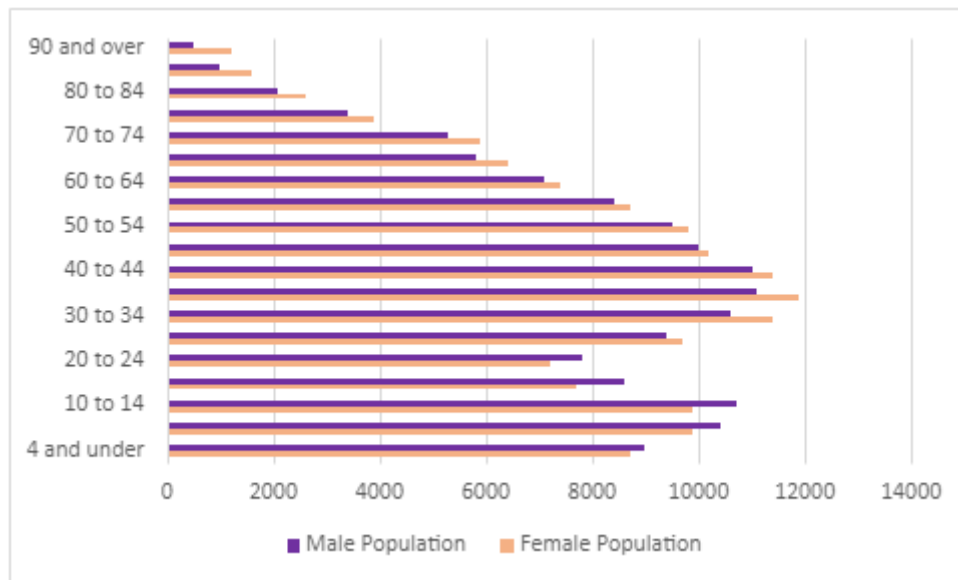


Figure A2.2: 2021 Census data on usual resident population in Milton Keynes by sex and five-year age group. Source: ONS⁴.

A2.4 The latest available national data on population projections dates from 2018 and was produced by the ONS⁵. However, it is evident that the methodology for this dataset underestimated population growth in Milton Keynes. It forecast that the Milton Keynes population in 2043 would be 284,076, whereas the Census 2021 (unrounded estimates) recorded the 2021 population as 287,000. Following the completion of our Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) in 2023, the population of Milton Keynes was recorded as 290,182 at the beginning of 2022 and is estimated to increase to 384,425 by 2050, a growth of approximately 32%⁶. The HEDNA findings estimate that approximately 27% of this increase will be a result of natural population change (from births and deaths), and 73% as a result of net migration⁷. It is expected that older age groups will account for a significant proportion of the overall population growth, with

³ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E06000042/>

⁴ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/initialfindingsfromthe2021censusinenglandandwales>

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2018based>

⁶ Milton Keynes City Council Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (2023)

⁷ Milton Keynes City Council Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (2023)

the population aged 65-74 projected to increase by 14,300 persons and an increase of 24,600 persons aged 75 years or over in the period up to 2050. This is particularly important to consider when establishing the types of housing required and the need for housing specifically for older people.

A2.5 As Figures A2.3 and A2.4 show, the majority (just over 85%) of the population in Milton Keynes is British, with the remainder being made up of people of different nationalities. Within this narrower demographic of people in Milton Keynes with nationalities other than British, the majority are from European Union countries, with the next largest minorities being people with South Asian and Sub-Saharan African nationalities. Compared with our previous reporting in the 2020-21 Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), there has been a small decline in the number of people with nationalities other than British and an increase in the British population. When looked at further via figure A2.4, this shows a decline in EU migration and small increase of North American migration.

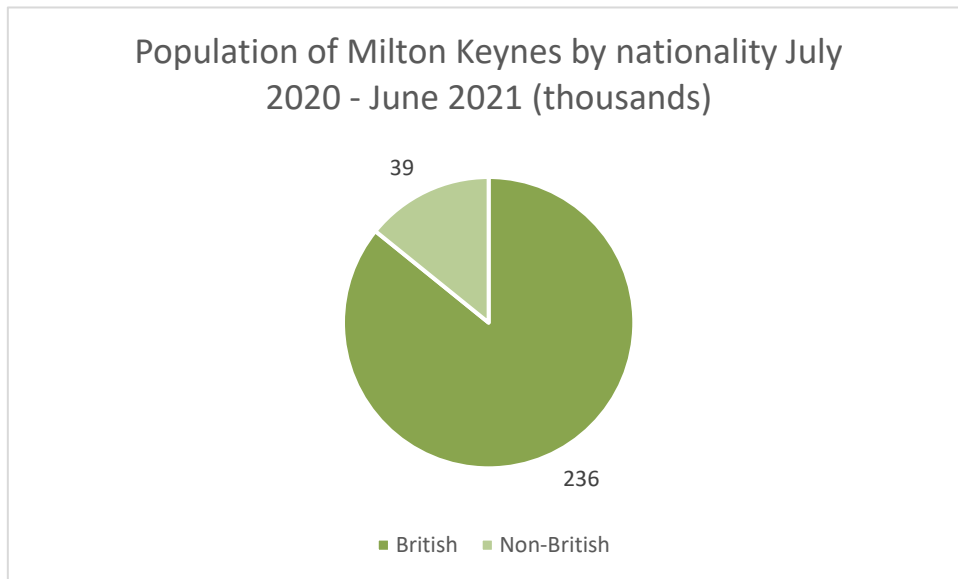


Figure A2.3: Population of Milton Keynes by nationality (British or Non-British (July 2020 to June 2021). Source: ONS⁸.

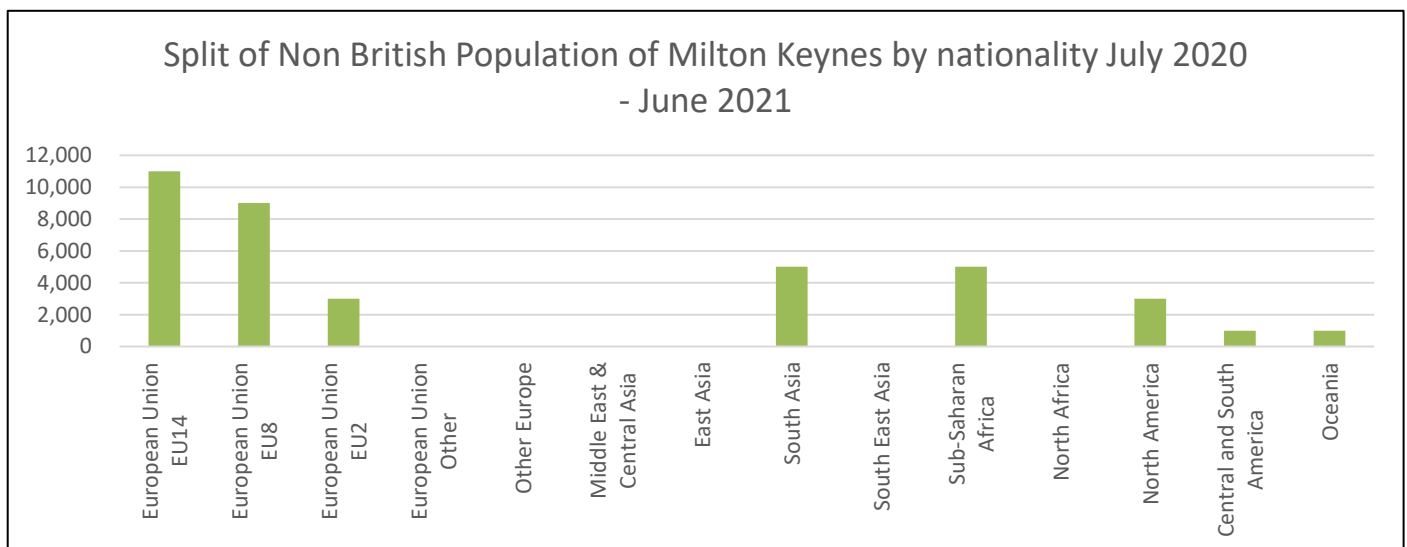


Figure A2.4: Split of Non-British Population of Milton Keynes by nationality July 2020 – June 2021. Source: ONS⁹. Note: Categories shown as '0' in the chart have been marked either as 'no contact' or as 'confidential' by ONS. No contact means that ONS were unable to establish contact with people from these demographics in the Borough.

A2.6 As reported in our 2020-2021 AMR, in terms of religious affiliation, the latest ONS dataset available is from 2019¹⁰ and uses data from the annual population survey, mid-year estimates and the 2011 Census to calculate 2016 population estimates. These are shown in Table A2.1. The data shows that over half of the population in Milton Keynes is

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/populationoftheunitedkingdombycountryofbirthandnationality>

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/populationoftheunitedkingdombycountryofbirthandnationality>

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationcharacteristicsresearchtables>

Christian, with the next largest proportion being ‘None + not stated’. Other religious groups such as Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and others make up the rest of the population. The ONS hasn’t published any earlier statistics and earlier versions of our AMR don’t report on religion. As such comparisons of this dataset with other datasets isn’t possible. However, this data provides a baseline for assessment over the Milton Keynes City Plan 2050 period.

Table A2.1: Population in Milton Keynes by religious groups. Source: ONS.

	Total (000s)	Christian (000s)	Buddhist (000s)	Hindu (000s)	Jewish (000s)	Muslim (000s)	Sikh (000s)	Other (000s)	None + Not Stated (000s)
Milton Keynes Population Estimate	264	148	2	12	NA	12	1	4	85
Percentage Total	100%	56%	0.75%	4.55%	NA	4.55%	0.37%	1.5%	32.1%

A2.7 Table A2.2 shows the most recent 2021 Census data on the number and proportion of people from different ethnic groups in Milton Keynes. Also, Milton Keynes has a higher proportion of people from different ethnic groups than our neighbouring authority areas. As Table A2.2 shows, the largest ethnic group in Milton Keynes includes those who are White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, and White Irish. The next largest ethnic groups in the area are Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh (12.42%), and White Other (8.51%).

Table A2.2: Number of people of different ethnicities in Milton Keynes using Census 2021 data.

Ethnic Group	Number of People	Percentage of Total
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	35645	12.42%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	27851	9.7%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	11725	4.08%
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	156	0.05%
White Roma	578	0.2%
White Other	24430	8.51%

White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, Irish	180950	63.04%
Other ethnic group Arab	1349	0.47%
Other ethnic group: any other ethnic group	4376	1.52%

A2.8 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation in England, with 1 being the most deprived and 10 being the least deprived. The most recent release of IMD statistics from Government was in 2019¹¹. Table A2.3 notes how many areas within Milton Keynes fell into each IMD category at that time and Figure A2.5 shows the spatial distribution of IMD levels in the city. Table A2.3 shows that most of the Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the MKCC area had an IMD between 6 and 10 (less deprived). However, 36.84% of LSOAs had an IMD between 1 and 5, the most deprived areas.

Table A2.3: Number of LSOAs in Milton Keynes with different IMD values ¹² .	
IMD value	No. of LSOAs in MK
1	8
2	10
3	10
4	15
5	13
6	17
7	22
8	29
9	18
10	10

A2.9 As Figure A2.5 shows, the more deprived areas are near/in the older towns of Bletchley and Wolverton which pre-date the New Town construction, as well as the older estates within the New Town itself. Less deprived areas include the newer estates around the edge of the city and more rural parts of the MKCC area. These statistics may have changed since 2019; further monitoring throughout the Milton Keynes City Plan

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

2050 period will report on the next IMD release from Government. On the Indices of Deprivation 2019 Interactive Dashboard, where 1 represents the most deprived area, Milton Keynes ranks 172 out of 317 for its overall IMD. In comparison, Bedford Borough ranks 156, Central Bedfordshire ranks 264, Aylesbury Vale ranks 277, and South Northamptonshire ranks 312. Note, the Dashboard was made before the recent merging of the West and North Northamptonshire, and Buckinghamshire authorities.

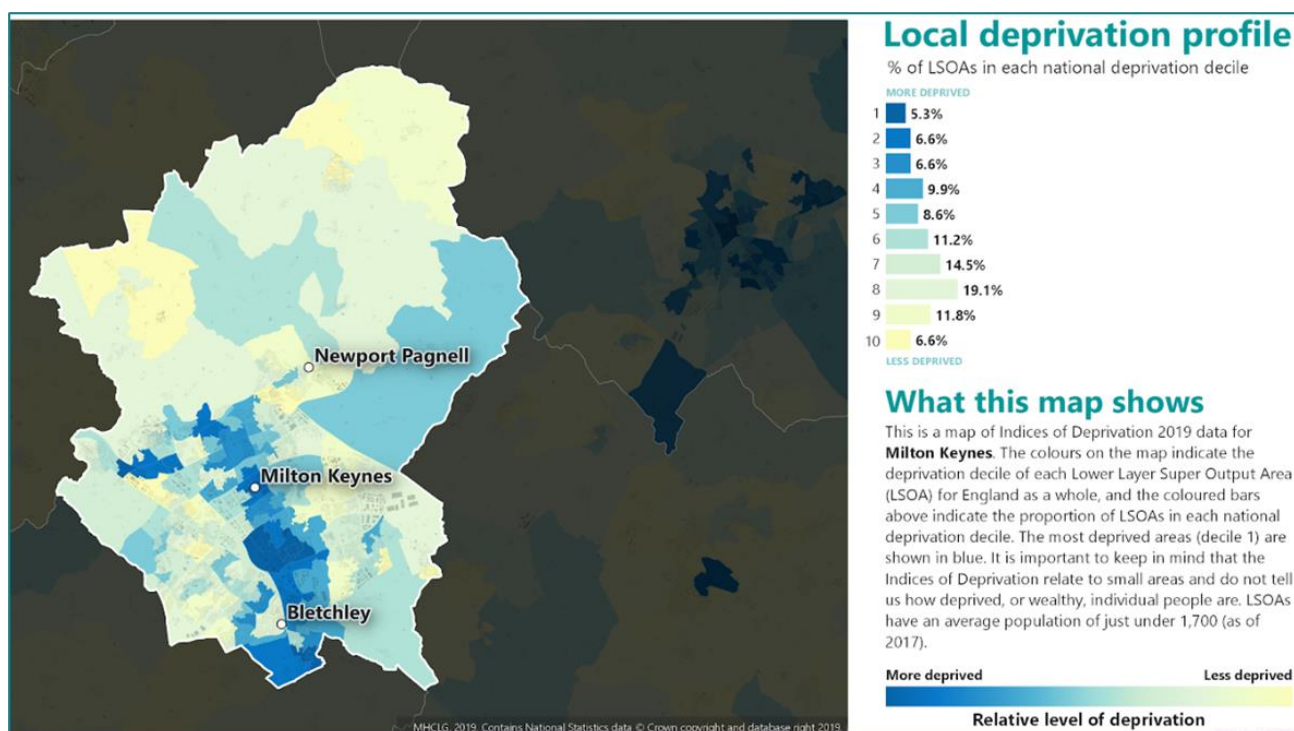


Figure A2.5: Local deprivation spatial distribution in Milton Keynes. Source: University of Sheffield¹³.

Crime

A2.10 Thames Valley Police publishes annual data on a wide range of crimes. Only data on crimes that planning can influence is included here in the interest of proportionality. The full Thames Valley Police crime records database is available online¹⁴. Table A2.4 highlights that, in the 2021/2022 monitoring period overall crime in Milton Keynes that is more directly influenced by Planning has decreased by 30%, relative to when Plan:MK was adopted. The data shows an increase between the 2020-2021 monitoring period and the latest timeframe. However, due to the pandemic and associated lockdowns, the 2020-2021 period is considered an anomaly. There has been a 17.6% increase in overall reported crimes that are directly influenced by Planning in the 2022/2023 period, compared to the figures for 2021/2022.

¹³ <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/usp/research/projects/english-indices-deprivation-2019#maps>

¹⁴ <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/foi-ai/af/accessing-information/published-items/>

Table A2.4: Statistics for crimes directly influenced by Planning system outcomes, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 & September 2022 – August 2023.. Source: Thames Valley Police.

Offence	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Robbery of Business Property	42	13	5	6	18
Robbery of Personal Property	210	256	167	146	193
Residential Burglary - Dwelling	514	397	281	302	376
Residential Burglary – Sheds / Garages	241	220	298	177	118
Business & Community Burglary	534	390	177	262	300
Theft of Vehicle	495	291	264	376	612
Theft from Vehicle	2,154	931	842	1,150	1396
Vehicle Interference	345	117	250	165	239
Theft from the Person	300	437	216	353	371
Bicycle Theft	616	777	716	533	627
Arson and Criminal Damage	2,618	1,817	1,424	2,189	2,530
Public Order Offences	1,231	931	1,325	2,769	

					3,593
Overall Reported Crime Average	775	548	497	597	702

A2.11 The Crime Summary for Milton Keynes 2022/2023¹⁵ noted 10,621 instances of Violence against the Person crimes. This represented an 11.12%% increase relative to the 2021/2022 period. Sexual offences (including rape and non-rape sexual offences) also increased 23.45%% from 793 to 979. Recorded Hate Crime and Incidents (including racial, religious, homophobic, transphobic and disability incidents) also increased 22.9%% from 938 to 1,153 across the same period. Domestic recorded crimes and non-crime occurrences increased 9% and 3.78%% respectively between 2021/2022 and 2022/2023. Fear of crime in public spaces and whether spaces might encourage violence against all people, particularly women and children, are considerations when preparing planning policies and taking decisions.

A2.12 For comparison purposes, Thames Valley Police reported 1,559 crimes in the Aylesbury Vale area between September 2022 and August 2023¹⁶. In Milton Keynes over the same period, there were 1,881.

Health

A2.13 According to 2021 Census data, there are now around 287,000 people living in Milton Keynes City. MK has a higher percentage of young people (aged 15 and below) and people aged 16-64 than the regional or national averages. MK has a lower proportion of residents aged 65+ than regionally or nationally.

¹⁵ https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/thames-valley-police/priorities_and_how_we_are_doing/performance-figures/milton-keynes/summary-of-notifiable-offences-in-milton-keynes-september-2022-to-august-2023.pdf

¹⁶ <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/area/your-area/tvp/aylesbury-vale/aylesbury-town-centre/about-us/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area>

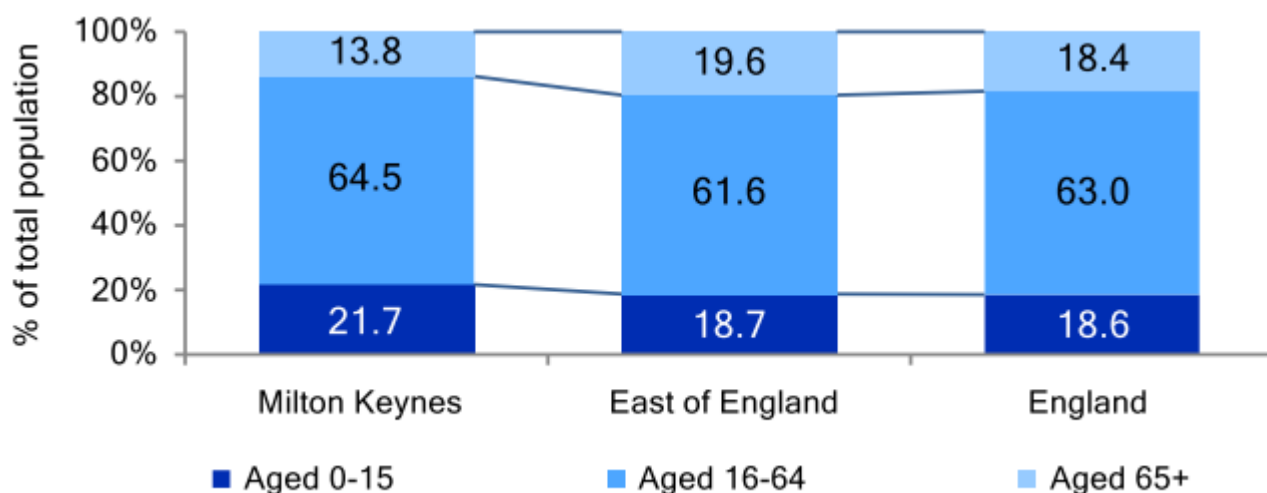


Figure A2.6: Population by age¹⁷. 2021 Census data.

A2.14 Figure A2.7 summarises life expectancy, under 75 mortality rate and suicide rates in Milton Keynes between 2018-2020. Compared with data for the 2017-2019 period summarised in our 2020-2021 AMR, life expectancy decreased by 0.2 years for both men and women. Life expectancy in Milton Keynes is generally lower than in the Southeast and England as a whole, although women in Milton Keynes tend to live slightly longer than nationally (on average). Within Milton Keynes, the inequality in life expectancy at birth is 8.4 years for males and 7.2 years for women¹⁸. The Under 75 mortality rate from all causes is higher than the Southeast average, however it is still below the national average. The suicide rate in Milton Keynes is lower than the average, both in the Southeast and nationally.

¹⁷ <https://cdn-wp.datapress.cloud/bedfordshire/20230706162050/LocalInsight-Milton-Keynes.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/gid/1938133217/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/402/are/E06000042/yrr/3/cid/4/tbm/1>

Indicator	Period	Milt Keynes			Region England			England		
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst	Range	Best	
Life expectancy at birth (Male, 3 year range)	2018 - 20	–	-	79.3	80.6	79.4	74.1		84.7	
Life expectancy at birth (Male, 1 year range)	2020	–	-	78.5	80.1	78.7	73.6		83.3	
Life expectancy at birth (Female, 3 year range)	2018 - 20	–	-	83.2	84.1	83.1	79.0		87.9	
Life expectancy at birth (Female, 1 year range)	2020	–	-	83.0	83.7	82.6	78.0		87.8	
Under 75 mortality rate from all causes (3 year range)	2018 - 20	–	2,102	330.9	293.9	336.5	570.7		221.0	
Under 75 mortality rate from all causes (1 year range)	2020	➔	726	336.6	308.0	358.5	622.8		205.8	
Under 75 mortality rate from all cardiovascular diseases (3 year range)	2017 - 19	–	408	67.0	57.1	70.4	121.6		43.6	
Under 75 mortality rate from all cardiovascular diseases (1 year range)	2020	➔	130	61.1	61.5	73.8	137.1		36.1	
Under 75 mortality rate from cancer (3 year range)	2017 - 19	–	828	135.1	121.6	129.2	182.4		87.4	
Under 75 mortality rate from cancer (1 year range)	2020	⬇	227	107.0	116.2	125.1	187.1		69.3	
Suicide rate	2018 - 20	–	67	9.4	10.1	10.4	18.8		5.0	

Figure A2.7: Milton Keynes Local Authority Health Profile. Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities¹⁹.

A2.15 Life expectancy in Bedford between 2018-2020 was very similar to Milton Keynes (79.2 years for men and 83.2 years for women in the 3-year range). The median age in MK as of 2023 was 37 years. Buckinghamshire had better life expectancy during the same period (80.6 years for men and 84.1 years for women)²⁰.

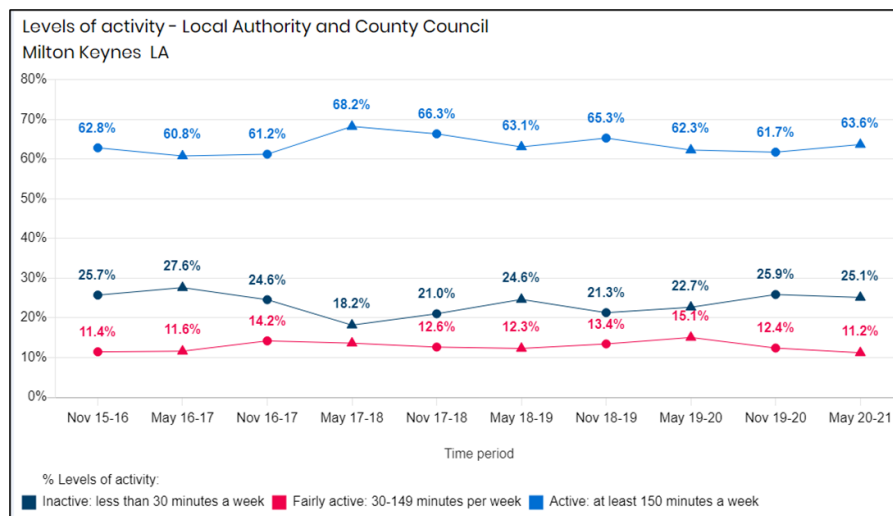


Figure A2.8: Activity levels of adults (ages 16+) in Milton Keynes between November 2015 and May 2021. Source: Sport England Active Lives dataset.

A2.16 Life expectancy in Milton Keynes is influenced by the level of income deprivation in a particular area. Boys born in the most affluent areas of MK will live around 8.4 years longer than those born in the most deprived areas. This figure is 7.2 years for girls.

¹⁹ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/gid/1938132696/pat/6/ati/402/are/E06000042/iid/90366/age/1/sex/1/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/3/cid/4/tbm/1>

²⁰ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles>

Figure A2.9 below shows the income deprivation in different parts of MK. Areas coloured red indicate some of the most deprived areas of MK.

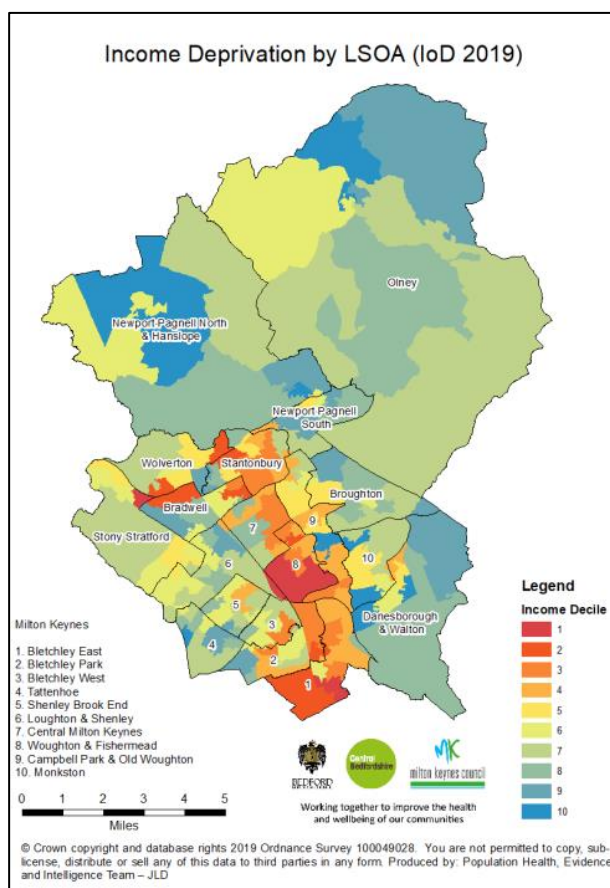


Figure A2.9: Income Deprivation levels in MK

A2.17 The Active Lives dataset from Sport England shows that activity levels in Milton Keynes have been relatively consistent over the past several years as shown in Figure A2.7. Recent data shows that the proportion of “active” adults has increased while the number of “inactive” and “fairly active” adults has decreased. For children and young people, activity levels decreased in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, with a greater proportion of those surveyed being “inactive”²¹. The rise in inactivity levels (less than 30 minutes a day for school aged children) compared to the 2017/18 and 2018/19 periods is likely due to lockdown measures in response to COVID-19. Further monitoring during the Milton Keynes City Plan 2050 period will highlight whether this trend reverses. Figure A2.10 shows adult (age 16+) levels of activity in the four neighbouring authority areas between November 2020 and November 2021, plus those of Milton Keynes for comparison.

²¹ <https://activelives.sportengland.org/>

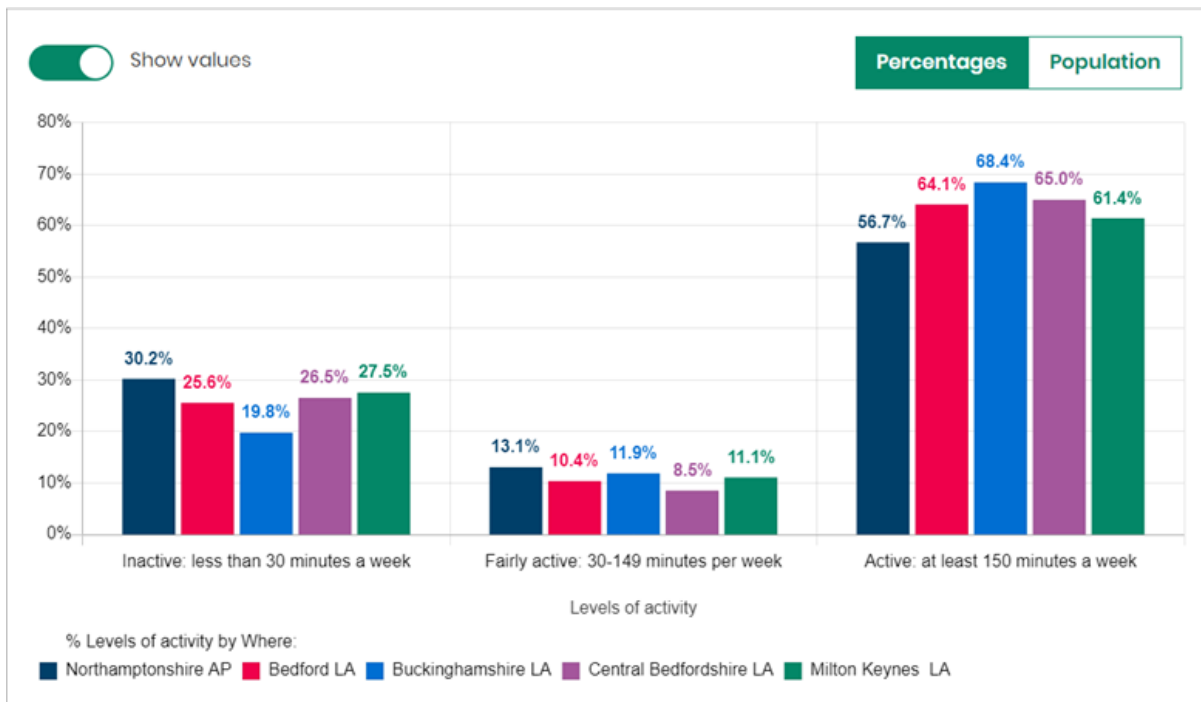


Figure A2.10: Levels of activity (% of population) in adults Nov 2020-2021 in Milton Keynes and neighbouring authority areas.

A2.18 Data from MKCC Public Health indicates that the prevalence of overweight and obese children aged 10-11 in MK is 39.5%. For adults in MK, the prevalence of overweight and obesity is 66%. 12.7% of adults in MK are recorded as having hypertension (high blood pressure).

A2.19 The 2021 Census data highlights that 6.9% of people living within the Milton Keynes local authority area are considered disabled under the Equality Act, with day-to-day activities 'limited a lot'. Additionally, 9.9% of MK residents are considered disabled with day-to-day activities 'limited a little'²². MK has an overall proportion of 16.8% of residents considered to be disabled under the Act. This is lower than the proportion of disabled people in England as a whole (17.7%). Recent census figures show that the proportion of disabled people decreased nationally and in every region of England in the period since the 2011 census. However, there was an overall increase in the number of disabled people in England (from 9.4 million in 2011 to 9.8 million in 2021). It is reasonable to assume that as the population of MK increases, the number of disabled residents may also increase.

A2.20 A Local Insight report for Milton Keynes²³ prepared by Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) considered MK against three measures of disability: those claiming Attendance Allowance, Personal Independence Payments (PIP) and Disability Living Allowance. Attendance Allowance is payable to people over the age of 65 who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need a great deal of help with

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/disabilityenglandandwales/census2021>

²³ <https://cdn-wp.datapress.cloud/bedfordshire/20230706162050/LocalInsight-Milton-Keynes.pdf>

personal care or supervision. Until April 2013, Disability Living Allowance was payable to children and adults in or out of work who are below the age of 65 and who were disabled, and required help with personal care or had walking difficulties. It is a non-means tested benefit, which means it is not affected by income. From April 2013 Personal Independence Payments (PIP) have been introduced to replace Disability Living Allowance for all new claimants. PIP helps with some of the extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill-health, or terminal ill-health. The information below shows the total number of people receiving Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and PIP (by key breakdown) and for households receiving Universal Credit due to poor physical or mental health (Limited Capability for Work Entitlement) across Milton Keynes.

Attendance Allowance claimants (Nov-22)	Personal Independence Payment (PIP) (Jan-23)	PIP Males (Jan-23)	PIP Females (Jan-23)
4,342	11,047	4,754	6,289
11.1% of people (England= 11.7%)	6.6% of people (England= 7.7%)	5.7% of males (England= 7.1%)	7.4% of females (England= 8.4%)
PIP with mental health conditions (Jan-23)	PIP with respiratory disease (Jan-23)	Households on Universal Credit - Limited Capability for Work Entitlement (Feb-23)	Disability Living Allowance claimants (Nov-22)
3,843	410	3,152	5,225
2.3% of people (England= 2.8%)	0.2% of people (England= 0.3%)	2.8% of households (England= 3.7%)	1.9% of people (England= 2.0%)
Source: Department for Work and Pensions			

Figure A2.11: Breakdown of people receiving Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and PIP and household on Universal Credit.

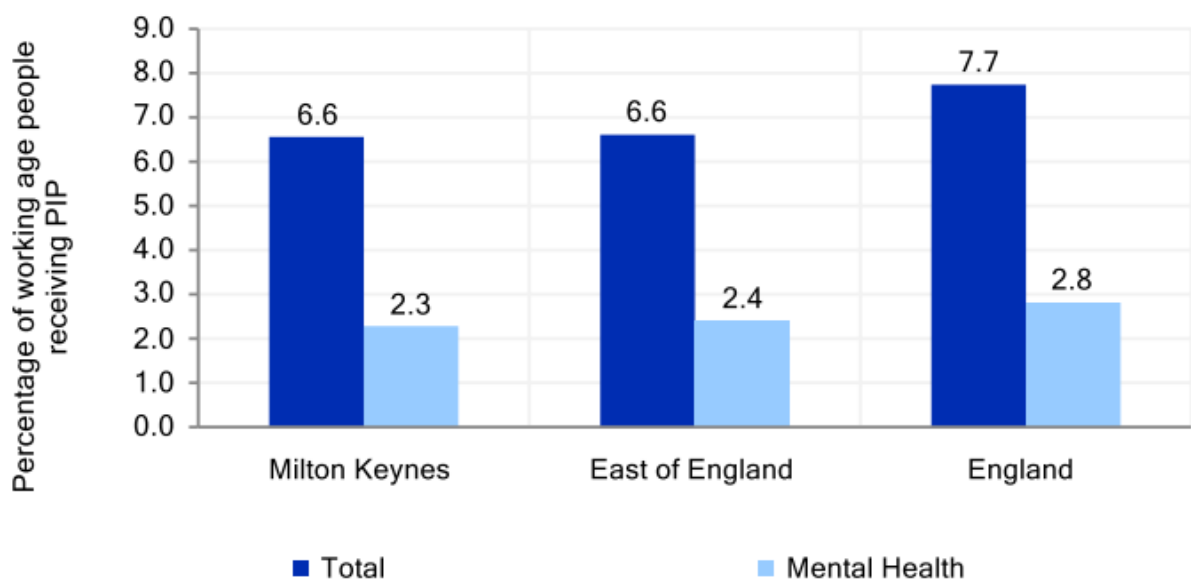


Figure A2.12: Personal Independence Payment (PIP) recipients. Department for Work and Pensions (Jan 2023).

A2.21 The graph in Figure A2.12 indicates that MK has a similar proportion of working-age people receiving PIP as the regional East of England figure. This percentage is lower than the overall percentage of people receiving PIP in England.

A2.22 Common mental disorders (CMD) include different types of depression and anxiety. These include generalised anxiety disorder, depressive episodes, phobias, obsessive compulsive disorder, and panic disorder. As Figure A2.13 shows, the prevalence of CMD in Milton Keynes in 2017 was 15.3% among over 16s, and 9.2% among over 65s. Data from MKCC Public Health records 10.8% of adults in MK as having depression. This is neither the best nor the worst when compared with nearby authorities. However, when compared with other authorities with similar deprivation (IMD) levels, the prevalence of CMD in Milton Keynes is below average. In addition, the Dementia diagnosis rate for people aged 65 and over in Milton Keynes in 2022 is 66.2% (1,726 people), compared with an average diagnosis rate of 60% in England.









Area	Prevalence in population aged 16 & over (2017)			Prevalence in population aged 65 & over (2017)		
	Count	%	Compared against IMD	Count	%	Compared against IMD
Bedford Borough	21,391	15.9%		2,850	9.6%	
Central Bedfordshire	29,775	13.2%		4,078	8.2%	
Luton	31,401	19.3%		3,005	11.4%	
Milton Keynes	31,562	15.3%		3,315	9.2%	
England	7,609,582	16.9%		1,027,792	10.2%	

Figure A2.13: Estimated prevalence of CMD. Data source: Public Health England.

Housing and Regeneration

A2.23 In September 2021 the Milton Keynes Brownfield Register recorded 39.8 hectares of brownfield land in the MKCC area. For comparison, the SA Scoping Report for Plan:MK in 2014 recorded 140 hectares of brownfield land. This indicates a possible reduction of available land supply in Milton Keynes. However, this data does not account for additional land that may have been submitted in our recent Call for Sites. Further monitoring during the Milton Keynes City Plan 2050 period will highlight the extent of this issue; if future data does support this potential trend, the Local Plan process should identify solutions.

A2.24 In the 31 October 2021 – 30 October 2022 monitoring period there were 74 entrants to MKCC’s Self Build Register, including 1 group entrant. In comparison, provision of

self-build plots was relatively constrained, with 35 plots permitted on developments that are self or custom-build projects and 18 single dwellings being permitted in the same period. In the period of 31 October 2022 – 30 October 2023 there were 40 entries to the self-build register, with 7 plots given permission for self or custom-build projects during this period. We are expecting provision of self-build plots to increase in future years as build out progresses of large sites at Milton Keynes East, South East Milton Keynes, and Campbell Park North Side²⁴.

A2.25 2021 Census estimates put the overall number of households with at least 1 usual resident in Milton Keynes at 113,102²⁵. This contrasts with MKCC figures for the overall stock of dwellings of 121,197 as of 1 October 2022. While some time has passed between the dates these figures were recorded, it is likely that the difference between these data is due to a mix of some units being unoccupied during the Census and some dwellings being second homes. The HEDNA will provide further detail on overcrowding, household composition and the number of households living in Houses in Multiple Occupation.

A2.26 A summary of the accumulated data relating to C3 use residential dwellings, for 2021/22 is presented below in Table A2.5, with the data for 2022/23 shown in Table A2.6. This covers both market sale and affordable dwellings combined. As shown, we delivered more than our annual housing requirement of 1,767 dwellings, as set out in Plan:MK, by 13% in 2021/2022 and 75% in 2022/2023. This is the fifth year running that we have met and exceeded our housing requirement, something that was not achieved during the Core Strategy (2013) period. In terms of the 2021 Housing Delivery Test results, Milton Keynes scored 128%, Buckinghamshire scored 107%, Central Bedfordshire 137%, Bedford Borough 144%, and South Northamptonshire scored 162%²⁶.

Table A2.5: 2021/22 Annual Monitoring Status. Source: MKCC.	
Total No. of Completions	2,005
Total No. of Losses	2
Total Net Completions	2,003
Total No. of Starts	2,552
% Completions achieved against annual requirement (1,767 dwellings)	113.4%
Total No. of Units Under Construction as at 1 April 2022	3,350

²⁴ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/monitoring-data-planning/custom-and-self-build-monitoring>

²⁵

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/demographyandmigrationdatacontent/2022-11-02#demography-unrounded-population-estimates>

²⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/housing-delivery-test-2021-measurement>

Table A2.6: 2022/23 Annual Monitoring Status. Source: MKCC.	
Total No. of Completions	3,093
Total No. of Losses	198
Total Net Completions	2,895
Total No. of Starts	3,017
% Completions achieved against annual requirement (1,767 dwellings)	175%
Total No. of Units Under Construction as at 1 April 2023	3,198

A2.27 Since the start of the Plan:MK plan period, affordable housing completions has typically not met the Plan:MK target affordable housing target of 31%. However, this is due to a backlog of sites being delivered which were granted permission with lower levels of affordable housing prior to adoption of Plan:MK. Recent data, see Table A2.7, indicates the proportion of homes being delivered as affordable is increasing. For further information about our housing monitoring, visit our Planning Monitoring webpages (link in footnote)²⁷.

Table A2.7: Affordable Housing Provision 2016-2023. Source: MKCC.		
Year	No. of Affordable Units delivered	No. affordable units as a % of Total Housing Completions
2016/17	249	20.1%
2017/18	362	23.7%
2018/19	387	21.7%
2019/20	407	19.5%
2020/21	410	20%
2021/22	619	30.8%
2022/23	676	21.85%

A2.28 In terms of our latest five-year housing land supply data, our most recent assessment as of October 2022 is that we can currently demonstrate that deliverable supply is in place for 6.10 years' worth of deliverable housing land. The report for this calculation, as well as past trends, is available on our website²⁸. As of September 2022, Central Bedfordshire records a land supply of 5.16 years. For the 2021/2022-2025/2026 period, Bedford Borough recorded a land supply of 6.56 years.

²⁷ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/monitoring-data-planning/housing-development-monitoring>

²⁸ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/monitoring-data-planning/five-year-housing-land-supply>

A2.29 The HEDNA²⁹ found that the workplace income to property price ratio in Milton Keynes in 2021 was 9.79. As of 2022, this ratio has fallen to 8.9³⁰. This means, on average, residents in Milton Keynes need 8.9 times the gross annual salary to buy a medium-priced property. This is lower than the workplace income ratios of 9.3 in Bedford but greater than 8.6 in Central Bedfordshire. In addition, the Milton Keynes ratio is above the national average of 8.16 (as of 2022)³¹. This increases the likelihood that Milton Keynes residents will spend a greater proportion of their income on housing and/or spend longer paying off their mortgage.

A2.30 Data gathered by MKCC indicates that homelessness levels in Milton Keynes have decreased since the pandemic. Table A2.8 outlines the number of approaches to MKCC for housing per year since 2018/19, as well as a breakdown of the number of decisions/acceptances made on formal applications for housing and the types of applicants.

Table A2.8: Homelessness approaches to MKCC.							
Year	Approaches made	Decisions made	Acceptances	Single applicants	Single male	Single female	Single not specified
2018/19	2275	633	373	527	330	192	5
2019/20	2581	795	721	856	579	274	3
2020/21	1964	770	584	848	616	223	9
2021/22	1515	470	420	582	387	191	4

Economy and Skills

A2.31 Unemployment in Milton Keynes has seen a significant drop since last year's AMR was published. The current unemployment figure, as of June 2023, is 3.6% compared with 3.4% in June 2022, 5.4% in August 2021 and 1.9% in April 2019. The unemployment rate in Milton Keynes is, as of June 2023, lower than the national rate of 3.7% and higher than the Southeast Midlands rate of 3.5%. Recent figures indicate that Milton Keynes has a lower unemployment rate than Bedford (3.9%) and Luton (5.7%), but higher than Central Bedfordshire (2.2%), North Northamptonshire (3.4%) and West Northamptonshire (3.1%). We publish a report monthly which can be found on our website³². This report highlights the unemployment figures and job availability in Milton Keynes.

²⁹ Milton Keynes City Council Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (2023)

³⁰ <https://www.plumplot.co.uk/Milton-Keynes-salary-and-unemployment.html>

³¹ <https://www.plumplot.co.uk/Milton-Keynes-salary-and-unemployment.html>

³² <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/business/milton-keynes-labour-market-statistics>

A2.32 Table A2.9 shows the claimant count for Milton Keynes and surrounding areas. There were 6,690 individuals in Milton Keynes claiming Universal Credit who were also classed as out of work in June 2023. With a Claimant Count rate of 3.6%, Milton Keynes is lower than the national rate of 3.7%, higher than the SEMLEP rate of 3.5% and higher than the regional rate of 2.8%. However, these figures are all lower than previous years (see our 2020/2021 AMR³³).

Table A2.9: Milton Keynes, Comparators and SEMLEP Claimant Count, June 2023 ³⁴ .						
Area	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Bedford	2,525	4.4	2,055	3.5	4,580	3.9
Central Bedfordshire	2,195	2.4	1,890	2.0	4,085	2.2
Luton	4,620	6.3	3,700	5.1	8,320	5.7
Milton Keynes	3,730	4.1	2,965	3.2	6,690	3.6
North Northamptonshire	4,240	3.8	3,355	3.0	7,595	3.4
West Northampton	4,750	3.5	3,780	2.8	8,530	3.1
South East Midlands	22,065	3.9	17,740	3.1	39,800	3.5
South East	90,525	3.2	72,555	2.5	163,080	2.8
United Kingdom	884,220	4.3	667,675	3.1	1,551,895	3.7

A2.33 Table A2.10 breaks down the claimant count into wards. In June 2023, there were nine wards within MK with rates above the borough average of 3.6%. Levels of unemployment were highest in the wards of Woughton and Fishermead (7.3%), Bletchley East (6.3%) and Central Milton Keynes (6.2%).

Table A2.10: Ward Unemployment in Milton Keynes, June 2023 ³⁵ .		
Area	Total Claimants	
	Number	Rate

³³ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/monitoring-data-planning/authority-monitoring-report>

³⁴ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/business/milton-keynes-labour-market-statistics>

³⁵ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/business/milton-keynes-labour-market-statistics>

Milton Keynes	6,690	3.6
Bletchley East	575	6.3
Bletchley Park	445	5.2
Bletchley West	310	3.7
Bradwell	315	4.0
Broughton	340	2.9
Campbell Park & Old Woughton	270	3.3
Central Milton Keynes	735	6.2
Danesborough & Walton	245	3.0
Loughton & Shenley	235	2.2
Monkston	245	2.7
Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope	140	2.1
Newport Pagnell South	215	3.3
Olney	145	2.3
Shenley Brook End	240	2.7
Stantonbury	450	4.6
Stony Stratford	275	4.0
Tattenhoe	190	2.3
Wolverton	480	4.9
Woughton & Fishermead	840	7.3

A2.34 Based on data published in October 2022, the average salary for the 2021/2022 Tax Year in Milton Keynes was £39.7k. This compares to an equivalent amount in Bedford Borough and £36.5k in Central Bedfordshire. The United Kingdom average is recorded as £40.0k, making the average salary in Milton Keynes slightly below average. However, the median salary in Milton Keynes is £35.2k, compared to £32.1k in Central Bedfordshire, £33.1k in Bedford Borough and a national median salary of £33.0k. This data suggests a larger proportion of the population in Milton Keynes are on salaries

below the average, with a smaller proportion of earners earning significantly more than average, and therefore skewing the average³⁶.

A2.35 The Milton Keynes economy (GDP) was worth £14.03 billion in 2020, this makes the city’s economy larger than that of Leicester, Portsmouth, or Cardiff³⁷. The value of goods and services produced within the borough in 2020 was £73,500 per worker, which is one of the highest in the UK. The Irwin Mitchell UK Powerhouse reports consistently rank Milton Keynes as one of the top UK cities for both existing and forecast growth in employment and Gross Value Added (GVA)³⁸.

A2.36 The gross value added in Milton Keynes in 2019 was 14,027 million pounds, compared to 15,513 million pounds in Buckinghamshire. The part of the Milton Keynes economy with the most GVA was the services sector, worth 12,212 million pounds, followed by “wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles” (3,026 million pounds) and “motor trades” (1,794 million pounds).

A2.37 Table A2.11 shows the total number of jobs available in Milton Keynes from 2014 to 2020. There was a peak of jobs in 2016 and 2019 but it has since fallen in 2020 and 2021. This is mainly due to the pandemic, and a decrease that was expected but not as bad as it could have been. This shows that companies feel Milton Keynes is a good place to create and have a business and that our economic recovery should be a steady one.

Table A2.11: Total number of jobs in Milton Keynes from 2014-2021.³⁹

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Jobs	175,000	189,000	203,000	197,000	198,000	204,000	191,000	196,000
Jobs Density	1.03	1.11	1.19	1.16	1.17	1.21	1.13	1.06

Table A2.12: Occupations in Milton Keynes compared to the Southeast and Great Britain July 2022-June 2023.⁴⁰

Occupation	Milton Keynes Total	Milton Keynes %	Southeast %	Great Britain %
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	17,700	12.5	12.7	10.7
Professional Occupations	38,000	26.8	28.3	26.8

³⁶ <https://www.plumplot.co.uk/Milton-Keynes-salary-and-unemployment.html>

³⁷ <https://www.investmiltonkeynes.co.uk/facts-and-statistics>

³⁸ <https://www.irwinmitchell.com/news-and-insights/in-focus/powerhouse>

³⁹ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157283/report.aspx?town=miltonkeynes#tabempunemp>

⁴⁰ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157283/report.aspx?town=miltonkeynes#tabempunemp>

Associate Prof and Tech Occupations	19,200	13.5	15.7	14.5
Administration and Secretarial Occupations	13,000	9.2	9.4	9.6
Skilled Trades	12,000	8.5	8.2	8.9
Caring, Leisure and Other Services	9,000	6.3	7.4	8.0
Sales and Customer Service	6,200	4.4	5.4	6.1
Processing Plant and Machine Operatives	7,000	4.9	4.2	5.5
Elementary Occupations	18,400	13.0	8.1	9.5
	140,500			

A2.38 Table A2.12 shows the different skilled occupations in Milton Keynes compared to the Southeast region and Great Britain as a whole. Milton Keynes has a higher proportion of skilled trades than within the wider Southeast region, but lower than in Great Britain as a whole. Milton Keynes has a lower proportion of managers, directors, and senior officials than the wider South-East region, but a greater proportion than in Great Britain overall. This is also the case for the proportion of Professionals and Tech occupations. The proportion of administration roles was recorded at below the regional and national averages.

A2.39 The Milton Keynes Local Economic Assessment (2019)⁴¹ noted that in 2017 there were 2,105 new businesses and 1,840 businesses which closed, resulting in a net increase of 265 enterprises that year. This performance followed two prior years of decreasing business “births” each year and an increasing number of business “deaths”. Recent data from 2020 continues this trend. In 2020 there were 1,665 business births compared with 1,910 business deaths. This meant there were 14,235 active businesses at the end of 2020. Reflecting the expected drop in the number of jobs in Milton Keynes in 2020, it is likely the business births/deaths figures were skewed by the pandemic and the restrictions placed on many business operations during it.

A2.40 The percentage of MK residents aged 16-64 with NVQ2+ and NVQ4+ qualifications increased between 2018 and 2021, as shown in Table A2.13. The national average percentage of the working population with NVQ4+ qualifications is provided for comparison.

Table A2.13: The percentage of MK residents aged 16-64 with NVQ2+ and NVQ4+ qualifications and National Average percentage of the working age population with NVQ4+ qualifications by year ^{42,43} .				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
MK % with NVQ2+	75.6	76.8	77	78.9
MK % with NVQ4+	39.6	43.9	40.7	43.4
National Average % with NVQ4+	39.2	40.2	43	45.1

A2.41 Table A2.14 sets out the percentage of students in MK (and nationally) achieving between grades 4-9 (previously C-A*) at GCSE, between 2018 and 2021. As shown, attainment rates have been increasing in Milton Keynes as they have been nationally, although attainment in Milton Keynes is below the national average. For comparison, attainment rates in Northampton and Luton are 73.31% and 64.83% respectively.

⁴¹ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/business/local-economic-assessment-2019>

⁴² <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/apsnew>

⁴³ <https://www.centreforcities.org/data-tool/#graph=map&city=show-all>

Table A2.14: The percentage of pupils achieving 9-4 grades in Maths and English at GCSE in Milton Keynes and the National Average by year⁴⁴

	2018	2019	2020	2021
MK %	60.3	61.51	66.59	69.5
National Average %	64.4	64.89	71.23	72.2

Transport

A2.42 Data from the 2021 Census showed that 36.4% of people aged 16 years or over in employment in the MK local authority area work mainly at or from home. In neighbouring authorities, this figure was 31.4% in Bedford, 36.5% in Central Bedfordshire, 41.1% in Buckinghamshire, 23.6% in North Northamptonshire, and 29.1% in West Northamptonshire⁴⁵. Table A2.15 below shows the breakdown of the methods used to travel to a workplace in MK, as recorded in the 2021 Census. It is likely that these figures were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in an increased number of people working from home or furloughed. Census 2021 travel to work data does not include figures for people who work from home but use other transport for their employment.

Table A2.15: Method used to travel to a workplace by percentage of population in MK. 2021 Census data⁴⁶.

Method of travel to workplace	Observation
Work mainly at or from home	18.18%
Underground, metro, light rail, tram	0.08%
Train	0.67%
Bus, minibus, or coach	1.58%
Taxi	0.99%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	0.16%
Driving a car or van	21.85%

⁴⁴ <https://www.centreforcities.org/data-tool/#graph=map&city=show-all>

⁴⁵

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/traveltoworkenglandandwales/census2021>

⁴⁶ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS061/editions/2021/versions/1>

Passenger in a car or van	2.43%
Bicycle	0.98%
On foot	0.49%
Other method of travel	0.49%
Not in employment or aged 15 years and under	50%

A2.43 In accordance with national trends, the most frequently used method to travel to work in MK was by driving a car or van. The data above should be used with care and not fully relied upon for planning purposes, given the period of rapid change in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of people furloughed at the time may have impacted on this data⁴⁷.

A2.44 Table A2.16 shows the 2021 Census estimations of residents ages 16 years and over in employment by the distance they travelled to work, within MK and neighbouring authorities.

Table A2.16: Distance travelled to work⁴⁸ by percentage of residents aged 16 and over in employment, in MK and neighbouring authorities. 2021 Census data⁴⁹.

Distance travelled to work	MK	Bedford	Central Beds	Bucks	North Northants	West Northants
Does not apply	53.13%	50.94%	48.66%	50.6%	54%	49.26%
Less than 2km	4.64%	5.78%	4.43%	4.13%	6.56%	5.28%
2km to less than 5km	8.35%	7.4%	3.44%	3.71%	7.13%	7.32%

⁴⁷

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/traveltoworkenglandandwales/census2021#strengths-and-limitations>

⁴⁸ The distance, in kilometres, between a person's residential postcode and their workplace postcode measured in a straight line. A distance travelled of 0.1km indicates that the workplace postcode is the same as the residential postcode. Distances over 1200km are treated as invalid, and an imputed or estimated value is added.

⁴⁹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS058/editions/2021/versions/1>

5km to less than 10km	7.85%	3.75%	4.13%	3.79%	5.72%	5.68%
10km to less than 20km	2.58%	4.44%	6.69%	4.65%	7.65%	4.79%
20km to less than 30km	1.67%	2.85%	3.09%	2.82%	3.27%	2.92%
30km to less than 40km	0.54%	0.85%	1.53%	1.49%	1.32%	1.12%
40km to less than 60km	0.67%	0.71%	1.58%	1.29%	0.77%	0.79%
60km and over	1.27%	1.19%	0.8%	0.49%	0.99%	1%
Works mainly from home	19.3%	15.42%	17.72%	20.28%	12.6%	14.75%
Works mainly at an offshore installation, in no fixed place, or outside the UK	6.15%	6.66%	7.94%	6.75%	7.46%	7.07%
Total	270,424	185,224	294,252	553,078	334,555	425,724

A2.45 We have some data on bicycle use and amount of pedestrian travel in the MK borough. Installation of walking and cycling counters at 10 locations around MK has enabled the recording of pedestrian and cyclist counts and a proxy measure for active travel in Milton Keynes. Table A2.17 compares the overall counts for pedestrians and cyclists in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. The trends are mixed depending on the location. It is likely the data for 2020-2021 was influenced by the pandemic and associated restrictions on travel to workplaces.

	2019-2020	2020-2021	Difference
H6 Willen	546,043	796,154	+250,111
V7 North CMK	381,548	216,938	-164,610
Railway Walk V10	143,536	216,074	+72,538
V7 South CMK	236,372	189,619	-46,753
Monkston V11	132,821	174,395	+41,574

V7 Bletchley	149,842	134,784	-15,058
Kiln Farm V4	113,945	125,490	+11,545
Far Bletchley V2/H8	90,760	125,375	+34,615
Peartree Lane	119,712	115,294	-4,418
MK Central (cyclists only)	92,051	54,476	-37,575

A2.46 Table A2.18 highlights data from the same walking and cycling counters for the periods of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Each data set is taken from 1 April – 31 March of the respective year.

Table A2.18: Comparison of Overall Pedestrian and Cyclist Counts in MK 2021-2023. MKCC Transport Policy Team.			
	2021-2022	2022-2023	Difference
H6 Willen	615,651	498,870	-116,781
V7 North CMK	288,215	298,814	+10,599
Railway Walk V10	215,163	169,925	-45,238
V7 South CMK	231,125	223,448	-7,677
Monkston V11	152,374	158,249	+5,875
V7 Bletchley	147,531	174,875	+27,344
Kiln Farm V4	113,870	251,419	+137,549
Far Bletchley V2/H8	115,719	107,958	-7,761
Peartree Lane	117,132	95,764	-21,368
MK Central (cyclists only)	53,447	59,157	+5,710

A2.47 Regarding public transport, most bus services operate at intervals of 15 to 60 minutes during the daytime (excluding occasional or peak only services). In some parts of the city, services come together to provide higher combined frequencies as follows:

- Services 1 and 2 to provide 15-minute frequency (Newport Pagnell – CMK)
- Services 5 and 6 to provide 10-minute frequency (Wolverton – CMK – Bletchley)
- Services 3 and 8 to provide 10-minute frequency (Westcroft – CMK)

Overall frequencies across the network are illustrated in Figure A2.14:

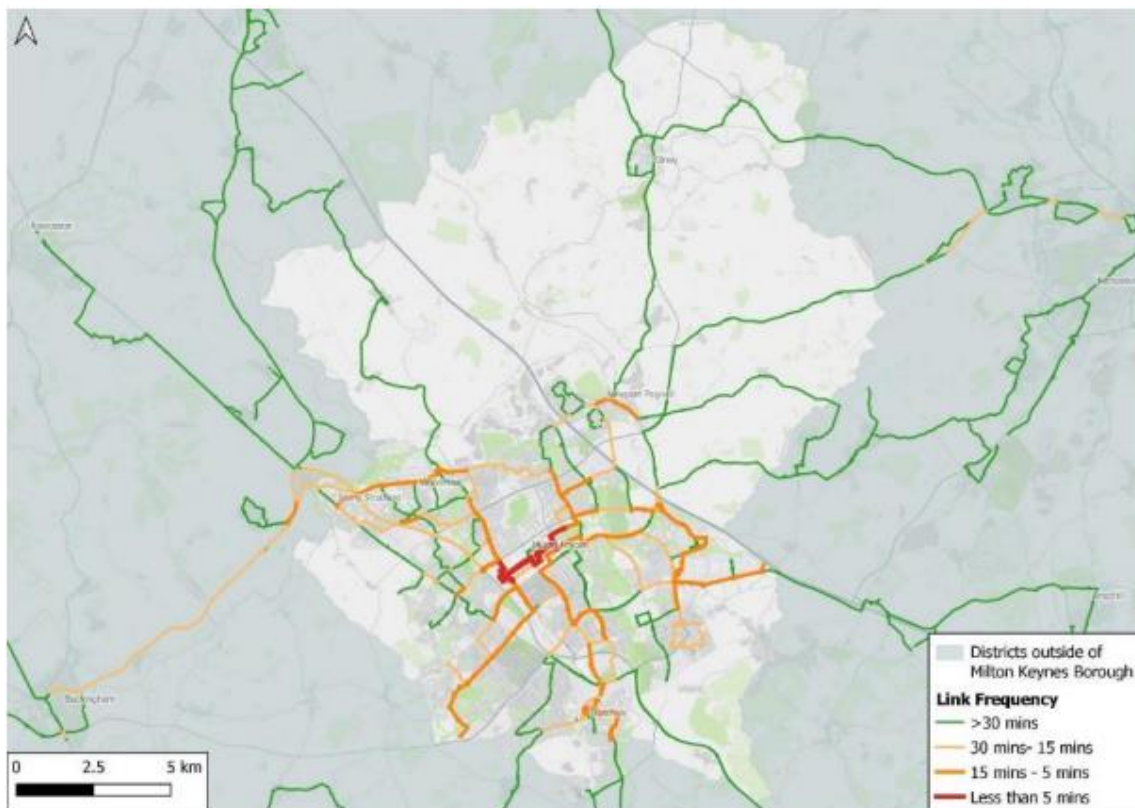


Figure A2.14: Frequencies of bus services across the MK Borough⁵⁰

A2.48 According to the MK Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) report (November 2022), usage of MK Connect services consisted of 5,300 passenger journeys per week in September 2021, representing an average of 3.1 passenger journeys per vehicle per hour⁵¹. Bus patronage was observed to grow significantly since 2001 and between 2009/10 to 2015/16 this grew by a further 25%. This may have been partly due to the growth of the city's population and new employment opportunities created by the opening of distribution hubs. However, given that usage per head of population also rose by over 13% during the same latter period, it suggests that there was generally increased usage during this time.

A2.49 Since then, patronage has declined, with a fall of 1.3 million journeys between 2015/16 and 2018/19. Indeed, total passenger journeys in 2019 were lower than in 2010. Along with the recent decline in overall use there has been a fall in the average number of passenger journeys per head. The general decline in recent years has been similar to that in many parts of the country, reflecting rising car usage, moves to greater use of online services and shopping and continued erosion of bus services. Unlike some local authorities, MKC continued to support a substantial number of bus services through this period, including evening and Sunday provision, until their replacement by MK Connect in 2021⁵².

⁵⁰ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways/bus-rail-and-taxis/mk-bus-partnership>

⁵¹ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways/bus-rail-and-taxis/mk-bus-partnership>

⁵² <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways/bus-rail-and-taxis/mk-bus-partnership>

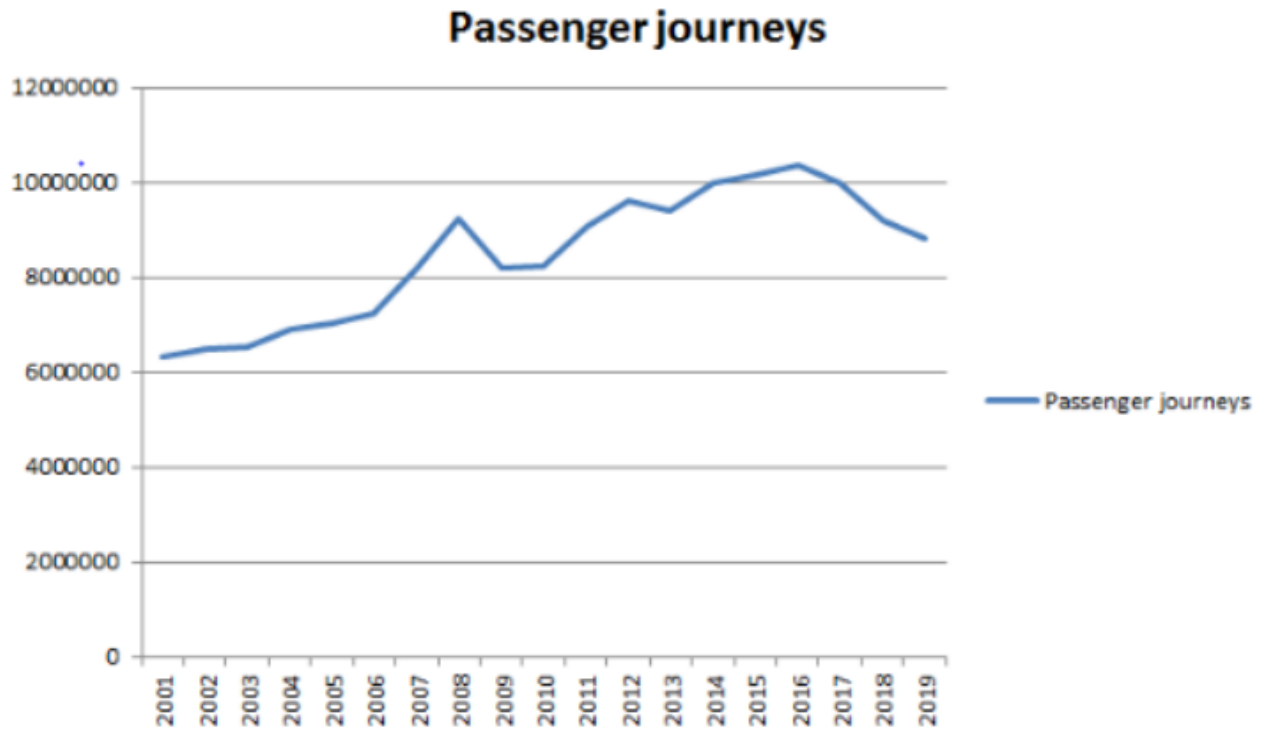


Figure A2.15: Passenger journeys from 2001-2019

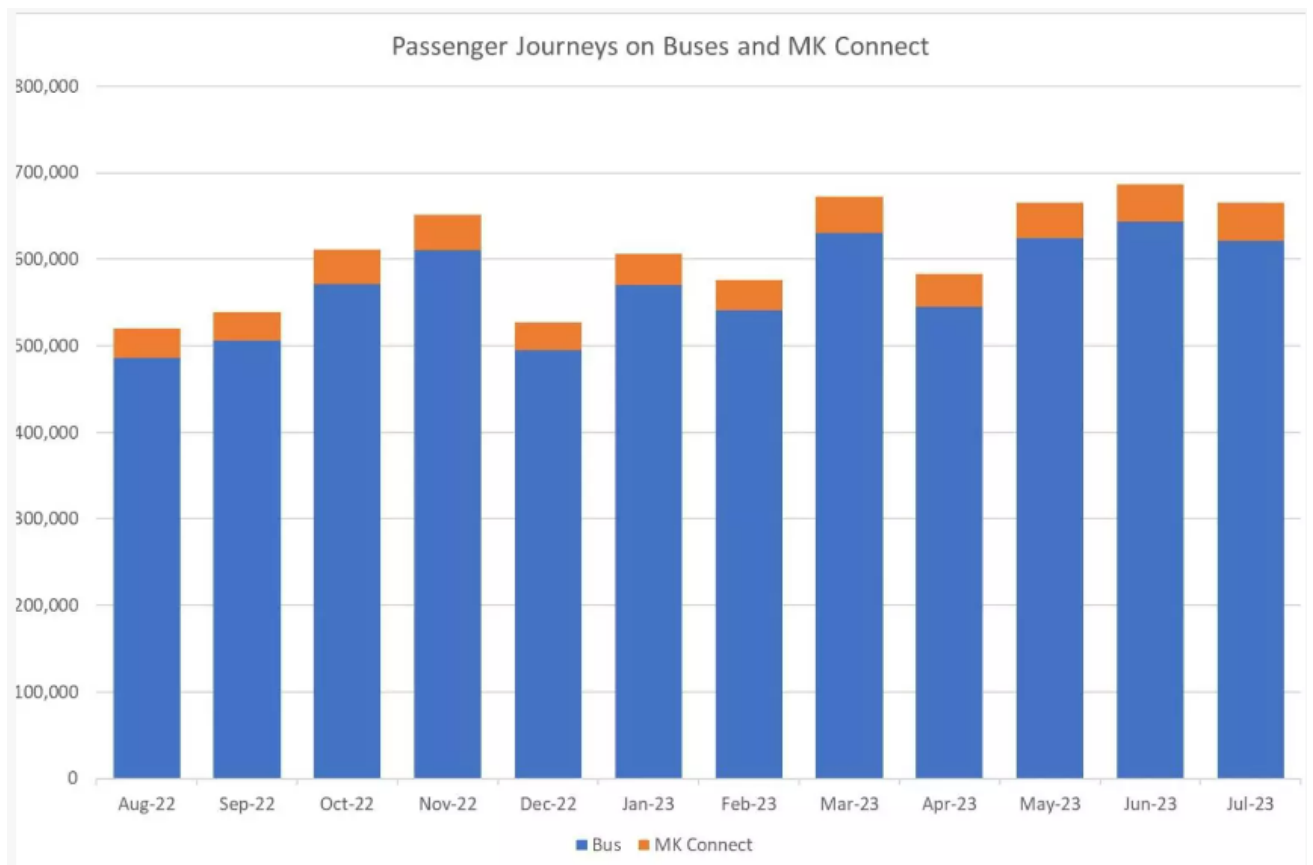


Figure A2.16: Passenger Journeys on Buses and MK Connect. August 2022-July 2023.⁵³

A2.50 In 2018/19, there were 32 passenger journeys per head of population. Whilst this is significantly higher than more rural authorities (which it should be given that much of its area is urban), it is below the average for the South East (38) and well behind levels of use seen in traditional urban areas, such as Leicester (75) and Nottingham (147). Equally, it is lower than other expanding urban areas, such as Peterborough (47) and Swindon (54). This reflects the high car ownership and use in Milton Keynes and the difficulties for bus to perform well where population densities are lower than traditional centres.

A2.51 Car ownership is high in MK, with 82.9% of households owning 1 or more cars or vans, according to 2021 Census data⁵⁴.

A2.52 In terms of the density of bus services in MK, the BSIP report found that over two-thirds of the MK population resides within 400m of bus services that provide at least a half-hourly service. 39% of the total population is served by the two key North-South and East-West corridors. This level of potential demand provides a justification for targeting these routes for improvement.

⁵³ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways/bus-rail-and-taxis/public-transport-insights>

⁵⁴ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/housing/number-of-cars-or-vans/number-of-cars-3a/1-or-more-cars-or-vans-in-household>

Table A2.19: Percentage of population within 400m of bus services in MK.	
Service type	% of population within 400m
Key North-South/East-West corridors	39%
Half hourly or better bus services	69%
All regular services	79%

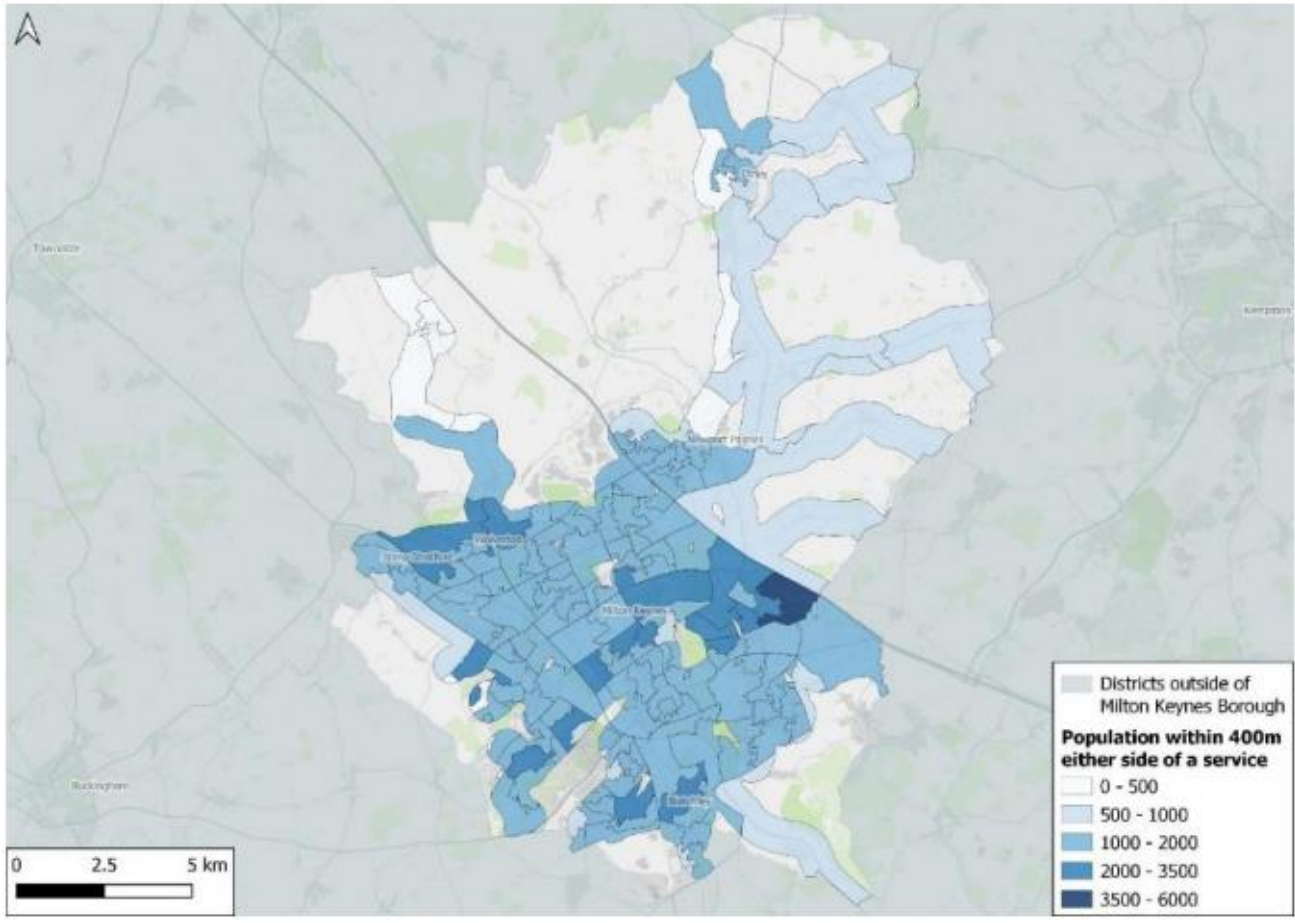


Figure A2.17: Population within 400m either side of a bus service. MK BSIP (2022).

A2.53 Since 2015, Milton Keynes has pioneered the use of ‘Starship’ delivery robots for grocery and food delivery. Table A2.20 shows the cumulative reduction in CO₂⁵⁵ and vehicle miles as a result of the Starship scheme, as of September 2023.

Table A2.20: Cumulative data from ‘Starship’ delivery robots in Milton Keynes, as of September 2023. MKCC Economic Development.	
Variable	Value

⁵⁵ The CO₂ calculation reflects the amount of kg CO₂ that would have been emitted, had a customer used a vehicle with a traditional combustion engine to transport their goods instead.

Miles Driven	1430906
Reduction in CO2 in kg	396540
Reduction in Vehicle Miles	1001672
Households Served	87324

Historic Environment and Heritage

A2.54 As of October 2022, there were 27 Conservation Areas, 1113 Listed Buildings and 49 Scheduled Monuments (SMs) in Milton Keynes. There is also a high number of Archaeological Notification Sites (ANS) in the borough, particularly in areas outside the city boundary. Figures A2.18-A2.21 show the spatial distribution of ANS, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, and SMs in the MKCC area. As shown, all types of heritage assets can be found within the New Town part of the city, as well as areas that pre-date the New Town.

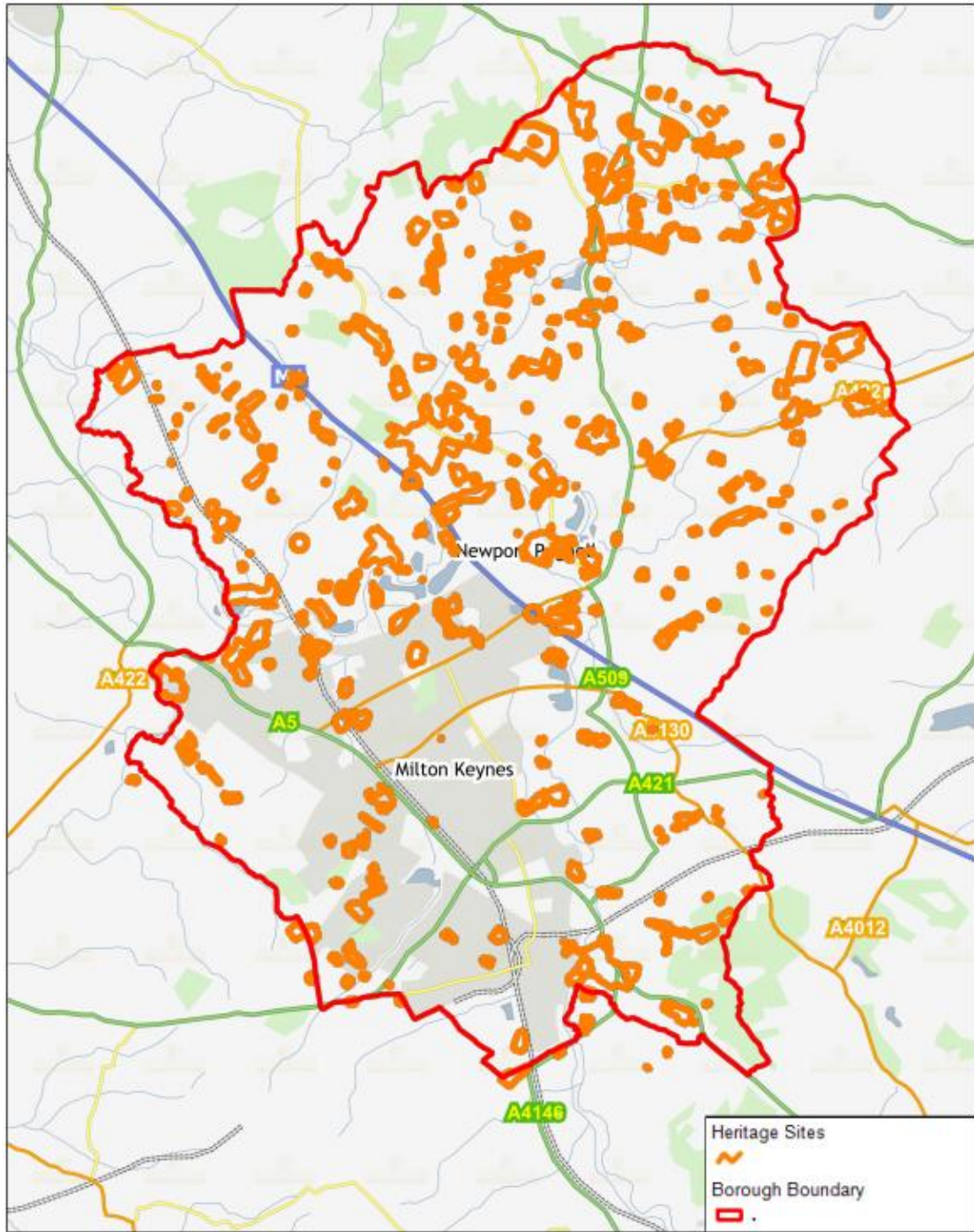


Figure A2.18: Location of Archaeological Notification Sites in Milton Keynes.

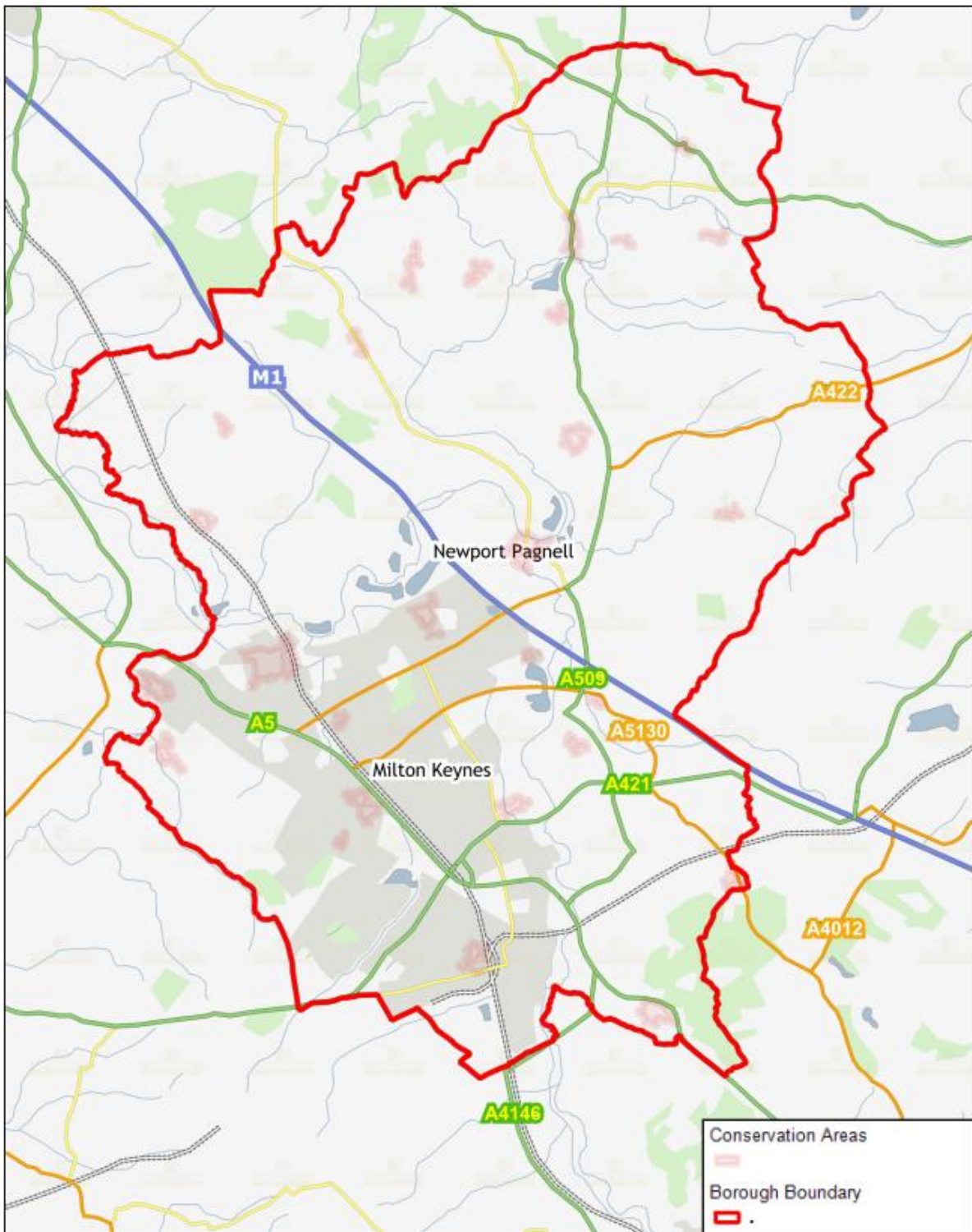


Figure A2.19: Location of Conservation Areas in Milton Keynes.

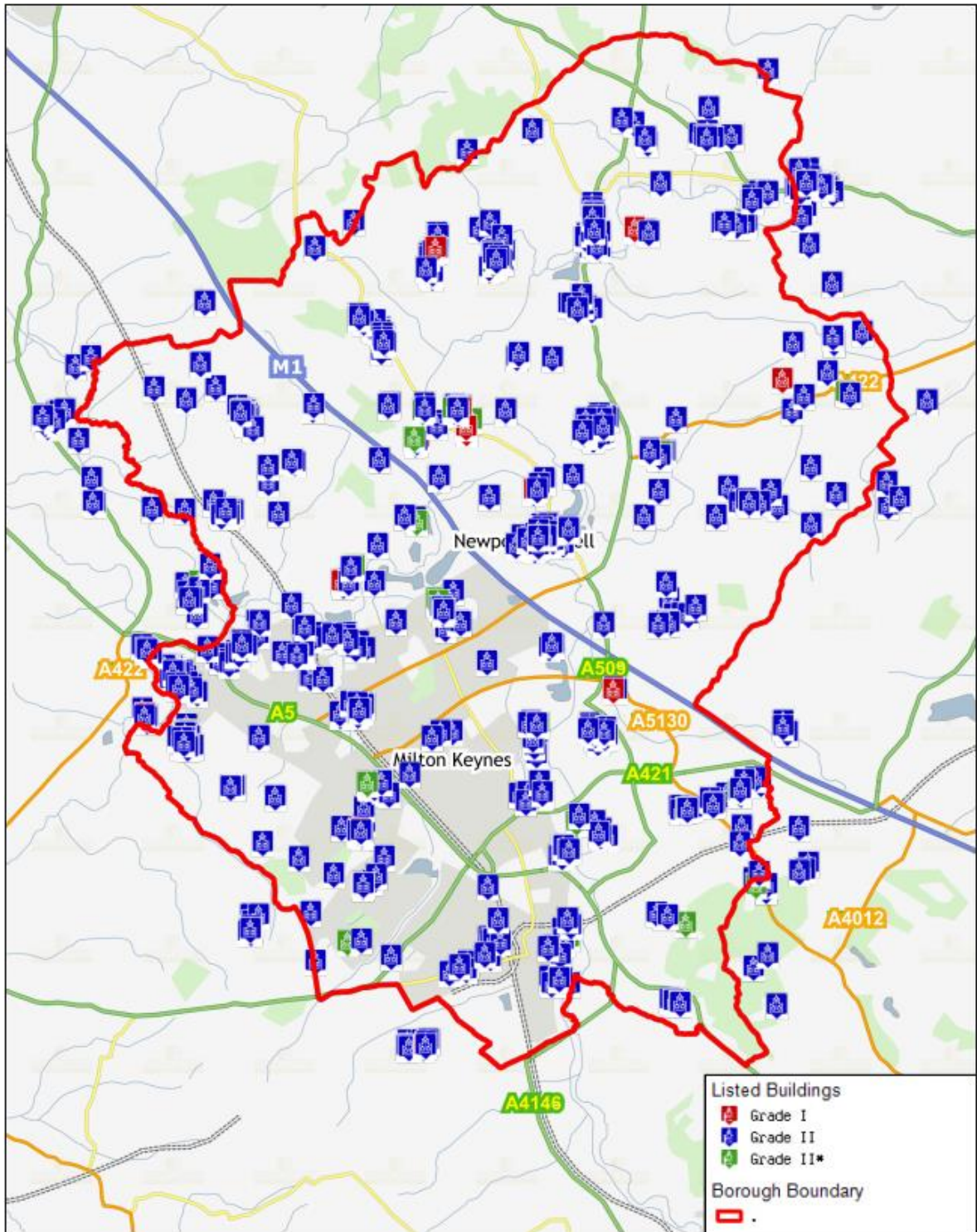


Figure A2.20: Location of Listed Buildings in Milton Keynes.

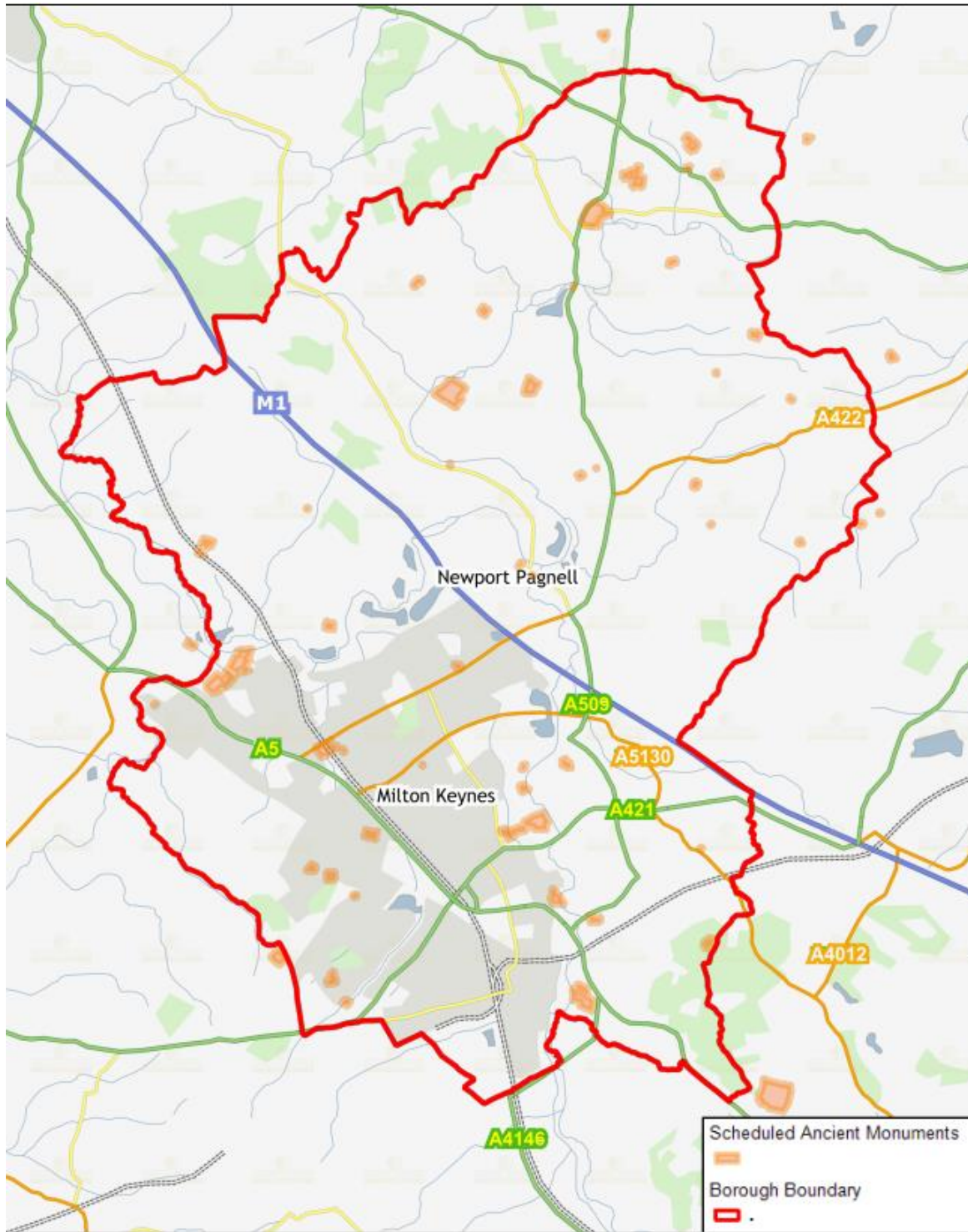


Figure A2.21: Location of Scheduled Monuments in Milton Keynes.

A2.55 The September 2023 version of the Heritage at Risk Register lists 22 heritage assets that are at risk (a slight increase from 21 recorded in 2022, but a reduction from 31 in 2021). Each asset is assigned a risk rating, reflecting the varying degrees of risk of further degradation to the asset, ranging from 'A - immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed' through to 'F – repair scheme in progress and (where applicable) end use or user identified; functionally redundant

buildings with new use agreed but not yet implemented’. Amongst the assets reported as removed since the 2021 report are significant assets such as the Bradwell Abbey farmhouse (see below) which has yielded significant finds in the process of conservation. These include previously hidden 15th Century walls within the structure.

Water, Pollution and Climate Change

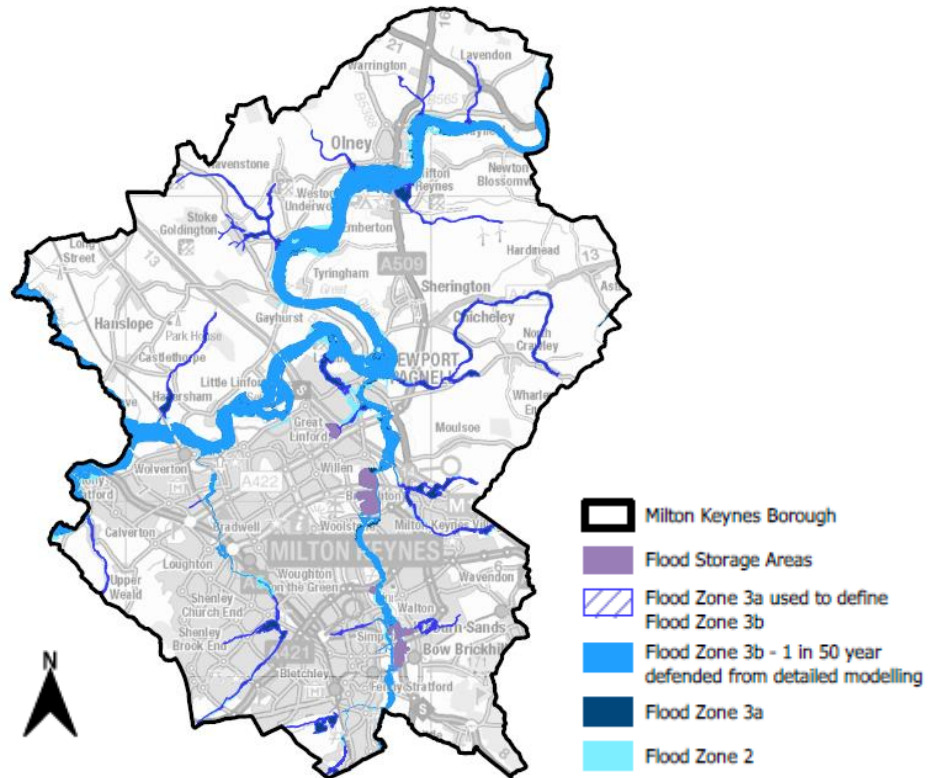


Figure A2.22: Extent of Flood Zones 2 and 3 in Milton Keynes (MKCC SFRA)

A2.56 Figure A2.22 shows the extent of Flood Zones 2 and 3 within the MKCC area⁵⁶.

A2.57 Most areas within the MKCC area that are susceptible to flooding are adjacent to the River Ouse and River Ouzel, and tributaries to these rivers such as Loughton Brook and the River Tove. The historic approach to managing flood risk within the city has been to surround these rivers and brooks with public open spaces, such as linear parks, which act as floodplains. This approach reduces the chances of surrounding built up areas flooding. The linear park network also includes a system of balancing lakes which provide additional capacity during times of high rainfall. Willen Lake and Caldecotte Lake are examples of these.

A2.58 Most of the drinking water supplied to Milton Keynes comes from Grafham Water in Cambridgeshire. Milton Keynes falls within the Ruthamford South water resource zone. The Milton Keynes Water Cycle Study (2018)⁵⁷ written to support Plan:MK stated that

⁵⁶ MKCC Level 1 SFRA Report

⁵⁷ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/planmk-evidence-base>

the zone “is predicted to have a baseline supply-demand deficit of 10.82 MI/d (during the Dry Year Annual Average) by the end of AMP9 (2034/35) and a deficit of 18.04 MI/d by 2040”. Recent data published in the Draft Regional Water Resources Plan for Eastern England (November 2022) by Water Resources East states that water use continues to rise and, if urgent action is not taken to solve this issue, demand will exceed supply within years rather than decades⁵⁸. Note that the 2018 MKCC Water Cycle Study will be replaced in due course by a new study supporting the Milton Keynes City Plan 2050. Any up-to-date statistics shall be picked up at later stages of the SA process.

A2.59 The Environment Agency’s (EA) Catchment Data Explorer provides information on the quality of water bodies within Milton Keynes that the EA is responsible for managing. Milton Keynes falls within the Upper Ouse and Bedford management catchment, and this is split into five separate operational catchments. Milton Keynes is in three of these operational catchments: the Great Ouse Upper catchment, the Ouzel and Milton Keynes catchment and the Great Ouse Bedford catchment. The status for rivers in the MKCC area, and rivers with part of their catchment in the MKCC area, are shown in Table A2.21 and provide a benchmark for future analysis of water quality in these watercourses. As the data shows, all water bodies located in or within catchment areas in the MKCC area are classed as ‘Fail’ for the overall chemical status tests. Some, but not all, water bodies were rated ‘poor’ for water ecological status tests.

Table A2.21: Water Quality in Water Bodies in MKCC area in 2019. Source: Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer⁵⁹.

Management Catchment	Operational Catchment	Water Body ID	Water Body Name	Type	Modified Waters Designation	Overall Water Body Class	Ecological Class	Chemical Class
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037840	Newton Longville Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Poor	Poor	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033037870	Weald Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033037910	Deanshanger Brook	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037900	Loughton Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033037920	Ouse (Buckingham to Cosgrove)	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037930	Broughton Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Poor	Poor	Fail

⁵⁸ <https://wre.org.uk/the-draft-regional-plan/>

⁵⁹ <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/>

Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037971	Ouzel US Caldecote Mill	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037972	Ouzel DS Caldecote Mill	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033037990	Potterspurty Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033038000	Ouse (Wolverton to Newport Pagnell)	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Bedford	GB105033038040	Chicheley Brook	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Poor	Poor	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033038070	Tathall Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Bedford	GB105033038140	Bromham Brook	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Bedford	GB105033038160	Ravenstone Brook	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033038180	Tove (DS Greens Norton)	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Bedford	GB105033047923	Ouse (Newport Pagnell to Roxton)	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037630	Clipstone Brook Tributary	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Good	Fail

A2.60 Every year we publish an Air Quality Annual Status Report. The pollutant of most concern in the MKCC area is nitrogen dioxide, a product of internal combustion engines in road traffic. This year's report (based on 2021 data) shows a continued slight downward trend in nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀) levels at the Civic Offices, Newport Pagnell, and Olney air monitoring stations. Annual Mean PM_{2.5} levels in 2021 (7.88 µg/m³) were higher than in 2020 (7.56 µg/m³), but lower than in 2019 (11.2 µg/m³). The nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀ results in Olney are further evidence supporting an end to the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in the centre of the town. For comparison, Milton Keynes tends not to have as much air pollution (although it does still occur) as neighbouring authorities. Bedford Town Centre is subject to a

continuing AQMA⁶⁰. Central Bedfordshire has four AQMAs in Dunstable, Sandy (x2) and Ampthill⁶¹, and Buckinghamshire has 9 AQMAs⁶².

A2.61 Between 1 April 2022 and 31st March 2023, we received 2,462 noise complaints. In many cases the Planning system cannot influence noise sources. For example, planning decisions cannot help to resolve complaints received about barking dogs. However, Table A2.22 sets out the number of recorded complaints from types of noises that may be influenced through careful design in development and construction management.

Table A2.22: Number of complaints relating to noises that may be influenced by the planning system (2022/23). MKCC Environmental Health.	
Noise Source	Number of Complaints
Machinery (fixed) e.g., fans, boiler	34
Plant/machinery (mobile) e.g., construction	150
People	476
Music	642
Party	148
TV/Radio	38
Vehicles	122
Vehicle Repair	21

A2.62 Within the same period (1 April 2022-31 March 2023), we received 33 light nuisance complaints.

A2.63 The Centre of Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS) released a Place-Based Carbon Calculator (PBCC) in 2021⁶³. This provides average (per person) carbon footprint data for each Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the MKCC area, as well as allowing comparison of the MKCC area’s overall performance against England as a whole.

A2.64 The overall carbon footprint of Milton Keynes, as calculated by the most recent version of the PBCC (last updated 8 September 2022), was 9,802.8 kgCO₂e per person. This is higher than the average England carbon footprint of 8,318.8 kgCO₂e per person. When first released, the PBCC used a 2018 base year, as some datasets used to create

⁶⁰ <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/noise-nuisances-and-pollution/air-quality/air-quality-overview>

⁶¹ https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/52/types_of_pollution/292/air_quality/3

⁶² <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/environment/air-and-water-quality/air-quality-status-report-2021/>

⁶³ <https://www.carbon.place/>

the calculator did not have later data. Since then, updates have taken place and the per person carbon footprint has increased from the levels reported in our 2020-2021 AMR (9,198.8 kgCO₂e). However, it is not clear if the base year has been changed to a more recent year. We have approached the CREDS team for clarity on this. For comparison, the per person carbon footprints in Bedford Borough, Aylesbury Vale and Central Bedfordshire were 9,284.7 kgCO₂e, 10,929 kgCO₂e, and 9,726.6 kgCO₂e respectively.

A2.65 Table A2.23 shows the LSOAs in the MKCC area with the highest and lowest rated carbon footprints. Notably, the highest per person carbon footprint is 6.2 times higher than the lowest per person carbon footprint. By applying current planning policies and other council initiatives we plan to reduce emissions in all LSOAs. However, lower than average carbon emissions in an area does not necessarily mean that area is sustainable overall. The LSOAs in Woughton and Fishermead and Bletchley East rank among some of the most deprived areas in the MKCC area (in terms of IMD). It is well documented that people in less deprived areas tend to have higher carbon emissions, due to higher rates of resource consumption⁶⁴.

Table A2.23: LSOAs with the lowest 1% and highest 1% of carbon footprints in the borough. Data source: CREDS.		
LSOA Code	General Area	Carbon Footprint (kgCO ₂ e per person)
Lowest		
E01016845	Woughton and Fishermead	2,960
E01016743	Bletchley East	2,870
Highest		
E01016833	Bletchley Park	17,800
E01016792	Newport Pagnell South	16,900
E01016802	Olney	17,600

A2.66 Table A2.24 shows carbon dioxide emissions trends in Milton Keynes between 2016 and 2020. As the data indicates, there has been a gradual downward trend in emissions. However, the significant emissions reduction seen in 2020 was likely a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is possible that emissions data for 2021 and 2022 (when available) may rise to a level higher than seen in 2019.

Table A2.24: Carbon dioxide emissions in Milton Keynes 2016-2020 (measured in kilotonnes of CO ₂) ⁶⁵ . Source: ONS.	
	Year

⁶⁴ <https://theconversation.com/emissions-inequality-there-is-a-gulf-between-global-rich-and-poor-113804/>

⁶⁵ Note, this dataset distinguishes between emissions estimates within the scope of local authorities (excluding large industrial sites, railways and motorways, and non-planning influenced land-use changes such as woodland to wetland) and estimates including such data. Data in this table excludes emissions outside the MKC's scope.

Emissions Source	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Industry Electricity	94.7	84.9	76.4	66.7	52.8
Industry Gas	43.3	48	44.1	49.2	54.8
Large Industrial Installations	0	0	0	0	0
Industry 'Other'	35.5	37.1	37	34.4	33.3
Industry Total	173.5	170	157.5	150.2	140.9
Commercial Electricity	154.4	133.6	119.9	102.9	77.6
Commercial Gas	54.9	61.7	62.3	57.5	55.7
Commercial 'Other'	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.6
Commercial Total	210.4	196.5	183.4	161.5	133.9
Public Sector Electricity	38	32.7	29.5	25.4	20.3
Public Sector Gas	24	23.1	24.7	23.9	24.4
Public Sector 'Other'	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3
Public Sector Total	62.4	56.4	54.9	49.8	44.9
Domestic Electricity	118.5	102.9	93.6	83.7	80.5
Domestic Gas	249.1	239.6	240	240.5	243.2
Domestic 'Other'	17.7	17.7	18	17	17.2
Domestic Total	385.3	360.2	351.7	341.2	341
Road Transport (A roads)	162.7	164.7	155	154	118

Road Transport (Minor roads)	270.8	258.7	254.5	254.9	213.7
Transport 'Other'	2.9	2.9	2.9	3	2.6
Transport Total	436.4	426.3	412.4	411.8	334.3
Agriculture Electricity	1.3	1.2	1.2	0.9	2.8
Agriculture Gas	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Agriculture 'Other'	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Agriculture Total	6.4	6.2	6.2	6	7.9
Waste Management 'Other'	0	0	0	0	0
Waste Management Total	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	1,274.30	1,215.60	1,166.00	1,120.60	1,002.90

A2.67 Policy SC1 (Sustainable Construction) in Plan:MK seeks to reduce emissions coming from the operation of new dwellings and buildings. In the 2021-2022 monitoring year, out of the 285 planning applications that were assessed against Policy SC1, 3 were refused. This equals a 98.95% approval rating.

Natural Environment and Biodiversity

A2.68 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are notable for their national geological and/or biodiversity importance. There are currently three SSSIs (wholly or partially) in the MKCC area. In comparison, there are 65 SSSIs in Buckinghamshire, 42 in Bedfordshire (including Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire), and 57 across the Northamptonshire authority areas⁶⁶.

A2.69 Natural England's objective is to achieve 'favourable condition' status for all SSSIs. As of 13 April 2022, the status of the sites in Milton Keynes are as follows:

- a. Howe Park Wood SSSI, located near Tattenhoe and managed by The Parks Trust, was last assessed on 22/07/2020 and was rated 'favourable'.

⁶⁶ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>

- b. Oxley Mead SSSI, namesake for the Oxley Park estate surrounding it and managed by The Parks Trust, was last assessed on 04/06/2008 and was rated 'favourable'.
- c. Yardley Chase SSSI is partly situated in Milton Keynes with the rest in Northamptonshire. It is near Ravenstone and Olney. The 13 different habitat areas in the SSSI were last assessed on various dates between 2011 and 2017, with two areas being rated as 'favourable' and the other 11 being rated as 'unfavourable – recovering'. In the 2020/2021 AMR one of these areas was incorrectly identified as 'unfavourable - recovering', hence the update.

A2.70 There is one nature reserve in the MKCC area: the Blue Lagoon near Bletchley.

A2.71 Ramsar Sites are wetlands of international importance that have been designated under the criteria of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands⁶⁷ for containing representative, rare, or unique wetland types or for their importance in conserving biological diversity. There are no Ramsar sites in Milton Keynes. Neither Buckinghamshire nor Bedfordshire feature Ramsar sites. However, there is one Ramsar site in Northamptonshire at the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits⁶⁸.

A2.72 There are a wide range of wildlife sites within the MKCC area and can be separated into the following categories: Priority Habitats, Local Wildlife Sites and Biological Notification Sites. For baseline purposes, as of April 2022 the total areas of these different types of sites are as listed below. Note that the site areas counted are clipped to the MKCC area boundary; the data doesn't include any part of an area that extends beyond the boundary.

- d. Priority Habitats: 510.428 hectares.
- e. Local Wildlife Sites: 766.47 hectares.
- f. Biological Notification Sites: 987.215

⁶⁷ <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ramsar-convention/#:~:text=Ramsar%20Sites%20are%20wetlands%20of,importance%20in%20conserving%20biological%20diversity>

⁶⁸ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>

A2.73 Figure A2.23 shows the distribution of various wildlife sites around the borough.

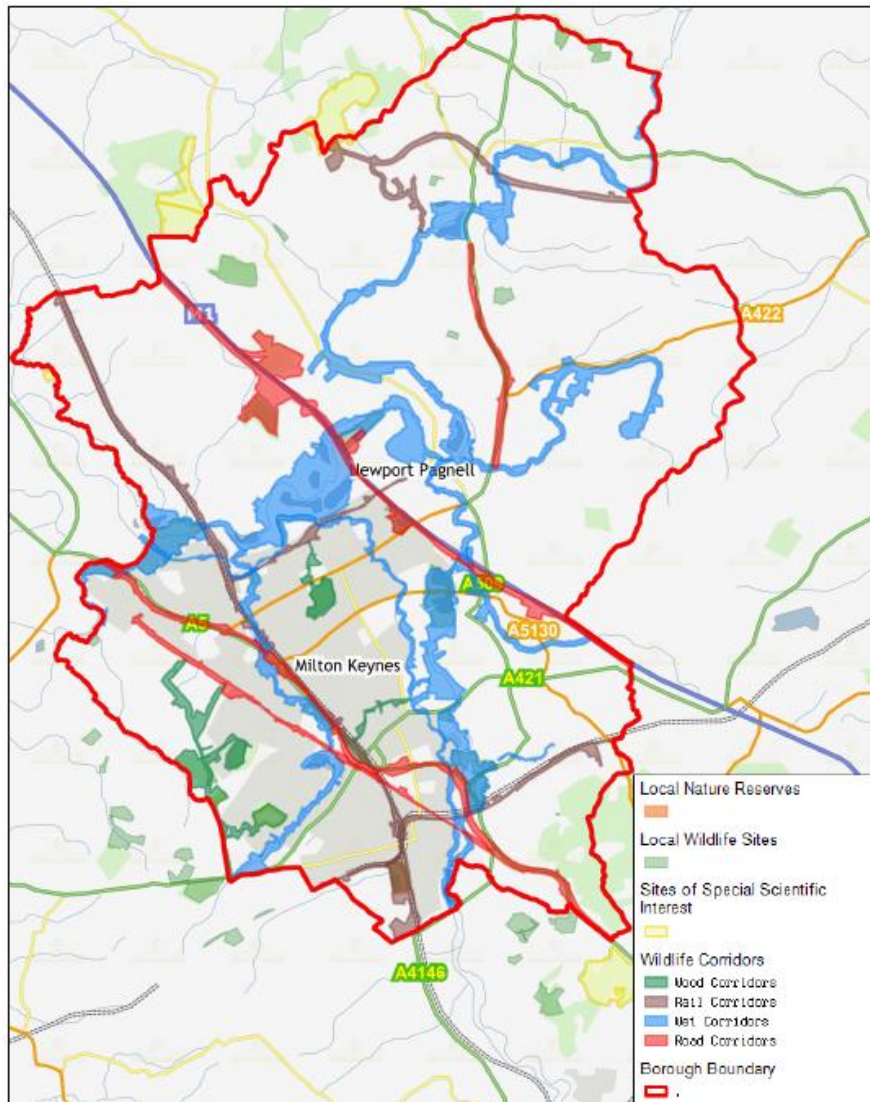


Figure A2.23: Distribution of Different Types of Wildlife Sites in Milton Keynes.

Minerals

A2.74 There are currently three minerals extraction sites active in the MKCC area. These are located near Weston Underwood (building stone), Lathbury (sand and gravel) and Passenham (sand and gravel). Figure A2.24 shows the locations of building stone, sand, and gravel minerals site allocations and Primary and Secondary Minerals Focus Areas.

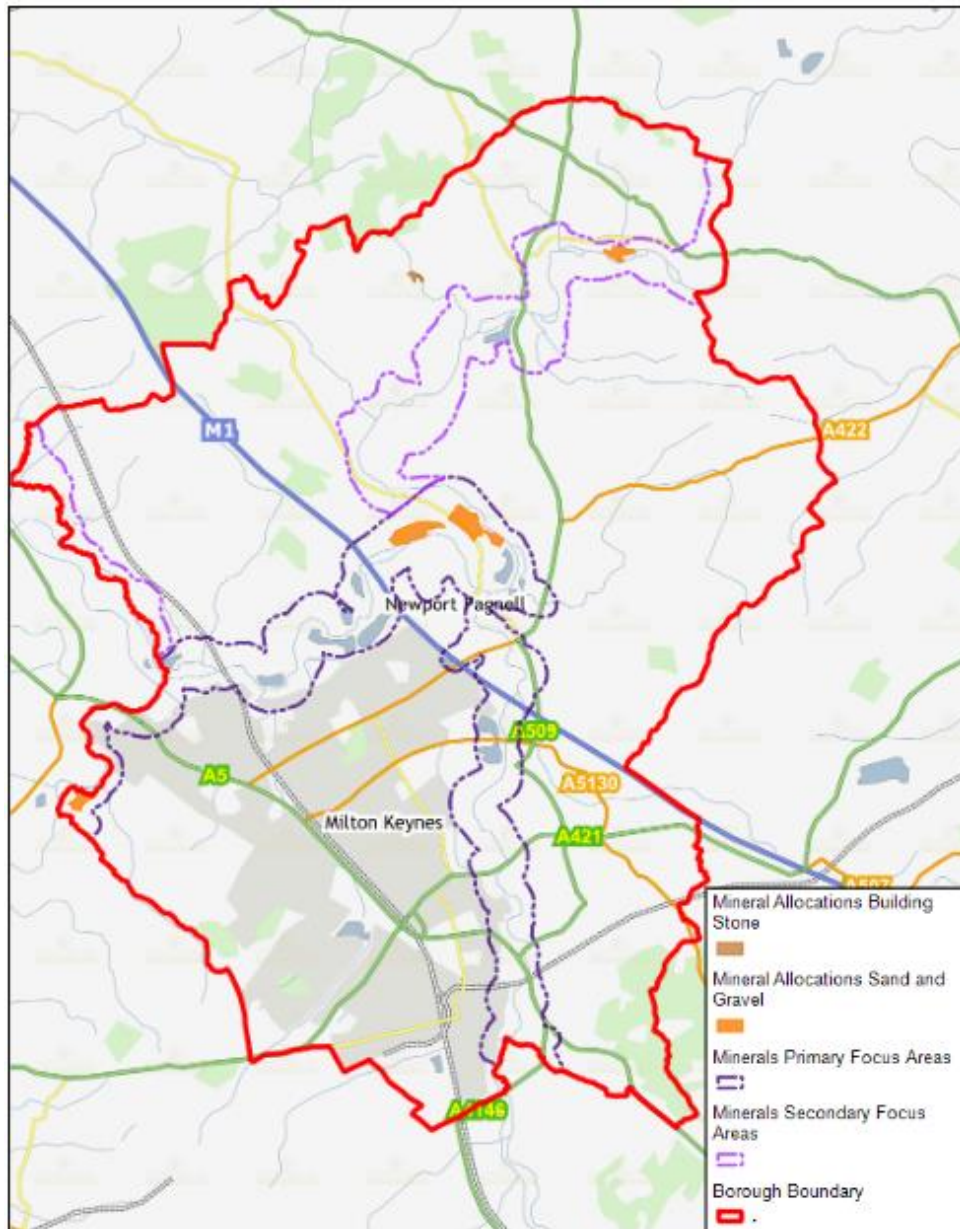


Figure A2.24: Location of Mineral Allocations and Focus Areas in Milton Keynes

Waste

A2.75 As outlined in Table A2.25, for the monitoring period 2021/22, the residual waste per household figure was 501.84kg. This is part of a rising trend over the past three years. It is likely to have been caused by continuing consumption of packed food, fresh food, and food delivery since the pandemic started. Another reason for the increased waste generation is likely to have been the periods of lockdowns and extended change of

working arrangements where more people had been working from home compared to pre-pandemic monitoring years.

Table A2.25: Residual Waste per household in Milton Keynes 2018/19					
Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Residual Household Waste (kg/household)	544.4	431.8	462.58	472.12	501.84

A2.76 Table A2.26 outlines the percentage of Local Authority collected waste recycled, both as a total and broken down into household and non-household waste for 2021/22. Comparison with the previous three years is also shown. Table A2.21 then outlines the ways the collected waste has been managed across the same time periods. For comparison, 46.1% of household waste in Central Bedfordshire was sent for reuse, recycling and composting in 2020/2021. In Buckinghamshire, Bedford Borough and South Northamptonshire, the equivalent recycling rates were 51.20%, 40% and 59.60% respectively⁶⁹.

Table A2.26: Percentage of Local Authority Collected Waste recycled 2015/16 – 2021/22

	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected
Household Waste: Dry recycling or Reuse	32636	26.4	35605	30.4	36150	26.64	31720	23.90	42667	35.21
Household Waste: Green recycling or Reuse	31262	25.3	33702	28.7	41449	30.55	40144	30.25	31991	26.40
Household Waste not sent for recycling	59741	48.3	47965	40.9	58083	42.81	60829	45.84	46525	38.39

⁶⁹ https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lgastandard?mod-metric=46&mod-period=3&mod-area=E07000155&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup&mod-group=AllUnitaryLalnCountry_England

Total Household Waste	123639	100	117272	100	135682	100.00	132693	100.00	121183	100
Non-household waste sent for recycling, composting or reuse	5937	82.2	6093	62.6	4899	51.35	2746	40.59	296	4
Non-household waste not sent for recycling	1285	17.8	3635	37.4	4641	48.65	4019	59.41	7730	96
Total Non-household Waste	7222	100	9728	100	9540	100.00	6765	100.00	8025	100
Local Authority Collected Waste sent for recycling, compost or reuse	69835	53.4	75400	59.4	82498	56.81	74610	53.50	74953	58
Local Authority Collected Waste not sent for recycling	61026	46.6	51600	40.6	62724	43.19	64848	46.50	54255	42
Total Local Authority Collected Waste	130861	100	127000	100	145222	100.00	139458	100.00	129208	100

Table A2.27: Management of Local Authority Collected Waste 2015/16 – 2021/22

	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% Waste Collected
Landfilled	17138	13.1	3276	2.6	0	0	0	0	1149	1
Incineration with EfW	43214	33	42173	33.2	62724	43.19	64848	46.50	53105	41
Incineration without EfW	15	0.01	12	0.009	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recycled/composted	69835	53.4	75400	59.4	82498	56.81	74610	53.50	74954	58
Other	659	0.5	6139	4.8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Local Authority Collected Waste	130861	100	127000	100	145222	100	139458	100	129208	100

A2.77 In 2021/2022 we saw an overall decrease compared to previous years with the second lowest number of collected waste across the 5-year period. This is positive and is likely because of re-opening of the economy following lockdown and better industry wide practices towards reducing waste. As both tables A2.26 and A2.27 outline, the total amount of waste generated in the most recent monitoring period decreased by over 10,250 tonnes from the previous year. For 2021/22, the main reduction was from household and non-household waste that was not sent for recycling. We now see an increase in recycling and less waste generated. Only 58% of Local Authority Collected Waste was sent for recycling, compost, or reuse in 2021/22.

A2.78 The recycling rate has improved year on year. Since 2017-2018 only very minor amounts – accounting for less than 3% of total waste – have been sent to landfill. This increase in recycling coincides with the opening of the Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Plant (MKWRP) which has been operational since March 2018. The plant utilises state-of-the-art mechanical treatment and heat energy recovery technologies to manage waste in a more sustainable manner.