



Wolverton Park

Milton Keynes

One of the most ambitious projects undertaken by Places for People, Wolverton Park is a £50 million development involving the transformation of an historic railway site.



Wolverton, near Milton Keynes, was the country's first new town, established by the London and Birmingham Railway Company in 1838. The town, which is located midway between London and Birmingham, was created at a time when trains could not travel more than 50 miles without being refilled with coal and water. A station with train building workshops was developed, where the first national trains were designed, built and maintained.

In 1885 the Railway Company created Wolverton Park for its employees to encourage them to keep fit and take part in sporting activities. The park boasted a velodrome, bowling green and stadium, where the first FA cup final was played in 1905. In 1889 an imposing carriage-lifting workshop was built, which later became home to the Royal Train.

In partnership with Milton Keynes Council and English Partnerships, Places for People has redeveloped the Wolverton Park site to create a vibrant new community. There are a mix of one, two and three bedroom apartments in two new blocks overlooking the park and canal. There are also some unique two and three bedroom houses built within the Railway workshops and the Royal Train Shed. What was once a reading room has been converted into a restaurant/bar and there is new retail and office space.

The 2.5 acre park has been restored, and a replica of the old stadium created to be used for bands and entertainment. There is also a new rainwater-harvesting pond.

A range of renewable technologies have also been incorporated into the design of the development. Solar thermal units fitted to the roofs of the homes will provide hot water while wind turbines situated around the development will generate electricity. Each home will also have high levels of insulation, making them energy efficient and cost effective to run.

The solar units have been developed specifically for the homes and are unique on a development that includes listed buildings. The wind turbines have been developed to be highly efficient, quiet and eye-catching - creating a stunning display and an everlasting image for Wolverton Park.