



## My Local Place, Milton Keynes - Carson Yeung

### i Sensing my surroundings

*Lake Ripples - April 2020*

It was late March 2020, and nationwide lockdown had just commenced. Like the majority of society, I found myself in a peculiar situation, one where I would be stuck around the house for a very long time.

Being already confined to the same quarters for weeks upon weeks created an urge in me to explore my neighbourhood and the surrounding estates, something I could do during the one session of exercise a day that the government permitted.

Growing up in this 'new town', designed from the ground up in the 60s as a 'City in a Forest', the opportunity was there to discover how the vast green space would be utilised during lockdown. It would also be a chance for me to connect with my local area, a place in which I'd lived my whole life before University, but had never truly experienced.



*A sunset by the Lake - April 2020*

**Sunsets** - they often evoke memories, a beautiful sunset brings you back to one of the other times you experienced something like it. **These things don't change**, regardless of if there's a global pandemic raging through society.





*Exploring nearby estates of Westcroft, Kingsmead & Snelshall - April 2020*

Paying more attention to **‘off the beaten track’** spots - much of the natural land in Milton Keynes is taken care of by the Parks Trust who have created walking networks, winding in and around estates. Spending time walking along these have reminded me of what makes MK **distinct** - a glimpse of **countryside within the city**.





*A Connected Disconnect - May 2020*

## ii People & Nature

**Breaks in the Urban Fabric** - being wary of the difficulty in social distancing on the more popular routes brought me to more obscure places such as these - one of the disused car parks for the National Bowl, a 60,000 seater outdoor venue, that will unlikely be used for some time.

This trip also uncovered to me what looked like a mistake in the planning of the road/path network in the area - potentially indicating an **incohesive approach** in the planning of this estate.



*Left Undeveloped - May 2020*





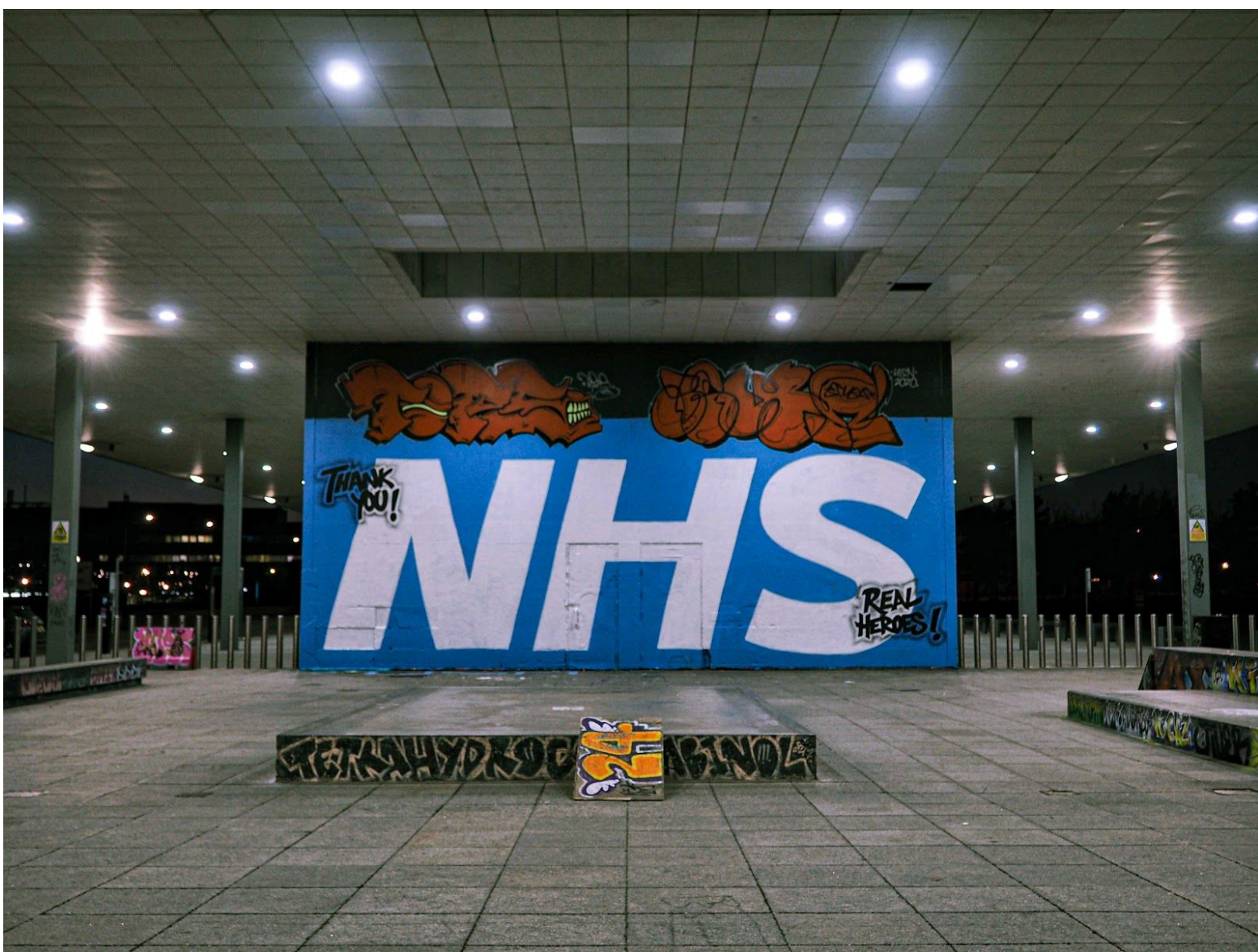


### *A selection of landscapes at Furzton Lake - May 2020 (above)*

Above is the scene on 30th May 2020, during the period of a few days when lockdown was rumoured to be relaxed. Throughout the past few months, I have noticed people **interacting with the natural world** much more. For me, being outdoors has helped relieve stress, allowed me to process and reflect on thoughts, and given me a **sense of freedom**. Hotspots such as Furzton Lake bring people from all across this part of the city. The high sloped banks provide a great view, a perfect place for a chat or a picnic.

### *The Real Heroes - May 2020 (below)*

An **inspiring piece** - a huge mural installed on the side of the 'Old Bus Station' thanks the NHS workers - the real heroes. Previously a collection of smaller illegible pieces, this simple message is **uplifting** for anyone passing by.





### iii A pause to urban life



*An empty Midsummer Boulevard – June 2020*



*No one's at work – June 2020*









*A selection of scenes in Central Milton Keynes  
- June 2020*

I've been interested in the **liveability** of Central Milton Keynes in the past, and the lockdown has cleared out the streets totally leaving just **lifeless, eerie** streets and office blocks.

