



NAGAS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNANCE ADVISORY SERVICES

NAGAS CONFERENCE 2026

Leading Governance Forward

THURSDAY 8
OCTOBER 2026

DOUBLE TREE
HILTON | STADIUM
MK | MILTON
KEYNES | MK1 1ST

Members:



Non-Members:



WWW.NAGAS.ORG.UK

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**MIND
WORK
MATTERS**

Kelly Hannaghan - Mind Work Matters Ltd Mental Health and Wellbeing Consultant

Kelly is a Mental Health and Wellbeing Consultant and the Director and founder of Mind Work Matters Ltd.

She puts wellbeing and people at the heart of education. She is an award-winning motivational speaker, school improvement advisor, published author and founder of the 'Family Matters' empowerment and engagement programme.

Kelly has worked systemically throughout her career as a director of wellbeing, working with local authorities, MATS, Senior leaders and pastoral teams and Governors to help create healthy work cultures and environments. She is an expert trainer and coach for Senior Mental Health Leads and supports some of the most challenging communities with preventative and early help measures in education. Kelly develops the strategies to help people in education thrive from adversities.

Her work with schools and organisations raises aspirations, engagement, attendance, and outcomes. She has recently led on the DfE Wellbeing for Education Return project and leads on education development processes creating outstanding outcomes and awards for many organisations. Recognised by the DfE, NCB, The Anna Freud Centre and The Education Support Partnership as a lead influencer of mental health and wellbeing in education.

Connect with Kelly

Website: www.MindWorkMatters.com

Twitter: @mindworkmatters

Facebook: Mind Work Matters

Instagram: mind_work_matters

LinkedIn: Kelly Hannaghan



Conference Headliners 2026

Steady Hands in Shifting Sands - Key Note

Kelly Hannaghan - Mental Health and Wellbeing Consultant, Mind Work Matters Ltd.



Managing Difficult Conversations Workshop

Michael Jacobs - Mediator and Trainer, CMP Solutions



Insight from the NGA

Emma Balchin – Chief Executive, National Governance Association



Reflection on the new Ofsted framework

Mike Tonge - Chief Executive Officer, Prestolee Multi Academy Trust



Governance Wellbeing Toolkit Launch - Building Sustainable Governance Workshop

NAGAS Board Member Representatives



Conference Programme 2026

9.15 am **Arrival Coffee, Breakfast and Networking**

10.00 am **Welcome and Introductions**
Fiona Collier, NAGAS Chair



10.10 am **Steady Hands in Shifting Sands - Key Note**
*Kelly Hannaghan - Mental Health and Wellbeing Consultant
Mind Work Matters Ltd.*



11.25 am **Coffee Break and Networking**

11.45am **Managing Difficult Conversations Workshop**
Michael Jacobs - Mediator and Trainer, CMP Solutions



12.45 pm **Lunch and Networking**

1.30 pm **Insight from the NGA**
Emma Balchin – Chief Executive, National Governance Association



2.00 pm **Reflection on the new Ofsted framework**
Mike Tonge - Chief Executive Officer, Prestolee Multi Academy Trust



2.45 pm **Coffee Break and Networking**

3.00 pm **Governance Wellbeing Toolkit Launch - Building Sustainable
Governance Workshop**
NAGAS Board Member Representatives

4.00pm **Reflections on the day and Conference Close**
Fiona Collier, NAGAS Chair

4.10 pm **Refreshments and Networking (until 4.45 pm)**

Key Themes and Presenter Biographies

Steady Hands in Shifting Sands

Kelly Hannaghan - Mental Health and Wellbeing Consultant, Mind Work Matters Ltd.

In a period of significant change across school governance, leaders and support professionals are expected to remain steady, strategic and supportive, often while managing uncertainty themselves.

Steady Hands in Shifting Sand is an inspiring keynote and interactive session designed to re-energise governance professionals and strengthen confidence during times of transition. Focusing on wellbeing, resilience and practical approaches to change, this session offers space to reflect, reconnect with purpose and explore how to lead calmly and effectively in a shifting landscape. Participants will leave feeling more confident, grounded and equipped with practical strategies to support both their own wellbeing and the wider teams they work with. This is a must-attend session for governance advisors, trust and local authority leads, governance trainers and school improvement professionals navigating a new era of change.

By the end of this keynote and interactive session, participants will be able to:

- Reflect on the current landscape of change in school governance and its impact on professionals and systems.
- Explore strategies to maintain personal wellbeing, resilience and professional confidence during periods of change.
- Identify practical approaches to managing workload and protecting boundaries in high-pressure roles.
- Consider how governance support can remain effective and impactful during times of transition.
- Develop tools to manage difficult conversations and competing priorities with confidence.
- Leave with a personal set of actions to support wellbeing and sustained effectiveness moving forward.

Managing Difficult Conversations Workshop

Michael Jacobs - Mediator and Trainer, CMP Solutions

When dealing with other people, difficult conversations are inevitable. We have different needs, different thoughts, different assumptions and expectations. Difficult conversations pose both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to engage without falling into judgement and conflict. The opportunity is to widen perspectives and deepen relationships by connecting with interest and a sincere desire to understand.

This short workshop will take a look at both sides of the coin – what we do that pushes us towards discord and what we can do that gives us the best chance of resolution. The session will be based on scenarios that are provided by you, so that the material is specific and relevant to those in the room.

Michael joined CMP in 2009 as a mediator and trainer, with decades of experience in conflict resolution. Since then he has established himself for his exceptional ability to understand conflict in the workplace at a strategic level and to transform his depth of knowledge into applicable methodologies and processes.

As a trainer he is extremely dynamic and engaging – nothing is ever death by PowerPoint with Michael. He is consistently rated ‘excellent’ in feedback, for his training and his mediation, whether the feedback comes from a CEO or an apprentice.

Key Themes and Presenter Biographies

Insight from the NGA

Emma Balchin – Chief Executive, National Governance Association

Emma is the National Governance Association (NGA) Chief Executive, leading the charity with a focus on improving educational standards and the wellbeing of young people. Working under the direction of NGA's board of trustees, Emma guides the organisation in achieving its mission while representing the interests of the school governance community at a national level. With over 25 years of experience in education, leadership, and school improvement, Emma has a deep understanding of both maintained schools and academy governance. She has served on Interim Executive Boards (IEBs), has mentored others in governance roles, and is currently serving as a governor in a Multi-Academy Trust.

Emma's expertise extends to supporting NGA's broader membership and identifying opportunities for new projects and partnerships, ensuring that the organisation adapts to emerging sector needs and continues to enhance governance standards across the education system.

Reflection on the new Ofsted framework

Mike Tonge - Chief Executive Officer, Prestolee Multi Academy Trust

Mike's session will offer a CEO and system leader's perspective on the first year of the new Ofsted framework, considering what it means in practice for schools, local authorities and multi academy trusts. He will explore the structure and intent of the framework, its emerging impact, and how it sits alongside wider developments, including MAT inspection and the new curriculum.

The session will consider these changes through the lens of governance, accountability and school improvement, reflecting on what leaders and boards need to understand, what questions they should be asking, and how they can support meaningful, sustainable improvement across different school contexts.

Mike is the Chief Executive Officer of Prestolee Multi Academy Trust, leading a family of schools recognised for their commitment to inclusion, community partnership and sector-leading school improvement. With a strong background in system leadership across Greater Manchester, he has shaped collaborative approaches that strengthen governance, raise standards and deliver sustainable improvement at scale. A primary specialist at heart, Mike has taught in every year group and held a wide range of leadership roles across the phase. He became Headteacher of Prestolee Primary School in 2005, guiding it from requiring improvement to being recognised as outstanding and as a key system leadership school. His belief that every child deserves a first-class education, and that strong primary practice provides the foundation for lifelong learning, continues to shape the Trust's values and direction.

Alongside his role as CEO, Mike is a contracted Ofsted inspector, a founder member of the Executive Steering Group for the Greater Manchester Learning Partnership, and has previously served as a National Leader of Education. He works closely with governors, local authorities and national partners to champion ethical leadership, evidence-informed practice and sustainable school improvement. Known for his strategic clarity, moral purpose and people-centred approach, Mike is committed to building a Trust culture where staff feel valued, supported and empowered. He believes Prestolee succeeds because it is built on collaboration: great communities of practice working together to find the solutions that already exist within the school-led system.

Key Themes and Presenter Biographies

Governance Wellbeing Toolkit Launch - Building Sustainable Governance Workshop ***NAGAS Board Member Representatives***

The annual Conference is the perfect platform to launch the Governance Wellbeing Toolkit - a practical resource designed to support governors, trustees, clerks and governance professionals in managing workload, wellbeing and resilience within increasingly demanding roles.

This interactive workshop will introduce the toolkit, share key sector insights and provide practical strategies that colleagues can take back to their own organisations. Through discussion, reflection and peer sharing, attendees will explore how wellbeing can strengthen sustainable and effective governance practice.

Workshop Aims

- Introduce the Governance Wellbeing Toolkit.
- Explore the link between wellbeing and effective governance.
- Share practical strategies to support resilience and sustainable working practices.
- Encourage collaboration, reflection and peer discussion across the governance community.

The workshop aims to be interactive through elements such as table discussions and peer sharing, reflective wellbeing activities, practical scenario discussions and solutions, and opportunities for networking and collaborative learning.

The session will be led by NAGAS Board Representatives - Steve Barker (NAGAS Co Vice-Chair and South East Regional Representative), Suhaib Saeed (London Regional Representative) and Mel Stokes (NAGAS Co-Vice Chair and Yorkshire and Humber Regional Representative)

Conference Information

The day delegate rate for NAGAS Members is **£110** per person and **£150** for non-members. To book your place please complete the **MSForm**.

Members:



Non-Members:



A light breakfast, two-course lunch, refreshments and light snacks will be provided on the day. Access and dietary requirements are kindly requested at the time of booking.

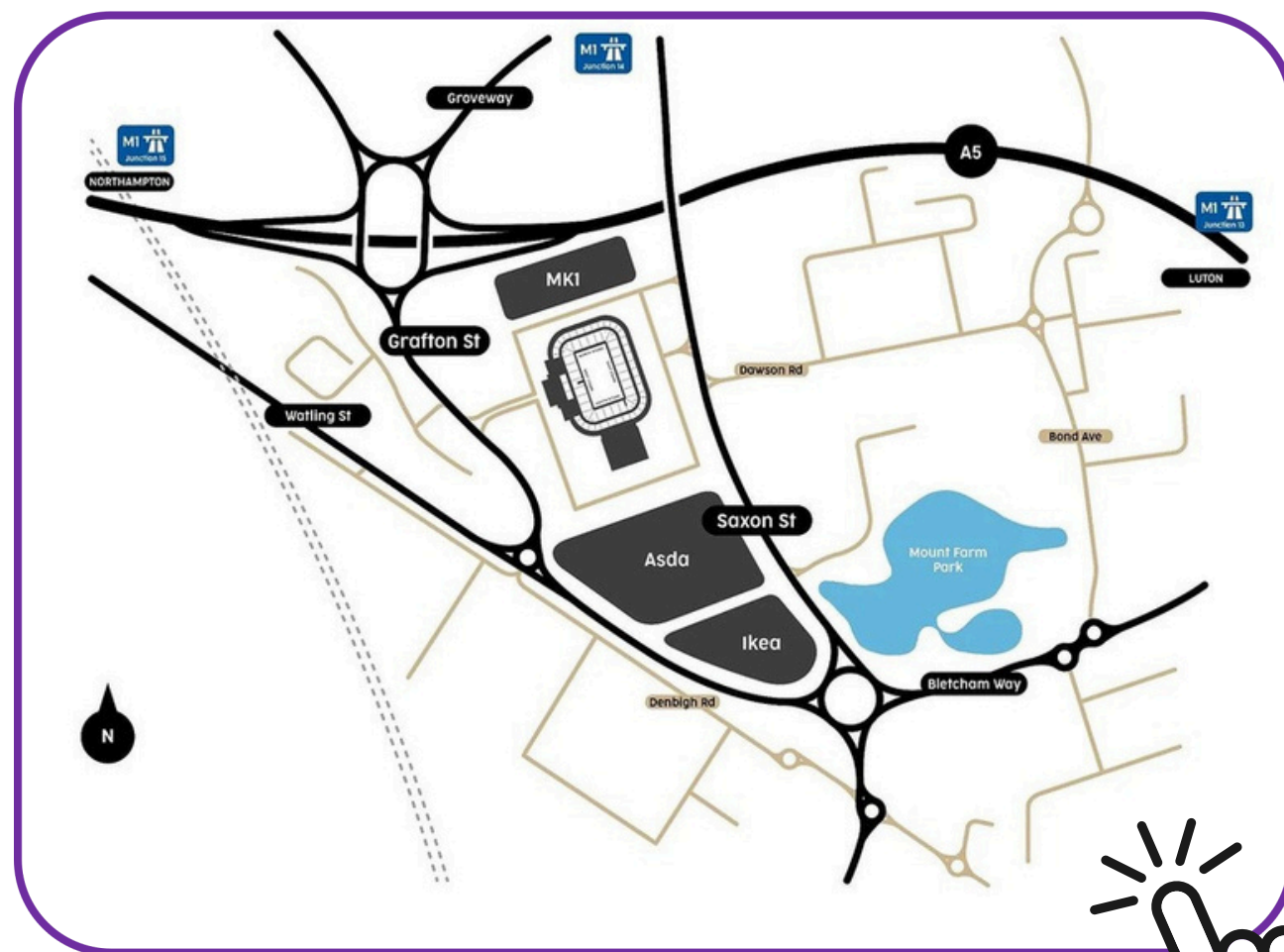
NAGAS will charge each region collectively for the total number of member delegates booked from each region. Each regional group will then manage the recharges to each LA/organisation through locally agreed arrangements. Non member bookings will be made directly to the individual/organisation via invoice.

As places are limited, bookings will be made on a first come, first served basis.

You may cancel your place by emailing bdaveyclerk@outlook.com no later than 7 days prior to the conference date (1 October 2026). The full charge will apply for non-attendance or cancellation by the delegate within 7 days of the conference date.

To guarantee your place on the conference, please make your booking by no later than 28 September 2026.

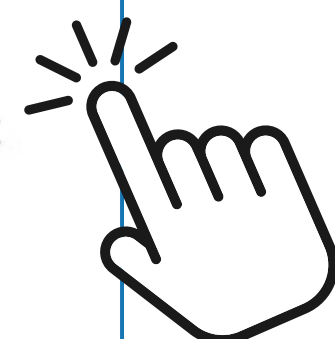
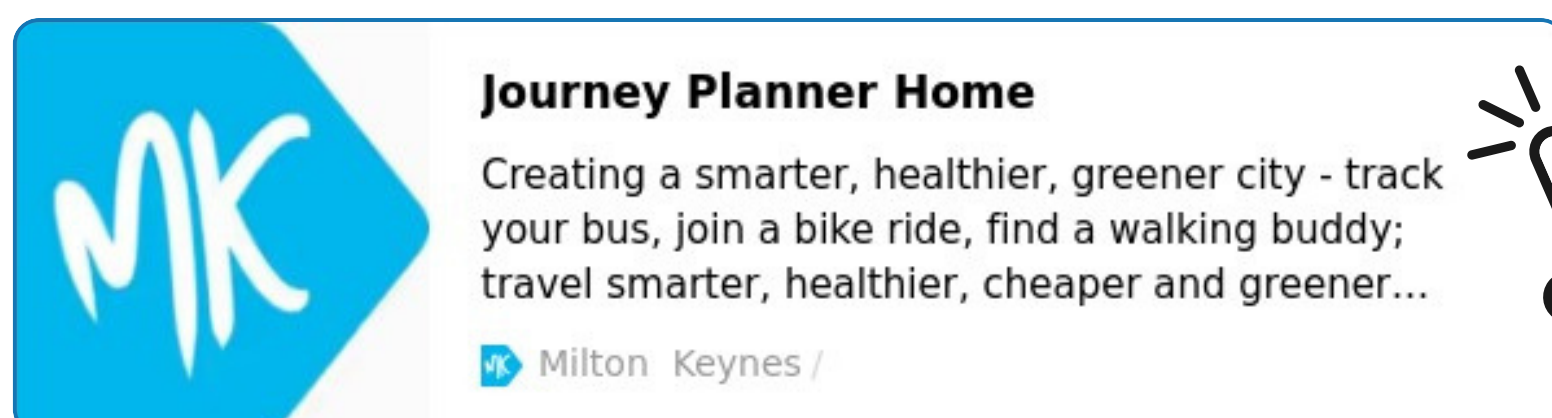
Conference location



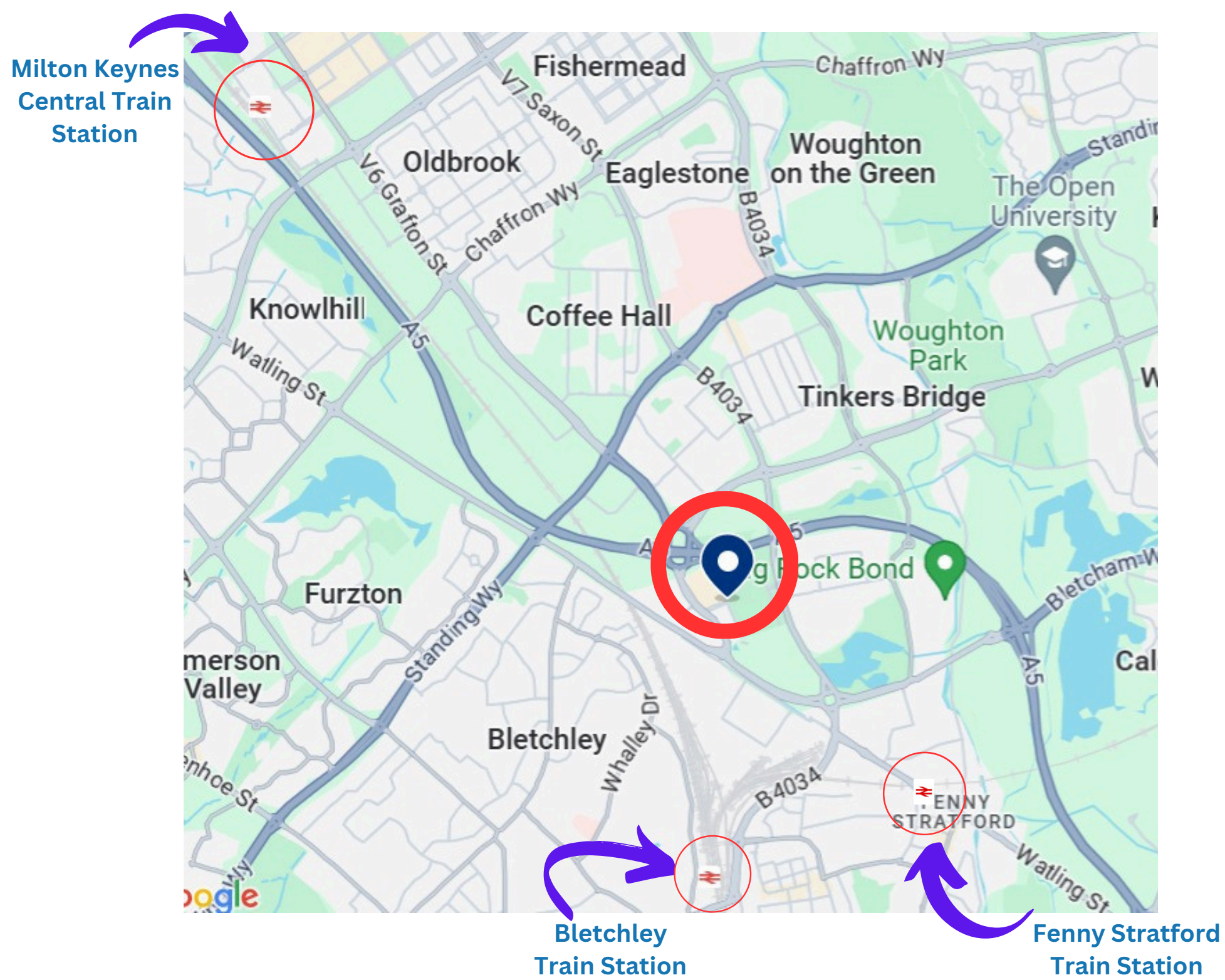
Using public transport



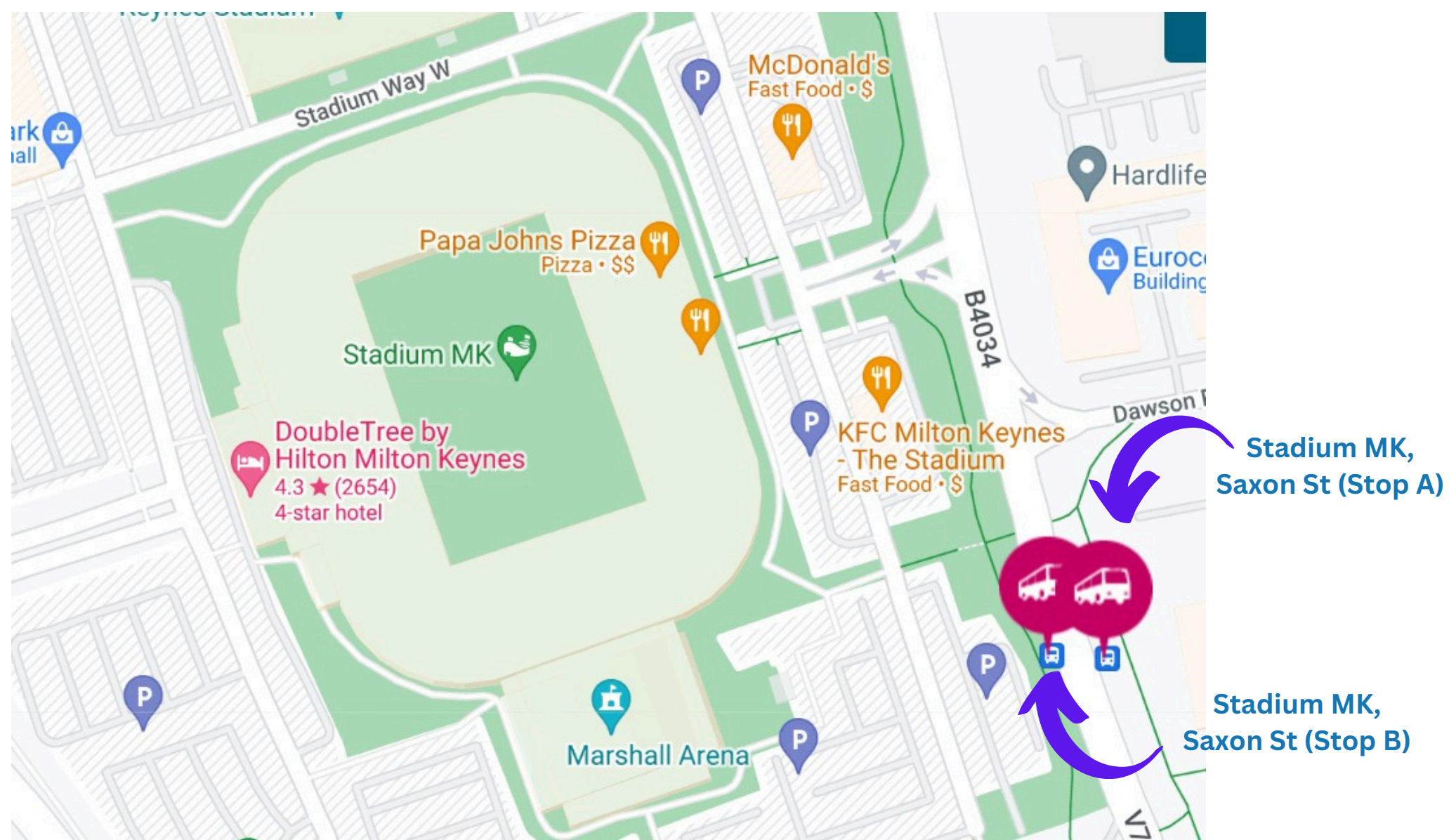
If you are using public transport to get to the conference, you could use this planner to help you get around Milton Keynes



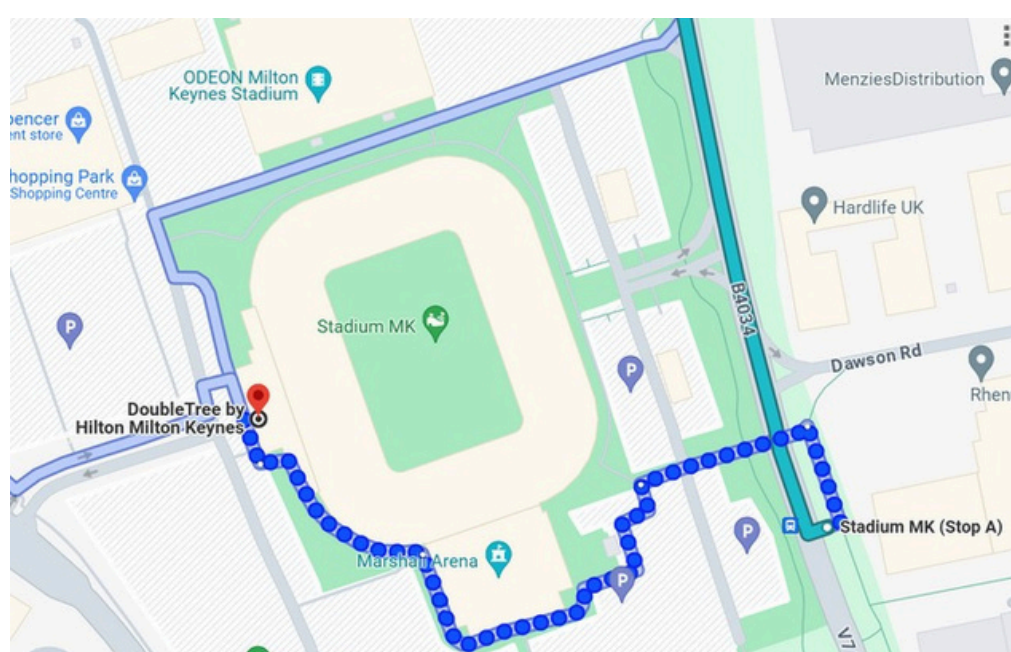
Nearest train stations to Conference



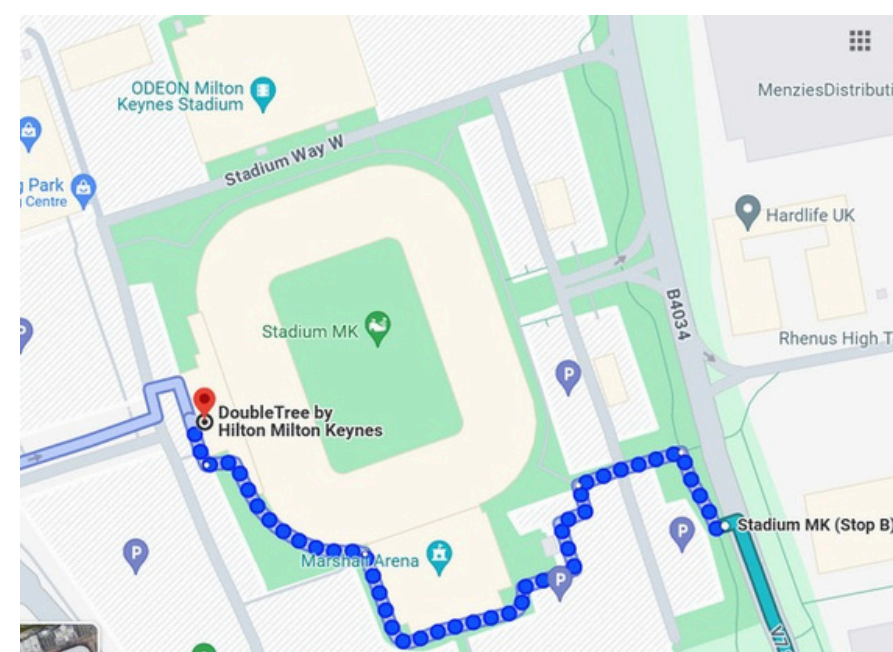
Bus Stops near the Conference



Walking routes from bus stops



From bus stop A
0.3 miles



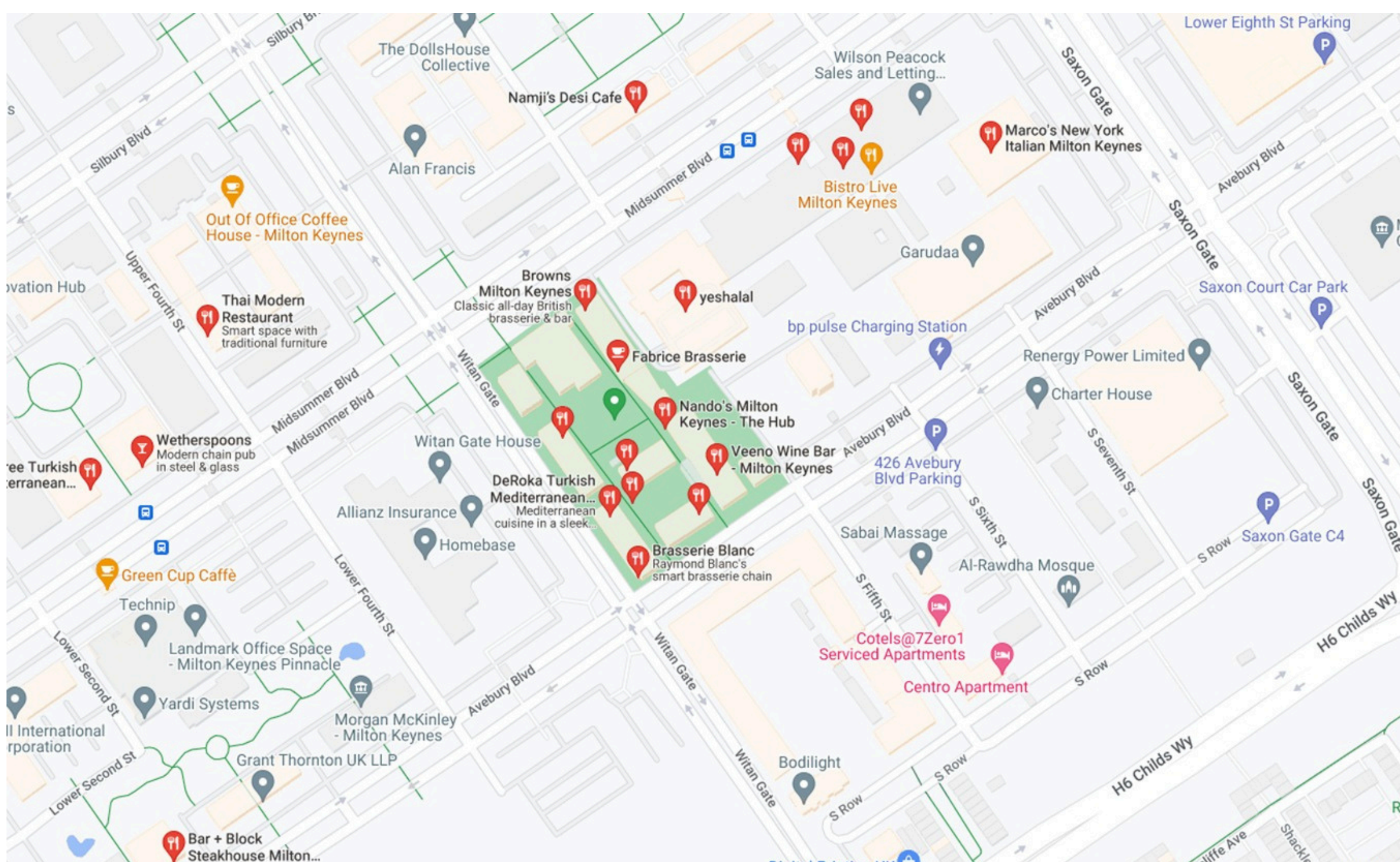
From bus stop B
0.3 miles

Hotels

The conference is being held at Double Tree Hilton, Stadium MK. You don't have to stay in the conference hotel as there are many places to stay in Milton Keynes which are either a short walk or bus journey away.



Places to eat





Parking Tariffs Apply

These must be paid upon arrival

How to use RingGo Conference Delegate Parking



1. Download RingGo App

Go to the App Store or Google Play store and search for RingGo and download.



2. Create an Account

Register a few details, next time you visit Stadium MK, you can pay to park in seconds.



3. Enter Location Code

Enter the 5-digit code below

63464

If you are a conference delegate and have received a discount code, please enter this into the 'Search by code, town or postcode section' to obtain reduced rates.



4. Select Vehicle

Enter your vehicle registration (no spaces)



5. Select Time

Select how long you want to stay: 12 hours or 24 hours



6. Confirm Details

Confirm your payment details and to pay for your parking session.



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