

THE CAMBRIDGE TO OXFORD CONNECTION: IDEAS COMPETITION

Cambridge. Milton Keynes. Northampton. Oxford
Integrating placemaking & infrastructure in the UK's leading growth corridor

Concept Abstract

There is no one standard development typology for the corridor

Change and development must respond to the DNA of individual places. Locally-responsive, place-specific and people-focussed outcomes must be the objective, generating better and greater development than amorphous new towns and extensions.

Area of Outstanding Intelligence

This is a special corridor. The 'un-averages' need celebrating and embedding into a collaborative approach to growth. A transport revolution, led by high-performance engineering will transform mobility and quality of life between Oxford and Cambridge, maximise local creativity and knowledge exchange.

The Bicycle is King

Stations will become multi-modal mobility hubs, with street space rebalanced to facilitate improved walking and cycling connections. A complete street approach to places will promote this as the smiling biking capital of the UK.

The Helix Line

An inter-urban cycle route connecting places and facilitating sustainable place-based development, strengthening the vibrancy and economy of towns and rural areas. The lifeblood of the area, this will cross barriers and allow attractive, affordable and environmentally-friendly movement.

Co-design

Facilitating bottom-up growth and urbanism, working with existing communities and generating real sense of place, creating the conditions for positive growth and development where people want to live, allowing self-build, adaptable and tiny housing models to flourish.

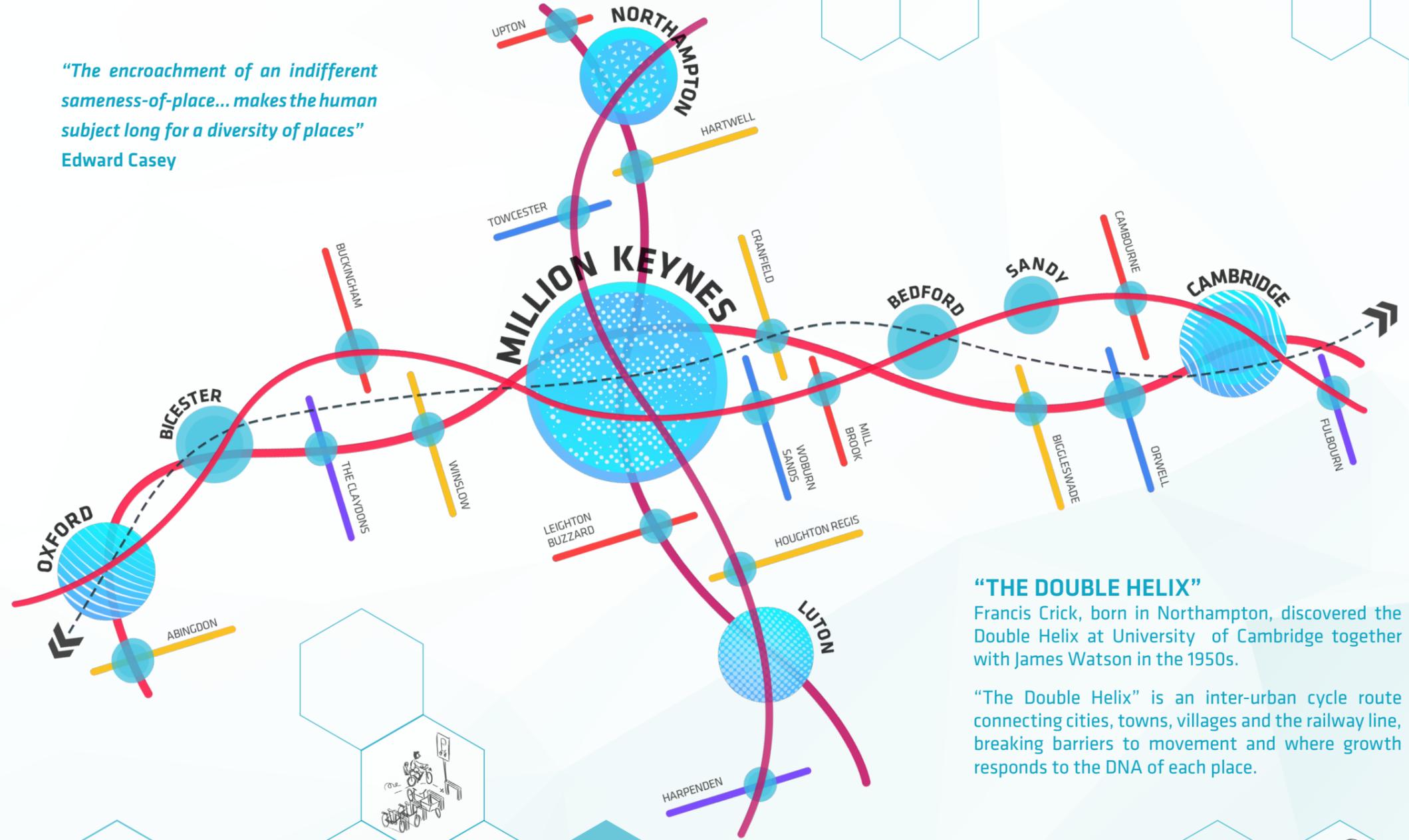
'Million Keynes'

Growth and intensification of MK as a city of a million people within the existing city limits and making more efficient use of land. A multi-modal, healthy city based around the compact neighbourhood.

Project Name:
THE HELIX LINE

Typology Grouping:
PLACE-BASED DNA TYPOLOGY

"The encroachment of an indifferent sameness-of-place... makes the human subject long for a diversity of places"
Edward Casey



"THE DOUBLE HELIX"

Francis Crick, born in Northampton, discovered the Double Helix at University of Cambridge together with James Watson in the 1950s.

"The Double Helix" is an inter-urban cycle route connecting cities, towns, villages and the railway line, breaking barriers to movement and where growth responds to the DNA of each place.



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'Great cities are not monoliths, they are federations of neighbourhoods'

Jane Jacobs

New growth should follow the principles of the compact neighbourhood, promoting community cohesion, with all everyday needs within easy access of the home. A high quality of life for all communities will be achieved within the Helix Line by working with citizens in imaginative placemaking .

KEY TO DRAWING:

- 1 Bike path collecting kinetic and solar energy
- 2 Wind turbine
- 3 Agro forestry
- 4 Mobility Hub
- 5 Information panel showing multi-mode travel times
- 6 'Million Keynes'

Project Name:
THE HELIX LINE

Typology Grouping:
PLACE-BASED DNA TYPOLOGY



The Helix Line will be fully integrated into the landscape and street environment but will also connect communities either side of the railway line, providing seamless mobility and integration with multiple transport choices. It is the glue that binds places together.

HELIX LINE
19:30 18°C
MILTON KEYNES 4 min
OXFORD 6 min

6

2

1

4

3