

Welcome Pack



# Welcome to Finchwood Park

January 2025



## About This Booklet

Welcome to your new home in Finchwood Park. This pack has been produced by the My Journey team to provide you with information about planning journeys from your new home.

My Journey Wokingham promotes travel which helps keep our residents healthy and safe and our borough cleaner and greener.

Within this pack you will find reference to local walking and cycle routes, information about local bus and rail services, and where to find your nearest electric car charging points.

We are also pleased to be able to provide you with information on discounted travel and travel related items, some of which are exclusively for new residents of Finchwood Park.

## My Developer Details

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## My Journey Wokingham

As well as welcoming new residents to the borough, My Journey Wokingham provides a series of travel related events and training courses as well as competitions.

For further information about the My Journey Wokingham programme please visit the My Journey Wokingham website.

Additionally, you can follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter to find out about our latest offers, events and training programmes.

Website:

[www.myjourneywokingham.com](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/MJWokingham](http://www.facebook.com/MJWokingham)

Instagram:

[myjourney\\_wokingham](https://www.instagram.com/myjourney_wokingham)

Twitter:

[@MJWokingham](https://twitter.com/MJWokingham)

## Feedback

We are always looking to improve the information provided in our welcome packs. If you have any comments about the pack or any questions around travel in Wokingham you can contact us.

Email:

[myjourney@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:myjourney@wokingham.gov.uk)



## Brief History

### Development of Finchwood Park

Finchwood Park features a remarkable expanse of over 140 acres of green open space, drawing on the heritage and unique character of the local landscape, a woodland setting that has evolved over centuries. Finchwood Park has been designed to create walkable neighbourhoods well-connected to village amenities as well as cycle links.

Trees and hedgerows, woodland clearings and water courses each offering an abundance of ecological and wildlife habitats. New infrastructure will include new parkland and public gardens, play areas and outdoor sports areas. 50% of Finchwood Park will be public open space.

### History of Finchampstead

The parish church of St James with its 12th century origins, old Roman roads and distinctive wide 'Ridges' forged through the area, Finchampstead's history can be seen in every inch of the landscape.

Finchampstead village itself sits at the top of Fleet Hill in a richly wooded area once part of Windsor Forest and hunting places of royalty. A local tale tells of Henry VII bringing his son to the Finchampstead Ridges to meet his bride-to-be, Catherine of Aragon.

Finchampstead is said to have derived its name from the large variety of finches that still populate the area.

### Schools nearby

- Finchampstead Primary School
- Farley Hill Primary School
- The Coombes Primary School
- Nine Mile Ride Primary School
- Gorse Ride Infant/Junior Schools
- Bohunt Secondary School.

### Parks in/near Finchwood Park

- Finchwood Park, Sheerlands Road, Finchampstead
- Hazebrouck Meadows, Biggs Lane and Commonfield Lane, Arborfield, RG2 9LS
- California Country Park, Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead, RG40 4HU
- Finchampstead Baptist Centre/Children's Play Park/ Multi-Use Games Area - Gorse Ride, Finchampstead, RG40 4ES
- Rooks Nest Wood, Barkham Ride, Finchampstead, RG40 4EU.

Finchwood Park is an informal recreational area built on the grounds of the Grade II listed West Court manor house in Finchampstead. The 28.1-hectare site is made up of a mosaic of habitats, including woodland, rough grassland, glades, hedgerows, ponds, and wetlands.

The site consists of a network of surfaced and non-surfaced footpaths, and crosses the Devil's Highway historic roman road.

The majority of footpaths on the site are rough hard-surfaced, with some stabilised non-surfaced paths. The non-surfaced paths may become muddy in wetter months. There are no steep inclines on the site. Therefore, most of the site is accessible to wheelchair users who have sturdy chairs.

### Arborfield Green Leisure Centre

There is a leisure centre at Arborfield Green on Sheerlands Road, Arborfield, RG2 9NN. They run various classes and activities. For full details and membership details visit their website:

[www.placesleisure.org](http://www.placesleisure.org)





## Walking is simple, free and one of the easiest ways to get more active, lose weight and become healthier

Cambridge University researchers have found that a brisk walk every day has substantial health benefits.

Incorporating walking into your lifestyle will go a long way in helping your health and well-being.

The My Journey Wokingham website can be used to discover walking routes in your local area or to plan walks to your local shops and walking groups, services and other amenities.

Visit: [www.myjourneywokingham.com](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com)

### Thames Basin Heaths Partnership

To find greenspaces on your doorstep and get outside for some fresh air and exercise.

Visit: [www.tbhpartnership.org.uk](http://www.tbhpartnership.org.uk)

### Health Walks

There are a number of health walks that take place across the borough. The walks are a great way to meet new friends and keep active.

Visit:

[www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)

### Walks in Finchampstead

Finchampstead Parish Council have produced a series of local walks.

Visit:

[www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](http://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)

## Places to Walk to



## Cycling is a low impact type of exercise which can help you lose weight, reduce stress and improve your fitness

It is often quicker to cycle than travel by car for local journeys in Wokingham, particularly during busier times.

The cycle network in Wokingham Borough is continually being improved and there is a greenway (for cyclists/walkers) between Commonfield Lane, Arborfield and Finchampstead Baptist Centre.

Cycling is one of the easiest ways to fit exercise into your daily routine. For example you could cycle to work or Wokingham station a few days a week.

Visit the My Journey website for the latest copy of the Western Area Cycle Map, information on local bike events, training courses for adults and children as well as discounts at local retailers and much more.

Visit:

[www.myjourneywokingham.com](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com)

### Wokingham Bikeathon

The Bikeathon is an annual family event that takes place around Wokingham every June. The date of the event will be shared on the My Journey website once it is announced.

### Love to Ride

If you ride for more than 10 minutes, log your ride at [www.lovetoride.net/wokingham](http://www.lovetoride.net/wokingham) for a chance to win cycle related prizes. Encourage friends and family for even more chances to win.

### Places to Cycle to



LOVE TO RIDE







Forget about the parking costs and rising fuel prices and let someone else do the driving

### Buses to Wokingham

The Leopard 3 serves the Harvest Path bus stop on Nine Mile Ride and travels hourly to Wokingham. The bus Extension stops at Wokingham train station before it goes into the town centre. It takes approximately 7 minutes to walk to the bus stop.

### Buses to Reading

The Leopard 3 bus serves the Harvest Path bus stop on Nine Mile Ride Extension and travels hourly to Reading train station via Royal Berkshire Hospital. It takes approximately 7 minutes to walk to the bus stop.

For fares and for further information on all these bus services visit: [www.reading-buses.co.uk](http://www.reading-buses.co.uk)

You can also plan your journey using our journey planner: [www.myjourneywokingham.com/journey-planner](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com/journey-planner) or download the Reading Buses mobile application from your providers' app store.

### FREE bus Travel

There are a limited number of free weekly bus passes available for Finchwood Park residents. Please contact us to receive your free voucher:

Email: [myjourney@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:myjourney@wokingham.gov.uk)

## Winnersh Triangle Park & Ride

For a limited time all return fares on Winnersh Park & Ride buses are just £1 including parking. Concessionary passholders can travel for free (in accordance with the terms of the local authority that they are travelling in), but must pay £1 to park.

This offer has been made possible by Reading Borough Council using money from the Bus Service Improvement Partnership (BSIP) funding from HM Government.

From 19 January the RailAir Bus to Heathrow will call in at Winnersh Park & Ride. Please visit their website: [www.railair.com](http://www.railair.com) to check out the timetable and fare. Please note passengers will need to pay separately for parking.

## Mereoak Park & Ride

### Mereoak Park & Ride 600 / 650.

Running Monday to Saturday up to every 15 minutes during the day, Mereoak Park & Ride 600 service travels to central Reading. Our Mereoak Park & Ride 650 route provides an hourly service between Central Reading and Mereoak Park & Ride via Green Park on Sundays only.

### Hospital Park & Ride 300

Running Monday to Friday between 6am and 7pm, our hospital Park & Ride 300 service links the Royal Berkshire Hospital with the Mereoak and Thames Valley park & ride sites.

### For the full timetables visit:

[www.reading-buses.co.uk](http://www.reading-buses.co.uk)

For a limited time all return fares on Mereoak Park & Ride buses are just £1 including parking. Concessionary passholders can travel for free (in accordance with the terms of the local authority that they are travelling in), but must pay £1 to park.

## Long Distance Coaches

National Express operate coaches to London Victoria Coach Station as well as Heathrow and Gatwick airports from Mereoak Park & Ride. Please note that there is no overnight parking at Mereoak. Tickets must be booked in advance at: [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com) or Tel No. 08717 818178

FlixBus also operate coaches from Mereoak Park & Ride to London Hammersmith or London Victoria Coach Station. For further information and tickets please visit their website: [www.flixbus.co.uk](http://www.flixbus.co.uk)



**Rail travel is a faster, more relaxing and less stressful way to travel on business, and it's easy and hassle-free for leisure trips with your family and friends**

Wokingham is the nearest station to Finchwood Park. Your nearest bus stop is 7 minutes walk from Finchwood Park. The Leopard 3 services travels hourly between Finchwood Park and Wokingham train station. It takes approximately 25 minutes to cycle to Wokingham Station from Finchwood Park.

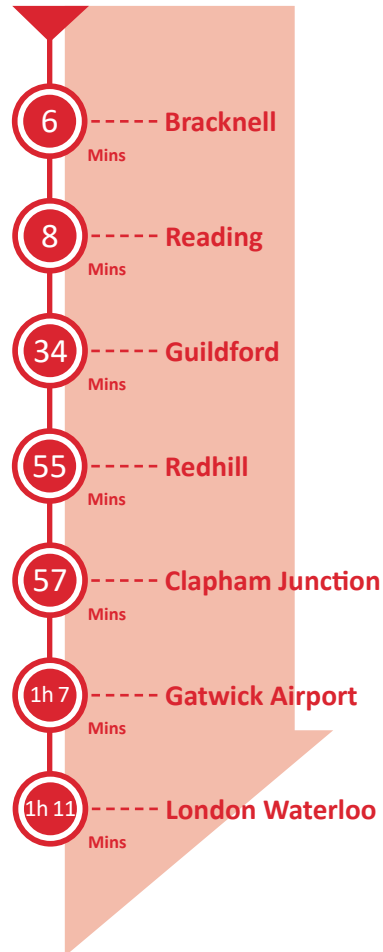
Four trains an hour depart for Reading Station, two direct trains an hour to London Waterloo and two direct trains an hour to Guildford, Redhill and Gatwick Airport. Some additional services are provided at peak times.

The station is located on Station Approach, RG40 2AP. It has a cafe, 118 sheltered cycle storage spaces and 531 parking spaces.

For further information on train times visit:  
[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

For information on tickets and discounted rail travel visit:  
[www.myjourneywokingham.com](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com)

### Approximate Journey Times





Wokingham 



We save 1560kg  
CO2 each year  
between us!

Arrange to travel together and share the cost, whilst reducing congestion and pollution at the same time

## Electric Vehicles

Pure electric vehicles have zero exhaust emissions, which means they do not emit any harmful exhaust emissions in the local environment. For more information about electric vehicles please visit **Energy Saving Trust**

**Energy Saving Trust** presents ways to EV drivers to reduce the cost of recharging their vehicles. Among the info provided, there is a table with cost comparisons for different ways of charging and how this is compared to the refuelling cost of a petrol or diesel car.

Although the upfront cost of purchasing an electric vehicle is higher, savings are made in the longer term with lower running costs. Electric vehicles have lower servicing and maintenance costs due to having fewer mechanical components. Home chargers continue to be the cheapest method. To find out the costs for electric charging please visit **RAC Charge Watch**

For locations of electric car charge points please visit: [www.zap-map.com/](http://www.zap-map.com/)

## Car Share

Car sharing is a great way to reduce the costs of travelling by car. It is also a great way to meet new people and help the environment.

There is a public car share database available to search for other people looking to car share around your area.

Visit: [www.liftshare.com](http://www.liftshare.com)

## Smarter Driving

Smarter driving can help keep you safe and cost you less. Here are some tips for smarter driving:

- Check your tyres are at the correct pressure to help the car run more efficiently
- Remove unnecessary weight from your car like heavy equipment, roof racks or items in your boot
- Make sure your car is serviced regularly to ensure it is running as efficiently as possible
- Avoid wasteful fuel consumption with engine idling or air conditioning

## Electric Car Charge Points

There are electric car charge points installed at Finchwood Park.



Great care is taken in creating this document and the information contained in this document is correct at the time of writing.



[www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)



[www.myjourneywokingham.com](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com)



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[@myjourney\\_wokingham](https://www.instagram.com/myjourney_wokingham)



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**WOKINGHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL