

Welcome Pack



Welcome to Finchwood Park - The Ridge

October 2025



www.myjourneywokingham.com

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 active and sustainable 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 for new residents of Finchwood Park.

Visit Wokingham Borough Council's website to access services, pay for things or report issues.

Website:

www.wokingham.gov.uk

My Developer Details

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.

We also send out a monthly newsletter to keep you up-to-date with our events and activities.

Sign up here:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWOKBC/signup/47651>

Website:

www.myjourneywokingham.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MJWokingham

Instagram:

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

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



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

Welcome to Finchwood Park

North Wetlands

This field is home to a small wetland, and is surrounded by mature hedgerows and woodland, creating a unique landscape and habitat for wildlife. It also features a meadow area, and provides a rich mosaic of habitats, which is good for biodiversity.

This area was previously used as farmland before the wetland was created. The wetland features are still part of a sustainable drainage system for the housing around it, which helps to manage flooding, and at the same time.



Ancient Woodland

The trees that lie straight ahead along the far edge of the field, are classified as Ancient Woodland. These trees are part of a woodland which has been present since at least 1600AD, and forms an invaluable and unique habitat for wildlife, providing the ideal conditions for some locally important species to thrive.

Ancient Woodland is often regarded as some of the richest and most complex terrestrial habitat in the UK, as the soils often remain undisturbed for centuries. As a result, archaeological features associated with past industry and management, can often be found within it.

Woodland Fact: Only 2.4% of the UK is classified as ancient woodland.



Wetlands

The main part of the wetland comprises of wet meadow grass and willow species, that can cope with wet and dry conditions. Around the pond you may notice marginal plants, such as Water Forget-me-not and Spearwort, which thrive closer to the waters edge.

Wildlife to look out for

- Look out for Damsel and Dragonflies close to the water, between May and August.
- Look out for Green Woodpeckers near woodland trees, and Lapwings around the meadows and the ponds.



- Search for Lapwings
- Interpretation Board
- Public Right of Way
- Woodland Circular Walk
- Wetland Circular Walk



Circular Walks

A 0.26 mile circular walk skirts the edge of ponds and provides a good view of the woodland as you walk along it. You can take a shortcut through the woodland and explore other circular walks along the way.

Look out for more interpretation panels along the other routes.



white willow



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL





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, services and other amenities.

Visit: 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

Health Walks

Every week there are a number of volunteer-led walks across the whole of Wokingham borough. The walks are a great way to meet new friends and keep active.

Visit: www.ramblers.org.uk

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/wellbeing-walks>

Walks in Finchampstead

Finchampstead Parish Council have produced a series of local walks.

Visit: 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

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.

Places to Cycle to







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 to Wokingham. The bus stops at Wokingham train station before it goes into the town centre. It takes approximately 10 minutes to walk to the bus stop.

Buses to Reading

The Leopard 3 bus serves the Harvest Path bus stop on Nine Mile Ride and travels to Reading train station via Royal Berkshire Hospital. It takes approximately 10 minutes to walk to the bus stop.

For fares and for further information on all these bus services visit: www.reading-buses.co.uk

You can also plan your journey using our journey planner: 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 bus tickets:

Email: myjourney@wokingham.gov.uk

Winnersh Triangle Park & Ride

Winnersh Triangle Park & Ride is located at Wharfedale Road, Winnersh, RG41 5RD. There are four buses an hour to Reading.

For the full timetable visit:

www.reading-buses.co.uk

RailAir coaches operate from Winnersh Triangle to Heathrow up to every 20 minutes. Please visit their website: www.railair.com to check out the timetable and fare. Please note passengers will need to pay separately for parking.

Mereok Park & Ride

Mereok Park & Ride 600 / 650.

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

Hospital Park & Ride 300

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

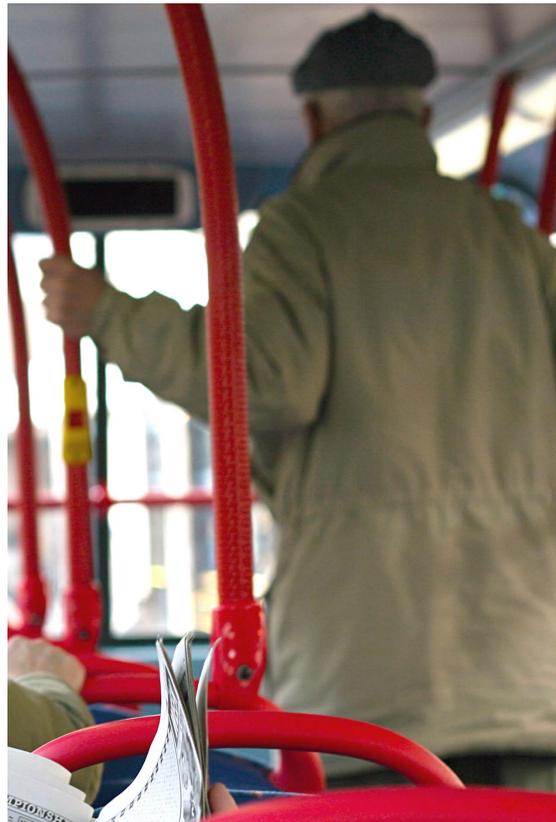
For the full timetables visit:

www.reading-buses.co.uk

Long Distance Coaches

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

FlixBus also operate coaches from Mereok Park & Ride to London Hammersmith or London Victoria Coach Station. For further information and tickets please visit their website: 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 10 minutes walk from Finchwood Park. Catch the Leopard 3 bus service to 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.

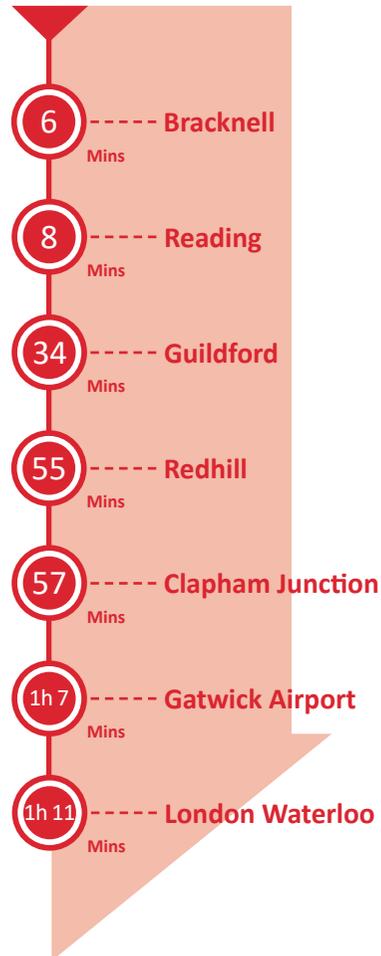
For further information on train times visit:

www.nationalrail.co.uk

For information on tickets and discounted rail travel visit:

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/

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

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. You will also find electric car charge points at the locations below:



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



www.myjourneywokingham.com



myjourney@wokingham.gov.uk



www.facebook.com/MJWokingham



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



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