

BACKHOUSE BLUNSDON WELCOME PACK

Helping you get around
your new area

OFFERS!

BORROW A BIKE

LEARN TO CYCLE LESSONS

FREE 1-WEEK BUS PASS

See inside
for details



BACKHOUSE



INSIDE YOUR WELCOME PACK

As part of the planning process, a Travel Plan has been developed for **Backhouse Blunsdon** to support residents in getting around in more sustainable ways such as walking, cycling and car-sharing.

This **Travel Information Pack** forms part of the Travel Plan providing local information and offers to help you explore your new neighbourhood and save money on travel.

BENEFITS TO YOU

There are many positive benefits of sustainable travel for you and your community including:

- ✓ **Improving your health and well-being**
- ✓ **Reducing your travel costs**
- ✓ **Improving your access to local services**
- ✓ **Improving road safety**
- ✓ **Reducing your travel times**
- ✓ **Improving your travel choices**
- ✓ **Creating a cleaner, more vibrant local community**

For more information, contact Harry Pearce the Backhouse Blunsdon Travel Plan Coordinator:

tpc@pfapl.com

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BACKHOUSE

Dear Resident,

WELCOME TO BACKHOUSE BLUNSDON!

We hope that you are settling into your new home and getting to know your local area. This Travel Information Pack provides you with useful information regarding travelling in and around Blunston and aims to help residents travel in greener, healthier ways and reduce journeys by car.

To help you along the way, Backhouse and Swindon Travel Choices are offering the chance to **borrow a bike for FREE for 6 weeks**. Choose between a hybrid bike, electric bike or folding bike with equipment such as child seats and pannier bags.

Looking to improve your confidence on two wheels? We can also arrange **FREE learn to cycle and cycle confidence sessions** for all the family. Check out page 9 to find out more.

There's also the chance to get hold of a **FREE 1-week bus pass** to try out local services (see page 11 for more information).

If you need help with journey planning or to find out about upcoming events, take a look at the Swindon Travel Choices website www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/newdevelopments/backhouse-blunston/



For any other questions, please email: tpc@pfapl.com or phone PFA on 01793 828000 and ask for Harry Pearce, the Travel Plan Coordinator for Backhouse Blunston.

Happy exploring!

Harry Pearce, PFA Consulting
Your Travel Plan Coordinator



YOUR LOCAL AREA



Photo: facebook.com/blunsdonvillageshop

A Community Shop and Cafe



Photo: whatpub.com/pubs

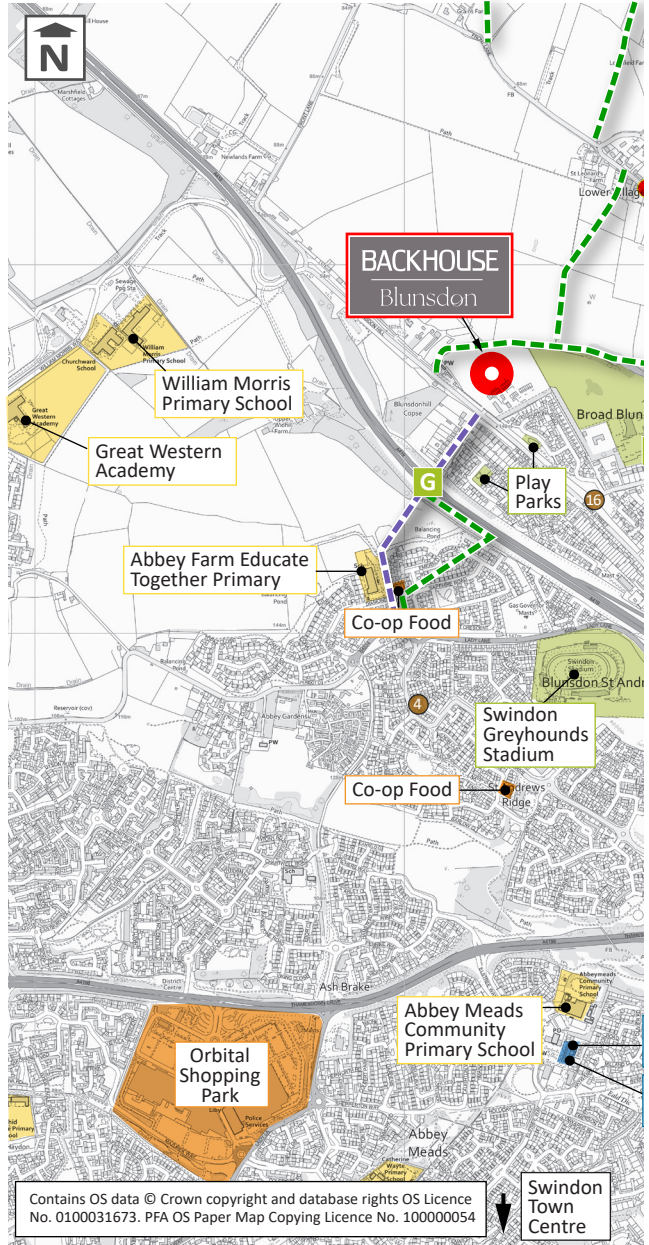
B Heart In Hand Pub

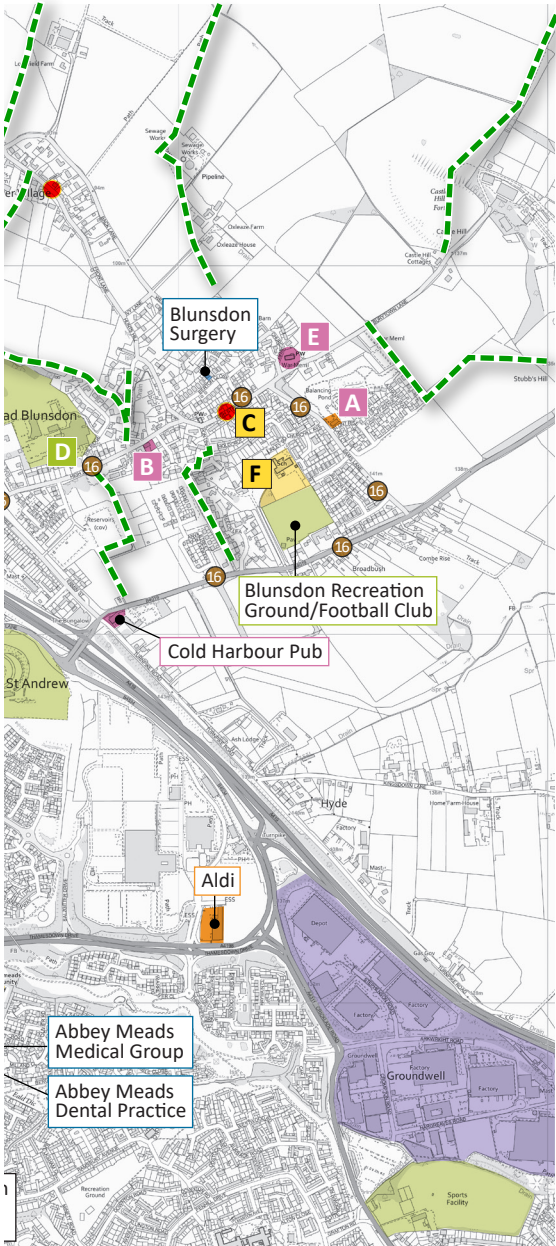


C Village Hall and Pre School



D Blunsdon House Hotel & Golf Course





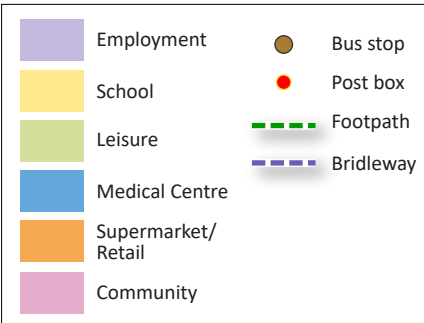
E St Leonard's Church



F St Leonard's CE Primary Academy



G Widhill Lane Bridleway Bridge



WALKING

Blunsdon by Foot

Walking is the greenest, healthiest and cheapest way of getting around. It's a great way to fit regular exercise into your day, there is no waiting around, no congestion and it's absolutely free!

So why not try discovering the area around Blunsdon by foot? The village primary school, pre-school, village hall, shop and pub are all within walking distance and the wider facilities of North Swindon are easily accessible nearby.

Looking for somewhere to Walk the Dog or take a Countryside Stroll?

Blunsdon is well connected to the beautiful local countryside and there are plenty of nice places to visit within walking distance.

To discover the wide network of local footpaths, bridleways and byways take a look at the "My Maps" tab on Swindon Borough Council's website: <https://maps.swindon.gov.uk/sbcatmycouncil.aspx> or for other local areas to walk in take a look at the All Trails website: <https://www.alltrails.com/en-gb/trail/england/wiltshire/lower-blunsdon-circular?search=true>

A "Get Walking" magazine covering North Swindon can be downloaded from <https://www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Get-Walking-North-FINAL.pdf> and there are some useful interactive maps on the Swindon travel Choices website: <https://www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/getting-around/walking/walking-routes/>

For a longer walk why not explore **Stanton Park** which is accessible along Kingsdown Lane. This beautiful 74-hectare country park and nature reserve features open green space, woodlands, meadows, ponds and streams.



Photo: Nick Howard 2020

Stanton Country Park



Photo: Justin McG 2022

Stanton Country Park

The Blunsdon Heritage Trail

The Blunsdon Heritage Trail takes a circular route around the Village following ancient paths and roads and the escarpment upon which Blunsdon has developed over the centuries. Enjoy the great views across the countryside from Castle Hill Hillfort!



Useful Walking Apps

MapmyWalk
NHS Active 10 Walking Tracker
Pedometer
OS Maps



Useful Websites

www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/walking

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

<https://www.plotaroute.com/>

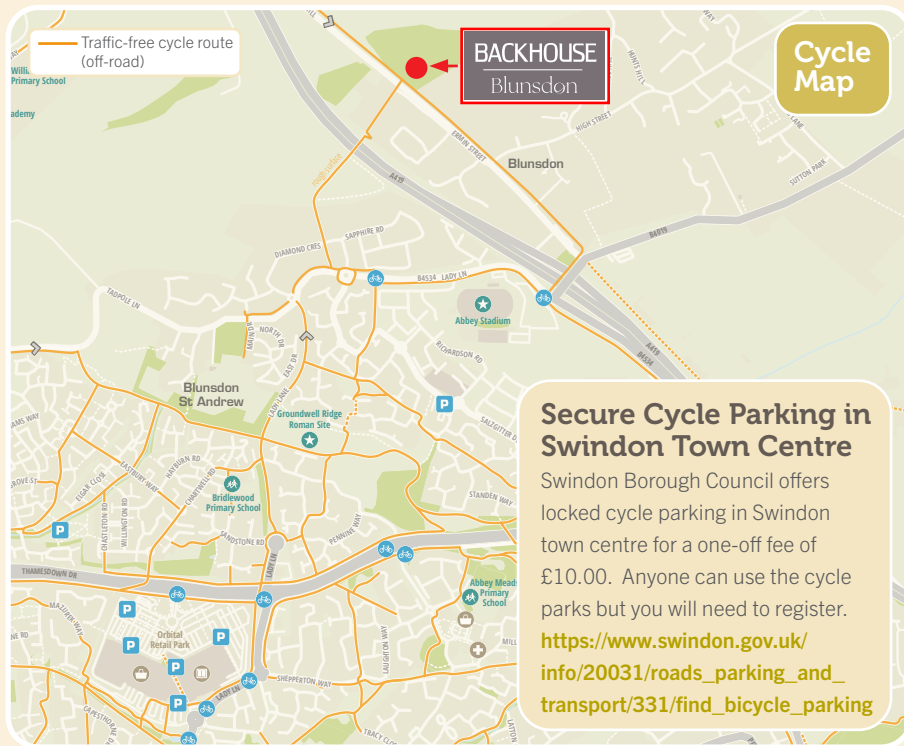


Co-op, Diamond Crescent, Abbey Farm



Village Hall

CYCLING



Secure Cycle Parking in Swindon Town Centre

Swindon Borough Council offers locked cycle parking in Swindon town centre for a one-off fee of £10.00. Anyone can use the cycle parks but you will need to register. https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20031/roads_parking_and_transport/331/find_bicycle_parking

Useful Cycle Map Links

For more information about cycling locally see the **Swindon Travel Choices** website www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/getting-around/cycling or leave the car at home and try the **Active Swindon Challenge** www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/home/activeswindonchallenge



Get yourself a free copy of the **Swindon Cycle map** to help you navigate Swindon by bike or download an app such as **Cyclestreets**, **Strava** or **MapmyRide**.



To join free guided bike rides in the area or find a good traffic-free route from your doorstep take a look at **British Cycling's Let's Ride** site www.letsride.co.uk



FREE Family Learn to Cycle and Cycle Confidence Sessions

Would you like to **learn to cycle or develop confidence on a bike** so that you could cycle to school or work?

Join one of the free upcoming events in Swindon.

Secure your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/swindon-cycle-campaign-61575400583>

We can also arrange **free cycle training** for anyone in the family at a time and date that suits you.

Get in touch with us for more information and to book on tpc@pfapl.com



Swindon Cycle Campaign

Would you like to help improve cycling in Swindon and the surrounding area? Why not get involved in Swindon Cycle Campaign, a collection of local volunteers working to make cycling easier and safer for everyone in the area. See the website for details: www.swindoncyclecampaign.org or follow on Facebook.



Borrow a Bike Scheme

Backhouse are offering your household a chance to try cycling for **FREE** for 6 weeks.

Choose between a hybrid bike, electric bike or folding bike.



For more details and to apply go to www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/borrow-a-bike-scheme/

Bike Shops and Repairs

Swindon Cycles

www.swindoncycles.co.uk

Mitchell Cycles

www.mitchellcycles.co.uk

E-motion (electric bikes)

<http://e-motionevc.co.uk>

Recycles (refurbished bikes)

www.recycles-swindon.co.uk

The Mobile Cycle Medic offers a mobile bike repair service with pick up and drop off from your doorstep. <https://www.mobilecyclemedic.com/>

BUS AND COACH TRAVEL

Your nearest bus stops are located on the High Street and Hillside Way. **Stagecoach Service 16** operates a service every 90 minutes (approx) to Swindon Town Centre. A more frequent **Stagecoach Service 4** runs to Swindon Town Centre every 30 minutes from Thornhill Drive. The nearest Service 4 bus stop is a 12-15 minute walk south of Backhouse Blunsdon on Thornhill Drive - it can be accessed via the bridleway opposite the site www.stagecoachbus.com

Take a look at <https://www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/newdevelopments/backhouse-blunsdon/> to find up-to-date travel information and journey planning help.



Travelling Further Afield?

National Express and **Megabus** run services from Swindon, offering a range of destinations across the UK.

National Express Service 401 travels between Bristol and London, operating approximately every two hours, Monday to Sunday. Buses stop at Swindon Bus Station/Great Western Hospital/Marlborough Rd and Sussex Square.

Megabus offers services from Swindon to over 20 UK-wide destinations with bus stops at Stratton Park, Sainsburys/ Dunelm.

£2 Price Cap on Single Bus Fares!

To help with the cost-of-living pressures the Government is subsidising most single bus fares to just £2 until 30th June.

<https://www.swindonbus.co.uk/single-bus-fares-reduced-ps2>

NOW'S THE TIME TO GO BY BUS.



FREE 1-Week Bus Pass!

Backhouse is offering a **FREE 1-Week Bus Pass** as a special offer for residents to try out the local bus services.

To find out more and apply contact the Travel Plan Coordinator at: tpc@pfapl.com



Save Money

Have you reached state pension age or do you have a disability?

If so, you may be eligible for a concessionary bus pass from Swindon Borough Council. This is a free bus pass that allows you to travel on most Stagecoach buses for free. For more information, visit

www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20031/roads_parking_and_transport/332/concessionary_bus_pass_and_travel_vouchers



Useful Apps for Smartphones and Tablets



Stagecoach



National Express



Traveline



UK Bus Checker



Proposed Swindon Bus Boulevard

RAIL TRAVEL

Rail travel provides a fast and convenient option for travelling further afield. It can not only be quicker than travelling by car, but can also save you money in parking charges!

Swindon Station is the closest railway station, located 6 miles from Backhouse Blunsdon. The station offers frequent services to a wide range of destinations. Trains to London Paddington run approximately every 15 minutes, with half-hourly trains to Bristol and Cardiff and hourly trains to Cheltenham Spa. Cycle and car parking is available. Bikes travel free on trains but non-folding bikes must be pre-booked on the high speed services.

Stagecoach Services 16 & 4 run from Blunsdon to Swindon Bus Station, which is just a short walk from Swindon Railway Station.



Save Money

Aged over 60 or between 16 and 30? You can save a third off most rail fares with a railcard.

Travelling as a family? With a Family Railcard you can get a third off standard class adult rail fares and 60% off standard class child rail fares for up to four adults and four children.

For more information, visit the www.railcard.co.uk website.

Travelling as a group? Groups of three to nine adults can travel with a 34% discount using a Group Save ticket. More details can be found on the National Rail website.

If you book early you can save up to 85% on your rail journey using advance fares.

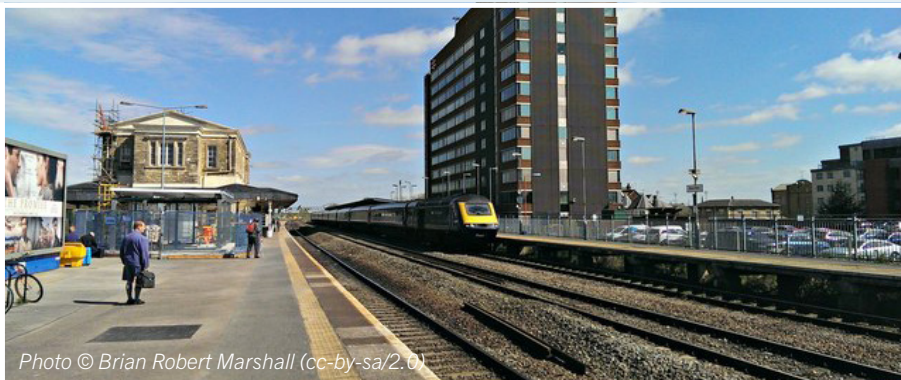


Photo © Brian Robert Marshall (cc-by-sa/2.0)



Stay Informed

Journey planning assistance can be found on www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/plan-a-journey

Live departures and arrivals for all UK rail stations are available from www.nationalrail.co.uk

Alternatively, call **08457 48 49 50**

Useful Apps



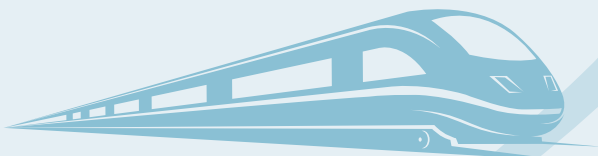
The Trainline



Traveline



Great Western
Railway



GWR



Photo: www.swindontowncentre.co.uk

DRIVING

When driving is the only option there are still ways that you can save money and reduce your carbon footprint.

Eco-driving more efficiently is an easy change to make. To learn some simple techniques visit: www.theaa.com/driving-advice/fuels-environment/drive-economically



Car Sharing

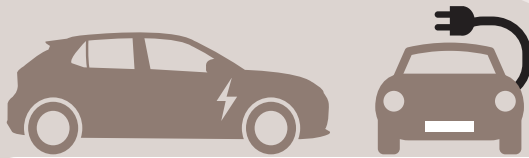
Car sharing provides the convenience of the car, whilst alleviating the associated problems of congestion and pollution. It is a great way to save money and reduce your emissions, while providing a fun way of meeting new people.



Your employer may run a car share scheme or offer priority parking and other incentives for car sharers. If you share daily on a 20 mile (each way) commute, you could save over £1,500 on fuel per year*!

Alternatively, find a car share partner by visiting the Swindon Carshare service at: www.carshareswindon.com The website is part of the Liftshare network which matches regular drivers with those on similar routes. There are currently over 700,000 members on Liftshare, so the chances are that you'll find a match. The scheme is completely free to join and use. You do not need to own a car as you can register as a potential passenger and share the fuel costs with someone driving. You can be flexible and don't have to car share every day.

**Based on two people sharing in a car with a petrol engine size between 1.4 and 2.0 litres with petrol costs at £1.65 per litre.*



Electric Vehicles

Electric vehicles are a more sustainable option if you do need to drive. Grants are available to reduce the cost of purchasing electric vehicles, visit www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/getting-around/car/electric-vehicles/electric-vehicle-grants for more information. You don't have to apply for the grant – the dealer will include the value of the grant in the vehicle's purchase price at the point of purchase.

Charging Station Locations

Take a look at Zapmap to find your nearest charging station
zap-map.com/live/

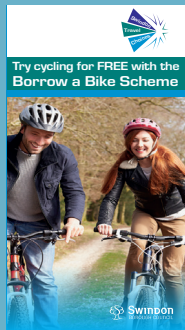


Making an Irregular Journey?

Visit www.blablacar.com where you can either choose to travel in somebody else's car, or advertise your journey for other people to book seats on. A rating system ensures that members will always be confident and comfortable planning a car share. Furthermore, it is a great way to save money on long distance or one-off journeys.



Dont Forget to Take Advantage of Your OFFERS!



Email tpc@pfapl.com or phone 01793 828000 and ask for **Harry Pearce**, Travel Plan Coordinator for Backhouse Blunsdon



Further Information

We hope that the information in this leaflet has been useful for you.
If you have any queries or feedback, please contact
Harry Pearce, your Travel Plan Coordinator:

PFA Consulting
E: tpc@pfapl.com
T: 01793 828 000



Note: All information contained in this leaflet is current as of March 2023, the time of going to press.