



WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME

As part of the planning application process for the Orchard Grove development, a Travel Plan was produced, setting out measures to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips by encouraging residents to use all methods of sustainable travel and transport.

This booklet signposts the various travel options that are available within the area, such as walking, cycling, car share and public transport. The aim is to improve our environment, our health and our quality of life, whilst easing the pressures on our roads. As the development grows, more travel options will be open to you.

How can we help you make more sustainable travel choices?

- This Travel Information Pack packed with sustainable travel ideas for residents of Orchard Grove

- Timely newsletters informing you of what is happening on the proposed 'Park and Bus' site on the development, a subscription-based Car Club and EV charging points
- Discount vouchers from local businesses for bicycles, bike maintenance clothing, accessories and motorbike CBT training - see back page for vouchers
- Signposts to useful travel and transport weblinks
- Support to discuss any travel issues you may find

The future of Orchard Grove

As more new houses are built on Orchard Grove, the more amenities that will be provided for residents, making it more accessible and more sustainable. This will help to ensure that we lower our carbon footprint and make Orchard Grove a healthier place to live. In the future a school will be built, a Park and Bus site and a car club will be set up to support this vision.



Green Travel Vouchers

As a new resident you are offered a Green Travel Voucher, which will come with this booklet. The voucher is offered to the first occupant of every dwelling and up to two successive changes in occupancy. The vouchers will provide for reimbursement up to the sum of £250, upon submission of receipts proving purchase, of qualifying items associated with sustainable travel. Simply purchase your item(s) and fill out the voucher and send it to your Travel Plan Coordinator for reimbursement.

As the development progresses, residents will be invited to take part in an annual on-line travel survey to see if you have been able to take advantage of the options set out in this booklet and discover how much of a difference, even a small change, can make. If you see a postcard through your door, please take time to take the survey.

If you have any queries please contact your Travel Plan Coordinator for more details travelplanteam@somerset.gov.uk

How much can I claim back?



You can download a voucher at www.orchard-grove.com



Taunton Map





How to get around... **Walking**

Walking is an excellent way to get around. It's free, reliable and a great way to fit regular exercise into your daily routine, no matter what your age or level of fitness. It requires no specialist equipment other than a good pair of walking shoes. You can use your Green Travel Voucher to help buy such things as walking boots or waterproof jacket to help you get out and about.

Taunton is the county town of Somerset and is the hub of facilities and amenities such as employment, retail, leisure, transport and health services.

There are many scenic walking routes and footpaths located in and around Taunton, with areas of outstanding natural beauty such as the Quantocks and Blackdown Hills, located either side of town.

To find out more about the health benefits of walking and information on walks and trails within Somerset look on the Travel Somerset website www.travelsomerset.co.uk.

You can also find local information on walking via the Visit Somerset website www.visitsomerset.co.uk and

www.somerset.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/walks-and-trails-in-somerset/

'Health Walks' are open to all ages and fitness levels and are a great way to find out more about your area and make new friends. To find out more about the routes, distances and how to join in visit www.walkingforhealth.org.uk

There are also a variety of phone apps and fitness trackers on the market that you can use to measure how far you have walked and how many calories you may have burned. The suggestions below are all found on Android and iOS)

- Strava
- MapMyWalk
- iFootpath
- Pedometer



Walking one mile a day burns 100 calories. By doing this, you could lose ten pounds in a year without changing your eating habits.



How to get around... **Cycling**

Somerset is a wonderful county for cycling - it is a fantastic way to travel, being quicker than walking (and sometimes driving) and cheaper than running a car. It is also a great leisure pastime and a free way of getting to work with health, environmental, social and financial benefits.

If you are thinking of buying a bike to commute to work whether it be a regular bike or e-bike, check with your employer to see if they have signed up to the national Cycle to Work Scheme www.cyclescheme.co.uk. The scheme provides loans to help employees buy their own bike and make further savings on bike equipment.

The developers of Orchard Grove have provided good cycle paths into Taunton. Depending on how fast you cycle you can be in Taunton in 15 minutes and Wellington in 25 minutes.

Practical information about cycling in and around Orchard Grove.

- Cycle route signs are generally white on a blue background
- At night use front and rear lights and it is advisable to wear a helmet
- Make sure your bike is well maintained and roadworthy

- Check out the Somerset Road Safety website www.somersetroadsafety.org for advice and courses to keep you safe

To find out more about cycling for leisure and work and get lots of safety tips and advice go to www.travelsomerset.co.uk/ cycle. Don't forget you can use your Green Travel Voucher to help buy a bike.

People who cycle regularly in mid-adulthood typically enjoy a level of fitness equivalent to someone 10 years younger and their life expectancy is two years above the average.



DISTANCE



TAUNTON
15
minutes



WELLINGTON
25
minutes

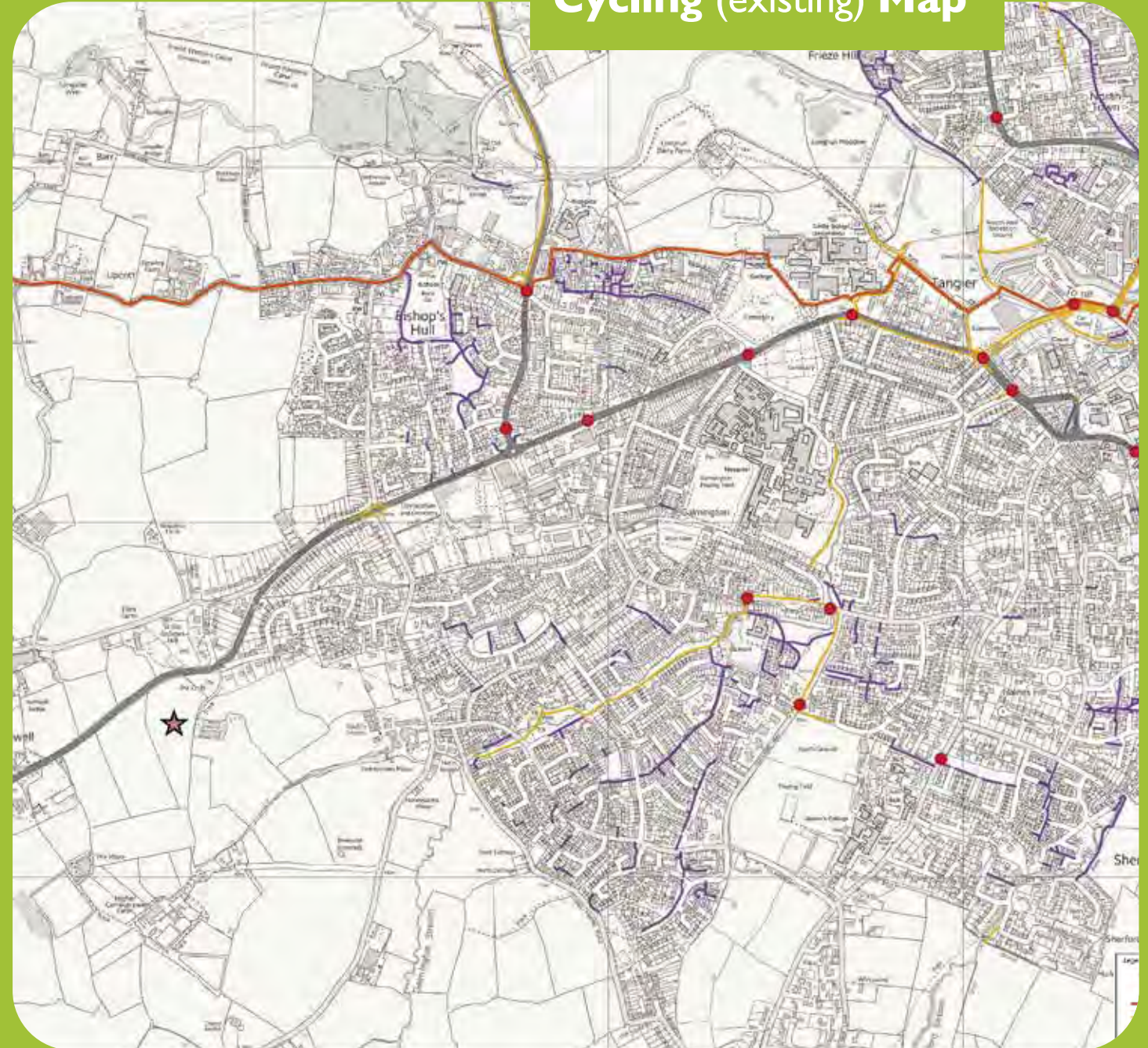


Walking (existing) Map



KEY 10 — 15 — 20 — Walking Distance in minutes

Cycling (existing) Map





How to get around... **Public Transport**



Somerset has an extensive public transport network and offers an immediate alternative for individuals to reduce their energy use and carbon footprint.

Taking the Bus

Taunton is well connected to surrounding towns and villages by bus to the town centre and there are hourly or better bus services to places including Minehead, Dulverton, Wells and Axminster.

Single, return or day tickets are available on the Buses of Somerset services, using cash or contactless credit/bank card. You may find that day tickets are cheapest if you are making more than one journey in a day, and

season tickets if you commute daily. Season tickets can only be purchased from the Buses of Somerset website. You can also use your Green Travel Voucher to purchase season tickets.

A regular, frequent, service 22 runs along the A38 from Wellington into Taunton.

English National Concessionary Travel Scheme Passes are available for those who are of pensionable age or eligible on the grounds of disability www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary/. Whilst students (16+) can apply for a County Ticket (annual ticket) detailed at www.somerset.gov.uk/countyticket/ or call 0300 123 2224 to speak to an advisor. For all other discounts and offers please contact the bus operator.

Travelling by rail, bus or coach can avoid being stuck in congestion and you don't need to look for a parking space.



How to get around... **Community Transport**



Dial-a-ride

Slinky is a door to door demand responsive transport service funded by Somerset County Council for people not served by or unable to access conventional transport. All the vehicles are accessible. The service can be used for various purposes including getting to local health appointments, or exercise classes, visiting friends or family, going shopping or attending social events. You can also use the Slinky as a link to other forms of public transport. Holders of a Somerset issued English National Concessionary Pass and children aged between 5-16 are entitled to a 50% reduction to the cost of the fare.

To find out more and to register, go to www.travelsomerset.co.uk/slinky or call 01823 331266

The service is available Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm.

The Dial a Ride service is a community-based demand responsive transport minibus service for any members of the public to use. The minibuses are wheelchair friendly and welcome guide dogs. Prices vary depending on if you have a bus pass or not, and the length of the journey. Fares vary between £2 to £6 return with a bus pass, but we can advise passengers of the cost when they make a booking but will be confirmed on booking.

Call 01823 331266 to find out more.





To plan your journey visit www.travelinesw.com and use the 'plan your journey' tool or, if you have one, use the free Traveline app on your smartphone

Network Bus Map



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Ordnance Survey 100038382



How to get around... **Trains**



Did you know that there is space for 82 bikes to be stored at Taunton station?

Taunton railway station is a junction station, situated around a mile to the north of the town centre. There are car parks on both sides of the station.

Great Western Railway operates a typically hourly service through Taunton between London Paddington and destinations such as Exeter St Davids, Paignton, Plymouth and Penzance. There is also an overnight Night Riviera sleeper service on this route. The same operator provides an hourly service to Bristol Temple Meads and Cardiff Central via Weston-super-Mare.

CrossCountry operates at least an hourly service during the daytime between Plymouth, Bristol Temple Meads, Birmingham New Street and the North. Most trains run through to Edinburgh Waverley via Leeds, with some extensions through to either Glasgow Central or Dundee & Aberdeen.

There are 2 sheltered bike storage areas on platforms 1 and 5. Commuters are also able to take their bikes onto the trains. You can also hire a bike from nearby On Your Bike. For a one-stop shop on information about combining cycle and rail journeys search PlusBike.

'PLUSBUS' tickets, giving unlimited bus travel, can be booked with your train ticket or are available from Great Western Railway and Cross Country rails websites.

Practical information about using the trains from Taunton

- Platform 5 is the main platform used by trains towards Paddington, Bristol Temple Meads and the north. Platform 4 similarly There is also a buffet there.
- On the south side, Platform 3 is used for services to Exeter St Davids.
- Platform 2 is used for Exeter and beyond

Getting on the train

- Look up the times of the trains to your destination - use the various National Rail Enquiry services to get the time of the next train - www.nationalrail.co.uk
Tel: 08457 48 49 50 or smartphone app.

- Buy your ticket - You can order your ticket via the internet, over the phone or at the station before you get the train. Often buying your ticket at least 24 hours in advance can be much cheaper than buying on the day. Also, there are a variety of railcards and discounts on offer for all age groups including 16-25, Two Together, Family & Friends, Disabled Persons and Senior railcards. Check for details on how to obtain railcards and travel discounts at www.nationalrail.co.uk
- On the train - Have your ticket to hand as you may be asked to show your ticket more than once during your journey and to go through the barriers once you get off.



Journey times from Taunton Station





How to get around... **Coach**



Travelling in a modern, air conditioned, spacious and comfortable coach is a fantastic way to see the country while you unwind.

National Express journey times from Castle Way, Taunton:

DORCHESTER
40 mins

BRISTOL
1 hour 35 mins

BOURNEMOUTH
2 hours 10 mins

CARDIFF
3 hours 15 mins

BIRMINGHAM
4 hours 15 mins

LONDON
4 hours 40 mins

If you don't fancy taking the train, a cheaper option may be to go by coach. With regular services running to various parts of the country, it can often work out more economical than using the car.

National Express coaches
www.nationalexpress.com/ operate a bookable service from outside Debenhams HQ on Park Street for London and the County Hall side for the west country. From these stops you can travel to many locations across the country including London, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cardiff and Newquay.

Berry's Coaches
www.berryscoaches.co.uk/ provide a variety of excursions and a twice daily superfast service to London from Hankridge Farm, Station Road Post Office and Elms Parade in Taunton and Longforth car park, Wellington.

Megabus operate up to 12 services a day. Destinations include London Victoria and Bristol. The bus can be boarded at Blackbrook Park Avenue, Staplegrove Road and Station Road, Taunton
www.uk.megabus.com/route-guides/

How to get around... **Motorcycle**



Riding a motorcycle can be cheaper to run than a car and is a more environmentally friendly option. It can reduce travel time for both you and other road users by either by-passing traffic or taking up less road space and therefore reducing congestion.

If you would like to learn to ride a motorcycle, or already have a license but are a bit rusty and require a refresher course, why not take advantage of the discount voucher at the back of this booklet or contact one of the other motorcycle training schools in Taunton to see what they offer.

If you already own a motorcycle or scooter you may find the following shops useful:

- Brummers Bikes (motorbike parts shop) Westpark, Wellington 01823 6654100
- BitzaBikes (repairs) Bathpool, Taunton 01823 251974
- Grahams Motorcycles, Cornishway, Taunton 01823 331397
- GV Bikes, Pooles Garage, Taunton 01823 276012

Even in the busiest places, there is usually a spot to park a bike.

Practical information about travelling by motorcycle

Many car parks have dedicated areas for motorcycles, making parking easier and reducing the risk of any damage happening to the vehicle. In Taunton you can find provision for motorcycles at:

- Elms Parade, TAI IDQ
- Coal Orchard, TAI IJL
- Whirligig Lane, TAI ISQ

To find out more visit www.parkopedia.co.uk





How to get around... **Electric Vehicles**

Although being able to hop into your car and just drive is very convenient, it may not be the cheapest, fastest or most environmentally friendly option. To counter greenhouse emissions EVs and hybrids are becoming more popular.

By 2035 the government have stated that all new cars and vans sold in the UK must be fully electric

In 2021 over 10% of new vehicles sold in the UK were Electric Vehicles (EVs) and plug in hybrids. According to data, there are now over 1120 charging points across the south West of England and the numbers are growing rapidly. Charging points are defined by power and charging speed. Each household on Orchard Grove should have access to an EV charging point.

Benefits of owning and using an electric vehicle:

- Cuts costs - they are cheap to run, require less maintenance and could have a cheaper annual tax rate
- Reduce Emissions - EVs do not emit any tailpipe emissions or greenhouse gases.
- Charge anywhere - You can charge your vehicle (including bike) anywhere, at home over-night, on the move at service stations, in town centres, supermarkets across the county or at work. A map of the charging points across the UK from both major networks and smaller providers can be found on: www.zap-map.com.

Powered Wheelchairs

People with mobility issues who are unable to walk or cycle sufficient distances will be able to access services and facilities further afield by opting to use a mobility scooter or powered wheelchair.

Motability Operations Ltd can provide information regarding leasing packages for scooters and powered wheelchairs through a mobility scheme. Go to www.motability.co.uk or call 0300 456 4566.



Working from **Home/Shopping**

Thinking carefully about how you travel is important - but it may be that you don't have to make that journey at all. Cutting the number of journeys you make could save you time, hassle and money and cut out commuting time such as travelling on off-peak trains.

Flexible working (changing the times you work) and home working (changing where you work) can help lower carbon emissions and reduce climate change. If our job allows, working from home allows you to manage your hours around your family.

- **Why not ask your employer if they can do anything to support flexible and home working?** There are a number of rewards that your employer might not be aware of, such as improved staff morale, reducing outgoings to make your salary go further, increased productivity and the potential to provide bigger personal workspaces.
- **Can you set up a home office space to work from home, even for just one day a week?** Your employer may also be able to help with this. You can also use your Green Travel Vouchers towards office furniture and/or up to 3 months' broadband bill (see list of items on your GTV for eligibility).

Practical information about going shopping

Shopping locally and buying locally sourced products is a good way to improve your lifestyle and support local suppliers.

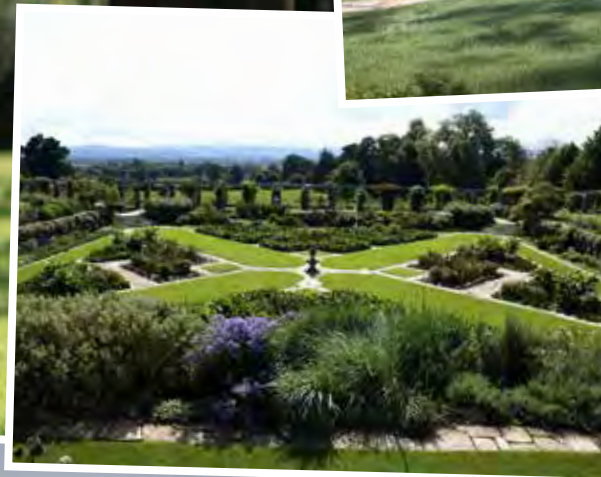
Using a rucksack or panniers on your bike can help you carry your shopping home.

For bigger purchases, why not do your shopping online and have it delivered to your door? This not only avoids having to travel to the shops but also the queues at the tills, it can even save you money by encouraging you to stick to a budget as the cost is tallied up as you go along. Most national supermarkets have an online service.

You could also link up with neighbours for a big shop, taking it in turns to drive, thereby cutting congestion and the cost of fuel.



Gardens & Parks



Images: top. Orchard Grove, middle. Hestercombe gardens, bottom left. Burrow Mump, bottom right. local rambles.



Comeytrove Park
TA1 4TY

Vivary Park
Upper High St,
Taunton TA1 3SX

French Weir Park
15 Northfield Ave,
Taunton TA1 1XF

Hestercombe House & Gardens
Cheddon Fitzpaine,
Taunton TA2 8LG

To find activities, groups or services in your community that can help improve your health and wellbeing go to:

www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/south-west/taunton-deane-walk-well-taunton

There you will also find details of their sister walking group in Wellington

Helpful Contact Details



Whichever mode of transport you choose, before you set out on your journey, why not take a look at:-

Travel Somerset

www.travelsomerset.co.uk
or check out the BBC Travel or AA websites (www.theaa.com/traffic-news/index.jsp), which provide up to date information on any roadworks/closures or delays on your route.

Getting Around Orchard Grove

An on-line version of this travel pack and green travel voucher can be found at:
www.orchard-grove.com

General Bus Information

Traveline
www.travelinesw.com
0871 200 2233

Nextbuses
www.nextbuses.mobi

Train Information

National Rail Enquiries
www.nationalrail.co.uk
0871 200 49 50
Twitter: @nationalrailenq

Car Sharing websites

Liftshare www.liftshare.co.uk

Faxi www.faxi.co.uk

Bla Bla Car www.blablacar.co.uk

Go Car Share www.gocarshare.com

Taxis

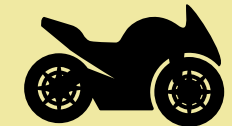
Yellow Pages www.yell.com

From train stations
www.traintaxi.co.uk

Please provide proof of your address when you use your voucher.

TAUNTON SCHOOL OF MOTORCYCLING

10% DISCOUNT on CBT Training.
Please call **01823 354288** to book your place



87 Eastleigh Road . Taunton . TAI 2YE



10% OFF

Refurbished bikes & green services
Station Approach,
The Coach House,
Taunton TAI 1QW

01823 259035

THE BICYCLE CHAIN

Chip Lane,
Staplegrove Rd,
Taunton TAI 1BZ
01823 252499

10% DISCOUNT ON BIKE ACCESSORIES

vouchers

Contact

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