

Chitts Hill

Colchester

Travel Information Pack

Claim your
public transport
tickets today.

Find out more inside



SmarterTravel
from Richard Jackson Limited

Contents

Welcome to Chitts Hill	4	Cycling around Colchester	12
Colchester and the Local Area	5	Greener Car Travel	14
Bus Travel	6	Concessionary & Community travel	16
Train Travel from Colchester	8	Smarter Travel Choices	17
Walking in the Area	10	Claim your Travel Plan & Vouchers	18

This Travel Information Pack has been produced exclusively for residents of **Chitts Hill, Colchester**. We hope you find the information enclosed useful and trust it helps highlight the variety of sustainable travel options available to you in the area.

As part of the commitment from Hopkins Homes to you as a resident of Chitts Hill to support sustainable travel, you are entitled to claim:

- **A 6-day bus pass for local services.**

See page 18 for further details on how to claim (T&C's apply).

Alongside your travel voucher you can also claim a free Personal Travel Plan - providing you with alternative travel options with a comparison of: time, cost, CO₂ saved and calories burned!



Produced on behalf of Hopkins Homes by Smarter Travel Ltd



IMAGE © Martin Pettitt / Flickr

Sustainable Travel – Good for you and your community

Engaging with sustainable ways of travel can have plenty of positive benefits including:

- Improving your health and wellbeing;
- Reducing your travel costs;
- Improving your accessibility to local services;
- Increasing local road safety;
- Reducing travel times;
- Improving your travel choices and options; and
- Creating a cleaner, more vibrant local community.

Chitts Hill

Colchester

Dear resident,

Congratulations on moving into your new home and welcome to Chitts Hill, Colchester.

It is important to Hopkins Homes that you settle in well to Colchester and the local area. To help make your move a little bit easier, we have produced this **Travel Information Pack**.

Throughout this pack, you'll find information on the variety of local travel options available to and from Chitts Hill, including information on public transport services as well as walking and cycling routes.

As a resident of Chitts Hill, we would like to invite you to claim:

- **A 6-day bus pass for local services.**

For information on how to claim your vouchers, please take a look at page 18.

We really do hope that you find the information included useful and also enjoy exploring Colchester and the surrounding areas using the variety of travel options available to you.

On behalf of Hopkins Homes, thank you for selecting Chitts Hill as the place you call home.

Kind regards,

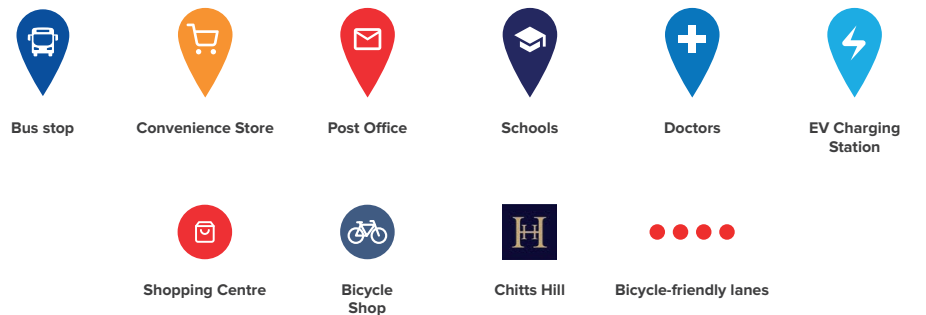
Louisa
Your Travel Plan Coordinator
Smarter Travel Limited



On behalf of Hopkins Homes

Chitts Hill

and the local area





Don't forget, as a resident of Chitts Hill, you can claim 6-days free bus travel.

COLCHESTER

Bus Travel

Your most frequent local bus service is: **First Buses 88, 8A, and 8B Halstead to Colchester,** running every hour, Monday to Saturday.

View the bus timetable here

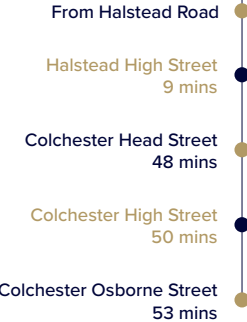


Your nearest bus stop is on Halstead Road, approximately a 10-minute walk from Chitts Hill. From this stop, First Buses operates the 88, 88A and 88B service into Colchester town centre, terminating on Colchester Osborne Street, next to the train station. This service runs hourly Monday-Saturday.

Tickets can be purchased through the First Buses app, website and on the bus with contactless or cash.

A 13-minute walk away further services can be reached from London Road, including services: 65, 70, 71, 71A, 71C, 71X and 72 to Chelmsford city centre and Stanway with Heddingham Buses, running every 10-minutes.

SERVICE 88, 88A, 88B



Useful Apps & Websites



Bus Checker



First Buses



Essex Highways

Bus Checker
Bus Checker gives you instant up to date information for buses throughout the UK. The app also offers journey planning. buschecker.com

First Buses
See instantly when your bus will arrive, use smart journey planning to help you get around, and view real-time disruption updates, traffic reports and stop alerts - all from one easy-to-use app. firstbuses.co.uk

Essex Highways
The Essex on Board website is a great hub for all public transport enquires within Essex. You can access local bus timetables as well as reporting any issues with public transport in the area. essexhighways.org



COLCHESTER

Train Travel

Save money on rail travel!

Railcards are a great way to easily save money on the cost of train travel (up to 1/3rd off) with a variety of cards available, such as: 16-25 Railcard, Disabled Persons Railcard, Two Together and Senior Railcard. Visit the railcard.co.uk website to find out more and how to apply.



There are 3 train stations close to Chitts Hill:

Marks Tey Station - an 8-minute drive, 30-minute bus or 20-minute cycle ride away.

There are 60-cycle parking spaces and 257 car parking spaces available.

Colchester Station - an 8-minute drive, 34-minute bus or a 17-minute cycle ride away.

This is the most connected station with services to: Ipswich, Norwich, London Liverpool St, and Walton-on-the-Naze which can be reached directly. There are 137-cycle parking spaces and 1373 car parking spaces available.

Colchester Town station - a 10-minute drive, 32-minute bus, 17-minute cycle ride away.

There are 24-cycle spaces available with no car parking facilities.

Tickets can be purchased at the station from the ticket machine. However, to receive the best possible price, it is always best to purchase tickets in advance – we would recommend 12 weeks in advance when possible.

Did you know that you can take bicycles on trains? Taking your bicycle with you is **free of charge** but can be subject to reservations at peak hours. However, folding bikes can be taken at any time. To find out more information, visit the **PlusBike** website: plusbike.nationalrail.co.uk or follow them on Facebook and Twitter: [@nationalrailenq](https://www.facebook.com/nationalrailenq).

View live departures from Colchester train station here



COLCHESTER NORTH

- London Liverpool St
52 mins
- Colchester Town
7 mins
- Clacton-on-Sea
27 mins
- Walton-on-the-Naze
53mins
- Ipswich
20 mins
- Norwich
59 mins

Useful Apps & Websites

Keep up to date through Twitter by following [@greateranglia](https://twitter.com/greateranglia)



Greater Anglia



National Rail



Trainline

Greater Anglia

The Greater Anglia app has a variety of different features including the option to purchase mobile tickets and receive live departure updates.

greateranglia.co.uk

National Rail

The National Rail app allows you to plan train journeys as well as receiving alerts and notifications in the event of any disruption or delays.

nationalrail.co.uk

Trainline

The Trainline app also allows you to plan your train journeys, receive alerts and details on your journey including platform numbers. Tickets are also available to purchase and e-tickets are available to download.

www.thetrainline.com



IMAGE © NomadicPics / Flickr



COLCHESTER

Walking in the area

Why not take a walk and get to know your new area?

There are plenty of great open spaces and parks near to Chitts Hill within walking distance for you to explore, your closest is Iron Latch Nature Reserve!

There are many local facilities that can be reached by foot including the nursery, high school and college, within a 15-minute walk away. There is also an Aldi, Sainsbury's, Post Office and Tollgate Shopping Centre with a wide selection of stores, within a 20-minute walk. There are also restaurants, banks and gyms and even a cycle store within the town!

For leisure, there are many walking routes and country parks surrounding Chitts Hill, including:

Lexden Spring Nature Reserve - The first Local Nature Reserve to be opened in Colchester. The reserve is 4.5 acres of meadow. Open all year round.

Iron Latch Nature Reserve - Open all year round, with 4-acres of woodland with footpaths. The reserve is known for its sightings of glow worms on summer evenings!

Highwoods Country Park - Open all year round with 17 pedestrian entrances. The park includes woodland, a lake, wildflower meadows and marshes.

Fancy joining a group of local people who enjoy walking new routes? The Colchester Ramblers organise walks up to twice a week, get in contact to find out more:

www.ramblers.org.uk/colchester or scan the QR code.



FROM CHITTS HILL

- Aldi
14mins
- Lexden Primary School
16 mins
- Lexden Hospital
17 mins
- Lexden Public House
17 mins
- Spring Lane Park
18 mins
- Stanway Primary School
22 mins
- Sainsbury's
28 mins
- Tollgate Shopping Centre
28 mins

Useful Apps & Websites



Map My Walk



Colchester Borough Council



Colchester Area Ramblers

Map My Walk

This app can record your workout duration, distance, pace, speed, elevation, calories burned and the route travelled.

mapmywalk.com

Colchester Borough Council

The Essex County Council website has lots of great walks and information on country park/reserves to explore.

colchester.gov.uk

Colchester Area Ramblers

With around 1,600 members currently, the Ramblers Association provides a variety of regular walks throughout Colchester.

ramblers.org.uk/colchester



Cycling is a great alternative to short car journeys and again many local facilities can be easily reached by bike. There is a combination of on-road cycle routes and traffic free cycle routes in the area, some of these are part of National Cycle Route 1 and 51. There is plenty of cycle parking across various locations in town, or for covered storage you can leave your bike at the train station which has 24 spaces.

If you prefer cycling for leisure, visit the [Cycling UK website](#) to find local cycling groups or clubs such as Cycling for Pleasure Community Cycling - a leisurely group meeting 3 times a week.

Cycling has many benefits, including:

- Improving wellbeing by relieving stress;
- Helps prevent chronic and life threatening illnesses;
- Being more cost effective than running a car; and
- Cycling can reduce congestion and pollution on our roads.

Electric bikes (e-bikes) are becoming increasingly popular, offering a little extra assistance when needed. E-bikes open up more possibilities when travelling by bike. Find out more on the Chitts Hill section of the Smarter Travel website. You can even purchase e-bikes through the CycleScheme – saving up to 39%.

cyclescheme.co.uk

FROM CHITTS HILL

- Aldi
5 Mins
- Tollgate Shopping Centre
9mins
- Sainsbury's
9 mins
- Colchester Town
16mins
- Colchester Zoo
17mins
- Colchester Hospital
20mins
- Highwoods Country Park
25 mins
- University of Essex
31mins

COLCHESTER

Cycling in the area

Cycle to work schemes allow you to receive a bicycle and cycling equipment through a salary sacrifice scheme. By using the scheme, you can save up to **39%** on the cost of equipment. Speak to your employer to see if they are signed up to one of the many options available.

Useful Apps & Websites



Cycle Streets



Strava



BBC Weather

Cycle Streets

This website allows you to easily plan cycle journeys with variable plan cycle journeys with variable route options regardless of the level of cyclist.

cyclestreets.net

Strava

This app records your cycle ride and you can compare your performance overtime, as well as sharing with the local community.

strava.com

BBC Weather

The great British weather is always something to consider when cycling. Use BBC's weather app to be prepared for whatever nature may throw at you!
bbc.co.uk/weather



Car travel is sometimes unavoidable, but there are also ways of travelling by car in a more eco-friendly and sustainable way. Smarter and greener car travel is recommended where other ways of sustainable transport are not possible.

Sometimes it's a necessity to drive, so here are seven eco-driving tips that can help make a difference to your journey:

1. Service your car regularly to maintain engine efficiency;
2. Check your tyre pressures regularly (and before long journeys), under-inflated tyres use more fuel as they increase rolling resistance;
3. Lose any unnecessary baggage, extra weight means extra fuel;
4. Combine short trips; cold starts use more fuel so it pays to combine errands;
5. Drive smoothly, accelerate gently and read the road ahead to avoid unnecessary braking;
6. Cut down on the air-con; air-conditioning increases fuel consumption at low speeds (the effects are less noticeable at higher speeds); and
7. The faster you go the greater the fuel consumption (cruising at 70mph uses up to 9% more fuel than at 60mph and up to 15% more fuel than at 50mph).

Each week, the average Brit spends seven hours in their car

The average annual cost of car insurance is £436

Drivers spend on average £89.67 per month on fuel

It's likely that you will play eye-spy in the car around 1,470 times during your lifetime!

Over your lifetime, on average you will have 7,817 singalongs to the car radio!

COLCHESTER

Greener Car Travel

Did you know that by sharing the same, or a similar journey, with other people you can save money on the cost of car travel – the average commuter could save £1,000 per year! Sign up for free to Loveurcar (LUC) government car sharing scheme or organise your own lift with someone you already know and start saving money. colchester.gov.uk/loveurcarcolchester/carsharingscheme



The future is electric! Cars and vans are changing, electric and hybrid vehicles are becoming increasingly popular as they are cleaner, quieter and cheaper to run. To find out how much you could save or for information on government grants on home charging points, visit goultralow.com



Zap-Map

Find out where your nearest charging point is!
www.zap-map.com

Concessionary & Community Travel

There are a selection of local incentives to promote travelling by public transport including bus passes. People at the age of retirement, or with an eligible disability, are entitled to a bus pass that allows free off-peak travel on weekdays and anytime travel on weekends.

To apply for either of these bus passes or to find out more information, visit the **bus transport section** of the [Essex County Council website](#) or alternatively, call **0345 603 2200**.



Additionally, for those that are less able to travel by regular public transport, there are a few options available, including;

- **Colchester 360 - providing: social car & book-a-ride, group hire and excursion trips.**

To find out more about these services please visit:

community360.org.uk or call **01206 505250**.

School Buses

If you have school aged children, you can find out information on school bus passes through the essex.gov.uk website



Smarter travel choices

Are there other ways in which you can reduce your travel? There are many ways you can reduce your travel, such as implementing working from home days if possible. This is a great opportunity to save you time, money and of course, reduce your carbon footprint.

Another simple way to make a change, is to alternate your modes of travel. Perhaps one day per week, you could travel by train or bus instead? There are a range of flexible train and bus tickets on offer to help you make these small positive changes.

For more information on working from home and flexible public transport tickets, visit the Chitts Hill section of the Smarter Travel website: www.smartertravel.uk.com/chittshill.

Also, if online shopping isn't an option for you, how about shopping locally where possible and travelling by foot or bicycle? With Sainsburys and Aldi just down the road why not incorporate your daily walk into your shop.

Have you considered getting your food delivered? There are some great local businesses offering deliveries to your door, including: Arthurs Organics, Riverford Organic Farmers and Abel & Cole - all locally grown and sourced.

Find out more on the Chitts Hill section of the Smarter Travel website.



IMAGE © TKCA Photography / Flickr

Claim

Your Personal Travel Plan and vouchers

Free Personal Travel Plan

Don't forget about the **free Personal Travel Plan** available to you! A Personal Travel Plan provides you with a list of detailed alternative travel options to and from a specific location that you regularly visit. These alternative options will be compared to your current mode of travel in the amount of CO₂ produced and calories burned. The Personal Travel Plan will show you options such as walking, buses, trains, cycling or driving and which routes are ideal for each mode of travel.

To claim your free Personal Travel plan, visit: www.smartertravel.uk.com/chittshill or scan the QR code below, and fill in the quick questionnaire. If you do not have access to the Internet then please give us a call on: 01603 230240 or write to us. (our address is at the back of the pack).

Free Travel vouchers

As part of Hopkins Homes commitment to you, you can claim:

- **A 6-day bus pass for First Bus services in and around Colchester.**

To claim your voucher please complete the short survey by heading to: www.smartertravel.uk.com/chittshill or scan the QR code below.



Scan here
to claim your
Personal Travel
Plan and Travel
Vouchers!

T&C's apply, one voucher offering per household.





Contact

Hopkins Homes

Melton Park House

Melton

Woodbridge

Suffolk IP12 1TJ

chitts.hill@hopkinshomes.co.uk

01206 699794

This Travel Information Pack has been produced by Smarter Travel Limited. Acting as Travel Plan Coordinators for Chitts Hill, Colchester.

Smarter Travel

4 The Old Church

St Matthews Road

Norwich NR1 1SP

01603 230240

Claim your
public transport
tickets today! Find
out more inside...

WELCOME TO
COLCHESTER
BRITAIN'S 1ST CITY