

## Faringdon area guide

Postcode district: SN6 & SN7

### Location

The SN6 postcode district lies within or includes part of the following towns, counties, localities, electoral wards and stations: Ashbury, Ashton Keynes, Ashton Keynes and Minety, Bampton and Clanfield, Baulking, Bishopstone, Blunsdon, Bourton, Buckland, Buckland Marsh, Buscot, Buscot Park, Buscot Wick, Calcutt, Carswell, Carswell Marsh, Castle Eaton, Challow, Coleshill, Compton Beauchamp, Craven, Cricklade, Dorcan, Duxford, Eaton Hastings, Faringdon and The Coxwells, Fernham, Gainfield, Gloucestershire, Goosey, Great Coxwell, Greendown, Hampton, Hannington, Hannington Wick, Hatford, Highworth, Hinton Waldrist, Idstone, Inglesham, Kingstone Winslow, Knighton, Latton, Leigh, Little Coxwell, Little Hatford, Littleworth, Longcot, Longworth, Lower Bourton, Lower Woolstone Lushill, Marston Meysey, Oxfordshire, Ridgeway, Sandshill, Sevenhampton, Shellingford, Shrivenham, Stanton Fitzwarren, Stanford, Stanford In The Vale, Swindon, Uffington, Watchfield, Water Eaton, Wiltshire and Woolstone.



### History

Faringdon is in the Vale of White Horse and lies about 30 minutes' drive South West of Oxford. It is a beautiful small town and lies between two rivers The Ock and The Thames. Its strategic position between the Thames and Ridgeway has given rise to a long history for the town. Faringdon (meaning 'fern-covered hill') was the first capital of the ancient kingdom of Wessex and Alfred the Great had his castle here.

The Domesday book records a manor with mill, fishing and land for 15 ploughs. The great tithe barn at nearby Great Coxwell by the Abbey of Beaulieu bears evidence to the fertility of the Vale of the White Horse.

King John gave the town a royal charter in 1216 for a weekly market which continues to this day in the Market place.

Later during the Civil War, Roundhead Sir Robert Pye found himself a prisoner in his own home, Faringdon House, which dates back to 1730. A poorly aimed cannon-ball knocked the spire off All Saints church!



A 3.5 miles Faringdon Train line was opened in 1864, between Faringdon and the Great Western Railway at Uffington, with construction funded by the Faringdon Railway Company. Passenger traffic peaked in 1913, but later declined to such extent that the passenger service was withdrawn in 1951. Freight traffic continued to use the line until the Beeching closures of 1964. The Faringdon station building is still extant, having been used for various commercial purposes (currently a nursery school).

### Present day

The Uffington White Horse is the 2nd largest hill figure after the Whipsnade lion and one of seven in the local area. It is the only one to face right. The horse is dated as 1000BC - others in the area date from the late eighteenth century through to 1937. This horse was constructed by in-filling with chalk a series of trenches cut to shape into the hillside. (Others were made by turf removal only). There were theories during the 1960s that there had once been the full figure of a horse, the shape we see today being the remains. The origin of the horse has been the subject of theories for at least 250 years. It has been variously thought to be, amongst other



things, a landmark for travellers, a religious icon, and a tribal badge.



There is a manor house and estate, close to the edge of Faringdon, called Faringdon House. The original house was damaged during the English Civil War. Its owner at the time, Sir Robert Pye, who was a Royalist, was put under siege by his own son Robert who was a Parliamentarian colonel. Building of the current, smaller manor house began about 1780 and was not completed until after 1785. It was the home of Lord Berners in the middle part of the twentieth century. It currently belongs to the writer Sofka Zinovieff, though she does not live there.

### **Amenities**

Faringdon is connected to Swindon and Oxford by the half-hourly 66 bus service run by Stagecoach in Swindon. Faringdon is also connected to Wantage by a regular bus service operated by RH Transport. The journey takes approximately 30 minutes and connects intervening villages to the two towns. A service to Wantage is also provided by the Stanford in the Vale Community Bus.

Faringdon is surrounded by areas of interest from Buscot lock to Radcot bridge on the Thames. It is an ideal location for long countryside walks, and for exploring the western parts of the Thames Valley.

Faringdon has a population of approximately 6,000. The town has many local amenities such as two primary schools and a secondary school, health centre (with the nearest hospitals being in Witney and Swindon), police station, fire station, leisure centre and library.

Faringdon is serviced by a wide range of thriving local businesses. From the butchers who specialise in traditional



sausages which are made on the premises to the specialist cheese and delicatessen, gift shops catering for a broad range of budgets and a Budgens supermarket.

There is a strong retail offer, with around 40 retailers in the town, mainly independents, including a florist, coffee shops, a piano shop, a bridal shop, gift shops, hairdressers and a sweetshop. The market place also boasts some fine eating houses, wine bar and coffee shops ranging from innovative organic menus through to more exotic Thai and Indian cuisine.

### **Average Current Values**

	SN6	SN7	SN	National
1 Bedroom properties	£131,800	£153,500	111,100	£154,100
2 Bedroom properties	£168,100	£185,400	£147,600	£162,400
3 Bedroom properties	£214,900	£228,300	£185,700	£189,000
4 Bedroom properties	£325,800	£361,300	£299,000	£342,600
5+ Bedroom properties	£438,700	£535,600	£438,800	£582,400

### **Housing stock**

	SN6	SN7	SN	National
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Total Detached	3,349	2,048	60,169	6,377,240
% Detached	34.73%	34.10%	29.65%	23.03%
Semi-Detached	2,496	1,746	53,341	7,904,201
% Semi-Detached	25.89%	29.08%	26.29%	28.55%
Terrace	3,261	1,568	71,411	8,669,481
% Terrace	33.82%	26.12%	35.19%	31.31%
Flat	536	643	18,004	4,736,208
% Flat	5.56%	10.71%	8.87%	17.11%

### Home ownership

	SN6	SN7	SN	National
Owner Occupied	6,050	3,416	122,971	14,911,858
% Owner Occupied	68.70%	66.37%	60.60%	66.19%
Socially Rented	1,170	747	25,861	4,155,391
% Socially Rented	13.28%	14.51%	12.74%	18.44%

House prices last updated 1st December 2012. Housing stock notes: The data above illustrates the relative proportions of the differing types of property. Based on information collected in the 2001 census, the percentages provide an indication of how common particular types of housing are within the postcode district. It is important to note that as homes are demolished and built these percentages will fluctuate accordingly.