

IMBERBUS

Event Guide

for the classic bus service across Salisbury Plain
to the lost village of Imber on

Saturday 17 August 2024



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

BACKHOUSE AND  Warminster Town Council

Bob Eade 1943 - 2024

Bob was born in 1943 and enjoyed many hours trainspotting in London and around the country, travelling by train and bus. He relocated with his family to Wiltshire in 1975 for work, setting up UK Transport Bookbargains in the early 1980s, turning a hobby into a successful business. Bob continued to run the business with mail order and trade customers, as well as attending sales events as far away as Scotland! More for a bit of fun, Bob took his PSV licence and drove buses in Bath for several years, including the bendybuses.

The Warminster & West Wilts Vintage Bus Running Day was his brainchild and the first one took place in Warminster on 28th November 1994 with just two two buses! Bob also enjoyed both driving, conducting and helping at Imberbus for many years.

The Imberbus team send their condolences to Bob's family. RIP, Bob Eade.

Imberbus takes the efforts of many people and organizations over the year it takes to make it happen. Thank you to:

Ace Taxis	McKenna Brothers Ltd
Backhouse Jones	Network Rail
Bath Bus Company and Derek White	Office of the Traffic Commissioners
Bratton Silver Band	Salisbury Plain Training Area, and
Casper's Café, Warminster Station	the Defence Infrastructure
Chitterne Village Hall	Organization
Crossways Travel	The Thames Valley & Great Western
Dawsongroup Bus & Coach,	Omnibus Trust
and Paul Sainthouse	Tilshead Village Hall
Doug Rose of FWT London	Traffic Commissioners of Gt. Britain
The Eade Family	Transport for London
Emily Maiden	Trueform Engineering Ltd
F & S Gibbs Transport	UK Railtours
Firstbus Bristol, Bath & the West	Warminster Town Council
The Friends of St Giles's Church,	Warminster Business Network
Imber, and Neil Skelton BEM	Wiltshire Council
Gallagher (insurance)	
Go-Ahead South Coast, Swindon's	Michael Meilton, Martin Curtis,
Buses & Salisbury Reds, and	Phil Grocock, and Phil Swallow and
Andrew Sherrington and	Leon Daniels OBE
Andrew Wickham	...and, of course, all the bus owners,
Great Western Railway	crews and supervisors, and volunteers.
Land Sheriffs	
Links Signs	Peter,
London Transport Museum	Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill, CBE
Market Lavington Museum	August 2024

WELCOME TO WARMINSTER

Explore Warminster

You may have come to see Imber Village, but no visit would be complete without spending some time in the historic market town of Warminster. Warminster offers a great range of shops, many of which are independently owned, providing a unique shopping experience. The town also boasts an impressive heritage with many historic buildings. We hope you have an enjoyable and fun-filled day.

Imber Exhibition

Discover the history of Imber Village at *Imber: The Ghost Village – A walk through the past*, which is being held at the Athenaeum. Enjoy free entry and explore this fascinating exhibition from Friday 16th to Friday 23rd August, 10.30am – 1pm (closed Sunday 18th August). And do look in the Library for a lovely exhibition of cartoons looking at Imberbus, and the places it serves, by Jules, the relief postie for Chitterne.

Shopping

With a good mix of high street brands, together with an array of smaller independent stores, Warminster won't disappoint. Take time to browse the streets and shopping areas – see the Warminster map on pages 6 and 7 for further details.

Food & Drink

Warminster has an excellent choice of eateries that cater for all. While the town features familiar establishments it also boasts a variety of independent cafés, restaurants, pubs and takeaways. In particular, at the Old Bell they will be serving a 1940s-style lunch and snacks and will give some of the proceeds to Imberbus.

Lake Pleasure Grounds

Whilst in Warminster, visit the award-winning Lake Pleasure Grounds. Located in the heart of Warminster, the town's park is packed with facilities including a splashpad, skatepark, tennis courts, putting green and café. During the summer visitors can hire boats and canoes.

Come Back Another Day

There is plenty to see and do, not only in Warminster but also in the surrounding area. Come back another day and discover more.

ADVANCE TICKETS FOR IMBERBUS

From 1st August, Imberbus tickets will be available from The Athenaeum box office (High Street, Warminster) and Iris & Olive, Market Place, Warminster.

Car Parking at the Civic Centre

Western Car Park (Civic Centre) is a good place to park as it allows you to walk up through the town centre – see the Warminster map on pages 6 and 7 for further parking details.

Some things to do in Warminster

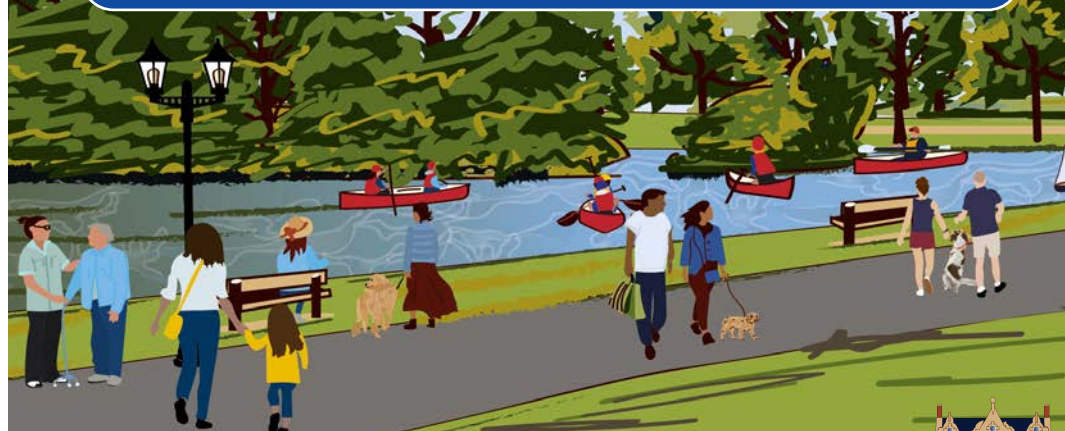
SHOPPING:

With a large number of independents, Warminster offers great shopping options, more than most towns in Wiltshire.



THE LAKE PLEASURE GROUNDS:

Located near the town centre, this park features a splashpad, skatepark, tennis courts, putting green, café, play areas, beautiful flower beds, wildlife, and more.



THE ATHENAEUM CENTRE: Wiltshire's oldest working theatre, hosting plays, bands, films, and a variety of community activities and classes.



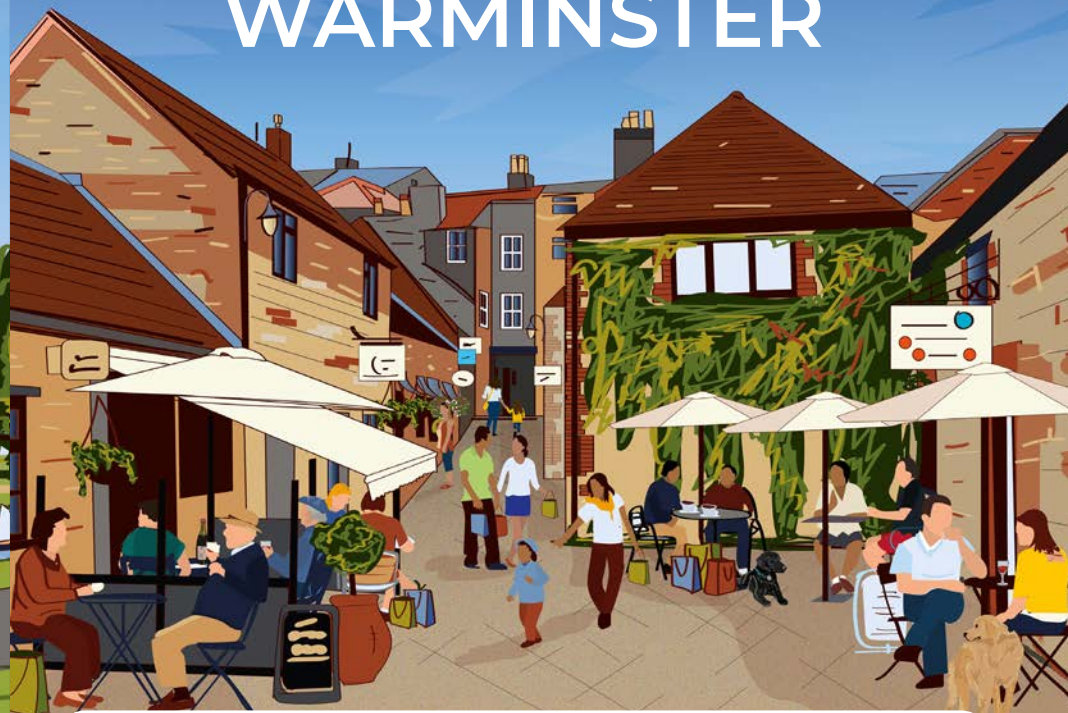
THE BLUE PLAQUE TRAIL: Discover 20 of Warminster's 200+ historic buildings, a tour leaflet can be downloaded from the town council website.



THE CHAPEL OF ST LAWRENCE: A 13th-century chapel with stunning stained glass windows and a historic clock. Explore more using the Explore Wiltshire App.



Welcome to WARMINSTER



Warminster is a historic market town set in beautiful surroundings. There is so much to see and do here. We have a great range of shops, many of which are independently owned and offer a unique shopping experience. Every Friday, there is a weekly market in the Three Horseshoes Walk. Additionally, the town hosts a full program of events, including four seasonal independent markets.

The surrounding area of Warminster is the perfect base for exploring nearby attractions like Stonehenge, Longleat Estate, and Stourhead. The historic cities of Bath and Salisbury, along with charming villages, are all within easy reach. Additionally, the nearby Salisbury Plain and Cranborne Chase National Landscape offer vast countryside ideal for exploration and enjoyment.



warminstertowncouncil



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www.warminster-tc.gov.uk

www.warminster-tc.gov.uk



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WHERE TO SHOP

The main shopping areas in Warminster are: High Street, Market Place, Station Road, East Street, Weymouth Street, George Street and Silver Street. There are shopping malls at: Three Horseshoes Walk, the Cornmarket and Chinn's Court.

FOOD AND DRINK

Warminster is well served with cafes, restaurants, pubs, takeaways, hotels, sandwich bars and shops selling food and drink.



Scan to visit the
Town Council
website

Illustration & design by
www.emilycharlottomoran.com





IMBER: THE GHOST VILLAGE

A walk through the past

FREE Exhibition at
ATHENÆUM
WARMINSTER

Friday 16th to Friday 23rd August
10.30am - 1.00pm
(Closed Sunday)



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INTRODUCING IMBERBUS

In 2009, a group of bus industry professionals achieved a long standing ambition to run a bus service from Warminster in Wiltshire, to the abandoned village of Imber on Salisbury Plain. It proved to be so popular that it has now become an annual event, with most journeys continuing across Salisbury Plain to parts of Wiltshire rarely seen by public transport users. Each year the profits from operating the service are donated to The Friends of St. Giles's Church, Imber, to the Royal British Legion, and to other charities, both local and ones nominated by those who help run the service.

Today we are expecting to run about 40 old and new buses from London and elsewhere, with some with mobility access, to provide a frequent service from Warminster station to Imber and then half-hourly to Gore Cross; thence to New Zealand Farm Camp, to Brazen Bottom and the Lavingtons, or to Tilshead and Chitterne.

The service is designed so that buses meet at Gore Cross Bus Station, to allow passengers to interchange, and thus it should be possible to travel the entire network in four hours or so.

Coming to Imberbus

There is a good train service at Warminster, to and from Cardiff, Newport, Bristol, Bath Spa, Salisbury and the south coast, and local stations. From London, change at Bath Spa, Westbury or Salisbury. Details from www.nationalrail.co.uk.

There are scheduled bus services to and from Warminster, Tilshead and Market Lavington, details at www.traveline.info. There will also be a coach excursion from Dorchester. By car, please park in the Western Car Park (Civic Centre) and Central Car Park (off Station Road) in Warminster (see map on Pages 6 and 7) or at the top of Sack Hill, and at Chitterne at the sports field (off the A360). Cars will NOT be allowed into the military training area. Please do NOT park at Gore Cross, Market Lavington and Tilshead. All details at www.imberbus.org

Imberbus Car-Free Day

This year access to Imber is again by bus only; the Army has generously allowed Imberbus access for buses and bus passengers only, on a day when the Salisbury Plain Training Area is closed to all other people and vehicles.

What can I do when I get to Imber?

St. Giles's church is the principal attraction. The church occupies the site of an earlier building dating from the mid-12th century. The nave was re-built towards the end of the 13th century and was followed, circa 1400, by the addition of the north and south aisles, the tower and north porch. At this time the nave roof was re-constructed. The chancel was re-built in 1849 at which time the north-east vestry was built. As the village was evacuated in 1943, it is

conserved by the Churches Conservation Trust and looked after by the Friends of St. Giles's, who will have it open for Imberbus passengers to see the churchyard and interior, the exhibition on the history of Imber, and who will also be serving light refreshments. Please admire the flagpole on the church tower, paid for from the donation from Imberbus 2022. There will also be a display and vehicle from the London Transport Museum and a stand from the Thames Valley and Great Western Omnibus Trust. Please visit these too.

The church, the path to it, and the road through Imber are all available for public use. Everywhere else, including all the other buildings, fields and other land and the derelict tanks is **STRICTLY OUT OF BOUNDS**. Trespass is prohibited, is dangerous, and the areas will be patrolled by police, the military and by wardens. Failure to heed this advice may make future access to Imber impossible. Please follow all the directions set out on Pages 31 and 32 from the Defence Infrastructure Organization.

Where will I be able to get something to eat or drink?

Light refreshments will be available inside Imber Church, and at Chitterne and Tilshead village halls (and at Tilshead village hall, there will be a sales stand for transport books and souvenirs); also at Caspers Café at Warminster station, which will be open throughout the day. Please also sample the restaurants and pubs in Warminster and along the route. Our buses pass near hostels at Market Lavington and West Lavington too. The Museum at Market Lavington will be serving cream teas from 10.30am to 5pm; there will be a bus stop in Market Lavington adjacent to the path to the Museum.

What other facilities are available at Imber?

None! As Imber is normally closed to the public there are no shops, no permanent toilets and there is no mobile phone reception or Wifi. We therefore strongly recommend that you prepare for this before you board the bus (the nearest public toilets will be at Warminster station and alongside Warminster Central Car Park).

How much are tickets?

To enable visitors to explore our services in an affordable way, we will again be offering an all-day ticket at a cost of £10 per adult, with all-day tickets for children at £2 each. Please see Page 21 for full details.

Imberbus operates as an ordinary local bus service, so you can pay in advance, but you can also just turn up and pay the conductor on the bus in cash (payment in £5 or £10 notes or £1 and £2 coins is appreciated). To speed things up, we will also sell tickets outside Warminster Station, where payment by contactless card will be accepted. We regret that we are unable to accept concessionary bus passes.

If you would like further information about our event, please visit our website at www.imberbus.org. This includes a Frequently Asked Questions page, and an Imberbus video.

St. Giles's Church

The only original building substantially surviving the military occupation from the Second World War is the church.

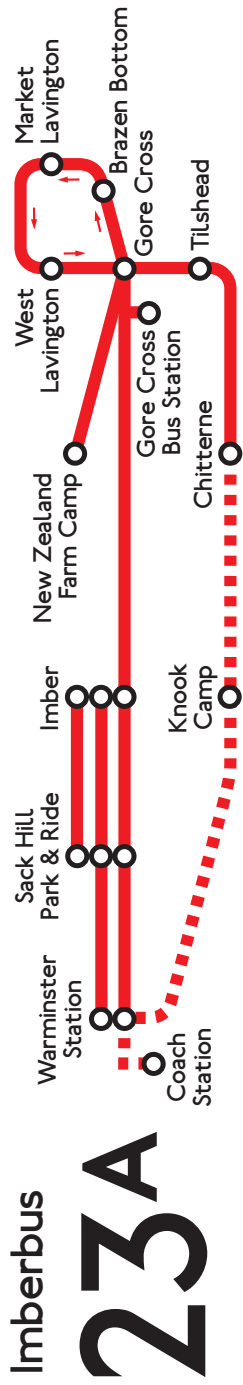
To the right is a photograph taken from *Imber, Then and Now* by Gordon Lewis, first published in 2015. The view is looking south with the church tower in the distance.

The view below was taken in 2016 from south of the church looking north. Funds raised by the annual Imberbus event over the years have enabled the path to the church to be metalled, railings to be installed, the church to be lit internally, a new display of Imber history, and a new flagpole.

[photograph courtesy of Nick Agnew]

In 2023, Imberbus donated nearly £38,000 to the Friends of St. Giles's Church, Imber, and to the Royal British Legion Poppy Day Appeal and to other charities related to those who help Imberbus. This year, the surplus will again be donated to those charities.





Warminster - Imber shuttle
Warminster · Imber · Gore Cross · Tilshead · Chitterne 23A
Warminster · Imber · Gore Cross · Brazen Bottom and The Lavingtons 23A
Warminster · Imber · Gore Cross · New Zealand Farm Camp 23A

WARMINSTER - IMBER shuttle

Saturday 17th August 2024

Buses will run from outside Warminster Rail Station to Imber approximately every 10-15 minutes between 0930 & 1745, and from Imber Church back to Warminster every 10-15 minutes between 1010 & 1745. Extra buses may also link Sack Hill car park with Imber.

On arrival at Imber, some buses from Warminster will carry on to Gore Cross, then either to Brazen Bottom and the Lavingtons or to Tilshead & Chitterne, as shown in the timetable below. This year extra buses will also link Tilshead, the Lavingtons and Gore Cross with New Zealand Farm Camp and these are shown separately at the bottom of the page.

Buses normally arrive at Gore Cross a few minutes before the departure time shown, to enable passengers to change buses.

EASTBOUND JOURNEYS travelling beyond Imber

Saturday 17th August 2024

Warminster Rail Station	0930	0945	1000	1000	1030	1030	00	00	30	30	1630	1630	1700	1700	1700	1730
Imber, Church	0958	1013	1013	1028	1028	1058	then	28	28	58	1658	1658	1728	1728	1728	1758
Gore Cross, Interchange	1015	1030	1033	1045	1048	1115	1118	at	45	48	1715	1718	1745	1745	1745	1810
Brazen Bottom	.....	.....	1041	.....	1056	.....	1126	these	.....	56	.....	.....	.....	1726	.....	1749 NZ
Market Lavington, Church St.	.....	.....	1055	.....	1110	.....	1140	mins	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	1740	.....	1755
West Lavington, Crossroads	.....	.....	1059	.....	1114	.....	1144	past	.....	14	.....	.....	.....	1744	.....	1759
Tilshead, Rose & Crown	1023	1038	.....	1053	.....	1123	.....	each	53	.....	1723	.....	.....	1753	.....	.....
Chitterne, Church	1034	.....	.....	1104	.....	1134	.....	hour	04	.....	1734	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

ADDITIONAL JOURNEY DIRECT TO CHITTERNE: Departs from Warminster Coach Station at 1020, arriving Chitterne at 1040.

WESTBOUND JOURNEYS starting east of Imber

Saturday 17th August 2024

Chitterne, Church	.....	1049	.....	49	.....	19	.....	1649	.....	1719	.....	.....	1749	.....	.....	.....
Tilshead, Rose & Crown	.....	1101	.....	then	01	.....	31	.....	1701	.....	1731	.....	1801	.....	.....	.....
Market Lavington, Church St.	1025	.....	1055	at	.....	55	.....	25	.....	1655	.....	1725	.....	1755	.....	.....
West Lavington, Crossroads	1029	.....	1059	these	.....	59	.....	29	until	1659	.....	1729	.....	1759	NZ	.....
Gore Cross, Interchange	arr	1040	1110	1110	mins	10	10	40	40	1710	1710	1740	1740	1810	1810	.....
Gore Cross, Interchange	dep	1045	1115	1115	past	15	15	45	45	1715	1715	1745	1745	1815	1815	.....
Imber, Church	1100	1130	1130	each	30	30	00	00	00	1730	1730	1800	1800	1830	1830	1835
Warminster Rail Station	1125	1155	1155	hour	55	55	25	25	25	1755	1755	.....	.....	.....	.....	1915

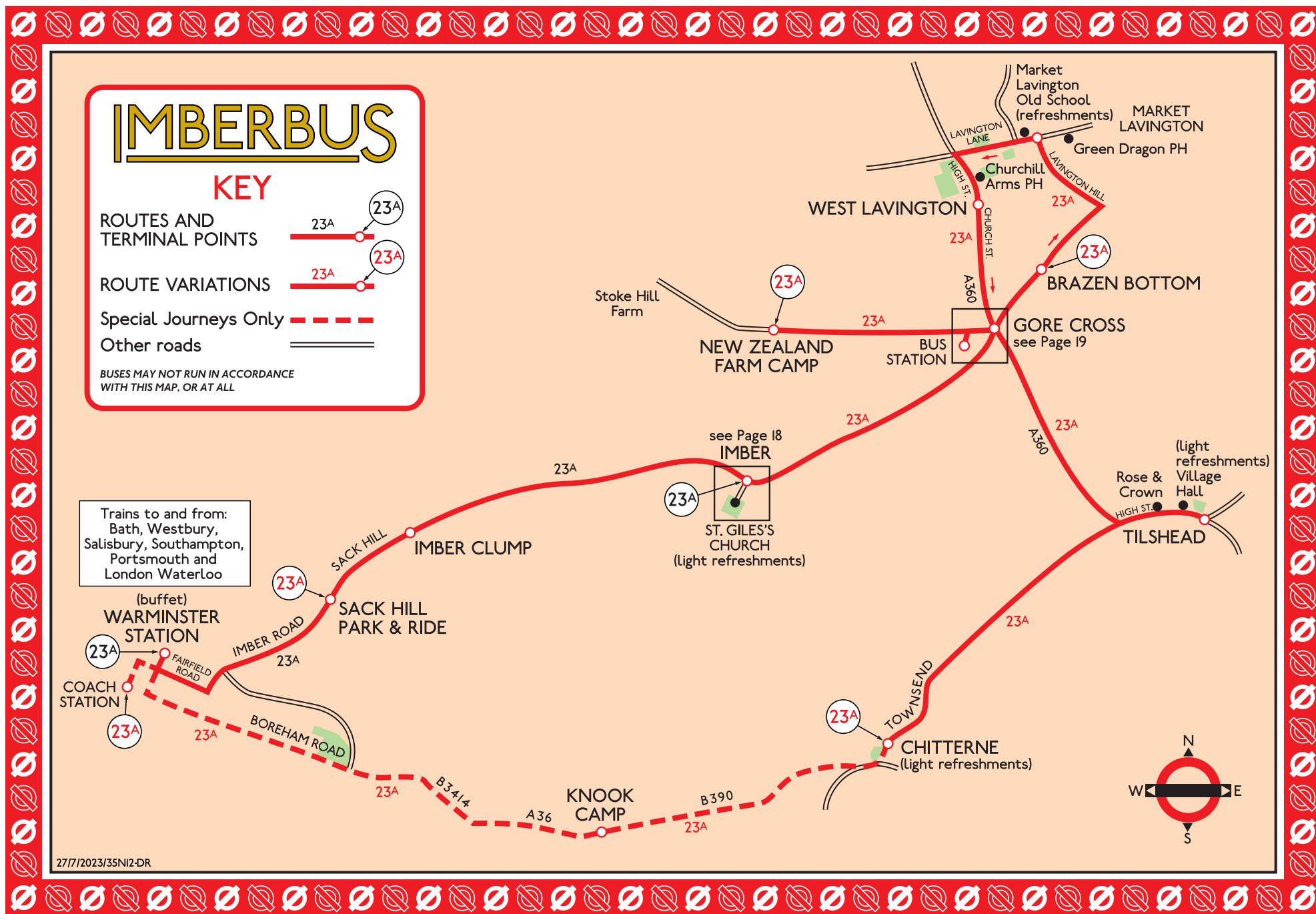
ADDITIONAL JOURNEYS FROM CHITTERNE DIRECT TO WARMINSTER: Depart from Chitterne Church at 1540 and 1610.

EXTRA JOURNEYS linking Tilshead, The Lavingtons and New Zealand Farm Camp

Tilshead, Rose & Crown	1046	.....	.....	1216	.....	46	.....	16	.....	1546	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Market Lavington, Church St.	.....	1110	1140	1210	.....	then at	40	.....	10	1540	.....	1610	1640	1710	.....	1740
West Lavington, Crossroads	.....	1114	1144	1214	.....	these	44	.....	14	1544	.....	1614	1644	1714	.....	1744
Gore Cross, Interchange	arr	1055	1125	1225	1225	minutes	55	55	25	1555	1555	1625	1655	1725	.....	1755
Gore Cross, Interchange	dep	1130	1200	1230	1230	past each	00	00	30	1600	1600	1630	1700	1725	1745	1755
New Zealand Farm Camp	.....	1140	1210	1240	1240	hour	10	10	40	1610	1610	1640	1710	.....	1755	.....

New Zealand Farm Camp	.....	.....	1145	1145	.....	15	15	45	45	1515	1515	1545	1615	1645	1715	1759
Gore Cross, Interchange	arr	.....	1155	1155	then at	25	25	55	55	1525	1525	1555	1625	1655	1725	1810
Gore Cross, Interchange	dep	1103	1133	1200	1203	these	30	33	00	1530	1533	1603	1633	1703	.....	.....
Brazen Bottom	.....	1111	1141	.....	1211	minutes	.....	41	.....	1541	1541	1611	1641	1711	.....	.....
Market Lavington, Church St.	.....	1125	1155	.....	1225	past each	.....	55	25	1555	1555	1625	1655	1725	.....	.....
West Lavington, Crossroads	.....	1129	1159	.....	1229	hour	.....	59	29	1559	1559	1629	1659	1729	.....	.....
Tilshead, Rose & Crown	.....	1208	1208	.....	.....	.....	38	.....	08	1538	1538	1608	1638	1708	.....	.....

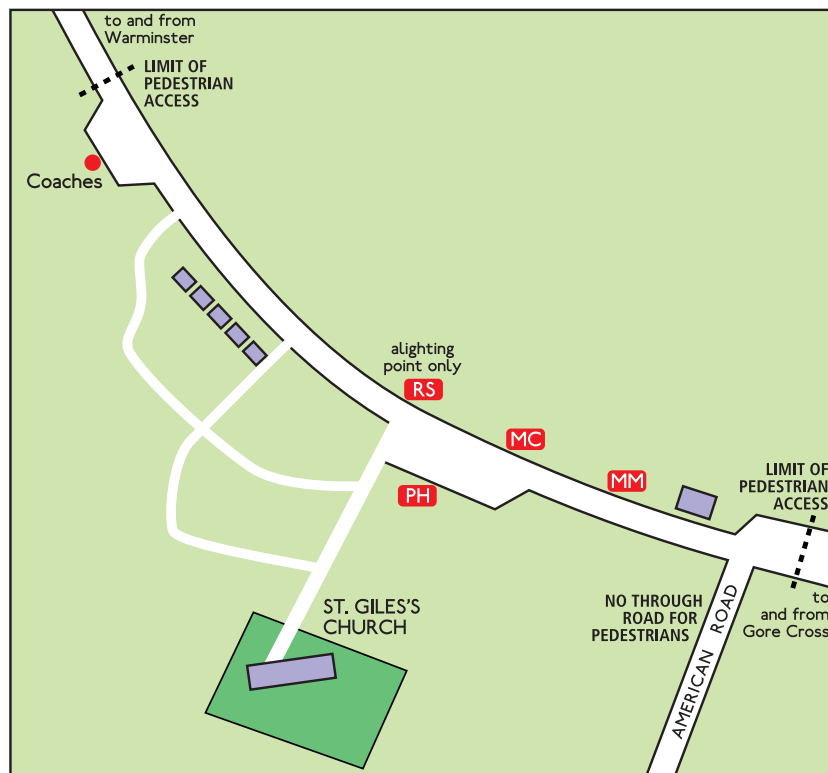
KEY: NZ - Runs to/from New Zealand Farm Camp (departs 1759). ▼ - Continues back to Gore Cross.



Service operated by The Henty and Pendle Charitable Trust, under Community Bus Permit CO985, and friends. 17 August 2024
15th Year of Operation

IMBERBUS

Where to Board Your Bus at IMBER



DESTINATION	BUS STOP
Brazen Bottom	MM
Chitterne Church	MC
Copehill Down Road	MC
Gore Cross	MC MM
Lavington Vedette	MM
Market Lavington	MM

DESTINATION	BUS STOP
New Zealand Farm Camp	MC * MM *
Sack Hill Park & Ride	PH
Tilshead	MC
Warminster Station	PH
West Lavington	MM

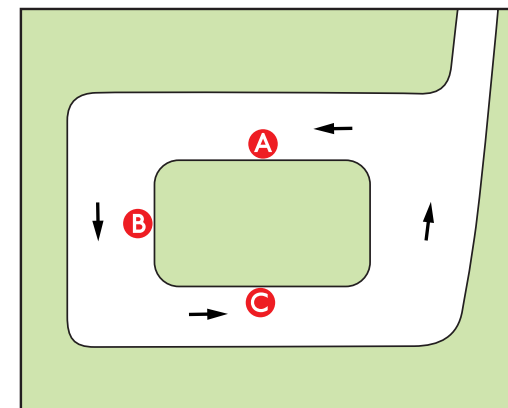
* change at Gore Cross

2/7/2024/DR

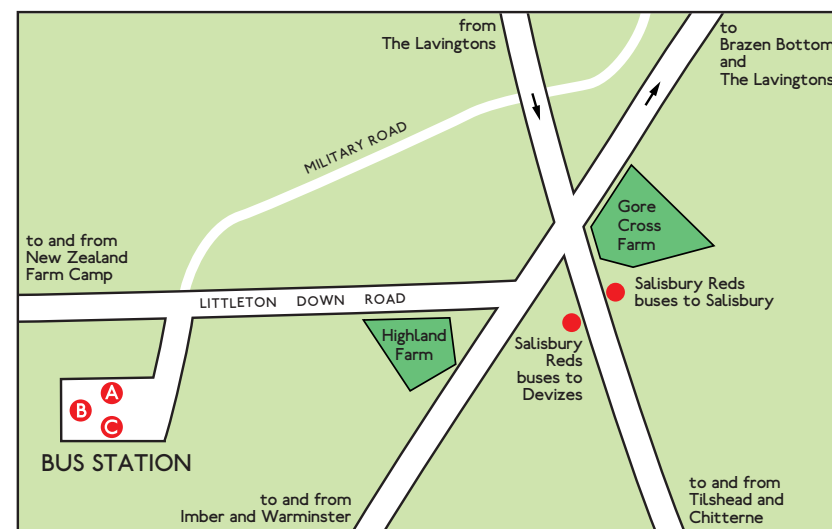
IMBERBUS

Where to Board Your Bus at GORE CROSS BUS STATION

DESTINATION	BUS STOP
Brazen Bottom	A
Chitterne Church	B
Copehill Down Road	B
Imber	C
Imber Clump	C
Lavington Vedette	A
Market Lavington	A
New Zealand Farm Camp	C
Sack Hill Park & Ride	C
Tilshead	B
Warminster Station	C
West Lavington	A



Where the Buses Go



14/7/2024/DR



The buses get very dirty along the event roads. This one is having an early but short-lived bath. [photograph courtesy of Peter Mantell]

A lovely sunny day at Chitterne during the 2019 event. [photograph courtesy of Doug Rose]



IMBERBUS

FARES

WARMINSTER—IMBER—GORE CROSS and TILSHEAD and CHITTERNE,
BRAZEN BOTTOM and THE LAVINGTONS and
NEW ZEALAND FARM CAMP, or CHITTERNE direct

ROUTE
23A
23C

FARE

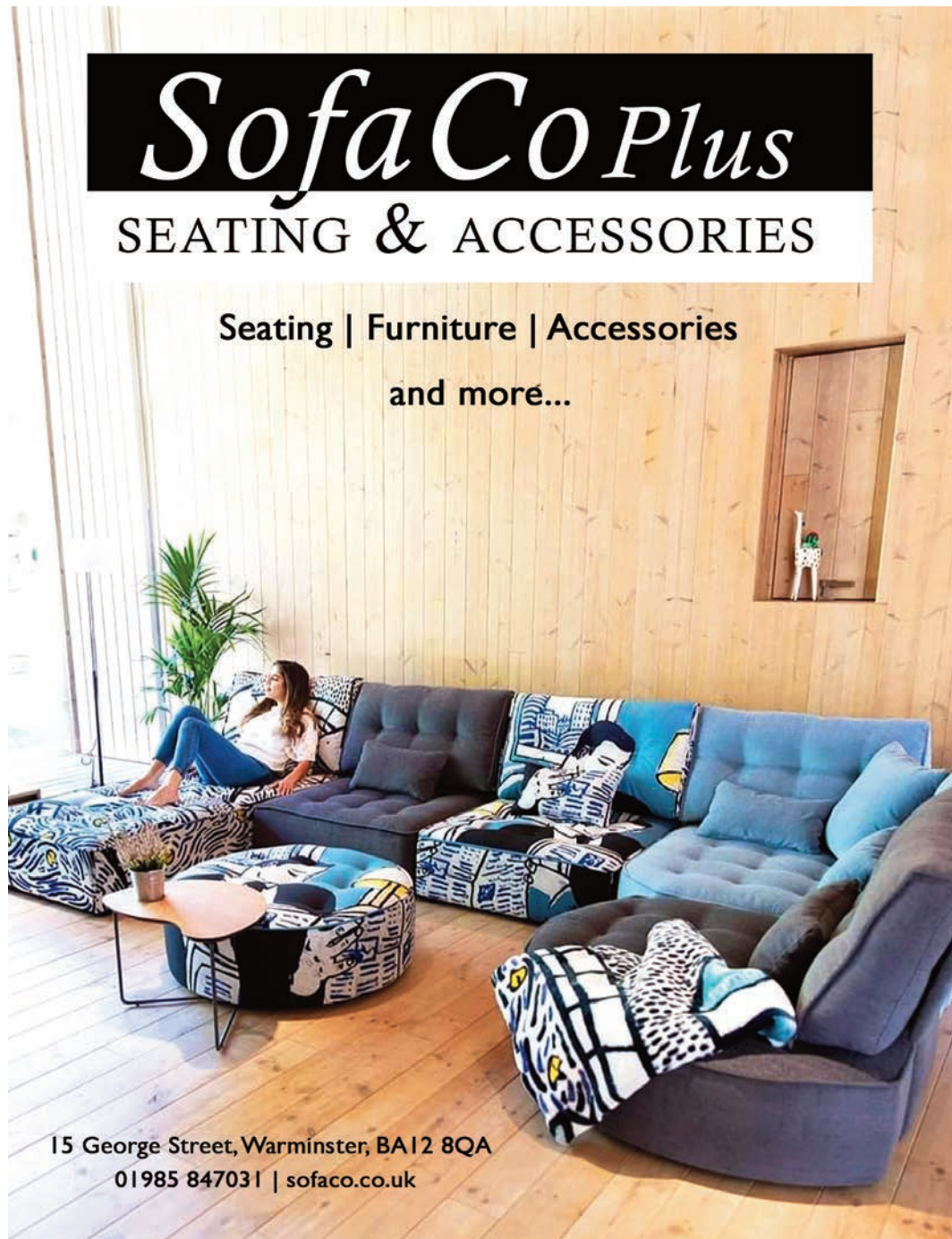
£10 Adult

£2 Child

FARES FOR CHILDREN under 16 years of age

One child under 5 years of age, accompanied by a passenger and not occupying a seat, is carried free. Additional children under 5 years and children of 5 years and under 16 years of age are carried at one fifth of the adult fare, fractions of 1d being charged as 1d.

National Concessionary Passes are not available.



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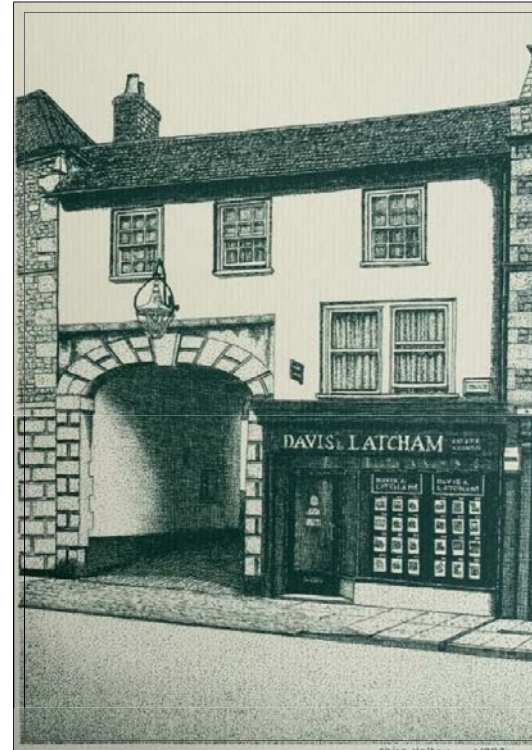


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- WAG House Helper
- Volunteer Driver
- Fundraiser
- Helpline Support
- Helping in the Community Shed



Contact Us
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Matt Curtis
P H O T O G R A P H Y



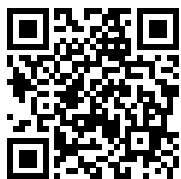
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The Omnibus Society was set up over 90 years ago to bring together those with an interest in all aspects of bus operation and that is still our aim. Members have the opportunity to join social branches and meet with other people who share a similar interest, from enthusiasts to transport professionals. The Society is also useful to younger people in the bus industry as it provides the opportunity to hear from senior managers and visit all sorts of bus-related premises.

For more details, contact:

Andrew Tyldsley, 25 Abington,
Ouston, Chester-le-Street DH2 1RD
membership@omnibus-society.org

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EVENTS

SAT OCT
26 Edington Priory Church
Edington
2:30pm



SAT NOV
30 St James Church
Trowbridge
2:30pm



FRI DEC
06 THE LAVERTON
Westbury
7:30pm



*not all events are available to book just yet!

IMBERBUS



Members of *Bratton Silver Band* and *Bratton Brass Band* will be entertaining visitors during the *Imber Bus Day*. We will be playing outside St Giles Church during the day. Feel free to come and listen!

Playing Times

10:00 am — 12:30 pm

1:30 pm — 4:00 pm



Bratton Community Brass Bands is a vibrant musical organization in the village of Bratton, encompassing three distinct ensembles: *Bratton Silver Band*, *Bratton Brass Band*, and *Bratton Brass Roots*. Each group caters to different skill levels and age, creating an inclusive environment for all our musicians. If you are interested in getting involved with us as a player or even a volunteer, please get in touch!

Rehearsal Location: Bratton Church Institute, Tynning Ln, Bratton, Westbury BA13 4RR

Rehearsal Times

Bratton Silver Band: Monday & Friday 8.00pm-10.00pm

Bratton Brass Band: Friday 6.00pm-7.45pm

Player Manager: Kirsty Westlake

Email: playermanager@brattonsilverband.com

Bookings: Lucy Scott

Email: engagements@brattonsilverband.com

Bratton Brass Roots

Brass Roots Leader: Lydia Hills

Bratton Brass Roots starters Monday 5:30pm-6:00pm

Bratton Brass Roots beginners Monday 6:00pm-6:45pm

Bratton Brass Roots juniors Monday 6:45pm-7:30pm

Adult Bratton Brass Roots beginners Friday
6:30pm-7:15pm

Email: brassroots@brattonsilverband.com

General enquiries: secretary@brattonsilverband.com

www.brattonsilverband.com



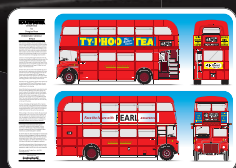
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The Ministry of Defence (MOD) welcomes you to Imber.
Please read this leaflet carefully. It will help you make the most of your visit.



Stick to public rights of way

The MOD wants to ensure that visitors to Imber have an enjoyable experience when visiting this historical village. Salisbury Plain is first and foremost a military training area and for your own safety and enjoyment we ask that you stick to public rights of way and designated areas and comply with local flags and signs.



Please don't enter buildings marked 'unsafe'

There are dangerous buildings all around Imber. These buildings are military training features and are unsafe for members of the public. They are always off limits unless notices tell you otherwise. Please do not go inside these buildings.



Disused tank hulks are targets...not playgrounds

You'll see these "hard targets" dotted around Imber. They are not for climbing or playing on; under no circumstance should they be approached. They have been used as targets for many years and are covered by exposed, dangerous metal and small spaces exist where little people could get trapped! They will also be contaminated by munitions or pyrotechnics, which may go off if tampered with.



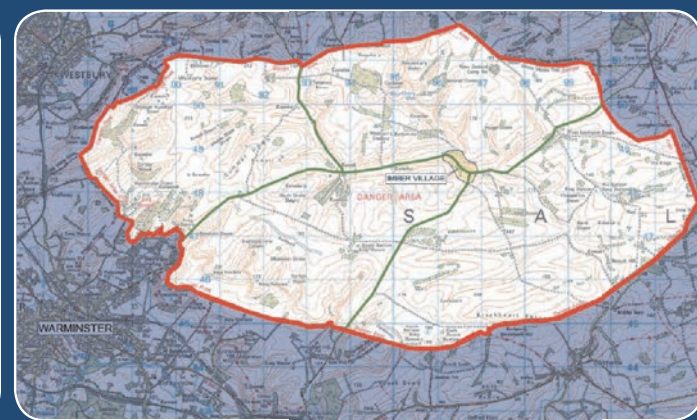
Don't stray from the path

Imber Range has been used for military training for many years. There is always the possibility that unexploded ordnance may contaminate an area. It is important that you remain in those areas designated for public access where the risk has been managed.



Please remember:

- Landmarc, military staff and volunteers are on site for your safety
- Please respect and adhere to all information and direction when visiting the Plain
- Children should be supervised at all times
- Please take your litter home with you
- If you are visiting with your dog please clean up after it and ensure that it is kept in sight and under close control at all times



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Defence
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Public Information Leaflet



Salisbury Plain



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Public Safety at Imber