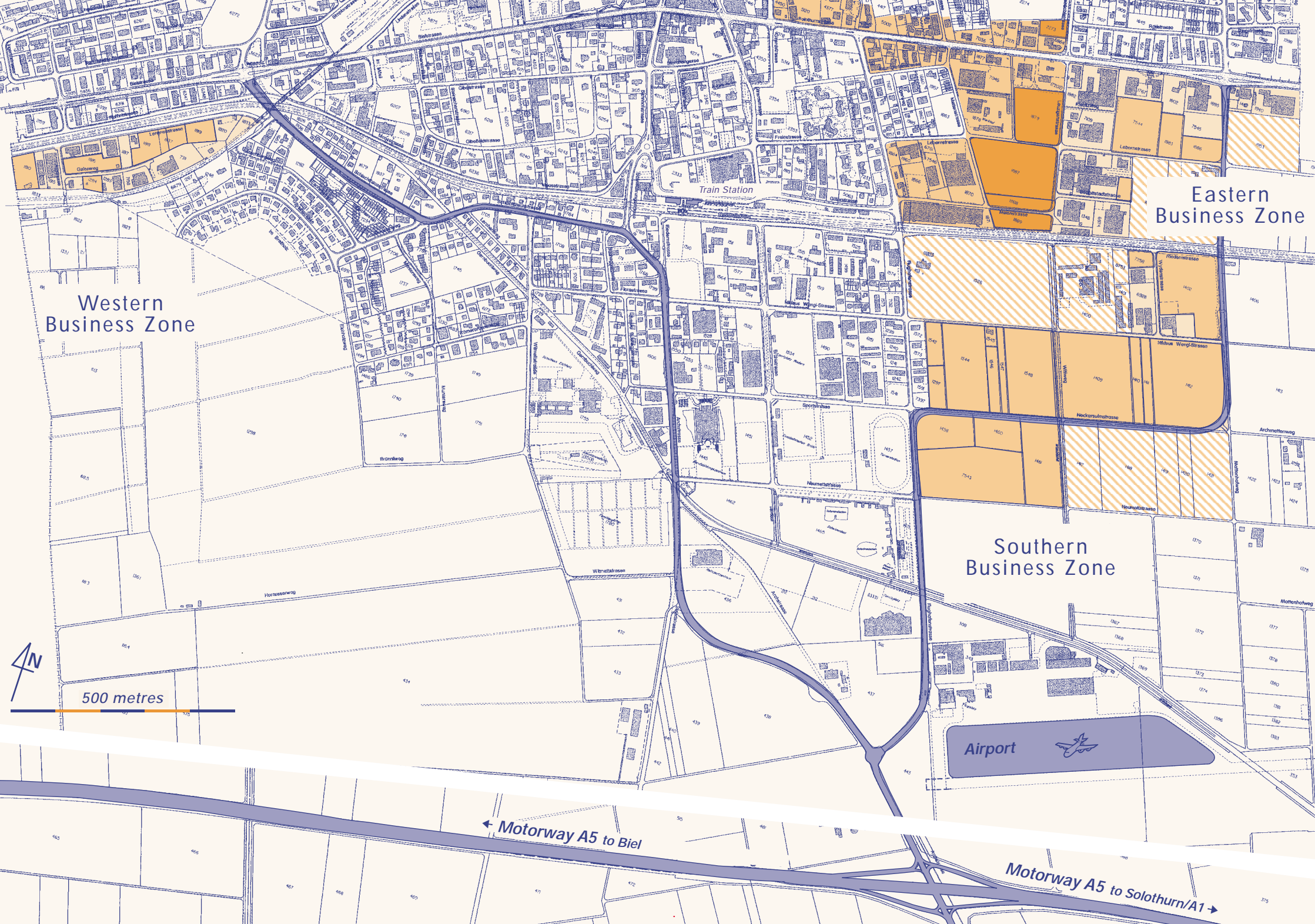


City of Grenchen

The town of surprising opportunities





Eastern Business Zone

Western Business Zone

Southern Business Zone

Train Station

Airport

← Motorway A5 to Biel

Motorway A5 to Solothurn/A1 →

500 metres



The key points of development in Grenchen

Grenchen's Economic Development Department at your service:

- Procurement of industrial land and buildings.
- Assistance to companies considering establishing themselves in Grenchen.
- Advice and support for existing companies regarding upgrading and expansion projects.
- Non-bureaucratic contact point for companies and the municipal authorities of Grenchen and the Canton of Solothurn.
- Developing contacts with business executives in Grenchen, social partners and training establishments.
- Coaching of start-up companies.
- Focused use of financial resources in order to promote projects worthy of support.

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A tradition of precision

Grenchen is one of the most important centres of the Swiss watchmaking industry. This industrial sector has influenced both the people and the architecture of the town. Many well-known companies originated here, and grew to international prominence.

Over recent decades, further companies, particularly in the fields of precision engineering and microengineering have selected Grenchen as their production site, not least owing to a large pool of qualified specialist staff with an exemplary work ethic. Based on the extensive know-how of the watchmaking industry, a varied blend of sectors has developed that is distinguished by its high level of technological competence.

The best from a transport point of view

There are many ways of reaching Grenchen: by rail, road or air. Grenchen is connected to the European motorway network thanks to the A5 motorway, meaning that all major towns in Switzerland and the economic regions of the neighbouring countries are directly accessible. Two of Europe's most important railway lines pass through the two railway stations in Grenchen: Geneva – Zurich via Grenchen South, and Geneva – Basel via Grenchen North. Grenchen airport is perfectly equipped for international business travel with its 1000-metre runway and customs clearance facilities. A dense network of public buses is available for local journeys.

Quality of life at the southern foot of the Jura hills

In Grenchen, the ideal place to live is on the sunny southern slopes with their view of the Alps. Here, residents are close to the centre of town and its many shopping facilities, yet they are still out in the countryside. Grenchen is a garden town with numerous havens of greenery. The town centre has been relieved of transit traffic as a result of the new motorway, and has been transformed into a pedestrian-friendly area to the advantage of the population and the local retailers. In Grenchen you can find comprehensive cultural and leisure activities, numerous schools, a hospital, and everything else you need in life.

On your marks – get set – go!

Grenchen is an ideal location for nurturing future-oriented economic activities. A comprehensive range of building plots plus various existing commercial buildings are available for you to translate entrepreneurial dreams into reality. Grenchen's Economic Development Department will assist you with assessing the site, establishing contact with the authorities and local companies, and guarantees rapid and non-bureaucratic handling of building proposals.

All roads lead to Grenchen

One of the most important criteria for determining the location of a company is its connection to the transport network.

First, goods must be transported and second, the new location must be reached easily and rapidly by staff. Customers also appreciate fast and uncomplicated access. The connection of Grenchen to the transport network is first-rate: the town is reached rapidly and easily from everywhere by road, rail or air.

Grenchen is central

At the southern foot of the Jura range, in the Swiss midlands, Grenchen is ideally located in terms of transport connections. Switzerland's economic centres can all be reached rapidly. Grenchen is also centrally positioned and remarkably close to European business metropolises such as Frankfurt, Munich, Milan or Lyons.

Great road connections

Grenchen is connected to the European motorway network thanks to the new A5 motorway. All major towns in Switzerland plus the economic regions of neighbouring countries can be reached directly via motorways.

Road distances

Grenchen – Berne	45 km	33 min
Grenchen – Basel	74 km	52 min
Grenchen – Zurich	98 km	72 min
Grenchen – Lucerne	89 km	63 min
Grenchen – Geneva	165 km	130 min

Rail journey time (express trains)

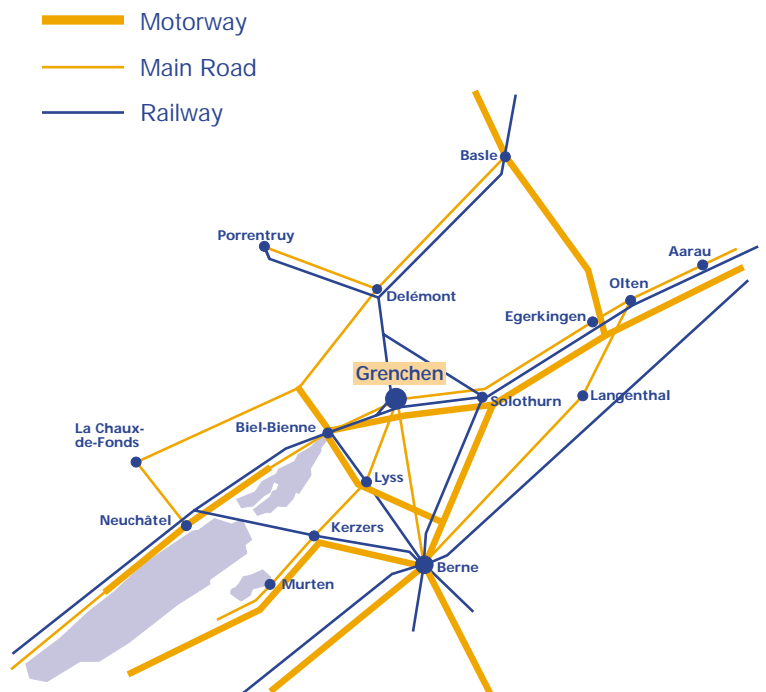
Grenchen – Berne	53 min
Grenchen – Basel	57 min
Grenchen – Zurich	73 min
Grenchen – Lucerne	85 min
Grenchen – Geneva	110 min

Good railway connections

Two major Intercity lines pass through the two railway stations in Grenchen on an hourly basis: Geneva-Basel and Geneva-Zurich. Express trains stop in Grenchen every half-hour. There is the possibility to create private rail transport junctions.

Local travel by bus

A dense network of bus lines within the town and to the surrounding settlements completes the range of public transport facilities available in Grenchen.



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City of Grenchen

Welcome to Grenchen airport

Grenchen airport is one of the most active regional airports in Switzerland with over 80 000 plane movements per year. It is important for various reasons: as an airport for business travellers, as a training centre for professional pilots, as a centre for leisure aviation and as an aircraft maintenance centre.

Grenchen airport is frequently used especially by internationally active companies in the region. The 1000-metre runway is suitable for business jets, there are facilities to handle customs clearance for international air travel, and instrument (IFR) landings are also possible.



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South Grenchen business zone

Generous dimensions for extraordinary plans

The South Grenchen business zone is among the most interesting areas in terms of building land for industry, commerce and the service sector available in Switzerland today. Over 100 000 square metres of developed, cohesive and newly zoned construction land in an optimum location are ready to translate your entrepreneurial visions into reality.

The South Grenchen business zone is just a kilometre away from the motorway junction. There are no residential districts to cross between the motorway and the business zone. The terrain is absolutely flat and no constructions exist as yet, meaning all options are still open. There are no restrictive building regulations or other conditions to hamper your business project.

Conditions regarding building permits

Maximum possibilities for use and design thanks to a minimum of conditions – because today, industrial, commercial and service uses are increasingly similar from a construction and design point of view, and mixed business and residential areas are more and more in demand.

Business zone 2

- Industrial, service and commercial companies, storage depots up to 600 m² plus residential accommodation necessary to the business
- Storage depots over 600 m², as long as they are an integral part of the company
- Sales of goods that are not items of everyday use. As of 600 m² of sales surface, plans must be submitted. The sale of goods for everyday use is permitted for a maximum 5 % of the sales surface, or a maximum 400 m².

Construction category 5

- No regulations regarding length/width of building, number of storeys, surface area of use or coverage
- Building height: 20.00 m; ridge height for shed and pitched roofs: building height + 4.00 m
- Surface area of greenery: 20 %

Availability

Sale or long-term lease,
conditions on negotiation basis

Grenchen-Highlights

- Access

There are many ways of reaching Grenchen: by rail, road or air. The town is also linked to the European motorway network thanks to the A5 motorway.



- Quality of life

The most attractive residential areas in Grenchen are those on the sunny southern slopes, offering views of the Alps. Located close to the town centre with its numerous shops, these areas are nevertheless out in the countryside.

- Start-up assistance

Grenchen's Economic Development Department helps with assessing locations, provides contact with the authorities, and guarantees rapid, non-bureaucratic handling of the building proposals.

- The basis is here

Grenchen is an ideal location for nurturing future-oriented branches of business. The high level of technological competence in Grenchen companies, well-trained and motivated staff, plus the pro-business approach of the authorities and administrative bodies all represent optimum conditions for entrepreneurial success.

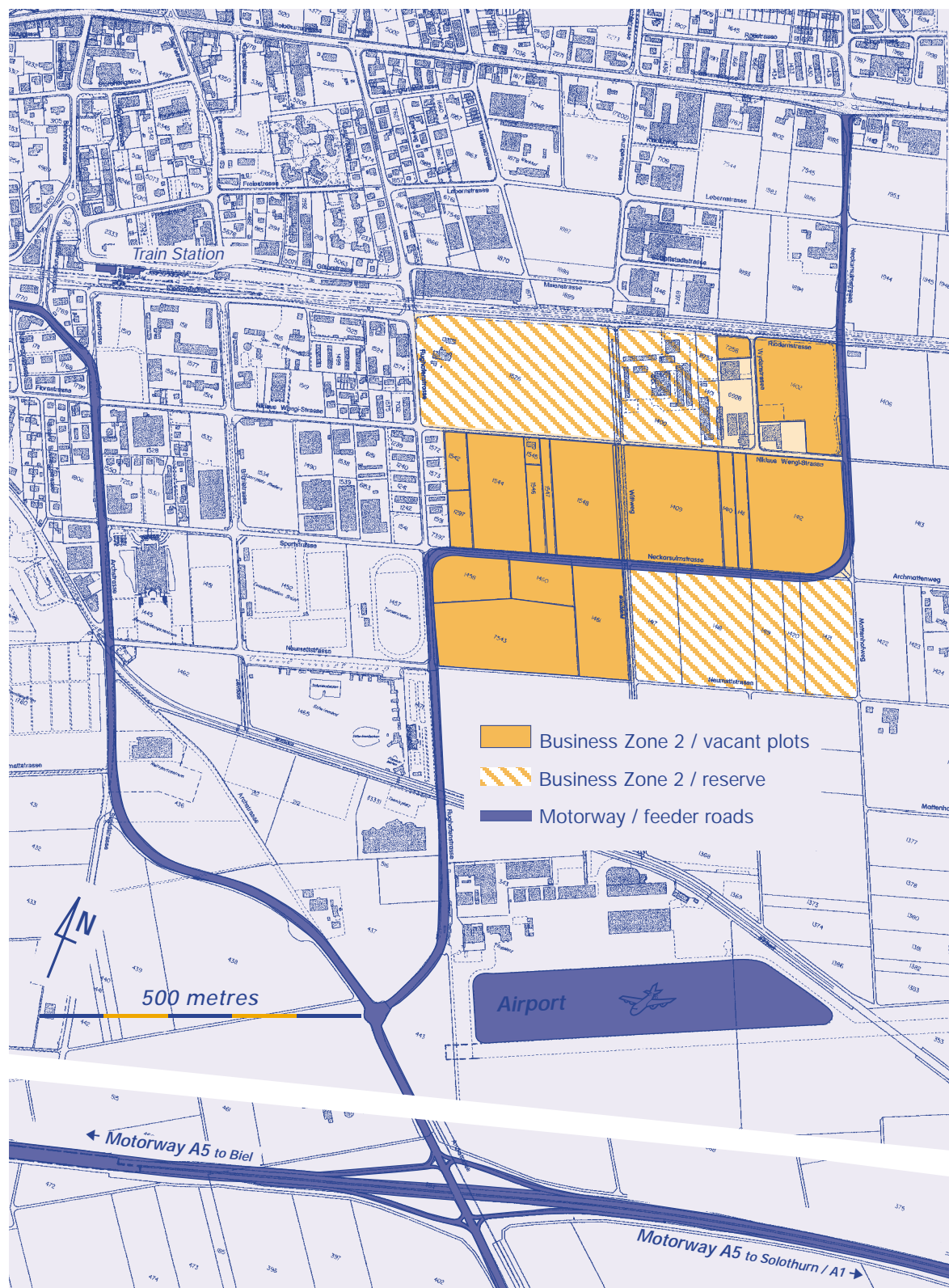
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South Grenchen business zone



East Grenchen business zone

A construction zone near to the town centre for services, commerce and industry

The East Grenchen business zone: a unique opportunity for companies whose employees appreciate proximity to the town centre, with the railway station, shopping and restaurants within walking distance. Large plots up to 20 500 m², already prepared for construction work to

Conditions regarding building permits

Maximum possibilities for use and design thanks to a minimum of conditions – because today, industrial, commercial and service uses are increasingly similar from a construction and design point of view, and mixed business and residential areas are more and more in demand.

Business zone 1

- Commercial, service and industrial companies creating moderate disturbance
- Up to 50 % of the gross surface area for apartments, workshops, lofts and similar forms of mixed use
- Storage depots, as long as they are an integral part of the company
- Sales purposes. As of 600 m² of sales surface, plans must be submitted.

Business zone 2

- Industrial, service and commercial companies, storage depots up to 600 m² plus residential accommodation necessary to the business
- Storage depots over 600 m², as long as they are an integral part of the company
- Sales of goods that are not items of everyday use. As of 600 m² of sales surface, plans must be submitted. The sale of goods for everyday use is permitted for a maximum 5 % of the sales surface, or a maximum 400 m².

Construction categories 4 and 5

- No regulations regarding length/width of building, number of storeys, surface area of use or coverage
- Building height: category 4: 16.00 m; category 5: 20.00 m; ridge height for shed and pitched roofs: building height + 4.00 m
- Surface area of greenery: 20 %

Availability

Sale or long-term lease,
conditions on negotiation basis

begin, are located in an existing industrial and commercial zone, and are available at particularly attractive prices.



Grenchen-Highlights

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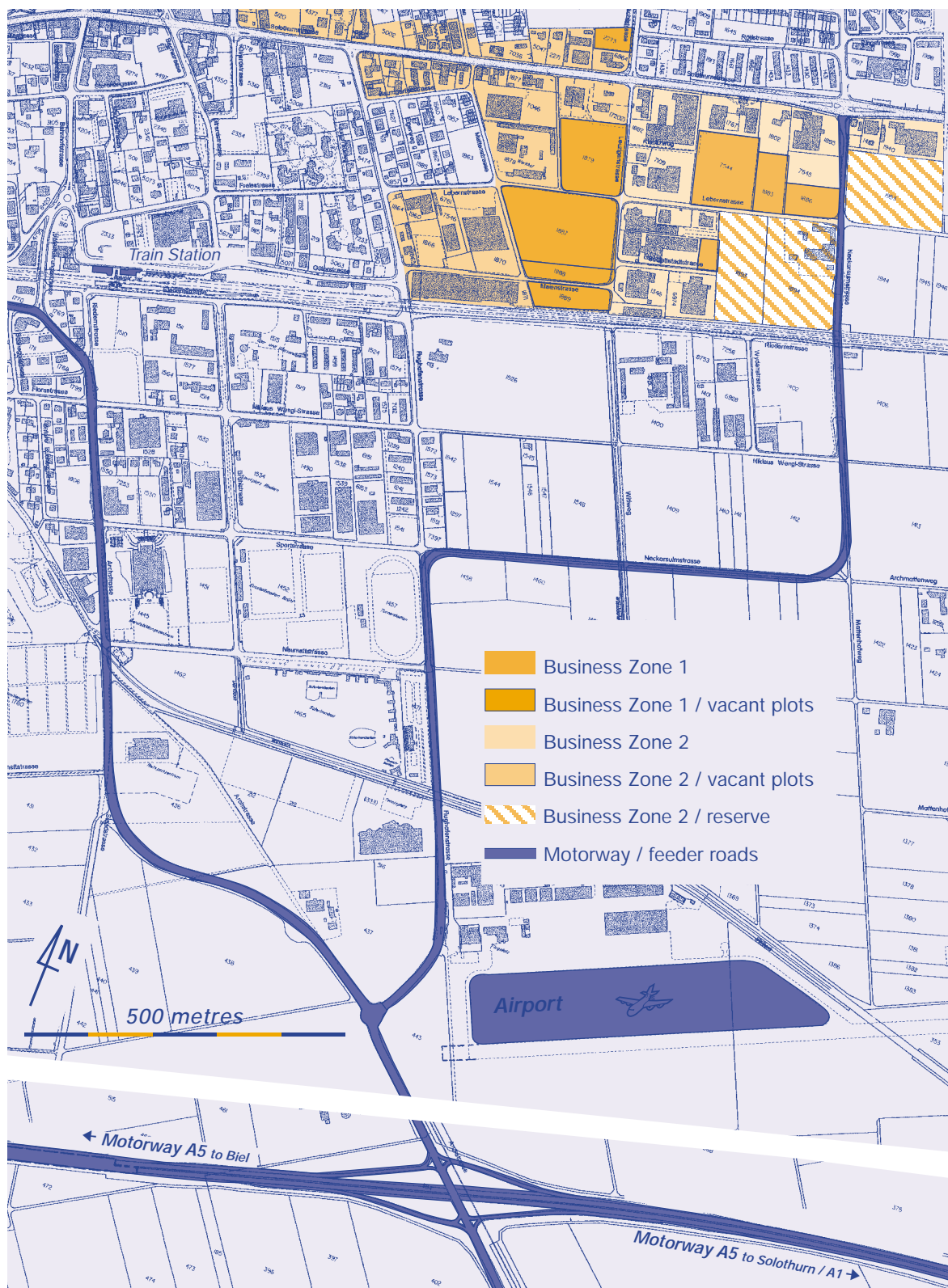
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East Grenchen business zone



West Grenchen business zone

An excellent opportunity at a reasonable price: building land for the service sector, commerce and industry

On the western edge of the town, some small to medium-sized lots of land already prepared for construction are still available for companies. Since it wants to close these gaps and see buildings in place, Grenchen is offering the land concerned at particularly advantageous prices.

Thanks to their location along the main Geneva-Basel and Geneva-Zurich railway lines, with over 60 express trains daily, your company will also benefit from an outstanding advertising effect. Having your own sign on a building promises a presence that nobody will miss.

Conditions regarding building permits

Maximum possibilities for use and design thanks to a minimum of conditions – because today, industrial, commercial and service uses are increasingly similar from a construction and design point of view, and mixed business and residential areas are more and more in demand.

Business zone 2

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- Sales of goods that are not items of everyday use. As of 600 m² of sales surface, plans must be submitted. The sale of goods for everyday use is permitted for a maximum 5 % of the sales surface, or a maximum 400 m².

Construction category 4

- No regulations regarding length/width of building, number of storeys, surface area of use or coverage
- Building height: 16.00 m; ridge height for shed and pitched roofs: building height + 4.00 m
- Surface area of greenery: 20 %

Availability

Sale or long-term lease,
conditions on negotiation basis



Grenchen-Highlights

- Access

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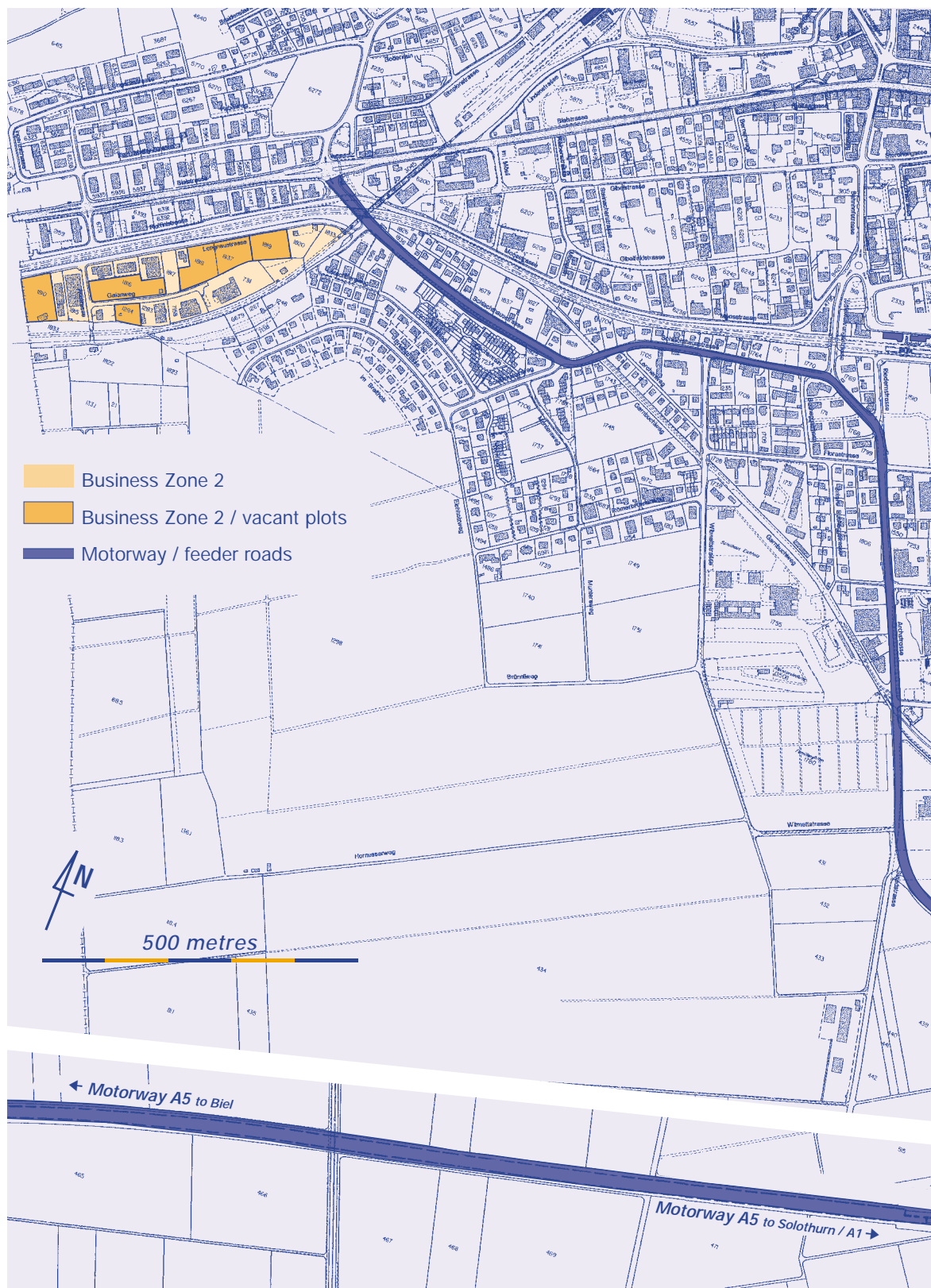
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West Grenchen business zone



City of Grenchen

A cosy atmosphere with an international spirit

With regard to the recruitment of qualified staff, the quality of life in a new location for a company is a central issue.

Here, too, Grenchen has first-class arguments in its favour: attractive residential areas with breathtaking views, delightful recreation opportunities nearby, schools for pupils of all ages, shopping centres offering everything you could wish for, day care centres for small children, retirement homes and a regional hospital. Particularly remarkable features are the open-minded, friendly nature of the 16 000 inhabitants of Grenchen plus the palpable influence of the nearby French-speaking area and its culture. This means that also new arrivals in Grenchen very soon feel at home here.



Living in a garden town

If your dream is to build your own detached house on the sunny southern slopes of the Jura hills with views stretching to the Alps, Grenchen still has the right sort of building land for you. Or if you're looking for attractive and reasonably priced housing for your staff, that's also available here. Whether you need something exclusive or excellent value for money, the garden town of Grenchen is a great place to live.

A monument to Swiss industrial history

Grenchen has derived particular benefit from the golden era of the Swiss watchmaking industry. Within a few decades, the town grew into an industrial centre, and the watchmaking workshops became small and then also larger companies. Usually, the workshops began as a simple addition to the craftsman's home. This peculiarity of industrial history has been preserved until today: both small and larger companies are found throughout the town and give the various districts their inimitable charm.

Education as a vital element

From kindergarten to high school, children and young people can attend school in Grenchen itself. Commercial and vocational colleges provide young people with the skills and knowledge for their future professional life. The Technical School of the Canton of Solothurn, the iFT Institute of Manufacturing Technology and the "Time Centre" (watchmaking school) offer specialist training for the high-tech growth sectors. Future professional pilots can also obtain their practical and theoretical qualifications in Grenchen.



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City of Grenchen

Shopping in town

You don't need a car to go shopping in Grenchen. The large supermarkets, Migros and Coop, have been investing widely over recent years in extending their large stores in the town centre. Numerous retail outlets and specialised shops, plus the department store EPA, offer anything and everything you could wish for. The inhabitants of Grenchen are particularly fond of the weekly and monthly markets held on the big market place in the town centre. A large post office offers every possible service to both individuals and companies alike.

Public and private transport

Grenchen operates what is an ideal compromise as far as traffic policy is concerned. The town is equally practical for traffic and those on foot. Pedestrian zones offer opportunities to stroll in peace and serve to hold cultural events, while large indoor car parks allow drivers to reach the town centre rapidly and park close to all it offers. The wide range of public transport ensures that buses and trains link the various districts with both the centre and the surrounding settlements.

Leisure and culture

The many events that take place here are proof that Grenchen is a lively and fun place to be. In summer, its inhabitants flock to the pool and in winter to the cross-country ski tracks. Football, riding, tennis, mini golf and parachuting – the leisure possibilities are endless.



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Changes to the centre

Grenchen lies on the important east-west traffic axis along the southern foot of the Jura hills.

Until the A5 motorway was opened, transit traffic represented a heavy burden on the centre and divided the town into southern and northern sectors. Thanks to the new A5 junction, a new era began for Grenchen in the spring of 2002, and at last the process – which had already begun – of making the inner city more attractive could move ahead. Many companies, among them large supermarkets and the Swiss Post, recognised the new opportunities associated with this at a very early stage and have invested widely in extending their branches in the town centre.



Photograph by Peter Brotschi

Everything's different in the centre today

Changing the way the town centre looks is far more than just a facelift. By narrowing the central transit road, it was possible to introduce a new traffic policy. Pedestrians and cyclists can once again move freely around the town centre. Shops, restaurants and small service companies now find themselves in ideal surroundings. Grenchen's aim is also to remain an attractive shopping centre for the surrounding settlements; therefore it's still easy to take your car into town and leave it in an indoor car park close to the centre.



Space for activities

The newly designed and generously proportioned market place is clear proof of just how important open spaces are for a town's commercial, cultural and social activities. Since it was completed, a wide range of events have taken place there: festivals, plays, concerts or exhibitions. Everybody benefits from this – the local inhabitants, the restaurants, the shops and the town as a whole.

Grenchen has an entrepreneurial edge

New, unconventional ideas find themselves on fruitful terrain in Grenchen. The unique coexistence of industry, trade plus residential areas and open spaces is conducive to a rich cultural, social and political life in this very special town.

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