

# SUSTAINABILITY

## TRAVEL PLAN 2017



BATH  
SPA  
UNIVERSITY



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We take our responsibility to protect the environment very seriously. Bath Spa University is committed to reducing the impact of our activities on the environment which is demonstrated by our comprehensive [Sustainability Policy](#).

We consider environmental sustainability in all our activities and use the internationally recognised ISO14001 system to manage our impacts.

This travel plan directly supports our Sustainability Policy to encourage and promote sustainable travel choices for our staff, students and visitors.

Our forward-thinking strategy will reduce the impacts of our commuting and business-related travel.

#### A bit about us

Bath Spa University is a creative university with around 7,000 students and 1,000 staff.

Named by Which? as one of the top five creative universities in the UK, we are proud that 94 per cent of our graduates are in work or further study within six months of graduating.

Our vision is to be a leading university in creativity, culture and enterprise. Through inspirational teaching and research, we transform students' lives.

# OUR OBJECTIVES

To manage and minimise the impact of Bath Spa's commuter-related traffic on local road congestion and air quality

#### Targets

- To reduce total commuting-related car journeys by staff and students to below 50,000 per year and maintain this despite continued growth
- To reduce car journeys to and from Newton Park by students and staff registered here to below 0.4 journeys/day/FTE by 2020
- To have at least 50% of bus journeys on low or zero emission vehicles by 2030

To manage and reduce carbon emissions and their impacts from Bath Spa's commuter and business-related transport

#### Targets

- To reduce carbon emissions from business travel by air by 20% by 2025
- To offset 100% CO<sub>2e</sub> emissions from business travel and overseas student commuting by 2030
- To reduce total emissions from daily commuting by 20% by 2025 and to below 350 kg CO<sub>2e</sub>/FTE/y by 2025

To manage and plan for future transport and parking provision necessary for our business

#### Targets

- Reduce parking at Newton Park in line with our Section 106 agreement by 2020
- Increase Public Transport use by 5% by 2020 and 20% by 2025
- Increase the number of car sharing groups by 20% by 2020, from 60 groups in 2017



## Where are we?

### Newton Park

There can't be many campuses that rival Newton Park. The parkland estate has everything you'd expect from a modern university, as well as a castle and a lake. All this and it's only four miles from the buzz of central Bath. We have on-site student accommodation providing 872 student beds.



### Sion Hill

Our Sion Hill campus is the main base for the Bath School of Art and Design. Situated in the Lansdown district of Bath it's within walking distance of the shops and bars of Bath city centre. Sion Hill is well known for its buzzing creative atmosphere, and friendly community feel.



### Corsham Court

Our beautiful Corsham Court campus in Wiltshire is where much of our postgraduate study and research takes place. The campus is concealed within a grade I listed country house, surrounded by stunning gardens complete with peacocks.



### Our Transport Policy

At Bath Spa we take our sustainability responsibilities seriously and are committed to minimising the health, social and environmental impacts of our travel.

#### How?

- Promote travel to and from the University by non-car modes for students, staff and visitors, and to reduce travel by private car wherever there is a viable alternative
- Reduce business travel by air, where alternatives can be found, and to mitigate unavoidable emissions through socially-positive offsetting schemes that can be integrated into the curriculum to enhance student learning and experience
- Mitigate the environmental impacts of overseas student commuting through socially-positive offsetting
- Develop on-site residential accommodation where feasible and viable to reduce the need for student travel
- Develop off-site residential accommodation only in areas that have high quality links to the University, or where high quality public transport facilities will be provided as part of the development
- Prohibit students (other than those with disabilities) residing in bespoke student accommodation under the control of the University from using a car in connection with their commuting
- To encourage car sharing for those for whom travel by non-car modes is not a practical option
- To provide suitable facilities for cyclists at all sites
- To increase the provision of electric car charging points to all main campuses



# GETTING AROUND

Bath Spa University encourages our staff, students and visitors to use public transport or other sustainable means whenever possible.



## Bus

In addition to commercial bus services, which the University continually strive to improve via a close working relationship with our local bus service provider, we also run private inter-campus mini-bus services. These private bus services are free for Bath Spa staff and students. There are 7 services per day in each direction between Newton Park and Sion Hill and 9 services in each direction between Newton Park and Combe Down, the timetables for these services can also be found on our [‘how to find us’ webpage](#).



## Cycle

At our Newton Park campus there are currently 213 cycle parking spaces provided, along with shower and changing facilities in several locations. A total of 30 cycle spaces are provided at the Sion Hill campus.

The University has a Bike 2 Bath Spa Facebook page, which is updated regularly with relevant information for cyclists: [www.facebook.com/Bike2Bathspa/](http://www.facebook.com/Bike2Bathspa/)

We have clear terms and conditions to ensure the safety and security of cyclists and non-cyclists alike: [www.bathspa.ac.uk/about-us/governance/policies/bicycle-parking/](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/about-us/governance/policies/bicycle-parking/)

The University provides an annual financial contribution to the public bike hire company [Nextbike](#) in order to provide preferential rates of bike hire for students and staff, which includes a free half hour every time a bike is used.

Nextbikes are available to rent 24/7 from stations around Bath, including the Newton Park and Sion Hill campuses, a number of stations in Bath city centre, including one near to Green Park House and in front of the Waterside Court/Charlton Court and also Twerton Mill student residences.



## Monitoring our travel

We monitor commuting through our annual travel survey questionnaires and spot traffic counts. Business travel is assessed using data captured from our accounts system. This data enables us to understand in detail the impacts of our travel choices on Bath Spa’s parking, local road infrastructure and on the wider environment. It also helps to inform our policies and mitigation strategies and to understand the efficacy of their implementation.





# DAILY COMMUTES



## Car

Staff car journeys have been increasing in line with our expanding staff numbers (Figure 1). However student car journeys declined by around 30% in 2015/16. This represents an overall drop of around 50,000 road journeys or around 3.5 million km per year. This was also mirrored by an increase in bus travel over the same period (Figure 2).

The result is a drop in CO2 emissions of around 450 tonnes (Table 2)



## Train

Travel to Bath Spa by train is difficult due to the distance of our main campus from Bath rail station, which requires an additional journey, typically taken by taxi or bus. Not surprisingly, commuting by rail forms a very small component of overall commuting and has in fact declined since 2013 (Figure 2).



## Bicycle and on foot

Cycling and walking are both healthy and sustainable means of commuting that we as a University would like to encourage as much as possible.

Our main campus at Newton Park is a four mile walk from most of the student accommodation in Bath and is not close enough to any major conurbations to make walking an easy option for staff or students.

Our Sion Hill campus is located on a steep hill and this has always been a barrier for people wanting to cycle.

Walking as a regular means of commuting to campus is low, typically <4% for staff and <7.5% for students (Table 3). In general, walking by students appears to be declining in popularity.

Cycling is also fairly unpopular with an estimated 4.4% of staff and 2.6% of students regularly cycling to campus in 2015/16 (Table 4).

A great deal of work has gone in to improving facilities for cyclists on our main campus and, in partnership with B&NES, a traffic-free route has been established between Newton Park and the Bristol-Bath cycle path.

Figure 1. Annual estimated number of car journeys by staff and students to all campuses

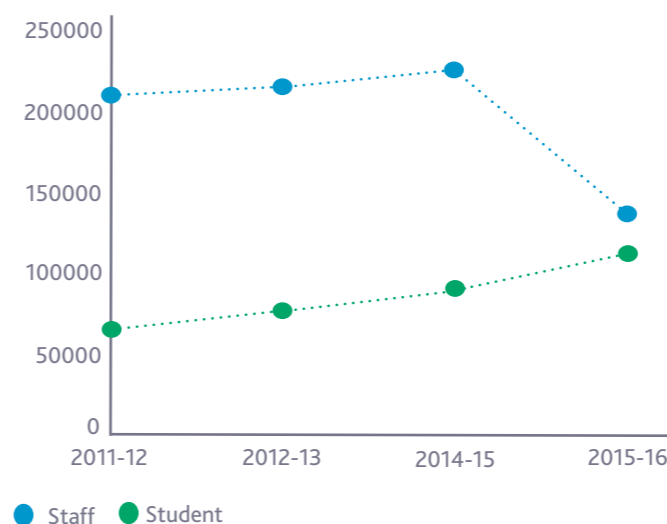


Figure 2. Combined students and staff annual daily commuting distance by car, bus and rail 2011/12-2015/16

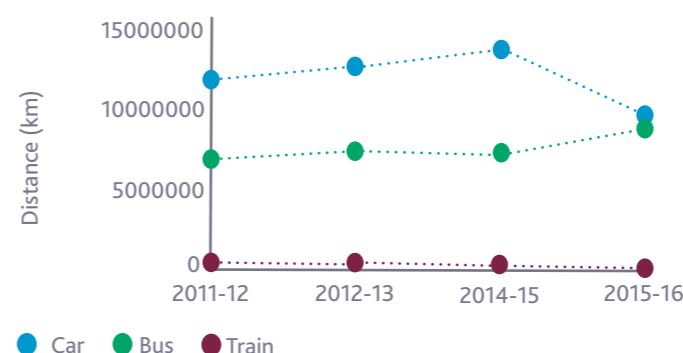


Table 2. Commuting-related CO2 emissions (tonnes) and emissions per FTE (kg)

Year	Total commuting emissions (t CO2e)	CO2e/FTE (kg)
2011-12	3,122	413
2012-13	3,333	439
2014-15	3,554	505
2015-16	3,108	395







### Overseas

Bath Spa University is committed to developing socially-engaged, global citizens, and overseas students are really important to us. In recent years, between 800 and 900 students have attended Bath Spa from overseas annually.

Assuming one return flight per student, this amounts to approximately 10 – 12 million passenger air km per year and 1,150 – 1,550 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions (Figure 3). We have assumed one return flight per student as this is the necessary minimum travel distance. Any further trips home during the academic year are considered the student's own choice and not part of the University's Scope 3 emissions.

We will adopt a baseline for distance and CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions as the mean of the last three years, which are 11 million km and 1,340 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. The focus of our activities will be to monitor the distance travelled on an annual basis and to find ways of mitigating the CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by interventions that are positive to Bath Spa University, society and the environment. Termly commuting by UK students is currently outside the scope of this travel plan but it remains an aspiration to include it.

Table 3. Estimated numbers of students and staff that routinely commute by foot and the number of journeys

Year	Staff walkers	Staff walked journeys	Student walkers	Student walked journeys
2011-12	23 (4.2%)	5,250	513 (7.3%)	86,228
2012-13	19 (3.2%)	3,833	523 (7.5%)	78,667
2014-15	17 (2.4%)	3,393	384 (6.1%)	57,783
2015-16	29 (3.8%)	6,575	377 (5.3%)	63,368



### Business travel

Business travel data is collected from our internal accounting system and analysed annually to assess changing patterns and environmental impacts, specifically CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Our total travel distance increased from 2.6 million km in 2010/11 to 5.1 million km in 2013/14, largely due to a sharp increase in air travel, and has remained relatively stable since.

This resulted in an increase in total business travel-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 276 tonnes in 2010/11 to 646 tonnes in 2015/16 (Figure 2), which reflects a strategic change towards internationalisation of the university.

Since overall emissions from business travel have been relatively stable for the last three years, the mean value of 630 tonnes will be adopted as our baseline level, against which, measures to reduce our business travel impacts in the future can be measured.

Our focus will be to investigate alternatives to UK and overseas travel by air and, along with the impacts of overseas students commuting to Bath Spa from home, we will find ways of mitigating the environmental impacts of business flights, through offsetting mechanisms that fit with our overall vision and strategy.

Table 4. Estimated numbers of students and staff that routinely cycle to campus and the number of journeys

Year	Staff cyclists	Staff cycle journeys	Student cyclists	Student cycle journeys
2011-12	33 (6.1%)	5,850	202 (2.9%)	28,284
2012-13	23 (3.8%)	4,088	151 (2.2%)	19,008
2014-15	30 (4.3%)	5,362	141 (2.2%)	17,738
2015-16	33 (4.4%)	5,862	188 (2.6%)	26,264

Figure 3. Overseas student commuting to BSU, assuming one return flight per year. Passenger km (bar) CO<sub>2</sub>e (diamonds)

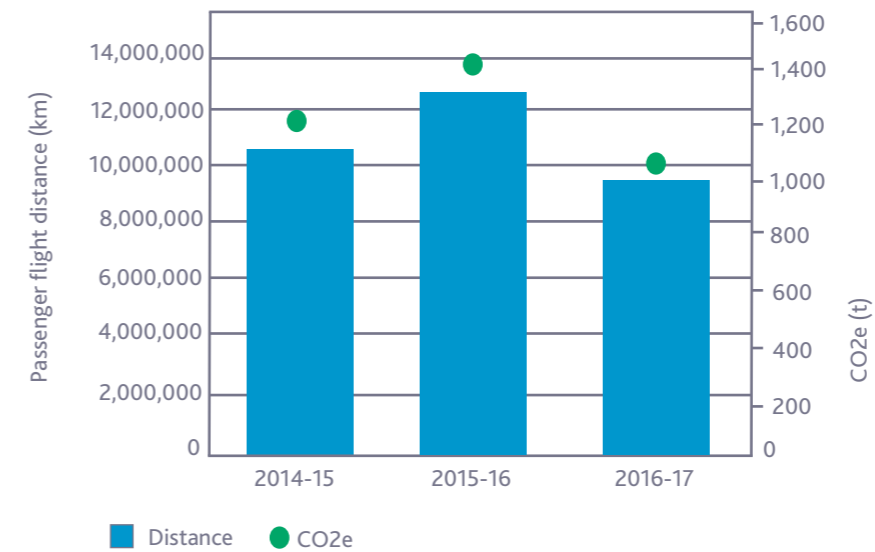
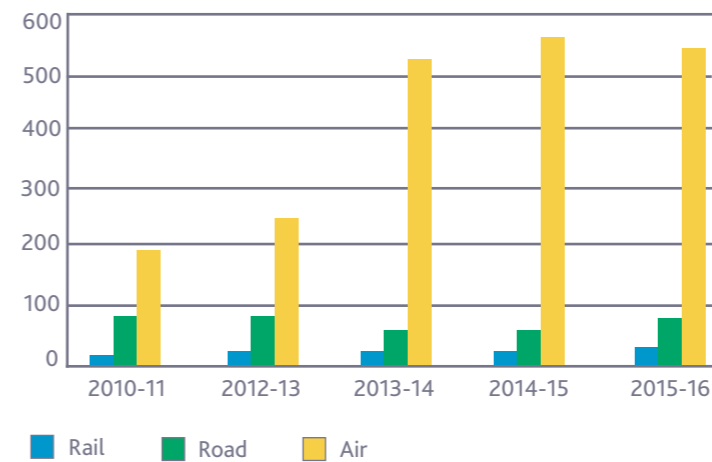


Figure 4. Carbon emissions from business travel showing dramatic increase in air travel in 2013/14, which has since remained stable





# EXISTING MEASURES TO MEET OUR OBJECTIVES

## Bringing in car parking charges

To discourage the use of single-occupancy car use, Bath Spa University introduced carparking charges in 2015. [Details of the existing parking permit system and charging regime are detailed on our website.](#)

A postcode permit ban for Students was introduced in 2016/17 where first, second or third years living in the postcodes: BA1 1, BA1 2, BA1 3 and BA2 3, are not able to purchase a parking permit. In addition, students living in University-owned accommodation are not eligible for a parking permit. Blue badge holders are not included in this ban and other exceptions can be allowed in exceptional cases.

From 1 September 2017 parking permit charges for staff will increase. Annual permits will rise to 0.4% of annual salary and validation permits will cost £20 per year. Daily parking tickets for those people that hold a validation permit will continue to cost £1 per day.

It should be noted that the University does not generate any surplus income from parking permits and does not intend to do so. Any funds generated from parking charges will continue to be used to support alternative transport initiatives and the maintenance of car parking areas. Any money generated from penalty charge notices is used to support student welfare initiatives.

Furthermore, the price of parking permits have not risen since they were introduced three years ago and are still much lower than the cost of parking in the centre of Bath or at some other universities in the region.

The decision to increase parking permit charges was taken following consultation with staff, trade unions and the Students' Union.

## Encourage a sustainability culture

Bath Spa positively encourages sustainable travel modes, and this is done in a number of ways.

- We communicate regularly about the benefits of car-sharing amongst staff, we provide free to use electric car-charging points, and sustainable travel information is always available on the University's website.
- All new students and staff are provided with information regarding sustainable travel, and public transport information is provided to the public when sending out event information.
- Bath Spa provides a loan of up to £1000 towards the purchase of bicycles and train and bus season tickets, and the salary-sacrifice cycle-to-work scheme assists staff in purchasing a bicycle at reduced cost
- We offer a free annual subscription to Nextbike cycle scheme for staff and students. Nextbike docking stations are located at the Newton Park and Sion Hill campuses and adjacent to Bath student accommodation blocks
- Bath Spa provides free 'Bike Doctor' sessions to staff and students up to four times a year, and a cyclist repair kit is held at Newton Park Security, which has resources for staff and students to carry out minor repairs on their bikes in case of emergency, and there is a guaranteed lifts home policy in case of emergency for those staff who car share.

## An improvement in bus services

Bath Spa maintains a close working relationship with local bus service providers to continually improve and expand bus services wherever feasible. Measures that have been implemented include

- Electronic timetable displays at Bus Stops
- Cashless ticket/permits (via Apps)
- Increased frequency of buses
- Improved quality of vehicles





# PROPOSED MEASURES TO MEET OUR OBJECTIVES

- **Improved cycle facilities**

Cycle facilities have been continually improved at all sites over recent years, and this is continuing with the opening of new dedicated facilities at Newton Park, which include cyclist lockers and drying facilities. Our Locksbrook Rd development is located adjacent to the Bristol-Bath cycle path and we expect that cycling to this campus will be popular. A total of 58 cycle parking spaces will be provided during the renovation, 50 of which will be in a secure, covered facility. Showers and changing facilities are also being designed into the refurbishment.

- **Leave your car at home scheme**

We are developing a reward-based incentive scheme to encourage drivers to leave their cars at home by offering a reduction on their following year's parking permit for cycling or walking to work. We are planning to have this in place for the beginning of the 2017/18 academic year and hope to expand it to an app-based system that will include all forms of sustainable travel in the future.

- **Electric vehicle charging points**

We have recently increased the number of electric charging points at Newton Park to 18, including chargers for our growing fleet of BSU-owned electric vehicles. Six fast-charge electric charging points will be provided during the refurbishment of Locksbrook Rd, with the provision for additional points to be added as the requirement increases and, during 2018 and 19, we will install charging points at Sion Hill and Corsham Court.

- **New cycling information and promotion**

We have commissioned time-lapse videos of the traffic-free cycle routes between our main Bath-area campuses and residential units, which will be available on our web site and social media feeds for staff, students and visitors alike from September 2017.

- **Electric bike scheme for staff**

We are developing an electric bike loan scheme for staff, which we aim to be up and running during 2018. Funding has been agreed for the scheme.

- **Further extended bus services**

We plan to extend the shuttle-bus services that we currently provide to our park and ride facility on the Lower Bristol Rd to include pick-ups from the Bath Spa railway station. This will follow a staff research process regarding rail-based incentives, which we plan to carry out in 2018.

- **Low emission busses**

The University is in discussion with First Bus over the provision of low emission busses on University routes. We accept that this is a long-term aspiration that will be, to a large degree, dependent on First Bus's commercial decisions. However, we will continue to work with First and our local partner organisations, via the Bath Employers Travel Forum, to push for early deployment. The Travel plan will be updated as progress on this issue is made and a more detailed time frame is available.





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