

EXETER
COLLEGE
OXFORD

A New Quad at Walton Street
Travel Plan

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Exeter College, Oxford, Walton Street Quadrangle

Travel Plan

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1.0. Introduction

A Travel Plan is a package of practical measures which aim to reduce the reliance on the use of private motor vehicles. The plan is intended to encourage staff, pupils and visitors to choose alternative modes of transport and, where possible, to reduce the need to travel at all. A plan should be tailored to an individual site and include a range of measures that are likely to have a positive impact at that site.

By discouraging the use of unsustainable modes of transport and enabling staff, students and visitors to make travel choices that benefit themselves and their community, not only does this raise awareness of alternative modes of transport and thus encourage a modal shift towards more sustainable travel modes but will also enable the College to become more accessible to all members of the community thus maximising its social integration.

Alongside the benefits to the community and the development there are additional benefits that are directly linked to the associated reduction in vehicle use such as less noise and air pollution and less vehicle related accidents.

There is also a range of well documented personal benefits that are linked to the reduction in vehicle use including health benefits, financial savings and energy savings.

2.0. Background to the Scheme

Exeter College Oxford has recently purchased a site in order to create a new college campus as an addition to the original Exeter College Campus. The site purchased is currently the site of Ruskin College, who vacated the site in October 2012. The campus is located on the junction of Worcester Place and Walton Street in Oxford City Centre, and is referred to in this report as the Walton Street Quadrangle site.

Stockley were appointed in January 2012 by Exeter College Oxford to provide structural, civil and transport engineering services for the redevelopment of the Walton Street Quadrangle site. Alison Brooks Architects are the Lead Consultant appointed by the College, with Northcroft acting as the Project Manager.

The proposals are to transform the site into a new college facility for Exeter College including residential, teaching, cultural and social accommodation for students and faculty staff. Existing structures will be carefully demolished, with the exception of the existing façade to the original Ruskin building facing Walton Street and Worcester Place which will be retained.

3.0. Aim of the Travel Plan

This document has been prepared to form an initial Travel Plan that will be adopted and developed by Exeter College. It provides initial directions for achieving green travel and will be updated and altered to reflect the behaviour and trends that materialise within the College. Some recommendations made may not be as successful as others. This is expected and those that are most appropriate should be retained. Those that are less effective should be modified or replaced with more flexible measures that reflect the behaviour being adopted. The overall aim of this Travel Plan is to encourage a behavioural change within those that use the college, be it students, staff or visitors.

It is believed that a near zero approach to motor vehicles as a means of travel to and from the campus is achievable. This is mainly due to zero parking provision together with the measures and focus that will be put in place by the college in implementing this travel plan. We believe this is

achievable because there is a viable, accessible and real alternative to using private cars to travel to and from the site. This will be illustrated in the section on surrounding transport links.

4.0. The site

The site is located at the junction of Walton Street and Worcester Place in Oxford. The site sits on the northern edge of the city centre and is approximately 10 minutes walk from Oxford Train Station.



Figure 1 - Existing Site Plan

The site is bounded on its northern edge by Worcester Place which is a residential scale road and is home to residential properties along its entire length. To the east the site is bounded by Walton Street which is a distributor road and is also lined with residential properties in the vicinity of the site. To the south the site is bounded by Worcester Lane which is a private lane within the grounds of Worcester College. To the west the site is bounded by Worcester College properties providing residential accommodation for Worcester College.

5.0. Proposed Development

The Walton Street Quadrangle is proposed as an additional campus for Exeter College students and will provide, teaching spaces, commons room, libraries, music rooms, an lecture hall as well as bedrooms a café and other facilities.

The gross external area GEA for the full building is 6046sq.m; in addition to this the area of the external spaces on site is 538sq.m. For an accurate break down of areas per floor please refer to the area schedule in Appendix B.

5.1. Users

This campus will have 90 residential students plus an additional 284 non-residential students. All students will attend lectures at other campuses around Oxford as well as the proposed Walton Street campus, the maximum number of students on campus at one time is expected to be 174 allowing for full lecture capacity by non residential students plus all of the 90 residential students

present in their rooms. The figure of 174 is conservative as the 90 residential students will likely be in attendance to lectures on site or on other campuses.

Exeter College has 46 Fellows which lecture throughout all their campuses and at times these will also lecture at Walton Street campus. The maximum expected number of staff on site at any given time will be 45, 31 staff plus 14 fellows.

The above figures are indicated in Table 1 User breakdown below; at full capacity the campus is expected to have 219 persons on site.

User	Walton St Staff No's	Additional Exeter Staff	Student No's	Max users on site during Daytime (08:00 - 20:00)	Max users on site during Night time (20:00 - 08:00)
Full time staff	15			10	2
Part time staff	21			21	0
Residential Students			90	30	90
Non Residential Students			284	84	0
Residential Fellows	2			2	2
Non Residential Fellows	6	38		12	0
Total				159	94

Table 1 User breakdown

This campus will include 90 student bedrooms, 2 Fellows' suites and one Junior Dean's bedroom. It is expected that all bedrooms will be occupied on opening therefore 90 students, one Junior Dean and two fellows will live at the site full time during term time and will vacate the halls in summer time to facilitate conference accommodation.

Student numbers and staff numbers will be at maximum numbers upon opening, there will not be a staggered intake of students or staff to the campus. As outlined above a lot of the staff already live in Oxford and lecture in other Exeter College sites.

Visitors to the site are expected to be less frequent but the numbers for example to the lecture hall which is expected to host evening events from time to time will be 110 no at capacity, these are expected to attend the site mostly in off peak hours and will be notified of the no parking policy of the college.

5.2. Times of travel

The teaching rooms in the college are open from 08.00-22.00 Monday to Friday. As discussed above the maximum expected number of non residential students on site is 84 so it is possible that 84 students will be travelling to the site during daily peak or non peak hours.

The offices are open from 08.30-18.00 this will account 5 members of staff travelling to the site during the peak hours. Cleaners account for 12 staff members and work from 07.30-14.00 daily. Café staff is made up of 2 chefs and four waitresses, all will work flexible hours, café opening hours are 07.30-16.30 daily.

The Library Archive and Learning Commons are open from 08.30-17.00 and 07.30-11.00 respectively. These will account for 1-2 staff members each and also some students, fellows and tutors may use these facilities for research and study.

See Table 2 Facility Opening Hours below for break down of opening hours for the major uses within the college.

AREA	Opening Hours
Office	08.30-18.00
Teaching Rooms	08.00-22.00
Library Archive	08.30-17.00
Learning Commons	07.30-11.00
Porters Lodge	00.00-23.59
Cafe	07.30-16.30

Table 2 Facility Opening Hours

5.3. Catchment Area

Students enrolled at this campus will all live within Oxford City Centre either on site or at other Exeter College sites or in private accommodation. See Figure 2 for isochrones for the city centre area. Ninety students will reside on site during term time with an additional 284 non residential students attending lectures here at various times throughout the day, based on available teaching rooms and staff the maximum non residential students on site at any given time will be 84. In addition to the 90 full time residential students there are 2 fellows and one junior dean also residing on the site.



Figure 2 - 0.25km & 0.5km Isochrones

All staff employed here will live in Oxford and all within distances which allow them to cycle or get a local bus. A lot of the staff are already employed by Exeter College on other campuses and will continue to work on a part time basis alternating between sites including this one. All of the existing staff live within the extents of the Oxford Ring Road which is less than 5km from the site in any direction. See Figure 3 below which shows a 5km isochrone from the site.

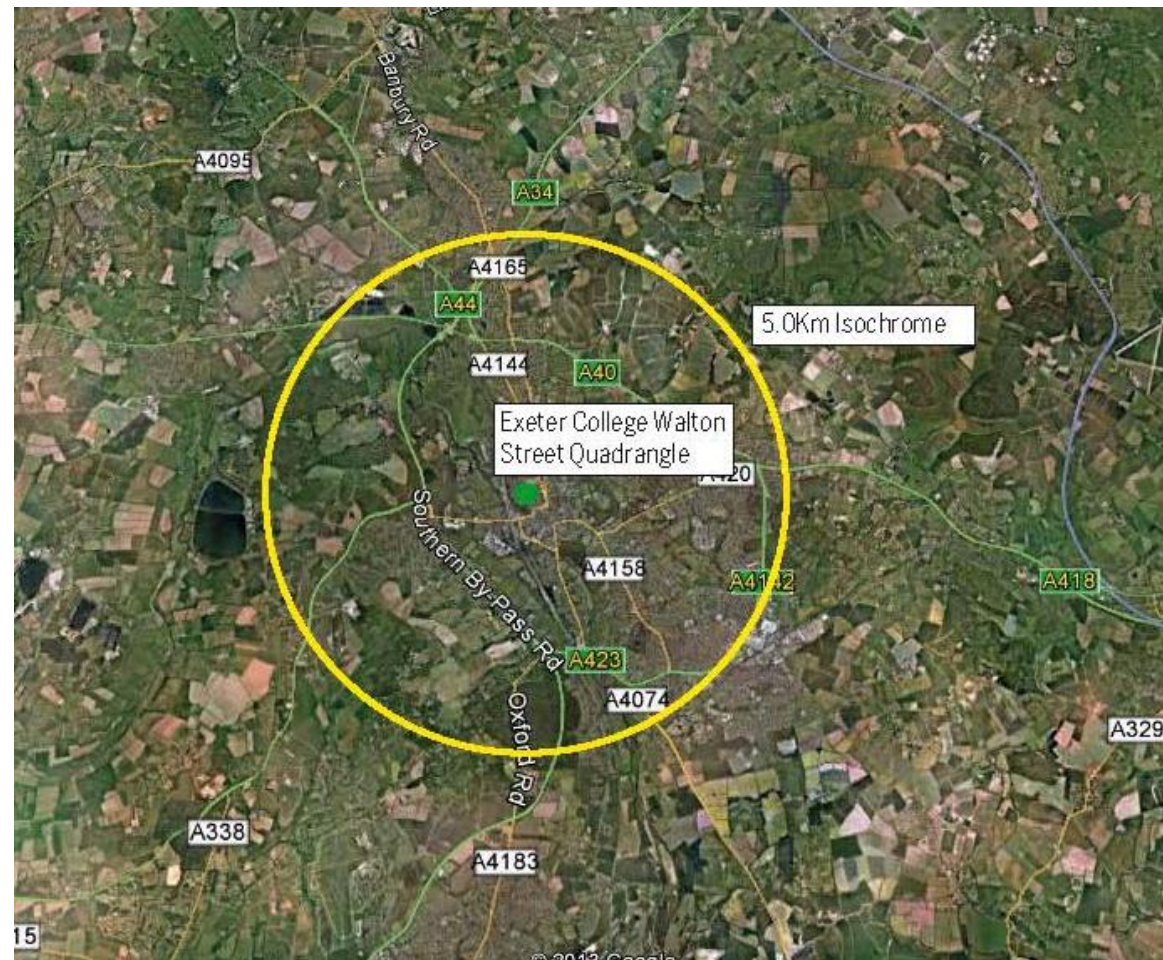


Figure 3 - 5km Isochrone

Good public transport links within walking distance from the new campus will form the sustainable means of travel for students or staff that reside outside of a distance that could reasonably be walked or cycled. Presently the College believe that all the staff and students will be living within 5-6km of the site, this assumption is based on evidence gathered from informal surveys carried out on students and staff over the past ten years on other Exeter College Campuses.

5.4. Surroundings

Walton Street, which is a distributor road, is located to the east of the site and runs in a north-south direction. Walton Street is predominantly a residential street with occasional small-scale commercial premises. As well as Ruskin College, Worcester College Campus is also located on Walton Street, directly south of, and adjoining the Ruskin College campus.

The site is bounded on its northern edge by Worcester Place, which is a residential scale road and is home to residential properties along its entire length with the exception of the Ruskin college campus. Worcester Place also has residential parking on both side of the road and is a one-way street in the westerly direction away from Walton Street.

Walton Street and Worcester Place are both adopted highways.

Ruskin Lane is to the south of the site; this is a gated private lane within the grounds of Worcester College and not suitable for vehicular traffic.

To the west, the site is bounded by Worcester College properties providing residential accommodation for Worcester College.

The site is serviced by two bus services, the 17 and 17A, which stop on Walton Street outside the main entrance to the building. These services connect the campus to the city centre and also to the rail station. The service is infrequent with one bus an hour during peak and off peak times.

Oxford City Centre's main bus station, Gloucester Green Bus Station, is located south east of the campus and is a five minute walk from it. This provides connections to most of the major towns and cities in the surrounding areas.

Oxford Rail Station is a ten minute walk from the site and offers direct connections to London, Manchester, Newcastle, Coventry, Bournemouth, Hereford along with other locations on the national rail network. It also provides links to local stations such as Reading, Bicester Town, Banbury.

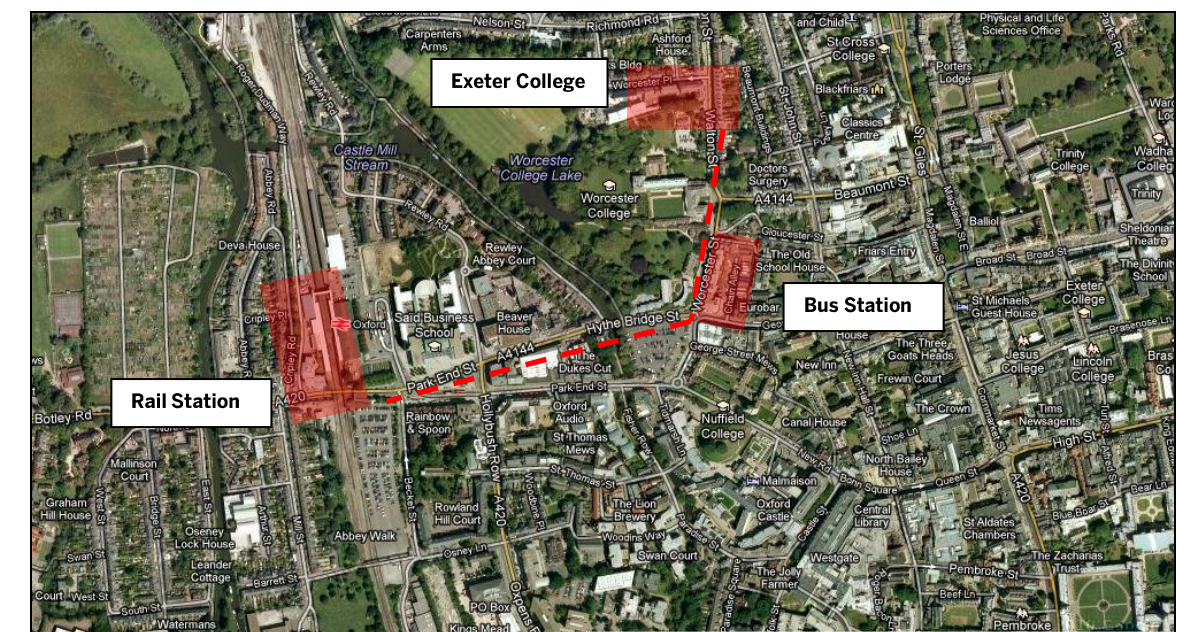


Figure 4 Surrounding Public Transport Hubs

5.5. Services and Deliveries

For deliveries Exeter College will require circa four movements per day, typically in off-peak hours of the day. The proposals also include a gated 'service lane' to the western end of the site, which will accommodate secure cycle parking and a bin store. A designated loading bay is proposed adjacent to this lane which will be secured with a gate that opens inwards to avoid collisions with pedestrians on the footway. All deliveries and refuse collections will be carried out from this loading bay.

5.6. Vehicular Parking Provision

The proposals are to remove off-street parking provision for the College. Exeter College operate schemes such as the Bus Pass Scheme and a Cycle Purchase Scheme which promotes the use of sustainable transport options to students and staff and these schemes have a great response by both students and staff alike.

All of the non-residential students live within Oxford City Centre and will either walk or cycle to the campus. While all of the staff live within the extents of the Ringroad and either cycle or take the bus every day.

There are two existing disabled parking bays located adjacent to the college on Worcester Place, which could be used by disabled drivers accessing the campus.

6.0. Methods of Travel

The envisaged modal split that is expected for the campus has been estimated based on information obtained from existing staff and students of Exeter College who are based in other College sites within Oxford, the closest being within 1 km of this site.

The data obtained shows that the existing staff and students all use public transport, cycle or walk to their places of study and the same is expected for the new campus. Most of the staff are expected to be the same staff as current staff so their travel modes can be assumed to be as per the breakdown figures provided below. It is also worth noting that Exeter College's main campus on Turl Street is a ten minute walk from the site and it is expected that students & staff needing to travel between these two sites will walk from one to the other.

The fact that the college is proposing no on-site parking is in keeping with the existing culture at Exeter College of using sustainable transport, and staff and students tend to accept this.

See Table 3 below which gives a break down of the expected modal splits based on existing available information which Exeter College has gathered over the passed ten years by carrying out informal surveys on user at other Exeter College campuses in Oxford.

Expected Modal Split		
	Staff	Student
Public Transport - Bus	50%	0
Car Driver	0	0
Car Passenger	0	0
Walk	0	50%
Cycle	50%	50%

Table 3 Expected Modal Split

7.0. Measures to encourage sustainable travel

As a means to encourage more sustainable means of travel Exeter College operate schemes such as the Bus Pass Scheme and a Cycle Purchase Scheme for students and staff. The bus pass scheme allows bus tickets to be purchased for cheaper rates and the cycle purchase scheme allows users to buy bicycles and bicycle equipment at greatly reduced prices. These schemes have a great response by both students and staff alike.

As explained in section 5.6 of this report another measure taken by the college is the decision to not provide on-site parking for staff or students, therefore resulting in users not driving to the site.

Secure, covered on-site cycle parking facilities are provided as well as additional on-street parking as part of the proposals. Cycle access to the site will be via a proposed gated lane into the site off Worcester Place at the western end of the site. At this location there will be 50 No. on-site cycle spaces provided, 40 of these will be provided internally using 20 double stacked racks with a further

10 single cycle racks provided in the south west corner of the site under the building overhang area. Secure, covered cycle provision is therefore in excess of 50% of the number of student bedrooms.

In addition to the onsite cycle racks there will be 12 'Sheffield' cycle racks capable of accommodating 24 cycles located on Worcester Place, in an area of pavement built out specifically to cater for cycle parking and some tree planting.

This on-street parking is aimed at non-residential staff and students, but also at visitors to the site. This cycle parking area will be signposted on Walton Street to highlight it to visitors.

8.0. Targets

Exeter College has a strong sustainability ethic and aims to encourage and retain the existing culture of using green methods of travel. It will endeavour to keep staff, students, and visitors to the site aware of the benefits of sustainable transport and continue to provide realistic alternative means of transport to all sites as well as continue to provide schemes such as the bus pass and cycle schemes in place.

9.0. Responsibilities and monitoring

Without constant monitoring and reviews it is unlikely that the travel plan will be successful. A Travel Plan Coordinator will be appointed and confirmed near opening of this new College site. This is an important role, and the responsibilities of this role are outlined below;

- The Travel Plan Coordinator will be responsible for the collection and collating of results.
- He/She will become the human face of the travel plan, on hand to explain any parts of the plan.
- He/She will provide personalised travel planning to any staff, pupils or visitor to the college to ensure that the plan is of maximum benefit to the greatest number of college users.
- Promoting incentives, objectives and targets and championing of new schemes/ proposals.
- Take a key role in the monitoring and reviewing the travel plan.
- Draft questionnaires and distribute to all staff and students on a bi-annual basis to assess the requirements for travel to and from the campus and how well these have been addressed in the past six months and how further initiatives could be undertaken in the future.

