



Job Name: **Begbroke Science Park
Travel Plan**

Job N^o: **IMA-24-154**

Date: January 2024

Client: University of Oxford

Response to Oxfordshire County Council Comments (23 November 2023)

1 Introduction

1.1 This note has been produced by IMA Transport Planning in response to comments received from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) regarding the Travel Plan submitted to discharge Condition 11 of Outline Planning Permission approved in September 2018 for an additional 12,500m² of floorspace to the existing Begbroke Science Park (planning ref 18/00803/OUT).

1.2 A copy of the OCC's response is attached at Appendix TN-1.

1.3 This note addresses the issues raised by OCC.

2 Site-Specific Surveys and Monitoring

2.1 As explained in the TP, the University conducts regular University-wide surveys but these do not contain enough BSP-related data for conclusions to be drawn.

2.2 In addition to University-wide surveys, travel surveys are also undertaken at BSP. The TP contains a summary of the mode share at BSP from surveys undertaken at BSP between 2006 and 2018. The existing mode share for BSP was based on the 2018 survey, the latest to be undertaken at the Science Park.

2.3 The submitted TP stated that surveys would be taken at BSP post-occupation, the idea being that this would allow staff/students/employees in both the new buildings and the existing buildings to be included in the survey.

2.4 OCC has requested that an interim survey is undertaken, however the two new buildings are not yet occupied and therefore an interim survey would not include these two buildings and only provide a partial picture. It is considered that a survey post-occupation would be more beneficial as this would include the whole BSP site i.e. both existing and new buildings.

2.5 On this basis, Section 6.2 of the TP has been amended to commit to a post-occupation survey at BSP to be undertaken within one month of first occupation of either of the new buildings and be BSP-wide (covering the new buildings and the existing buildings), with the content of the survey to be agreed with OCC prior to occupation.

2.6 Further BSP-wide comprehensive travel surveys will then be undertaken in the initial monitoring period at years 1, 3 and 5, as requested by OCC. If targets are not met within this initial period further monitoring will be required for years 7 and 9, in line with OCC requirements.

3 Targets

3.1 The TP (at Section 4.2) sets targets which are based on the agreed targets contained within the 2016 TP, but updated to reflect the 2018 travel survey results and also to be consistent with the LTCP and COTP.

3.2 Paragraph 4.2.11 has been added to the TP to state that these initial targets will be revisited following the post-occupation survey, and, if necessary, revised.

4 On-Site Facilities

4.1 Information regarding on-site facilities has been added to the TP (paragraphs 1.2.12-14). Additional reference to a monthly visit to BSP by a bike mechanic has been added to Paragraph 5.2.1 and the action plan.

5 BSP Operating Hours

5.1 BSP operating hours have been added to the TP at Paragraph 1.2.18.

6 Deliveries

6.1 The University is in the process of requiring suppliers with a contract of >£1m to be FORS silver accredited as a minimum. Once operational this requirement will also apply to BSP. This has been added to the TP at Paragraph 5.2.5.

6.2 The University is also undertaking a delivery consolidation trial based on the approach currently being pursued at the redeveloped ROQ, to replicate across the University estate (see Paragraphs 1.5.4 and 5.2.6).

7 Meetings with Occupant TPCs

7.1 Meetings with occupier TPCs at BSP are organised and attended by Estates Services staff with the help of BSP's Directorate team. This information has been added to the action plan.

8 'Getting Here' page on BSP Website

8.1 As suggested by OCC, the 'Getting Here' page on the BSP website will be updated to re-order travel options to BSP, with non-car modes to be shown before travel by car.

8.2 In addition plans will be added to show cycle parking locations and the cycle network between BSP and Oxford.

9 Travel Newsletter

9.1 The Travel Newsletter referred to in the action plan has been replaced with transport and travel updates within existing University newsletters which are available on the University Intranet. Those based at BSP are encouraged to register for these newsletters and receive them electronically via email. The newsletters which contain travel and transport news relevant to BSP are the Estates Services Newsletter, Environmental Sustainability Newsletter, MPLS Division Newsletter and University Bulletin.

9.2 Those based at BSP or regularly visit BSP can also register to receive BSP-specific news and updates, including updates to the minibus service.

9.3 The above has been added at Paragraphs 5.2.2-4 of the TP and the action plan has been amended.

Attachments

Appendix 1 OCC Travel Plan Comments (23 November 2023)

Appendix TN-1

Application no: 23/02967/DISC

Location: Begbroke Science Park, Begbroke Hill, Begbroke, Kidlington, OX5 1PF

Transport Development Control

Recommendation:

Condition 11 - Objection

Condition 12 - No objection

Condition 13 - No comment

Detailed Comments:

Condition 11

Please see comments from OCC Travel Plan team below:

Please find below comments from the Travel Plans Team regarding the Travel Plan for the Begbroke Science Park.

Although a large amount of infrastructure-based information has been included within the document, there is not a lot of detail about the staff and students using the site. As this site has an existing community, I would expect any travel plan produced to contain information about where staff are travelling from, how they are travelling and qualitative information elaborating as to why they are travelling this way. I would also expect that any issues or suggestions should be highlighted at this point too.

This is important to inform the travel plan and to make sure that identified actions and targets are robust and relevant to the community that the travel plan has been produced for. There is reference to a biannual survey for the University of Oxford as a whole, however as this site is expanding, we would request that a site-specific interim survey take place.

Reducing the need to travel, as top of the sustainable travel hierarchy has not been discussed. How does the site facilitate reducing the need to travel and reducing the number of trips from and to the site during the day. For example, what facilities are available on site? Could the TPC arrange for services such as mechanics etc to visit the site to reduce the need to leave the site during the day.

What are to be the normal working patterns of staff. Will the site operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week?

Deliveries have not been discussed.

There is reference within the action plan to 'meetings with Occupant TPC's' but there is no mention of this within the actual document – how does this work?

I was disappointed when viewing the 'Getting here' pages on the website to find that 'By road' was the first option, with public transport and the minibus service further down the list. Is there an opportunity that this could be re-ordered. Also, the site map does not contain information about the cycle parking locations.

Please could a copy of the newsletter referred to in the action plan be included within the appendix.

Monitoring data will be required for a period of five years post occupation of the new buildings. If targets are not met within the five years, monitoring will be required to continue in years 7 and 9.

Further information regarding the required criteria can be found within appendix 5 of the OCC guidance document or by contacting the Travel Plans Team travelplan@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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Officer's Title: Senior Transport Planner

Date: 23 November 2023