



Travel Plan 2024-2026



Introduction

Transport makes up over 25% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions (2019 figures) and it is one of the key areas being targeted by government strategy to ensure the UK meets its carbon reduction targets. It can have a significant adverse impact on the environment, increasing resource use, causing water and air pollution as well as contributing to carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions. By adopting this travel plan 608 Vets is demonstrating a commitment reducing our environmental impact by prioritising sustainable modes of transport and minimising the use of fossil fuelled cars and fleet. Our travel plan aims to deliver a range of social, environmental, economic and health benefits and adoption by all staff is encouraged.

The Travel Plan and associated Action Plan aims to measure, monitor and manage the use of:

- ✔ Business related travel, including the use of sustainable transport, fleet [*NB unless a separate Fleet Management Policy has been drawn up*] and grey fleet (employees own cars used for business purpose)
- ✔ Commuter travel – to and from work.

It will also aim to engage associates in considering how they travel to our premises.

1. Summary Of Current Activity (2024-2026)

We have three branches within 608 Vets. Our main branch in Solihull is located close to the centre of Solihull town centre. It is an easy access location for both staff and clients. With our Solihull being close to the town centre, it gives our staff opportunity to walk into town to run errands rather than drive during break times.

Our other two branches are Bentley Heath and Acocks Green, are located within four miles of our main Solihull hospital. Our staff can work at any of the three branches, but every effort is made for staff to not travel between the branches on the same day to limit the travelling. Clients may need to travel between branches if patients need to be admitted for further treatment, which is only carried out at our Solihull hospital.

We have a fleet vehicle, which is used by our Maintenance Manager to transfer stock, lab samples, waste or other items between our sites. He does this in one round trip to prevent staff travelling to collect supplies or drop off lab samples during their working hours, thus limiting numerous car journeys.

Our staff took part in a travel survey in March 2024 to see how travel currently impacts our carbon footprint and to help us reduce the impact in the future. The survey was completed by 15 of our staff and from the survey it showed us that 100% of the staff surveyed often drive their own car to work, it reports 6% sometimes cycle and 6% sometimes use public transport to commute to work. The main reason for driving to work in their own vehicles was due to convenience and having personal errands to run either to or from work.

In the question of car sharing, 94% reported they would not be willing to car share and the main reason was due to working varied work shifts and that they would not have access to a vehicle in the event of a personal emergency.

Suggestions that were made within the survey were a cheaper option to have their own electric vehicle to reduce their individual carbon footprint on their commute. This is currently something that Linnaeus offers but is not yet cost effective for our team.

The travel survey highlighted that commuting in particular is an area that is going to be difficult to improve on when it comes to reducing our carbon footprint. It has however made us more aware of the impact travel has on our carbon footprint and the challenges we face in this area.

Due to the challenges facing individual staff members when it comes to travel, we looked at how we could make changes in our procurement. This has included looking at reducing the number of deliveries to each of our branches for medications and consumables. Previously deliveries were made five times a week, these have been reduced to three times weekly at Solihull, twice weekly at Bentley Heath and once weekly for Acocks Green.

We have also looked at how often our oxygen is delivered, with our recent purchase of an oxygen concentrator we were hoping to limit the number of deliveries made across all three sites and we were also hoping to increase our storage capacity. With making these changes so far in 2024, the number of deliveries has reduced by over 50%. We aim to continue this over the next two years and will review the data in September 2026.

We also now have our regular staff meetings also on Microsoft teams, so staff do not need to attend in person if not on site that day. Weekly manager meetings are also conducted partly on teams. Working this way also reduces site congestion, as this can be an issue at our Solihull hospital due to limited space.

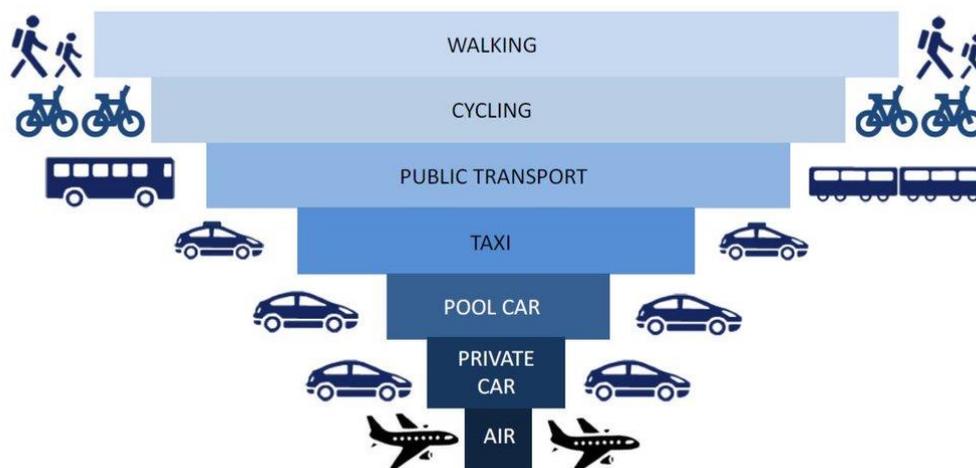
2. The Purpose of This Plan

This travel plan's purpose is to:

- ✓ Reduce transport related carbon emissions
- ✓ Demonstrate the organisation's commitment to sustainability
- ✓ Promote health and wellbeing within the workplace
- ✓ Increase members of staff using an active form of transport/saving money on transport
- ✓ Reduce environmental and social impact of work-related travel
- ✓ Increase the efficiency of vehicle use
- ✓ Minimise site congestion
- ✓ Minimise the impact of fleet vehicle use through better management, planned investment and efficient use
- ✓ Show leadership in and consideration for our immediate community

3. Prioritising Sustainable Transport

In order to manage business transport, 608 Vets will adopt a transport hierarchy and travel planning strategy. Travel will only be used where necessary and via the most sustainable means possible, as demonstrated in the diagram below:



608 Vet's premises can be reached using sustainable forms of transport as follows:

Walking

All our branches, especially Solihull is located in close proximity to housing, shops and businesses. All roads around the sites are well lit and busy public areas.

Cycling

Cycling storage is available at our Solihull and Bentley Heath branch. At Solihull bikes can be stored in our oxygen shed or gated area near the kennel entrance. At Bentley Heath, bikes can be placed through the side gate, which is kept locked.

Public Transport

There are strong public transport routes to our branches including a local train station to our Solihull hospital and bus routes to any of our branches. Please see below for timetables for train and bus routes in the area.

<https://nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/places-to-go/solihull>

<https://www.thetrainline.com/stations/solihull>

4. Minimising The Impact of Vehicle Use

When travel by car is unavoidable, other strategies will also be adopted, including:

- ✓ Planning trips in order to maximise time use efficiency and reduce mileage, ensuring that one round trip is used rather than many individual ones
- ✓ Home working where appropriate to reduce travel to work
- ✓ Training drivers in fuel efficient driving techniques, for example accelerating slowly, driving at lower speeds, braking less heavily, changing up gears sooner etc.
- ✓ Maintaining vehicles, including reducing excess loads and checking tyre pressures

5. Plan Delivery

To deliver on the travel plan we will/continue to do the following:

- ✓ Secure and demonstrate full Management Team support
- ✓ Produce baseline data and track and share results with staff
- ✓ Set goals to reduce the impact of business-related travel
- ✓ Ensure all staff are informed of the content of this plan and are regularly reminded of its content

6. Targets

Targets for 2025 have been set using a baseline of the staff travel survey undertaken in early 2024.

608 Vets will aim to:

- ✓ Encourage staff to car share when on the same shift pattern and live in close proximity to each other
- ✓ Ensure all meetings that can place take over teams are done so
- ✓ Reduce the amount of travelling between branches by staff members on the same day by organising rotas
- ✓ Ensure staff are aware and have access to the cycle to work scheme and the salary sacrifice E-car scheme

7. Communicating The Travel Plan

The travel plan will be shared with all staff via email and placed into our staff areas to be read. It shall also be raised in our staff meeting and annual update for sustainability. The plan will also be available to be viewed on our website.

8. Links to other policies and strategies

This Travel Plan has direct links with 608 Vet's following policies and strategies:

Environmental Policy - <https://www.608vets.com/about-608/environmental-policy-for-sustainability>

9. Review

The Travel Plan will be reviewed every *two years* by Nicola Eden and will include employee feedback.

Signed.....NEden.....

Name.....Nicola Eden.....

Position.....RVN.....

Date.....19/06/2024.....

Date of next review.....September 2026.....