



INVERNESS CAMPUS

TRAVEL AND

TRANSPORT PLAN

2019-2022





INTRODUCTION

Inverness Campus is a state-of-the-art location for businesses, research organisations, students and local residents. It's a place of work and for recreation, enjoyed by locals, visitors and patients. This innovative, collaborative space provides a stimulating educational environment, attracts knowledge-based businesses and is enjoyed by the local community.

The Campus offers significant opportunities to both the city of Inverness and the wider region. It is estimated that it could be a workplace for 1300 people within the next five years and create further employment across the region. To date over £105m has been invested in Campus developments.

A Travel and Transport Plan has been and remains a vital part of ensuring that the Campus fulfils its aims, providing an accessible location which encourages sustainable travel forms, particularly walking, cycling and public transport. This summary plan sets out what has already been done with regards to travel within the Campus, who is responsible, and identifies future issues and measures to be introduced.

INVERNESS CAMPUS – A BRIEF OVERVIEW

The Campus opened in 2015 and provides a high-quality multi-use environment and an attractive location for ambitious organisations – as well as being a welcoming place for the general public to enjoy. Major developments completed to date include Inverness College UHI, business accommodation such as Aurora House, Solasta House, 20:20 House, An Lòchran, and student residences. Plans are in place for further projects including a hotel, sports facilities, and a rural veterinary hub.

One of the main advantages of Inverness Campus is the strength of its 'triple helix' foundations – the uniquely strong links that exist here between academia, business and the public sector. The Campus is home to Inverness College UHI, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), and a number of specialist teams from UHI, Inverness College and Scotland's Rural College. In particular, the Campus is becoming a hub for the life sciences and technology sector, with several businesses located here including Scottish Vet Referrals, Aseptium and AgileCadence.

AN ACCESSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

A major aim of the Campus is to provide a location that's truly open and accessible to all. The Campus is attractively landscaped, with some 30 acres of greenspace providing an inviting space for people to enjoy on foot or by bicycle. On the Campus roads, priority is given to cyclists, pedestrians and other non-car users, and there's a network of shared cycle and footpaths.



PLANNING – A JOINT APPROACH

As lead developer, HIE has played an enabling role in Inverness Campus, providing the infrastructure but not necessarily the buildings for individual plot-holders. HIE developed a detailed access strategy and layout plan for the initial building phases in consultation with the Highland Council and Transport Scotland. However, individual land users must get detailed planning permission for their developments.

The 'Phase 1 Planning Permission in Principle' relates only to development of land to the west of the Highland main railway line, but this Travel and Transport Plan considers future phases of the Campus development. The ongoing implementation of the Plan will be managed jointly by the three funding partners, HIE, NHS Highland and UHI, working with and Inverness College UHI, HITRANS and the Highland Council.



PLANNING – A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

One of the planning conditions for Inverness Campus was to develop and implement a green travel plan that would be regularly updated. We've prepared this Transport and Travel Plan to comply with policy and guidance both nationally and locally.

All measures we intend to implement will both limit the development's traffic impact and also promote more sustainable and healthier forms of transport. We're committed to focusing on the most sustainable modes of travel – walking, cycling and public transport while discouraging single occupancy of the private car.

WHAT'S BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR

Several important travel and transport projects and measures designed to enhance accessibility and connectivity have already been delivered. These include:

- Pedestrian and cycle bridges - Golden Bridge, South Bridge and North Bridge (the latter due to open in 2020)
- Dedicated pedestrian and cycle paths
- Bike sheds, some locked and covered
- 60 workplace bike parking spaces and 20 community bike parking spaces
- Shower facilities and changing rooms with lockers – for use by active travellers
- Bike pool – to encourage active travel by free provision of bikes for business-use by employees in An Lòchran
- Roads within the Campus have a 20mph speed limit and traffic calming features
- Frequent bus service to key destinations including Inverness city centre, Culloden and Nairn
- Two bus shelters on site with more planned
- Real-time bus information available at shelters and in key buildings
- Provision of plot car parks
- 100-space temporary car park for visitors
- Electric car charging points

As this list indicates, priority has been given to cyclists and pedestrians and there's a network of shared cycle and footpaths across the Campus. There are pedestrian and cycle bridges between the Raigmore residential area and the north end of the Campus; and from the Inverness Retail and Business Park to the south-east of the Campus. The site also benefits from proximity to the National Cycling Network and the established cycling network within the city, which includes the Bike and Go cycle hire at Inverness Railway Station.

A number of additional features within the Campus minimise the distances between plots and make it quicker for pedestrians to walk around the site. External links to the site are provided along the two access roads at the south-western edge of the site and two traffic-free links are also provided to the north. A new North Bridge bus and cycle link between Inverness Retail and Business Park and the Campus is due to open in 2020.



Over 5km of routes
where cyclists and
pedestrians
have priority

Three Bridges

Golden Bridge - cost: £2m users: 10,463 pedestrian and cyclist journeys every month
North Bridge - cost: est. £3m, due to open 2020
South Bridge - cost: £390k users: 7704 pedestrian and cyclist journeys every month



60 workplace bike parking spaces
20 community bike parking spaces





PLANNING – A TEAM EFFORT

A Travel and Transport Plan Workshop was organised by HIE and held at An Lòchran in October 2018. All plot-holders and other stakeholders were invited. Attendees included HIE, Inverness College UHI, the Highland Council, NHS Highland, HITRANS, Sustrans, Stagecoach North Scotland, Citylink, Aqua Pharma Limited, Cityheart Living, Corporate Health International, LifeScan, University of the Highlands and Islands, OrganLike and Scottish Vet Referrals.

Please note that this Plan has been developed and written by the three partners (HIE, NHS Highland and the University of the Highlands and Islands) funding a post to implement the Travel Plan, and any reference to 'we' or 'us' from this point onwards means steering group meetings.

Discussions were held to address travel-related opportunities, barriers, funding and implementation for the Campus. All stakeholders were keen to work towards developing travel measures designed to increase the use of sustainable travel and limit the use of private cars. The group agreed that the next steps would include forming a Travel and Transport Plan working group, which would set out an achievable action plan and timescales, and then resourcing a means of implementing the plan.

IMPLEMENTING THE ACTIVITY PLAN

Three partners (HIE, NHS Highland and University of the Highlands and Islands) are jointly funding the recruitment of a Travel Co-ordinator, who will take the lead in managing and implementing the Plan. Other stakeholders also form part of the Travel and Transport Plan working group.

We're committed to putting sustainable transport first. This means on a scale of importance we put active travel first and discourage single-occupancy cars. We'll continue to develop and implement measures that support pedestrian movement, cycling movement, bus movement, moped and motorcycle movement, electric car use and car sharing.

Our activity plan will focus on three key areas:

- Encouraging active travel
- Improving public transport
- Moving away from single occupancy car use

1. ENCOURAGING ACTIVE TRAVEL

The Campus has been designed from the outset to encourage the use of the most sustainable modes of transport and active travel. Key to this are the pedestrian and cycle links to and from the Campus, with the bridge across the A9 and bridges over the railway providing a very high standard of sustainable connectivity. The development of student residences on the Campus have also helped to reduce the need for transport.

Measures:

- Promote schemes such as Walking Works and Walk to Work Week
- Introduce tax-efficient cycle purchase schemes and plenty of provisions to encourage cycling, such as cycle storage, showers and lockers
- Develop a Bicycle User Group (called BUGS) to promote cycling within the Campus

Potential measures:

- Provision of pool bikes and e-bikes to facilitate short journeys to and from travel the Campus
- Develop a 'borrow bike' strategy where bikes are available at key places in the Campus and at Raigmore for short-term use
- Introduce an incentive scheme, such as priority parking, car share, for those choosing sustainable transport

2. MOVING AWAY FROM SINGLE OCCUPIER PRIVATE CAR USE

Offering alternatives to private cars, and in particular a move away from single-use occupancy, is key to the success of the Travel and Transport Plan. It needs to be supported by a package of parking measures. We need to make sure that there is provision for essential car users like disabled badge holders and those from rural areas without access to public transport.

Measures:

- Promote and encourage formal and informal car-sharing
- Spread peak hour travel by encouraging staggered starting times
- Encourage wider provision of electric car charging points

Potential measures:

- Introduce a car park permit-based regime, based on a defined hierarchy of need
- Encourage lift sharing by:
 - prioritising parking permits
 - providing a guaranteed lift home
 - creating a car-sharing database
- Introduce penalty charges and disciplinary measures to control illicit parking
- Investigate options for Campus pool cars and the establishment of car clubs

3. IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Frequent bus services direct to and through the Campus are essential to positively influence travel choices. The Campus is currently served by three frequent city services. Further improvements to and expansion of these services will assist in providing an attractive travel option for students at Inverness College UHI and others working at Inverness Campus. The completion of the North Bridge link will allow bus companies to provide a direct link from the A96 corridor and serve the east side of the Campus.

Measures:

- Work with service providers to schedule more frequent and reliable bus service into the Campus.
- Ensure real-time bus information is shown at bus stops and within buildings.
- Promote the direct access to and from Inverness Railway Station.
- Promote the availability of integrated ticketing options.

Potential measures:

- Investigate introduction of a shuttle bus service between Raigmore and Inverness Campus NHS sites.
- Work with HITRANS on and study into a possible railway station on the Inverness to Aberdeen rail line.
- Work with those investigating plans for the provision of Park and Ride facilities on the east side of Inverness, identified in the Inverness East Development plan, which might provide opportunities for Campus users to park off-site and travel in by bus.

A CAMPUS FOR EVERYONE

We recognise that blanket measures won't meet the travel needs of everyone who works, lives, visits or studies at Inverness Campus, so it's very important that we seek to address the various needs of the many different users. The Travel Co-ordinator will consult with all those involved to understand their needs and ensure the right measures are implemented.

We must continue to plan for sustainable transport as the site continues to develop and grow, for example with regards to the planned sports facility and hotel where the car parking requirement is expected to be high. Smart solutions must be sought to stop improper use and encourage alternatives.

In addition, good awareness among all users is essential to encourage use of sustainable transport methods.

Measures we'll take will include:

- Issuing travel information packs to employees at all plots and new students before they start, with information on walking/cycle routes, current timetables, maps and information on ticket choices for public transport options.
- Making sure everyone knows about travel ticket options and any available discounts.
- Displaying all public transport information on Campus noticeboards.
- Encouraging plot-holders to provide information and directions on their websites that clearly emphasise public transport and taxi links rather than private car use.

And, of course, we're very aware of the needs of the communities surrounding the Campus. We'll continue to consult with local residents and community groups as we implement the measures in this Travel and Transport Plan.



MONITORING – A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

Measurement and monitoring will be critical to assess the success of the Travel and Transport Plan. We will be monitoring travel habits and in particular the level of private car trips to the Campus, as well as traffic flows and car parking on an annual basis. We will also carry out Travel Surveys across all plots, which will also encompass visitor habits.

The Travel Co-ordinator will report all findings to the steering group of funding partners, and the findings will inform actions to be taken with additional travel plan measures.

We will revisit the Travel and Transport Plan in three years.

MORE INFORMATION

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