

2008 Transport Survey

A survey was conducted into travel modes to and from the University of Bedfordshire in November 2008.

The survey was placed on line, with links sent out to all staff and students by email; it was also promoted on plasma screens and staff notice boards.

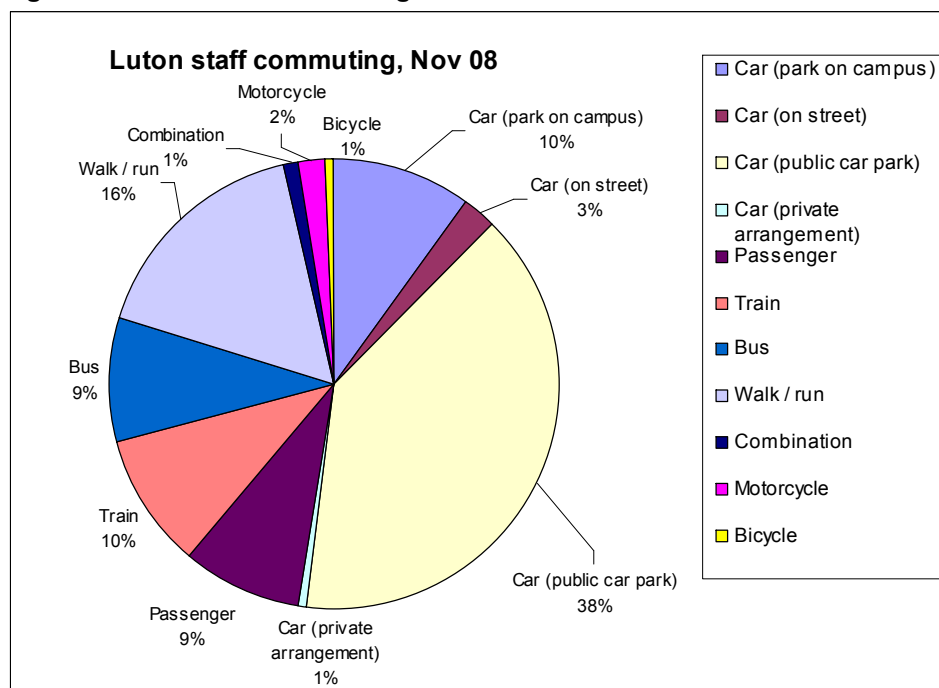
The survey ran from 3rd November to 26th November. In all, 337 responses were received, of which only 5 were from students, and the remaining 331 from staff. 212 respondents were based in Luton; 80 in Bedford; 24 at Putteridge Bury; 20 at Butterfield Park; and 11 across Aylesbury and Stoke Mandeville (some staff are based at more than one site, hence this adds up to more than 337. Where this happens, their answers have been added to each site at which they work).

Student responses have been excluded from these analyses, owing to the poor response figures.

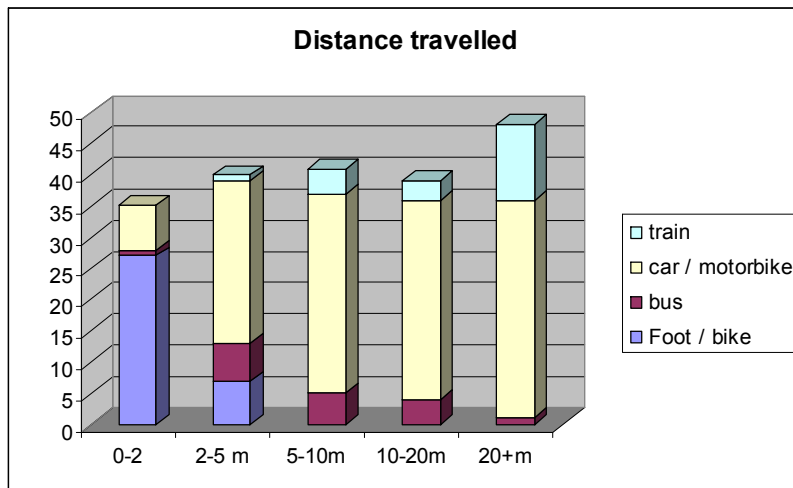
Luton Staff

209 responses came from staff based at Luton, of whom 8 split their time evenly between Luton and at least one other campus – these people have been included in the figures for each relevant campus in turn.

Figure 1: Luton staff commuting modes



Active modes of transport were preferred over short distance, with bus users tending to come over medium distances, car users medium to longer distance, and with train use becoming popular at long distance.



Demographics:

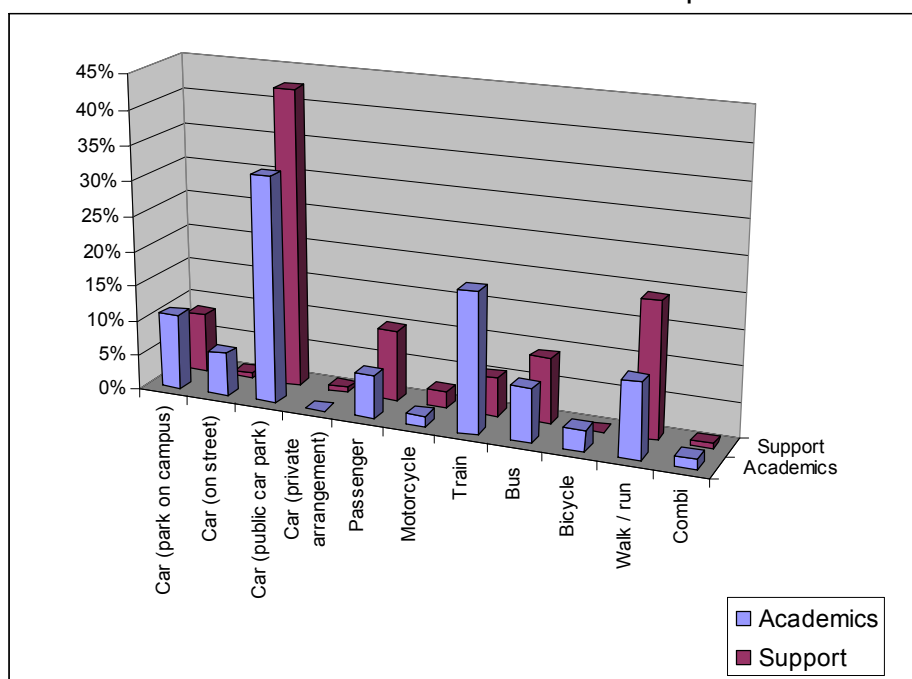
70 respondents were academic staff and 132 were support staff. 166 worked full time, and 34 part time. 79 respondents were male, 122 female.

17 were disabled of whom 12 reported that their travel options were affected. 2 of these travel by bus, 1 as passenger, 9 drive.

9 people did not fill in the demographics section, or only filled it in partially.

There were no great differences between men and women, except that in the question about motivation women were more likely to answer that they needed to fit their commute around other commitments such as the school run. Women were also far more likely to walk than men.

Support staff tended to live far closer to campus, with 27 support staff and only 7 academic staff living within 2 miles, whereas 22 support staff and 29 academic staff live more than 20 miles from campus.



Trips off campus during working hours:

48 (23%) respondents reported making an off-campus trip by car once a week or more; 78 (37%) less than once a week; and 83 (40%) never. Of these, 87 made visits to other university sites; 23 went to placements and made other course-related trips; 41 made other business trips; and 27 made leisure or personal trips.

Motivation:

The most common reason cited to explain the respondent's choice of travel mode was convenience, followed by lack of alternative. Unsurprisingly, lack of alternative increases in importance as an explanatory factor with distance – there was only one citation, making it one of the least important influences, for people living within 2 miles of campus, but 19 citations at greater than 20 miles, making it by far the most important factor for people living at that distance. Convenience was cited heavily by walkers. For car drivers convenience was followed by having no practical alternative, and the need to combine journeys with other commitments such as the school run. Price, health and environmental concerns were of far less importance.

Bedford Staff

Of the 79 responses received, 2/3 (53 people) reported driving to work. The next most popular modes of transport were bicycle (9 people) and coming on foot (8 people). Four people (all drivers) split their time between Bedford and Luton. Again, convenience and lack of alternative were the main motivating factors, followed by journey time. Health and price were more important than to Luton based staff.

Medical Sites

30 responses were received from staff based at medical sites. Of these, 23 were car drivers, with 19 having journeys of 10 miles or more. Journey time and lack of alternatives were the principle motivating factors. 11 reported being due to move campuses shortly; of these, 8 currently drive and 6 intend to drive after the move. A high proportion of respondents make frequent business trips; 20 make trips to other University sites or to placements more than once a week.

Putteridge Bury

24 staff from Putteridge Bury responded, of whom 5 split their time between that and other sites. 17 of these drive, and a further 3 come in a car as a passenger. One respondent answered "No other form" to the question "How do you normally travel" – however this person also mentioned using University car parks, so is probably another car driver. "Lack of practical alternatives" was by far the most common reason given. Half of all respondents make trips away from campus more than once a week.

Survey Questions and Responses

1. Where are you currently normally based? Note: if your time is divided evenly between more than one campus, tick all that apply; otherwise tick your main campus.

Aylesbury Stoke Mandeville 7 / Bedford 80 / Butterfield Park 20 / High Wycombe 4 / Luton 212 / Putteridge Bury 24

2. How far is your home from campus? (Please refer to your longer journey if your time is split 50/50 between sites)

Less than 2 miles (56, 16.6%) / 2 to 5 miles (64, 19%) / 5 to 10 miles (61, 18.1%) / 10 to 20 miles (73, 21.7%) / Over 20 miles (83, 24.6%)

3. How long does your journey normally take you?

0-10 minutes (27, 8%) / 11-20 minutes (66, 19.6%) / 21-40 minutes (136, 40.4%) / 41-60 minutes (72, 21.4%) / Over 1 hour (36, 10.7%)

4. In an average week, how do you normally travel to and from your place of work and study?

- 4.1. What form of transport forms the greater part of your normal journey?

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- 4.2. If your normal journey involves more than one form of transport, what else do you use?

- 4.3. If you regularly (once a week, say) vary your journey, what other forms of transport do you use?

	4.1	4.2	4.3
<i>Car as driver</i>	<i>197, 58.8%</i>	<i>7, 5.6%</i>	<i>24, 19.2%</i>
<i>Car as passenger</i>	<i>24, 7.2</i>	<i>3, 2.4%</i>	<i>13, 10.4%</i>
<i>Train</i>	<i>23, 6.9%</i>	<i>4, 3.2%</i>	<i>4, 3.2%</i>
<i>University Shuttle Bus</i>	<i>4, 1.2%</i>	<i>4, 3.2%</i>	<i>4, 3.2%</i>
<i>Other Bus</i>	<i>17, 5.1%</i>	<i>2, 1.6%</i>	<i>10, 8%</i>
<i>Bicycle</i>	<i>13, 3.9%</i>	<i>6, 4.8%</i>	<i>6, 4.8%</i>
<i>Walk or run</i>	<i>43, 12.8%</i>	<i>39, 31%</i>	<i>8, 6.4%</i>
<i>Motorcycle</i>	<i>4, 1.2%</i>		<i>1, 0.8%</i>
<i>No Other Form</i>	<i>4, 1.2%</i>	<i>57, 45.2%</i>	<i>47, 37.6%</i>
<i>Other (please specify)</i>	<i>6, 1.8%</i>	<i>4, 3.2%</i>	<i>8, 6.4%</i>

“Other” was mostly elaborations on multi-mode forms of transport; one respondent mentioned using the London Underground for part of the journey, and one mentioned travelling by wheelchair.

5. What reasons are most important to you when choosing your normal form of transport?

Price (18, 5.4%) / Journey time (51, 15.3%) / Distance travelled (18, 5.4%) / Convenience (95, 28.4%) / Need to fit around others e.g. school run (28, 8.4%) / Health and fitness (13, 3.9%) / Pleasure (1, 0.3%) / Environmental Concerns (9, 2.7%) / No practical alternatives (73, 21.9%) / Other (please specify) (28, 8.4%); mostly elaborations on answers above, but also one citation for safety, one for disability and four respondents mentioned need a car at work for business trips during day.

6. Are you expecting to change campus in the next six months?

Yes (13, 3.9%) / No (324, 96.1%)

6.1. If so, where are you switching to?

Aylesbury Oxford House (11) / Bedford (1) / Butterfield Park / Luton (1) / Putteridge Bury

6.2. How do you expect to travel after your move?

Car as driver (7) / Car as passenger (1) / Train (1) / Bus (3) / Walk or run (1) / Motorcycle / Don't yet know / Other (please specify)

7. Do you use a car for trips from campus to destinations other than home?

Yes, often (once a week or more) (100, 29.7%) / Yes, occasionally (less than once a week) (118, 35% / No (119, 35.3%)

7.1. If so, where do you go?

Other University sites (143) / To placements or other course related venues (68) / Other business trips (60) / Leisure or personal (48) / Other (please specify) (15, mostly elaborations of answers above)

8. Do you use the following facilities, if available at your campus?

Secure or sheltered bicycle parking (23) / University shuttle bus (52) / University car parks (154) / Nearby public car parks (72) / Motorcycle parking (5)

8.1. If you drive, where do you normally park?

On campus, in University-run car park (111) / In public car park, arranged through University (88) / Public car park, arranged privately (33) / Nearby street (33) / Private arrangement e.g. friend's drive (2) / Hospital car park (17) / Other (please specify) (2; both actually comments on the University's car parking provision)

9. If the University invested in the following facilities at your campus, would you use them?

Showers for cyclists or joggers (61) / Secure, sheltered bicycle parking (42) / Secure, sheltered motorcycle parking (7) / Public transport season ticket loans (20) / Public transport season ticket discounts (62) / Pool cars or car club (42) / Pool bicycles (13) / Bicycle loans (29)

10. What other facilities would you like us to consider providing?

11. Do you have any other comments you would like to make about the University's transport facilities

12. Are you: *Male (120, 36.8%) / Female (206, 63.2%)*

13. How old are you?

Under 20 (0) / 20 to 35 (82, 25.2%) / 35 to 50 (124, 38.2%) / Over 50 (119, 36.6%)

14. Are you: *Undergraduate (2, 0.6%) / Postgraduate (3, 0.9%) / Support Staff (189, 57.8%) / Academic Staff (133, 40.7%)*

15. Are you: *Full time (268, 82.7%) / Part time (56, 17.3%)*

16. Are you in any way disabled? Yes (24, 7.6%) / No (291, 92.4%)
16.1. If so, does your disability affect the way you travel? Yes (16) /
No (24)

17. In the past week, on how many days have you done a total of 30 minutes or more of physical activity, which was enough to raise your breathing rate? (This may include sport, exercise, and brisk walking or cycling for recreation and / or to get to places, but should not include housework or physical activity that may be part of your job). 0 (50, 16.4%) / 1 (46, 15.1%) / 2 (48, 15.7%) / 3 (62, 20.3%) / 4 (29, 9.5%) / 5 (36, 11.8%) / 6 (11, 3.6%) / 7 (23, 7.5%)

18. In the past week, on how many days have you travelled in an active way for at least ten minutes? This may include non-leisure journeys made in a physically active way. For example, walking or cycling to work, to visit friends or family, or to do your shopping. 0 (49, 16%) / 1 (31, 10.1%) / 2 (49, 16%) / 3 (37, 12.1%) / 4 (23, 7.5%) / 5 (46, 15%) / 6 (27, 8.8%) / 7 (44, 14.4%)

Comments:

Unsurprisingly, more comments were received about car parking than any other subject (66 out of 139 comments mentioned car parking, almost all negative in tone). Particular grievances were the recent increase in charges, and the need to walk off campus to get to the leased car parks, though only two respondents mention switching from driving in response. 24 respondents mentioned the shuttle buses, mostly people based in Bedford, Putteridge Bury or Butterfield. These were more often positive in tone – the shuttle bus network was the only University travel facility to be praised.