



Commuting

Plymouth is a compact city of some 30 square miles, with the city centre only around seven miles (11.3 km) from its furthest outskirts.

The city is connected to the national motorway network by the A38 Devon Expressway, which joins the M5 at Exeter 40 miles away. The commuting catchment area extends to mid Cornwall, West Devon and the South Hams with good road and public transport links.

The city centre was rebuilt after the Second World War and consideration was given to access of the central area by road. This resulted in direct and easy access routes being built into the centre of Plymouth.

In 2004, Plymouth had an average traffic speed during peak periods of 22.4 mph. This is the fifth highest speed among the 18 largest English urban areas outside London surveyed. The average for all these areas was 21.0 mph.

Bus Services

There are currently three Park-and-Ride facilities in the city offering free parking and discounted bus travel. These serve the northern and northeastern approaches to the city. Further sites are proposed for the eastern and western approaches.

Two bus companies operate the vast majority of services in the city, Plymouth City Bus and First Devon & Cornwall, with the latter also providing services to the city from outlying areas in Devon and Cornwall. Season tickets offer a considerable saving for regular users. Plymouth City Council, in partnership with the two bus operators, has developed a Green Travel Pass joint ticketing service. The scheme allows unlimited discounted bus travel within the city and is paid for directly from salaries and wages.

Green Travel Passes are available to all employees of employers who have a commitment to reducing their single car occupancy, and the scheme is an incentive used by Plymouth City Council to encourage voluntary adoption of Travel Plans amongst the city's employers.



Proposals are in place to extend the zones to include the whole of the Plymouth Travel-To-Work Area and other public transport operators to provide a multi-modal ticketing system.

Employers using this scheme include the Child Support Agency, National Health Service, Orange and Plymouth City Council.

Rail Services

Plymouth's railway station is located within a five-minute walk of the main shopping area, with a bus interchange connecting to all areas of the city from the city centre. Suburban stations connecting to the city centre are located at St Budeaux, Keyham, Dockyard and Devonport. Other local commuter services run to Cornwall (Saltash, St Germans, Liskeard and Gunnislake) and Devon (Bere Alston, Ivybridge and Totnes).

Cycle Paths

There are around 24 miles (38 km) of cycle paths in Plymouth, and Plymouth City Council will be increasing this amount as new roads are built and developed.

Cycle racks are situated in various locations across the city and particularly in the city centre.

Bridge and Ferry Links

The main road access to Cornwall is via the four-lane Tamar Bridge; a fifth lane is available solely for pedestrians and cyclists. The bridge links Plymouth to Saltash in Cornwall and a toll of £1 (or 50p by means of the TamarTag) for a car is payable on entry into Plymouth from Cornwall.

The Torpoint Ferry, which comprises three chain-driven ferries, offers (subject to weather conditions) a regular and frequent service for foot passengers and motor vehicles, including lorries and buses between Plymouth and Torpoint in Cornwall at a similar cost to the bridge.

During peak times ferries run at ten minute intervals. The ferries have recently undergone refurbishment and each have a capacity of 73 cars.

Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry also operate TamarTag, an electronic toll collection which uses safe, secure and reliable communications technology to perform an electronic monetary transaction between vehicles passing through the toll facilities and the toll operator. It offers a more convenient way for frequent users to pay their tolls, speeds up transactions through toll lanes, and reduces the handling of cash for both the customer and operator.



As an alternative form of commuting, those travelling to the city centre from the Plymstock area benefit from a regular and frequent water taxi operating from Mount Batten to the Barbican (an approximate five-minute walk from the city centre). There is also a regular ferry for foot passengers from Cremyll (south east Cornwall) to Stonehouse (an approximate 15-minute walk from the city centre) and a summer season only foot passenger ferry from Cawsand (south east Cornwall) to the Barbican.

Travel Planning

Cornwall County, Devon County and Plymouth City Councils have local transport plans to reduce congestion, speed and pollution. Car share schemes have been set up in the area and the councils have worked closely with large employers and tourist attractions to introduce schemes to reduce the amount of cars on the roads. Travel Plans are site specific, tailored to the circumstances of individual companies, and the Government-funded Energy Efficiency Best Practice programme offers up to five days free on-site consultancy for businesses wishing to develop travel plans.

