

# Isles of Scilly Travel Survey

October 2022



Council of the  
ISLES OF SCILLY

# Isles of Scilly Travel Survey

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# Executive Summary

- This report details the results of two surveys, a local travel survey and an accompanying equality and diversity survey. The surveys will help inform the Isles of Scilly's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The local travel survey received 132 responses and the equality and diversity survey received 24 responses.
- Respondents already report high levels of walking and cycling on St Mary's.
- Although less than half of respondents use cars, driving behaviour on St Mary's affects people walking and cycling significantly. Both pedestrians and cyclists report barriers due to traffic and driving behaviour.
- Pedestrians and cyclists report barriers due to lack of pavements – pedestrians feel at risk from traffic, and cyclists feel at risk from pedestrians using the road.
- Respondents reported their children mostly cycled or walked to school, though some highlighted these trips as being unsafe.
- Frequent drivers are typically driving for work or out of habit. Infrequent drivers tend to drive to move heavy or bulky items.
- Respondents who walk and cycle were primarily motivated by places being within easy walking or cycling distance, they are also motivated by their health more than by their mode of travel being good for the environment.
- Respondents are keen for pavements to be improved, traffic speeds reduced and for the town centre to become a less car-dominated place.
- The equality and diversity survey received responses from a similar number of male and female respondents, with most respondents being 45 years old or over.

# Survey Overview

The Council of the Isles of Scilly commissioned Sustrans to run two surveys: a local travel survey and an accompanying equality and diversity survey. These surveys will inform the development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the Isles of Scilly. The surveys were hosted separately for data protection reasons. The surveys were open to both residents and visitors on the Isles of Scilly.

The surveys went live on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 and were publicised by the Council of the Isles of Scilly from the 1<sup>st</sup> September and ran until the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The local travel survey received **132 responses** and the equality and diversity survey received **24 responses**. 92% of responses were from permanent residents on Scilly, and 8% were from visitors. The latest (2021) census data estimates that 1,500 adults live on Scilly – meaning the survey had an 8% response rate from Scilly's residents.

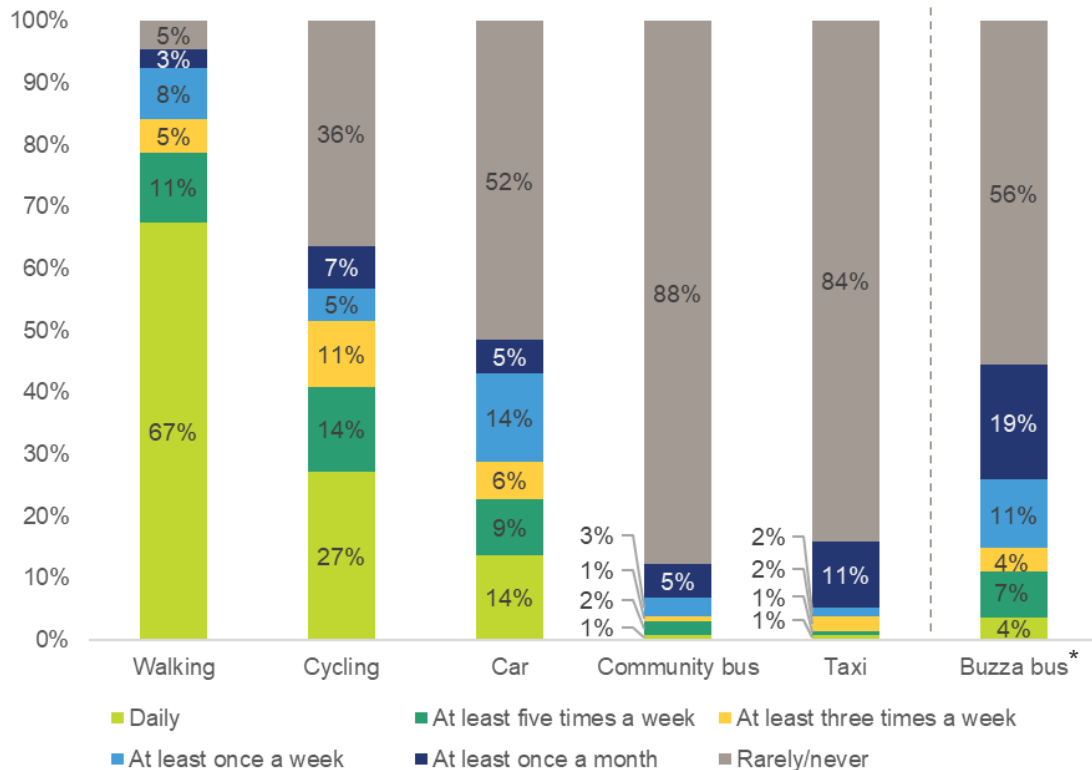
The local travel survey asked respondents about their travel habits whilst on St Mary's, their most frequent journeys made by walking or cycling, their motivations behind these travel choices and about any barriers to walking or cycling.

We analysed the origins and destinations of the most frequently taken walking and cycling journeys separately, the results are presented in a companion document.

The survey incentivised respondents with an optional prize draw offering £100 in high street vouchers.

# How people travel on St Mary's

Respondents were asked how often they used different modes of travel on St Mary's



## Travel on St Mary's



**Walking and cycling** are the most frequently used forms of transport



**Ten** respondents separately mentioned using **electric vehicles**



**44%** of those eligible to use the **Buzza bus** use it at least once a month, compared to **12%** for the **Community bus**

## UK comparison



**79%** of respondents **walked five or more days a week** compared to **50%** UK average



**41%** of respondents **cycle five or more days a week**, compared to **5%** UK average

The UK averages are largely based on cities and urban areas. Full results can be found in the [Walking and Cycling Index UK report](#).

\*Buzza bus n=27 (results exclude those who are ineligible to use it), community bus n=131, all others modes n=132

# Getting to school on St Mary's

Respondents who had children under the age of 18 were asked how their children get to school

42% of respondents to the local travel survey reported having children under the age of 18. These respondents were asked how their children got to school on St Mary's, they were able to select multiple modes of travel:

81% said their child **cycled** to school



42% said their child **walked** to school



21% said their child used a **bus, car or taxi**



17% said their child **scooted** or **skated**



Respondents highlighted that the school run was often unsafe:



“Walking with or without a pushchair is risky due to there being no pavements, blind corners & speeding vehicles. The school run is particularly unsafe.”

“The junction in to the dump path from Porthmellon, cars cut the corner to turn in and drive out fast, I've had close calls when taking children to/from school.”

“Corner to Carn Gwaval/Five Islands School from Old town road - traffic is very fast and it is a blind corner. This is very dangerous as the school is nearby and so should have a 20 mph speed limit.”

# Walking on St Mary's

This page summarises respondents' thoughts on walking on St Mary's. Walking includes using mobility aids such as wheelchairs.

## Motivations

We asked respondents who walked at least once a month on St Mary's to select up to three reasons for **choosing to walk**. The most cited reasons were:

- Most of the places I need to access are within easy walking distance (48%)
- I like walking (42%)
- For my health (42%)
- To walk the dog (33%)
- Its good for the environment (30%)
- I walk in the course of my work or to commute (25%)

## Barriers

We asked all respondents to select up to two factors that **discouraged** them from walking. The most cited factors were:

- Poor quality pavement or paths (29%)
- Speed of traffic (25%)
- Takes too long (21%)
- Bad or unpredictable weather (21%)
- Lack of pavements alongside road (19%)

## Walking habits



Two thirds (67%) of respondents walk every day on St Mary's



Only 5% of respondents rarely or never walk on St Mary's

## Quotes



"The pavements in Hugh Town are trip hazards and are also too narrow to walk along. Surprisingly it is safer to walk in the road, as there are no pot holes or uneven surfaces."



"Cars parked everywhere, pavements littered with blackboards and bric a brac for sale forcing pedestrians onto the highway. It's almost impossible to safely push either a wheelchair or buggy"



"[I] don't see the need for a car on Scilly"

# Cycling on St Mary's

This page summarises respondents' thoughts on cycling on St Mary's

## Motivations

We asked respondents who cycled at least once a month to select up to three reasons for **choosing to cycle**. The most cited reasons were:

- Most of the places I need to access are within easy cycling distance (50%)
- I cycle in the course of my work or to commute (48%)
- For my health (31%)
- I do not have access to a car or golf buggy (29%)
- I like cycling (25%)
- Its good for the environment (18%)

## Barriers

We asked all respondents to select up to two factors that **discouraged them from cycling**. The most cited were:

- Feeling unsafe because of traffic (32%)
- Speed of traffic (28%)
- I don't have access to a bike (20%)
- Bad or unpredictable weather (19%)

## Cycling habits



Over a quarter (27%) of respondents cycle every day on St Mary's



36% of respondents rarely or never cycle



73% of respondents who cycled had a regular bike and 19% had an e-bike.

## Quotes



"I have young children and although we do cycle a lot. The traffic on Scilly worries me, especially the speed. Delivery vans appear to drive very fast as does the community bus given the size of it. Cycle lanes would make cycling safer for young people."



"Drivers do not offer distance/space to cyclists - seem to lack the patience for a safe space to overtake... Speeding and poor driving is a serious issue on St Mary's"



# Driving on St Mary's

This page summarises respondents' views on driving on St Mary's

## Motivations

We asked respondents who drove at least once a month to select up to three reasons why they **choose to travel by car or other motorised vehicle**, the most cited reasons were:

- To carry heavy or awkward items (61%)
- I drive in the course of my work or to commute (39%)
- Because the weather is unpredictable (23%)

We asked the same respondents what two factors would **encourage them to use the car or other motorised vehicles less**:

- 42% said an alternative way to carry bulky or heavy items
- 32% said a bus service that suits my needs

## Barriers

We asked the same respondents to select up to two factors that **discouraged them from using the car or other motorised vehicles less**, most cited were:

- Needing to transport bulky or heavy items (42%)
- The bus service does not meet my needs (34%)
- I need to transport others (25%)

## Driving habits



Only 14% of respondents said they drive every day on St Marys



Over half (52%) of respondents said they rarely or never drive



Respondents who drove frequently\* were more likely to be for **work or to commute** and to be driving out of **convenience or habit** than respondents who drove infrequently\*



Respondents who drove infrequently\* were more likely to be driving to **carry heavy or awkward items** than respondents who drove frequently

## Insights



Nine respondents specifically mentioned using the electric hire vehicles.



Three respondents mentioned driving in order to walk their dogs (counted here as carrying bulky or heavy items).

# Walking Risks

We asked all respondents where and why they felt at risk when walking. Reasons that were cited three or more times are detailed here.\*

## Traffic



- 17 respondents said **vehicles travel too fast**
- 5 respondents said **vehicles mount the pavement** where the road narrows.
- 3 cited **large vehicles on narrow roads** (such as the bus) made them feel unsafe
- 5 respondents said **poor driving** by motorists made them feel at risk.

## Pavements



- 16 respondents said the pavements were **poor quality**,
- 12 said the pavements were **too narrow** and
- 13 said there were **no pavements** where they wanted to walk.

Four respondents said they don't feel at risk when walking.

## Quotes



“And the junction in to the dump path from Porthmellon, cars cut the corner to turn in and drive out fast, I've had close calls when taking children to/from school.”

“Cars often drive far too fast. Considering that no one is more than 3 miles from anywhere the speed drivers go is completely unnecessary”

“The pavement from Porthmelon to the turning of the duck pond needs sorting as vehicles don't slow down and go up on the pavement instead to pass each other.”

“A lot of pavements are uneven and camber steeply into the road which isn't good for pushchairs e.g. between pilots retreat junction and the hospital turning.”

\*Full responses to this question can be found in the appendix

# Cycling Risks

We asked all respondents where and why they felt at risk when cycling. Reasons that were cited three or more times are detailed here.\*

## Traffic



- 13 said that **vehicles travel too fast**
- 9 said that **vehicles overtake** in a way that makes them feel unsafe, eg by not giving enough space or overtaking on a bend.
- 7 said **parked cars** posed a hazard
- 3 cited **large vehicles on narrow roads** as a risk



## Roads

- 11 said that the **blind corners and poor visibility** made them feel at risk
- 6 said the **narrow roads** made them feel at risk
- 3 said the **road or path surface** was a risk



## Pedestrians

- 9 cited **pedestrians** (in particular, pedestrians walking in the road) as a risk



Six respondents said they don't feel at risk when cycling.

## Quotes



“Very scary cycling down Church Street there are so many parked cars on both side that I'm scared of a car door opening on to me”

“Speed of traffic and large vehicles on narrow roads make it feel dangerous”

“Dump path because there's not enough room to pass safely everywhere, there are blind corners, the small rises make it hard to control the bike and the track isn't fully sealed”

“Town is too full of cars for domestic/recreational trips to be safe”

“[I] can't hear electric vehicles round corners while cycling”

\*Full responses to this question can be found in the appendix

# Solutions - Walking

We asked all respondents to rank potential walking schemes from very important to not at all important for enabling walking. Those ranked as most important are listed below:

1. **Prevent anti-social pavement parking** (58% ranked as very important)
2. **Resurface pavements** (54%)
3. **Reduce traffic speeds** (51%)
4. **Install roadside pavements where they are missing** (37%)
5. **Widen existing pavements** (29%)



We asked all respondents **where** they would like to see these implemented, respondents frequently mentioned the following locations\*:

- Old town (11 mentions, 6 specifically citing Blue Carn)
- Hugh Street (8 mentions) and Hugh Town (4 mentions)
- Porthmellon (10 mentions)
- Rose Hill (6 mentions)
- Telegraph Road (3 mentions) Telegraph Hill (2 mentions)
- Parting Carn (4 mentions)

## Suggestions from respondents



### “Pedestrianisation of Hugh St”

“The whole island needs safe pavements and accessible footpaths, particularly for mobility scooter[s] so they are not force[d] to use them on the roads as they have to now.”

“It’s particularly dangerous for walking with small children /buggies as the surfaces are uneven, not wide enough or not in situ in parts of the road network. This needs attention to make it safer and clear of overgrown plants to encourage more walking”

“Please add a handrail to the steps down to Town Beach, at the end closest to The Dairy”

# Solutions - Cycling

We asked all respondents which measures would enable them to **cycle more**. They could select up to three options. The most frequently selected options were:

- **Slowing motorised traffic** (selected by 39% of respondents)
- **Separate cycle path along the dump path** (36%)
- **More cycle parking around the town centre** (27%)
- **Safer cycling infrastructure for cyclists turning from Telegraph Road into Moor Well Lane** (the Dump Path) (26%)
- **Alternative routes to avoid cycling on the main roads** (24%)

We asked all respondents what measures would help them to cycle **more and safer**. They could select up to three options. The most frequently selected options were:

- **Regular free events to help people maintain their cycles such as Dr Bike** (selected by 34% of respondents)
- **Free or heavily discounted e-cycles in return for giving up the car** (21%)
- **I don't know** (21%)
- **Basic training for people using the hire bikes** (20%)
- **Cycle Safety training** (18%)
- **One-month free trial of an e-bike** (18%)

## Suggestions from respondents



“What about ‘Boris bikes’ ?? Could help with the bike borrowing habit?”

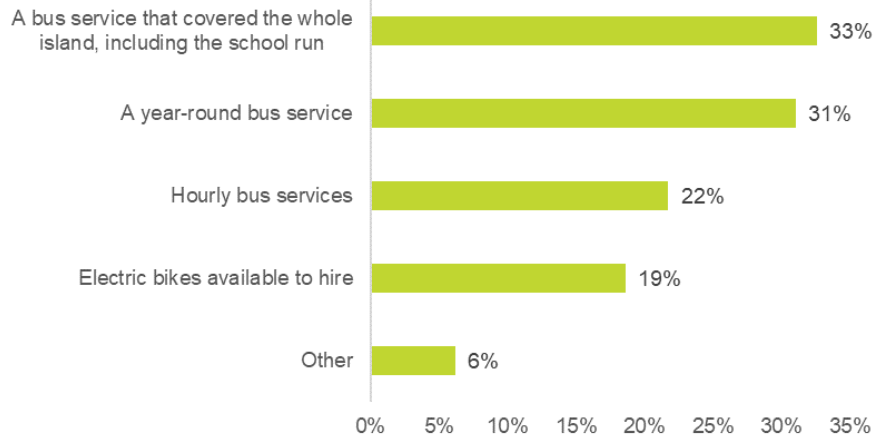
“I would love to see some bikes that could be hired by residents easily with various points across the islands to drop them off. I also think the school could do much more to support children cycling - like have an organised cycle to school everyday from old town and high town. There really isn't much need for them to go to school by car”

“I would like information to be provided to drivers about the Dutch reach method of opening the roadside vehicle doors”



# Solutions - Traffic

We asked all respondents what measures would encourage them to drive less. A bus service covering the whole of St Mary's Island was the most popular option:



We asked all respondents whether they would change their car use if these measures were installed:

- A third (33%) of respondents said that it would **not affect their car use**
- 40% said they would **use their car less** or keep it for occasional trips.
- 27% said that they would **give up their car entirely**.

## Suggestions from respondents



“Enforce parking restrictions and control speed across the Island”

“Reduce speed everywhere on St Mary’s”

“We should have 30 mph across islands and 20mph for motor vehicles in town”

“No parking/ driving in town centre at very least on weekends / peak times”

“Traffic speeds **NEED** to be reduced going around Porthcressa especially at the Petrol pumps...lots of kids visiting the library, beach, play park and green and cake shop etc”

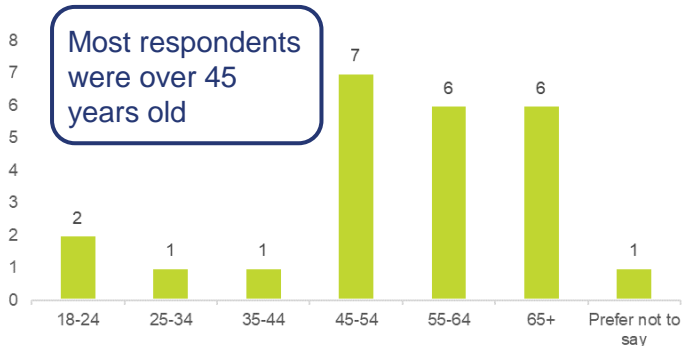
“Can the council stop their big vehicles moving from the waste site between 8.15 and 8.45?”

“Something to discourage passing traffic during school start of day. This tends to coincide with the first shuttle busses of the day and car commuters”

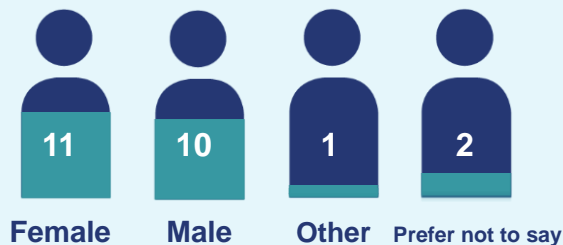
# Demographics

The below summarises responses to the equality and diversity survey (which received 24 responses).

## Age

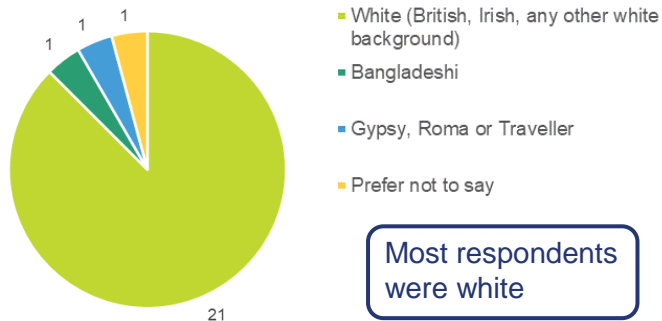


## Gender

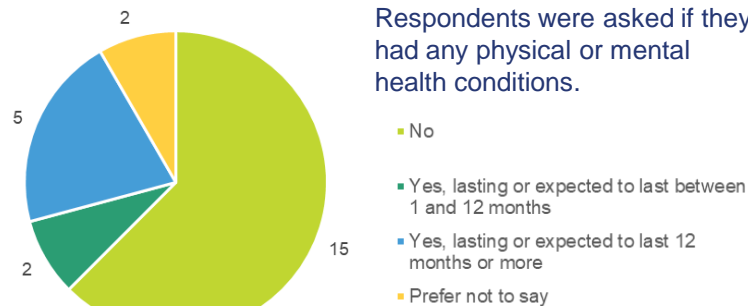


There were a similar number of male and female respondents

## Ethnicity



## Disability



Most respondents did not have a disability

# Methodology

Analysis of the main travel survey and equality and diversity survey was undertaken by the Sustrans Research and Monitoring Unit (RMU) using data obtained from the Jisc surveys open between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

Both quantitative and qualitative analysis was undertaken in Excel. Analysis was quality assured by multiple colleagues.

Open text comments were all read and coded manually using a basic coding technique to identify key themes.

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. As such, in some instances percentages may not total 100%. Percentages are calculated based on the number of responses to that question, since questions were not mandatory the number of responses varies by question.

An appendix of open text comments from key survey questions is shared alongside this report.

Analysis of the most popular walking and cycling journeys made by survey respondents was conducted by Sustrans' Modelling and Simulations Developer and will be made available in a companion report.



Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle.

We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

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