

# Driving Sustainable Development for Staffordshire County Council



## About

Staffordshire County Council produce accessibility appraisals to support their district councils to deliver housing and employment development in the most sustainable areas. They provide evidence in local long term planning documents (Local Plan) by demonstrating travel time to services by walking, cycling and public transport. The transport planning team are also focused on reducing congestion and carbon emissions, and improving health and fitness by increasing the uptake of walking, cycling and public transport.

## TRACC

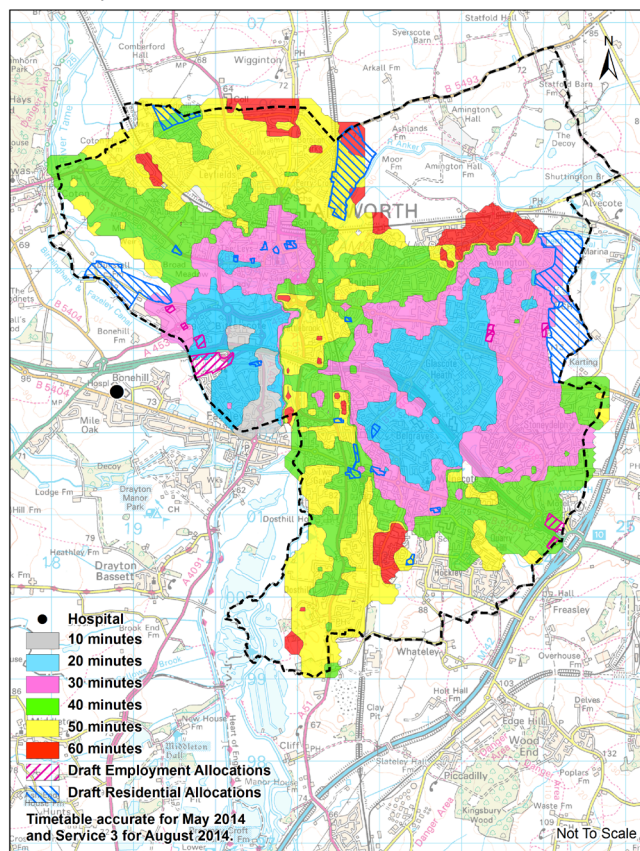
When calculating accessibility for public transport, TRACC takes into account the complete journey, so includes walk time to the stop/station, in-vehicle travelling time, walk time to the destination and allows for interchange between services, including wait and walk time.

Tamworth and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Councils required transport advice for proposals of developments in urban and rural locations where residents could make use of existing services and facilities to maximise travel choice and minimise additional travel by car.

## Access

They also wanted to show that these developments were strategically placed for access to key sites such as employment centres. The below map contour shows the public transport access to the site with six, ten-minute intervals.

Public Transport Access to Hospital (Bus and Rail)  
Wednesday 08:00 to 10:00 hours



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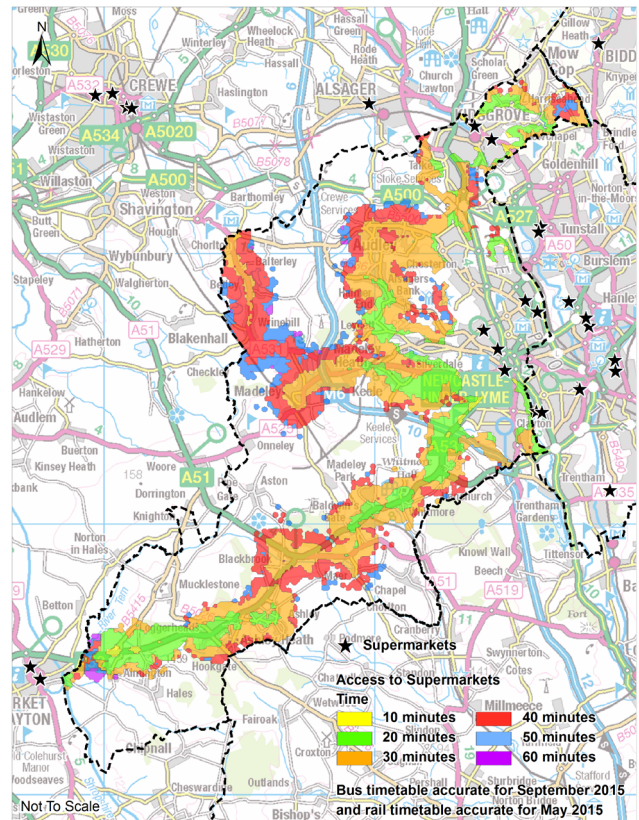
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# Demonstrating Sustainability

Staffordshire County Council used TRACC to create visual representations which showed that the proposed locations offered the best transport options to local services (doctors, schools, supermarkets, hospitals) as well as employment areas. The flexibility offered by TRACC enabled them to review travel times across both urban and rural areas.

Accessibility for predominantly urban Tamworth was measured by a maximum walking distance of 350m to a bus stop, whereas for Newcastle's rural settlements, the parameters for maximum walking distance to a bus stop increased to 800m. For supermarkets, access was calculated for both Wednesday and Saturday to highlight any differences resulting from weekday only operating bus services. TRACC's powerful reporting makes these accurate calculations easy and quick to carry out.

Rural Public Transport Access to Supermarkets (Bus and Rail)  
Saturday 10:00 to 13:00 hours



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In Tamworth, the results from TRACC ensured that the most sustainable sites had been selected, taking into account necessary improvements to bus services, which helps support the local plan. Newcastle is at an early stage but the results will help secure buy in during consultation. By using TRACC, Staffordshire can scope exactly what changes need to be made to travel (e.g. a new or extended bus service) so stakeholders can review the evidence in the accessibility appraisal and agree to the proposals. Joanne Keay, Strategy Officer for Staffordshire County Council, explains, "TRACC provides a robust evidence base and allows us to test potential public transport improvements by adding new bus stops and services so we know the level of benefit that can be achieved."

## Benefits



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1

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2

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3

**Flexible**

TRACC helped  
secure DFT funding