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## **GREEN FUTURE FOR TRAVEL TO PORTON DOWN**

The public and private scientific research bodies at Porton Down have joined forces to lessen the environmental impact caused by travelling to the site by employees and visitors by encouraging cycling, car sharing, home working and introducing a bus service.

The three principal organisations at Porton Down – Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and the Porton BioScience and Technology Centre (PBTC) – have worked with Wiltshire Council, and its district level predecessors, to produce the newly launched area travel plan.

Darren Hall, Dstl's travel plan coordinator, says: "Very simply, this plan is designed to encourage other ways of travelling to work instead of everybody driving in a car on their own. By 2013 we hope to have cut those 'one person in a car' journeys down by seven percent and to reduce the number of car miles our staff travel on business by around 10 percent."

Dstl is currently in the process of moving approximately 500 staff to Porton Down and has already introduced a range of measures to help towards achieving the area travel plan from home working to interest free loans to buy bicycles and dedicated car sharing spaces in the car park. HPA plans to cut one person car journeys down by 13 points to 75 percent by 2010 and PBTC plans, within three years of occupation, to have 10 percent of tenants travelling by sustainable means.

Dr Tim Harry, Deputy Site Director at the HPA, says: "We actively encourage the use of greener, more sustainable methods of transport to and from work. We hope that the introduction of a regular bus service and the promotion of cycle and car share schemes will improve accessibility and help to reduce traffic flow in the local community. "

The area travel plan has also looked at ways of encouraging walking to work for those who live within one and a half miles of the office and plans to introduce ways of hooking people together who live close enough to share a car lift.

Dave Milton, team leader spatial planning, Wiltshire Council, says: "This is an excellent plan and will really address the major concern of access to the site. Porton Down is a prized asset for Wiltshire so we needed to find a way around the concerns of local residents about the amount of traffic in the area. And I'm really pleased that this plan is not just a tick box exercise; it really has got some teeth, giving those working at the site and visitors realistic choices for travelling."

Councillor Mike Hewitt, a co-opted member of Wiltshire Council for the Idmiston and Winterbourne area, comments: "This travel plan is the result of a huge amount of cooperation from the Porton Down organisations to the local parish council and other interested groups. And I hope local people understand that those at Porton Down are really working with locals to address concerns about heavy traffic in the village.

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For more information contact the Dstl press office on 01980 658089, 07766 134768, [press@dstl.gov.uk](mailto:press@dstl.gov.uk).

Notes to editors:

**Dstl**

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is a centre of scientific excellence for the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Its 3,500 strong workforce includes some of the nation's most talented and creative scientists with the brief to ensure that the UK Armed Forces and Government are supported in-house by the very best impartial scientific and technological advice. Dstl's position at the heart of the MOD means that its advice is trusted by governments, academia, industry and international partners. It offers timely and accurate advice at all levels of military planning and operations, both overseas and on the home front. For more information please visit [www.dstl.gov.uk](http://www.dstl.gov.uk)