

Sustainable transport and the BREEAM process

BREEAM (Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method) is the world's leading and most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings, with over 115,000 buildings certified and nearly 700,000 registered. It sets the standard for best practice in sustainable design and has become the de facto measure used to describe a building's environmental performance.

The challenge

Managing travel demand and the promotion of sustainable travel opportunities is an ongoing challenge faced by central and local government and the private sector. New buildings, retail, office, education, healthcare, etc. will all generate travel movements. The BREEAM process recognises this challenge and is keen to insure that demand is managed in a sustainable fashion by considering a range of transportation issues and initiatives from the outset of the building design process and throughout it's life. High BREEAM ratings are attractive to institutional establishments, future building owners and tenants. Developers increasingly recognise the benefit of investing in a range of sustainable transport initiatives and many are rising to the sustainable transport challenge.

How we can help

We have a wide range of transportation expertise that can contribute to the BREEAM process thereby helping developers improve their sustainability credentials. BREEAM considers:

- access to public transport networks;
- proximity to local amenities;
- provision of cycle and pedestrian facilities;
- Travel Plan development and implementation.

We can advise on all of these issues and develop a range of options to achieve high BREEAM rankings to accord with developer objectives.



Our approach

The need for developers to have robust advice on the full range of transport issues facing each development opportunity is now more important than ever. We have a specialist Development Transport Planning team based in each of our regional offices that can provide that advice. In addition, we have experience in public transport operational planning, and public and stakeholder consultation exercises that can provide specialist advice when required. Our approach is to provide clients with a bespoke service that produces high quality and responsive advice. Each client has direct access to an experienced transport planner. That way you always know who to turn to for advice and we can keep you informed about news and latest innovations in transport that will help you.

Accessibility planning

Undertaking an accessibility assessment or audit requires the use of up-to-date public transport data (including routes, timetables and bus stop locations), details of the road and path network and relevant demographic information for the full catchment area. We can help you assemble all of these data, making full use of existing datasets and software and tailoring these to your needs. We have developed ACCESSION-based accessibility models for a wide range of developments and used these to help determine locational strategies and the enhancement of transport links to development sites.

Cycle and pedestrian facilities

We can identify a range of initiatives aimed at encouraging walking and cycling in order to help reduce development related use of the private car. Audits of existing facilities, the identification of any shortcomings and the recommendation of sustainable solutions will help achieve higher BREEAM ratings. Cycle initiatives can range from the provision of facilities within the development, for example cycle parking and changing facilities, to local cycle network enhancements. We can also advise on cycle purchase incentives and loans for employees. We can advise on pedestrian network enhancements such as the provision of new footway linkages, crossing provision, lighting enhancements and other personal safety features.

Travel Plan development and implementation

Staff travel surveys and employee consultation are at the heart of the process. We conduct site and access surveys, establish current travel to work patterns of staff and forecast future demand. We identify factors determining choice of travel mode, alternatives available, attitudes towards them and schemes that would encourage staff to make the switch. We use geographical information systems to map and assess travel. We help staff and management work together to agree the design of on-site measures and implementation of practical acceptable travel plans. We advise on the full range of demand management measures to assist traffic management associations and groups of employees.

