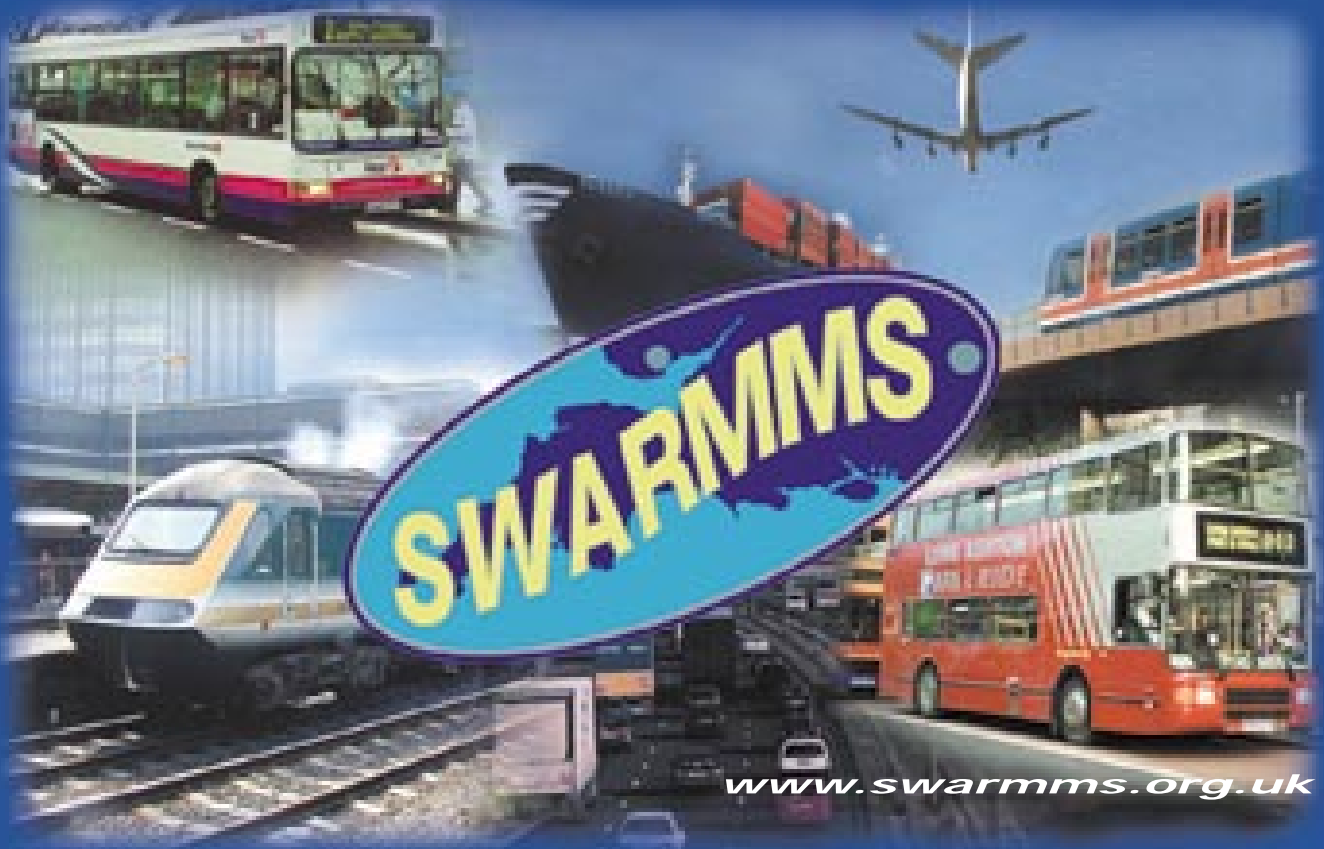


# *Transport Solutions*

*Between London and the South  
West of England and South Wales*

*SWARMMS Newsletter No 1: September 2000*



[www.swarmms.org.uk](http://www.swarmms.org.uk)

***We want your views.....***

*Please read this newsletter and complete the enclosed questionnaire. It will help to identify the right transport solutions for the area.*



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE SOUTH WEST

**Halcrow**

# Why do we need your help ?

## What is SWARMMS ?

Transport issues are becoming increasingly important to economic prosperity and quality of life. In order that we can plan for the future, the Government has commissioned a number of major transport studies throughout England. These will look at current transport problems and issues, how these might change in the future, and what transport solutions might be found to best address them.

The largest of these studies is known as SWARMMS (or the London to the South West and South Wales Multi-Modal Study to give its full name). It covers a very large area including the following main routes:

**London-Bristol-Exeter** - incorporating the M4 (from the M25) and M5 roads and parallel mainline railways, including the two alternative rail routes to Bristol and the Severn Tunnel via Bristol Parkway and Bath, and the direct route from Reading to Taunton via Westbury;

**London-Salisbury-Exeter** - incorporating the M3 (from the M25), A303 and A30 roads and parallel Waterloo-Exeter railway line; and

**West from Exeter** - incorporating the A30 to Penzance and the A38 to Plymouth and Bodmin, and the main railway into Cornwall via Plymouth.

The Halcrow Group has been appointed by the Government to undertake the SWARMMS study. The study is due to be completed at the end of 2001.



## Why is SWARMMS needed ?

In the past, most transport schemes have been looked at in isolation from one another. For example, little attention was paid to railways when considering new road schemes, and vice versa. This resulted in a disjointed approach to transport in the SWARMMS area.

However, the Government is committed to having a fully integrated transport system. SWARMMS recognises this and will consider all types of transport (e.g. rail, road, sea, air, pipelines) and how they relate to one another. It will cover the transport needs of both passengers and freight.

..... *there are no*

There are many different transport problems within the SWARMMS area. Most people will recognise the congestion that occurs on many motorways and trunk roads at peak commuter time. Similarly traffic levels increase significantly on some routes during the main holiday season. Overcrowding is also a problem on some key rail and bus services. In addition, there are road safety concerns in a number of places.

Also, increasing traffic levels tend to mean more environmental impact through, for example, more noise and fumes. Yet some parts of the SWARMMS area have very high unemployment and are actively seeking new development. How do we ensure that increased traffic levels do not spoil the very environment which attracts so many people to live in and visit the area?



Those living in rural areas tend to rely on cars to a great extent as public transport is often not available. Even within towns and cities, integration between different types of transport is often missing, although schemes such as Park and Ride try to overcome this.

## How do we involve people in the study ?

This newsletter and questionnaire is the first of a number of opportunities for you to be involved in the study, and more newsletters and questionnaires will be published as the study progresses. Our aim for each questionnaire is to get as many views as possible from throughout the SWARMMS area, on the transport issues discussed in the corresponding newsletter.

Given the size of the area, we cannot hope to contact everyone. However, we aim to distribute up to 10,000 copies of this newsletter and questionnaire through a mobile exhibition which will travel through the area in September. Newsletters and questionnaires will also be distributed through local authority buildings and libraries.

Stakeholder organisations (such as local authorities, transport providers and environmental groups) are also being consulted, through a series of other initiatives. Some of these organisations are also on the study Steering Group.

Responses to the questionnaire will be looked at very carefully and, together with information from other sources, will help to identify a range of solutions to be looked at in the next stage of the study.

This is why your responses are so important - they will help to determine future changes to the transport system throughout the SWARMMS area.

The rest of this newsletter describes some of the problems and issues in more detail, and goes on to suggest some possible solutions. These are only our ideas at the current time and have not yet been decided. We welcome your views on the problems and solutions – tell us what you think.

Having read the rest of the newsletter, please fill in the questionnaire and send it to us at the FREEPOST address provided. Feel free to send any other comments you may have about the study to this address. Thank you for your time.



# What's the problem ?

This map shows the SWARMMS study area, highlighting some of the main road and rail issues which currently exist. Problems such as these can be experienced by anyone who travels in the SWARMMS area. We want your views if you ever use any of the study corridors, no matter how much, be it for short journeys or long journeys, on a regular basis (such as going to work every day) or just occasionally (such as when going on holiday).

## Problems such as....

### SUMMER CONGESTION

....on the M5, M3, A30, A303 & A38

### SAFETY

....on the A303 and A30

### DAILY PEAK CONGESTION

....on the M4 (Reading and Bristol), M5 (Bristol) and M3

### RAILWAY NEAR CAPACITY

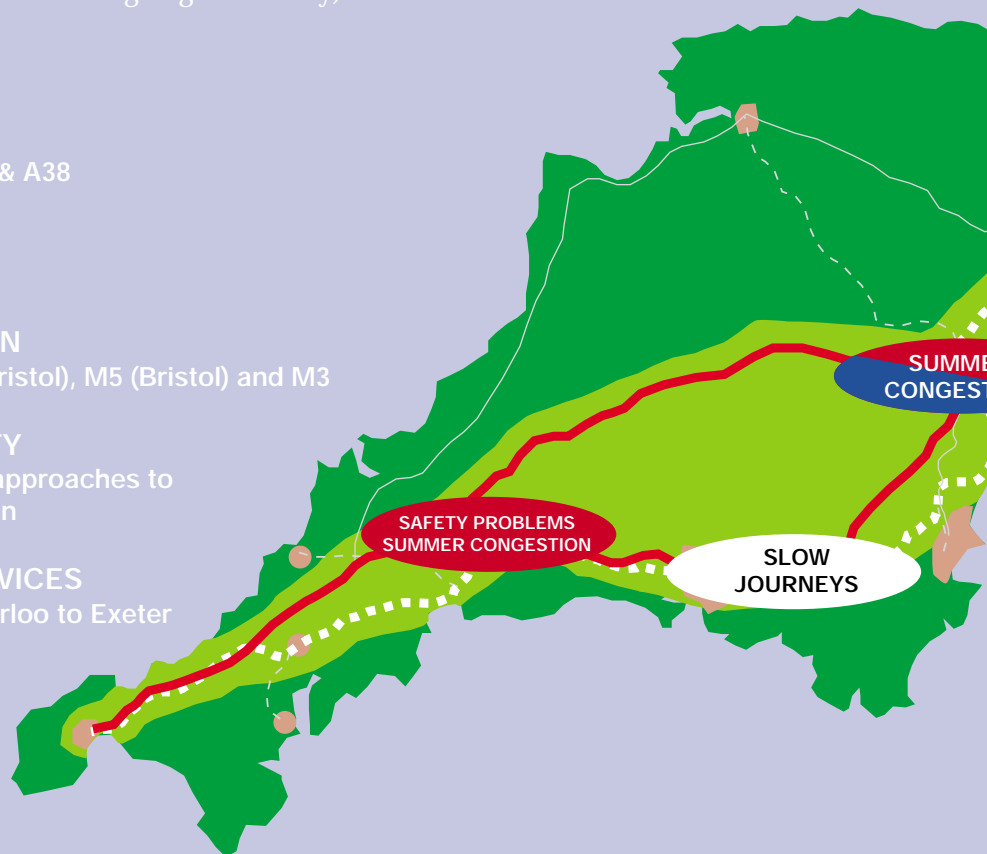
....Great Western main line, approaches to Waterloo and Reading station

### INFREQUENT TRAIN SERVICES

....Reading to Taunton, Waterloo to Exeter and in Cornwall

### AIR SERVICES

....limited access to world network from the far South West



The questionnaire gives you the opportunity to say whether you agree or disagree with these problems and others we have also identified.

Which problems are the most important ?

What have we missed ?

**Please let us know.**

## some problems occur throughout the study area

“public transport is too expensive”

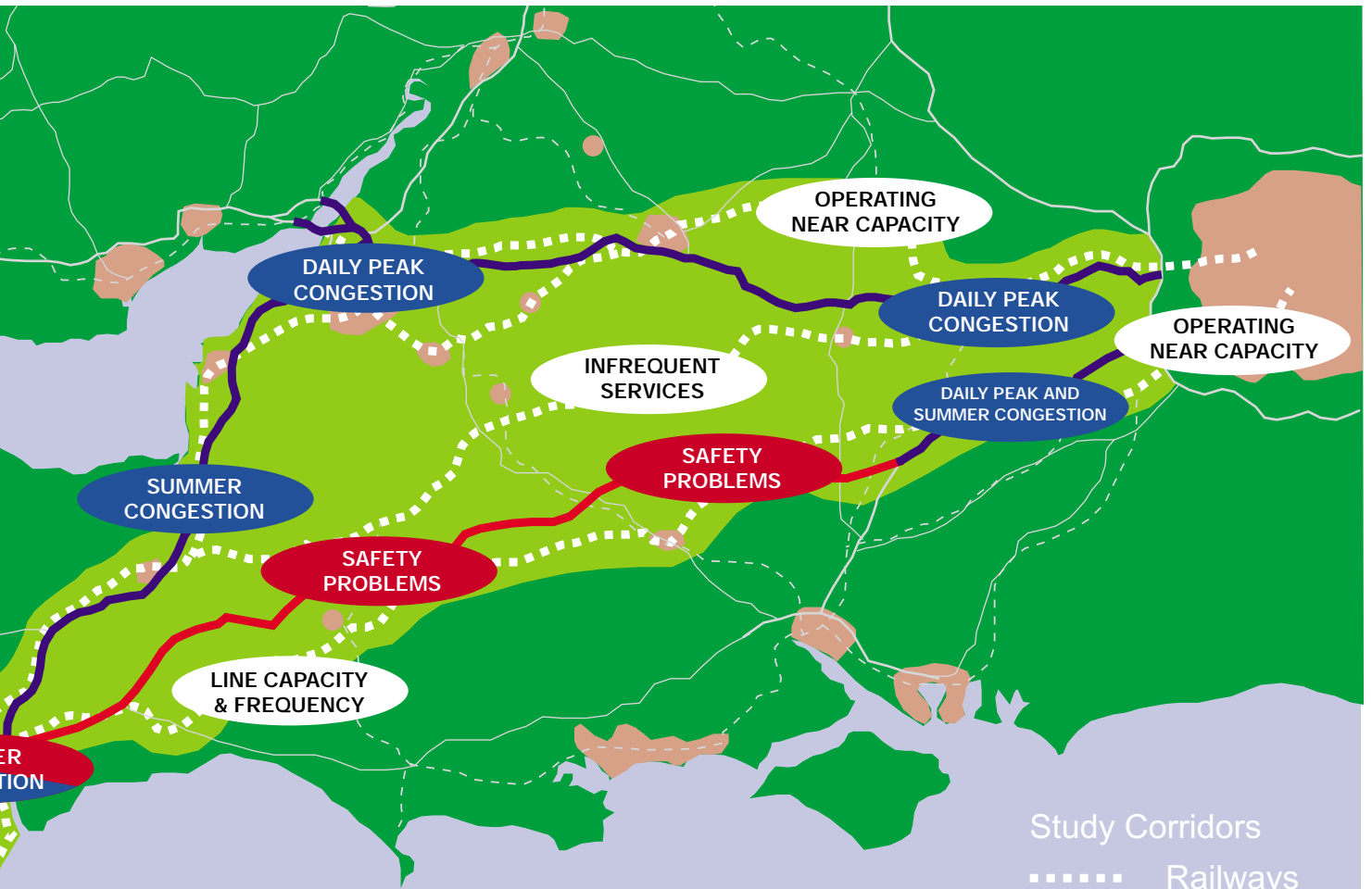
“you never know exactly how long a journey is going to take”

“local traffic uses the motorways”

“difficult to change from one type of transport to another”

“residents in rural areas have poor access to local facilities”

.....there are no



- Study Corridors
- ..... Railways
  - Motorways
  - 'A' Roads
- Other Corridors
- ..... Railways
  - Roads
- SWARMMS Study Area

**tricky questions....**

**How are we going to tackle congestion?**  
 The Government is committed to halting the growth of congestion on the road network.

**How fragile is the environment?**  
 How can we protect the environment and at the same time meet the needs and wants of the economy? Can we do something that benefits everyone?

**What should we do?**

*easy solutions.....*



# What should we do ?

## Change..... the way we travel?

Why don't we use types of transport other than cars for many more journeys?  
After all, the study area corridors have rail services parallel to every road. Or perhaps we should make more use of local buses to avoid short journeys on-and-off the main roads. And freight could be carried to main distribution centres by rail.

But this may be said to be unattractive, because trains and buses are too slow, too expensive and unreliable, and the railways do not understand the needs of freight.

What if the railways and buses changed?

## Change..... the way we use the network?

Perhaps we should better manage the use of strategic routes, including perhaps discouraging use of the motorways and other main roads by short-distance traffic.

But this may be said to be unacceptable, because traffic could be encouraged to use roads that go through local communities. Also, businesses near the main roads may fear that they would be harmed.

What if better facilities for local journeys are available, such as improved public transport and goods-only routes?

## Change..... the way we pay for travel?

Road users do not pay the full cost of the journeys they make at the time they make them, so they could be charged tolls.

But this may also be said to be unacceptable, because tolls are unfair to the less well-off. Also, traffic could be encouraged to use routes that missed the tolled roads, and badly affect local communities.

What if the money was spent on public transport? What if tolls were introduced for driving into town and city centres and/or on motorways?

.....*there are no*



**Change.....  
travel less?**

Many people expect to be able to get into their cars and travel where and when they want? Industrial practices such as 'just-in-time' deliveries encourage transport of goods, because road haulage is cheap.

Is this reasonable?

Will greater working at home mean that we do not need to travel as often? What about e-commerce? Would that work for you? Could industry/commerce source more goods locally?

What role does (or could) education have to play in encouraging people to travel less?

**Build.....**

We could widen sections of road that are congested, such as increasing the number of lanes on motorways or dualling single-carriageway roads. We could build bypasses to get long-distance traffic out of local communities. We could improve junctions to make them safer.

We could build new capacity into the rail network, through more track and new stations. New services could be provided, increasing choice and reducing journey times.

But will this approach just encourage more people to travel?

What effect would this have on our natural environment?

**Nothing.....**

Is this an option?

Will people just adapt?

Is it acceptable to see existing problems worsen?

The environment would suffer, local businesses would become even more ready to re-locate to avoid problems, and the already more disadvantaged members of the community would continue to have difficulties every day.

We need to understand what will happen if we do nothing at all, in order that we make right decisions now.





## *Have Your Say.....*

### *Questionnaire*

Please complete the questionnaire supplied with this newsletter and send it to us.

#### *by post.....*

Send it to:

**SWARMMS**  
**Halcrow Group Ltd**  
**FREEPOST (SCE10243)**  
**SWINDON**  
**SN4 0SZ**

Please feel free to send any other comments you have about the study to this address.

#### *by e-mail.....*

Alternatively, you can download the questionnaire from the **SWARMMS** website (which also contains more information about the study). The website address is:

**[www.swarmms.org.uk](http://www.swarmms.org.uk)**

Please e-mail your completed questionnaire to:

**[swarmms@halcrow.com](mailto:swarmms@halcrow.com)**

#### *how to stay in touch.....*

The questionnaire has a section to be completed should you wish to receive copies of further **SWARMMS** newsletters and questionnaires as the study progresses.

The next newsletter is expected in January 2001.

### *Mobile Exhibition*

We will be visiting a number of locations in the **SWARMMS** study area with an exhibition during September 2000. There will be an opportunity to talk directly to members of the Study Team.

We are visiting:

1 Sept	Newquay Town Centre (Bank St, outside Woolworths)
2 Sept	Penzance Railway Station
4 Sept	Plymouth (Place de Brest)
5 Sept	Exeter St.Davids Station
6 Sept	Exeter Services (M5 Jn30 - both directions)
7 Sept	Bristol Bus Station
8 Sept	Michael Wood Services (M5 - southbound)
9 Sept	Reading Services (M4 - westbound)
12 Sept	Podimore Services (A303 junction with A37)
13 Sept	Mere (Lecture Hall, High Street)
14 Sept	Westbury Railway Station
18 Sept	Andover Railway Station
19 Sept	Basingstoke (The Walks Shopping Mall)
20 Sept	Windsor (Peascod Street)
21 Sept	The Mall, Bristol (regional shopping centre)
22 Sept	Paddington Station
25 Sept	Swindon (The Parade)

All the exhibitions will be open between 10am and 6pm. Depending on the venue, some will be open earlier and/or close later. Please see the **SWARMMS** website for further details of exhibition times.

*Halcrow has prepared this newsletter/questionnaire in accordance with the instructions of the Government Office for the South West*

*Any persons who use any information contained herein do so at their own risk.*

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**[www.swarmms.org.uk](http://www.swarmms.org.uk)**

**Halcrow**