

A342 Road Survey – Summary of Findings

Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of a survey examining how residents use the A342 and the importance of the route to communities along its corridor. A total of 470 responses were received from residents across Weyhill, Appleshaw, Thruxton, Fyfield, Kimpton, the Penton villages and neighbouring settlements.

The survey demonstrates that the A342 is a critical transport route supporting daily travel for work, education, shopping, healthcare and leisure activities. The results show a very high level of dependence on the route, with the majority of respondents using it daily and many travelling on it multiple times each day.

Private car use was found to be overwhelmingly dominant, reflecting the limited availability or practicality of alternative transport options for many residents. The survey also indicates that the route is frequently used by multiple members of the same household, highlighting its importance not only for individual commuters but for entire families.

Weyhill Roundabout emerged as the most significant access point, with several other junctions, including Biddesden Bottom Road, Penton Road, Penton Lane, Fyfield Lane and Red Post Lane, also recording substantial levels of use.

The enlarged dataset produced results that were highly consistent with the original findings, providing additional confidence that the survey results accurately reflect local travel behaviour and the importance of the A342 to surrounding communities.

Headline Findings

- 470 residents participated in the survey.
- Approximately 99% of respondents use a private car on the A342.
- More than half use the road six or seven days per week.
- Many respondents travel on the route multiple times each day.
- Additional responses reinforced the original findings and increased confidence in the results.

Introduction

A survey was undertaken to understand how local residents use the A342 and to identify the importance of the route to surrounding communities. The survey received 470 responses from residents across Weyhill, Appleshaw, Thruxton, Fyfield, Kimpton, the Penton villages and neighbouring settlements.

The number of responses provides a substantial evidence base and offers a robust picture of travel patterns, road usage and dependency on the A342 corridor.

Respondent Profile

Responses were received from a broad range of villages served by, or connected to, the A342. Weyhill generated the largest number of responses, followed by Appleshaw, Thruxton, Fyfield and Kimpton. Smaller but important

contributions were also received from Ampport, Redenham, Monxton, Clanville and the Penton villages.

The geographical spread of respondents indicates that the findings reflect the views of communities throughout the corridor rather than a single settlement.

Household Drivers and Road Users

The survey demonstrates that the A342 is used by multiple members of many households.

Approximately 58% of respondents reported that their household contains two drivers, while around one quarter reported a single driver. A similar pattern was seen when respondents were asked how many members of the household regularly use the A342.

This suggests that the road is not simply an individual commuter route but forms part of the daily transport network for entire households.

Method of Travel

The survey highlights the overwhelming reliance on private vehicles within the local area.

Almost all respondents reported using a private car when travelling on the A342, with approximately 97% identifying the car as their primary method of transport.

Alternative modes such as buses, cycling and walking were recorded only in small numbers. A small number of respondents also reported using agricultural vehicles, horseboxes, commercial vans and other specialist vehicles.

Frequency of Use

The survey indicates extremely high levels of road usage.

More than two-thirds of respondents use the A342 daily, while a significant proportion reported travelling on the road multiple times each day. More than half of all respondents use the route six or seven days per week.

Many respondents reported using the road for work, education, shopping, healthcare, leisure activities and access to neighbouring villages.

Time of Day Usage

Usage occurs throughout the day but is concentrated during periods typically associated with commuting and daily activity. Strong usage levels were recorded during the morning peak period, daytime period and evening peak period. Relatively few respondents reported regular overnight use.

Junctions and Access Points

The most frequently used locations include Weyhill Roundabout, Biddesden Bottom Road, Penton Road and Penton Lane, Fyfield Lane and Red Post Lane. Weyhill Roundabout remains the most significant access point within the survey area.

Key Findings

- The A342 is heavily relied upon by local residents.
- Private car use is overwhelmingly dominant.
- Most households contain multiple users of the route.
- The road is used frequently, often several times per day.
- Usage occurs throughout the week rather than being confined to weekday commuting.
- Weyhill Roundabout acts as the primary access point for many journeys.

Statistical Summary

Measure	Result
Total survey responses	470
Households with two drivers	Approximately 58%
Households with two regular A342 users	Approximately 57%
Respondents using private cars	Approximately 99%
Private car as primary mode of transport	Approximately 97%
Use road six or seven days per week	More than 50%
Largest respondent village	Weyhill

Additional Dataset Validation

Following completion of the initial analysis, a further tranche of survey responses was received and incorporated into the final dataset.

The enlarged sample produced results that were remarkably consistent with those identified in the original analysis. Rankings of villages, travel behaviour, household composition, transport preferences and principal access points remained substantially unchanged.

The stability of the findings following an increase in responses provides strong assurance that the survey results are representative of local travel behaviour and are not materially influenced by sample variation.

Conclusion

The survey demonstrates that the A342 is a critical transport route serving multiple villages and communities across the area. Residents rely heavily on the route for work, education, shopping, healthcare and social activities. Usage is frequent, often daily, and overwhelmingly dependent upon private vehicles.

The consistency of responses across a large sample of 470 participants provides a high degree of confidence in these findings and confirms the importance of the A342 as a key component of the local transport network.