

Welcome to the second public consultation exhibition for the Hereford Transport Package.

What is the Hereford Transport Package (HTP)?

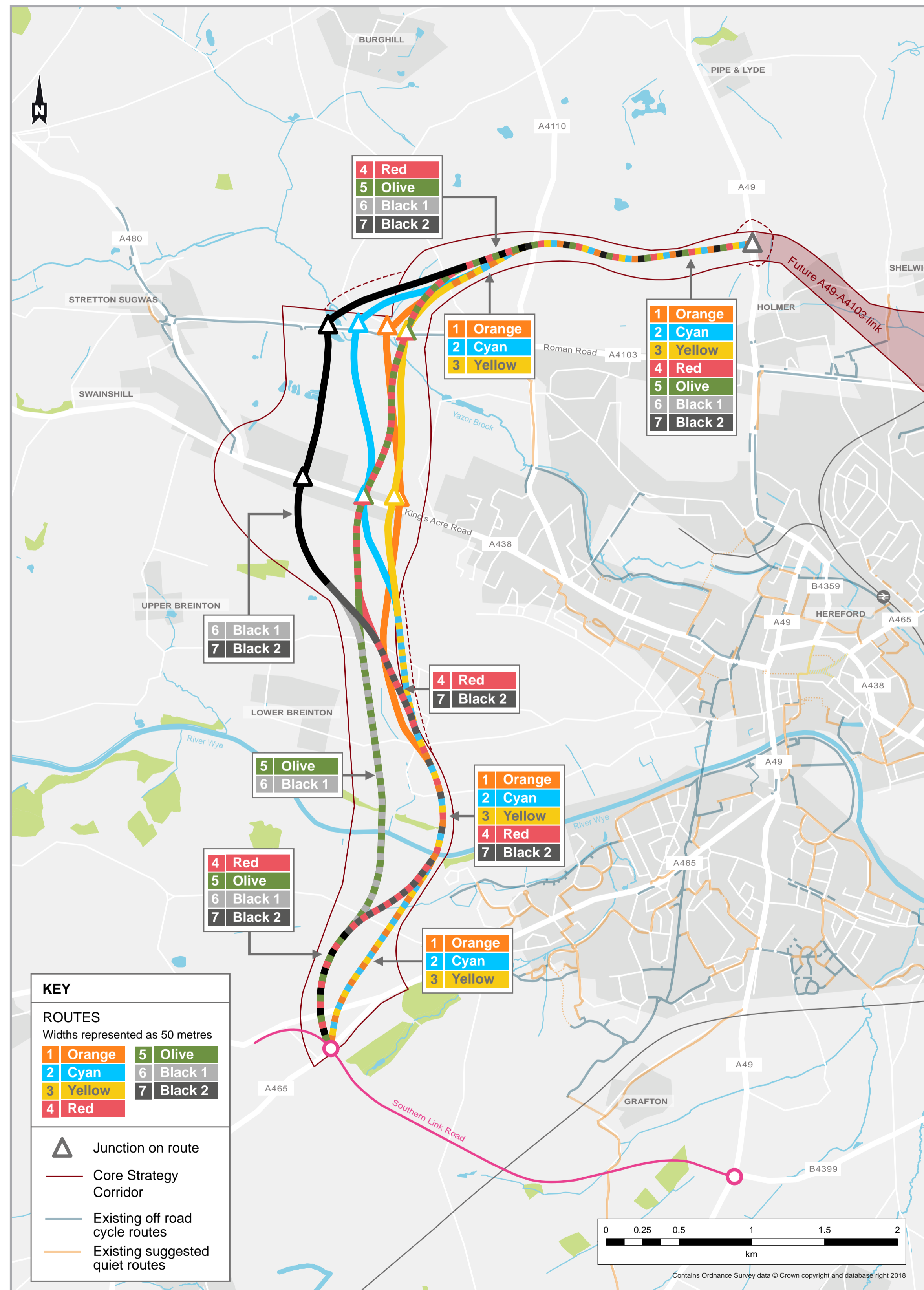
The Hereford Transport Package (HTP) is a suite of transport and infrastructure improvements that form a key part of the vision and objectives in the Local Transport Plan and Core Strategy. As well as addressing the key transport challenges in Hereford, the HTP is also designed to provide significant benefits to the Marches region and the wider economy. The HTP includes:

A Hereford Bypass

The bypass is a new road to the west of Hereford with a crossing of the River Wye. It would offer an alternative route to the existing A49 between Grafton in the south and Holmer in the north, extending the Southern Link Road north of the A465. The bypass would support the delivery of 6500 new homes, 6000 jobs, a new university and the expansion of the Hereford Enterprise Zone at Rotherwas.

Walking, Cycling, Bus and Public Realm Improvements

A series of proposed improvements in Hereford to increase walking, cycling and bus use for short distance journeys.



Why are we consulting? To help us design the HTP, we would like your thoughts on:

The seven possible routes for the bypass

The types and locations of walking, cycling, bus and public realm improvements



There are a number of reasons why we need the Hereford Transport Package.

Delays for long-distance journeys

- Heavy congestion and unreliable journey times arising from low speeds
- A single river crossing struggling to cope with current traffic levels
- Extensive queuing on the network
- High numbers of short distance car journeys
- Large numbers of heavy goods vehicles using the key roads

Barriers to growth

- Difficulty in attracting new businesses and jobs
- Difficulty in retaining existing businesses
- Unable to build new homes
- Discouraging young people leaving the area

Safety

- Accidents and breakdowns
- Busy roads are difficult to cross
- Traffic and congestion is intimidating to walkers and cyclists

Poor local and regional connections

- Long distance freight travelling through the city
- Limitation to growth of Hereford Enterprise Zone at Rotherwas
- Poor connections to Wales and the Midlands
- Economic impact of unreliable journey times

Health and the environment

- Poor air quality and emissions due to high levels of congestion and heavy goods vehicles
- Barriers to safe walking, cycling and bus use
- Traffic noise and vibration from heavy goods vehicles
- Busy roads are difficult to cross
- Damage to our historic environment
- Increasing levels of obesity due to unhealthy travel habits such as short distance car use



Heavy congestion and unreliable journey times arising from low speeds



Long distance freight travelling through the city



Barriers to safe walking, cycling and bus use



Difficulty in attracting new businesses and jobs

In our initial consultation we included five objectives for the HTP.

Since then we have identified and considered:

- Your feedback, constraints and opportunities provided by the bypass and a wider package of walking, cycling, bus and public realm improvements
- The current conditions including the existing network
- Future conditions, travel demands and changes in land use.

This has enabled us to develop these original objectives into the eight given on this board.

Encouraging sustainable development

Creating attractive alternatives to car usage for journeys within the city.

- Improving the walking and cycling network in Hereford
- Improving the roads and public realm for walking and cycling

Encouraging healthier lifestyles

Encouraging people to walk and cycle for short distance trips in the city.

- Enabling and improving the active travel network

Facilitating economic growth

Reducing peak hour journey times across the city and improving access to the Hereford Enterprise Zone.

- Reducing congestion
- Enabling job creation at the Enterprise Zone
- Shorter and more reliable journey times on the A49
- Reducing traffic volumes over A49 Greyfriars Bridge

Improving regional connectivity

Improving local and regional connections through better and more reliable journey times on the A49.

- Better connections for Hereford to the wider region
- More reliable journey times on the A49
- Taking through traffic away from Hereford
- Fewer goods vehicles through Hereford

Provide network resilience

Reducing the impact of accidents, breakdowns, and maintenance work on the city's main road network.

- Less disruption when incidents affect A49 Greyfriars Bridge
- Alternative high standard route crossing the River Wye

Improve air quality and reduce noise

Lowering levels of air pollution and noise from traffic in the city centre.

- Less noise from fewer goods vehicles routing through Hereford
- Improved air quality by reducing the number of heavy goods vehicles travelling through the city

Reduce severance

Improve connections for pedestrians and cyclists.

- Easier and safer to travel along and across the city's main roads
- Improved access to local facilities
- Better walking and cycling links between communities and the city centre

Improving safety

Improve safety for all road users.

- Rerouting heavy goods vehicles to the bypass
- Safer crossings at busy roads and junctions
- Fewer collisions on Hereford's roads
- High safety standards on the bypass

Public Consultation 1 - Your Feedback

Our first consultation on the HTP took place between April and May 2017. As well as seeking views on the current transport challenges in Hereford, we also introduced the HTP and asked for feedback on the proposed bypass corridor and ideas for walking, cycling, bus and public realm improvements.

The full consultation report can be viewed at: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/HTP

HTP Development

Over the past year, we have undertaken a selection process to identify and validate potential options that would contribute towards meeting the objectives of the package. To do this, we went through the following steps:



Step 1

A corridor for a bypass was defined by the Core Strategy and adopted in 2015.

We reviewed the transport conditions in Hereford along with the feedback from past consultations to identify what would encourage more people to walk and cycle in Hereford.

Step 2

An assessment was undertaken within the Core Strategy corridor and we identified 24 possible bypass routes.

We considered a number of walking, cycling, bus and public realm improvements within the city.



A total of 15 environmental surveys completed in 2017



Air quality and noise monitoring surveys completed in 2017



- Traffic counts
- Bus and rail surveys
- Car park surveys
- Road side interviews
- Walking and cycling surveys

Step 3

24 routes were assessed to identify a list of 7 viable routes to take to public consultation.

All routes were assessed for their impacts on homes and businesses. All routes cross King's Acre Road and Roman Road and we have tried to choose crossings with the least impact on homes and businesses at these locations.

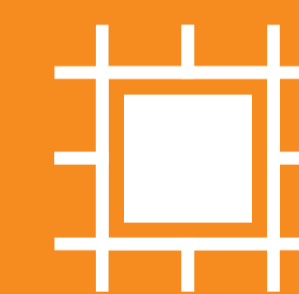
Routes that impacted the Ancient Woodland and showed poor connectivity with the Southern Link Road (from A49 to A465) were rejected.

A detailed report of the assessment is set out in the Corridor Assessment Framework (CAF) and is available online at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/HTP

The walking, cycling, bus and public realm improvements that best meet the package objectives have been identified for consultation.



Air quality monitoring completed at 23 locations in 2017



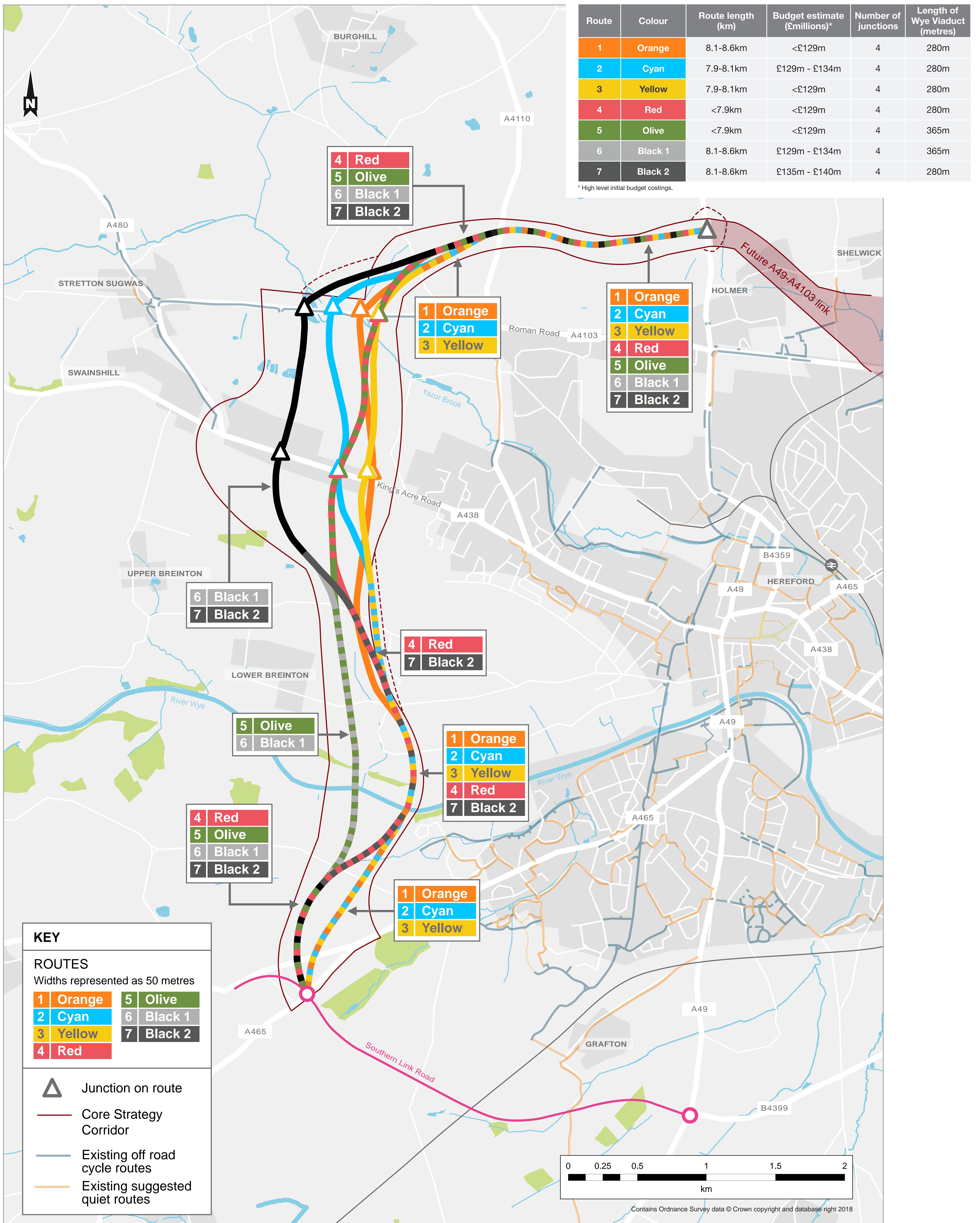
A field survey and desktop survey for heritage assets completed



Tree surveys completed which allowed us to plot Orchard, Ancient, Veteran and notable trees

Outcome

This work identified seven possible routes for the bypass. This was approved in January 2018 by the Council's Cabinet for this consultation alongside proposals for walking, cycling, bus and public realm improvements.



All seven possible routes will provide a complete north-south route from the A49 south of the city to the A49 north of the Starting Gate roundabout.

Each route will also include a new crossing over the River Wye and junctions at A438 King's Acre and the A4103 Roman Road.