

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Monday, 9 November 2020, 10.00 am, Online only

Membership

Councillors:

Mr A A J Adams (Chairman), Mr P Denham (Vice Chairman), Mr G R Brookes, Mr B Clayton, Mr M E Jenkins, Mr A D Kent, Mr R J Morris, Mr J A D O'Donnell and Mrs R Vale

Agenda Supplement

Item No	Subject	Page No
7	Update on Active Travel in Worcestershire	1 - 24

Agenda produced and published by the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) Legal and Governance, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP. To obtain further information or hard copies of this agenda, please contact Emma James or Jo Weston 01905 844965, email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website [websitehttp://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20013/councillors_and_committees](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20013/councillors_and_committees)

Date of Issue: Tuesday, 3 November 2020

This page is intentionally left blank

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 9 NOVEMBER 2020

UPDATE ON ACTIVE TRAVEL IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Summary

1. The Panel has requested an update on county-wide work to enable and promote cycling in Worcestershire.
2. Senior Officers from the Directorate of Economy and Infrastructure have been invited to the meeting along with the Cabinet Member for Highways.

Background

3. The Panel has been keen to keep up to date with the Council's work to enable cycling in Worcestershire and this update follows the Panel's previous discussions which are detailed in the background papers of this report.
4. The Panel requested a further update to understand progress with cycle schemes and enabling cycling.
5. The 8 May 2019 Panel Report outlined that demand for cycling in the County has been low although is increasing. The 2011 Census data identified that approximately 2% of all journeys to work were made by bicycle. However, this data does not take into account leisure and utility cycling and data derived from the 2011 Census is now somewhat dated.
6. The Panel have subsequently reviewed cycling again in June 2020, to discuss the increase in cycling both during the COVID-19 pandemic.
7. There are a limited number of cycle counters across the County. These are located at:
 - (i) Worcester – St Peters Drive, Red Hill Lane, Woodgreen Drive, Pitchcroft, Wolverton Road Towpath
 - (ii) Redditch – Offenham Close, Spring Vale Road, Ipsley Street
 - (iii) Stourport – Minster Road.
8. The collected data for the counters has been used to produce the graph in Appendix 1, which illustrates the national and local trends for cycling during 2020 against a set baseline which is the average for 2019. Cycling has been consistently higher in 2020, although this is impacted by weather events with a decline in trips correlating with storms Ellen and Francis in late August 2020 and falling again with storm Alex. This follows national trends.

Government Policy

9. In July 2020, the Government published new advice and guidance for cycling, which replaced the previous documents:

- Gear Change: a Bold Vision for Cycling and Walking which sets out four themes:
 - Better streets for cycling and walking
 - Cycling and walking at the heart of decision making
 - Empowering and encouraging local authorities
 - Enabling people to cycle and protecting them when they do
- Cycling Infrastructure Design LTN 1/20 provides guidance on delivering high quality cycle infrastructure based on the following overarching principles:
 - Coherent
 - Direct
 - Safe
 - Comfortable and convenient.

10. Embedded within both of these documents is the aspiration to encourage people to be more active, contributing to health and well-being.

11. National planning policy is also supportive of cycling infrastructure. The National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF) also promotes walking and cycling directing that opportunities to promote walking and cycling are “identified and pursued” (NPPF Paragraph 102c) with development providing high quality walking and cycling networks and supporting facilities such as cycle parking (NPPF Paragraph 104e).

12. To assist with delivering these ambitions Worcestershire County Council is working with the borough, city and district councils as Local Plans are revised and to respond to planning applications.

13. In Worcestershire, transport policy and proposals are set out in Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4). The document sets out proposals for the period 2018-2030 and was adopted in 2017. LTP4 sets out a series of policies specifically for active travel which are listed below.

Policy Number	Title
WC1	Infrastructure and other measures for pedestrians and cyclists
WC2	Partnership working to deliver walking and cycling measures
WC3	Maintenance
WC4	Spatial planning and developer contributions for walking and cycling
WC5	Walking and cycling safely
WC6	Parking for cycling
WC7	Network Direction Signage

14. LTP4 sets out a series of active travel corridors and broader active travel investment programme across the county, to be delivered as funding becomes available. Active travel corridors are walking and cycling links along a corridor to create a comprehensive, integrated network linking key trip attractors including schools, train station and employment locations.

15. The approach set out in LTP4 aligns with both the Government's Transport Analysis Guidance "TAG", which sets out the mandatory criteria for development of business cases to support all major transport infrastructure investment. This includes investment in sustainable travel modes as part of investment in major highways infrastructure. As a result, all new major infrastructure schemes in Worcestershire now include extensive measures to support these modes. For example:

- Worcester Southern Link Road (Phase 4) – This major scheme includes comprehensive upgrade of cycling provision between Powick Hams and Whittington, and the provision of three bridges and an underpass at the Ketch to provide pedestrians and cyclists with a range of safe crossing points over the dualled Southern Link Road, when completed.
- A38 Bromsgrove Route Enhancement Scheme – This scheme includes walking and cycling enhancement as part of a proposed series of schemes to improve congestion and journey time reliability in Bromsgrove.
- Hoobrook Link Road, Kidderminster – This scheme included the provision of high-quality walking and cycling infrastructure along its full length.

Funding

16. External funding bids are also submitted to the Department of Transport as and when suitable funds are announced such as the National Productivity Investment Fund. A successful bid to this fund is enabling the delivery of the Bromsgrove Town Centre Network of cycle routes which is delivering nine walking and cycling routes across the town matched by funding from developer contributions and the County Council's reducing congestion programme.

17. Two initial bids (expressions of interest) for active travel have also been submitted to the Department of Transport's Local Pinch Point Fund for Evesham Transport Strategy and the South Worcestershire Corridor which includes the Worcester to Malvern Hills and Worcester to Kempsey active travel corridors. We are currently awaiting feedback on these bids

18. Appendix 2 provides a detailed update on progress with schemes, during the last 12 months and sets out the detail of the Bromsgrove programme which is currently in delivery. It also sets out a series of potential future schemes which are in development and feasibility for 2020-2022. In addition to further elements of some of the schemes outlined above, this includes proposals from LTP4, including proposals in Wyre Forest, Worcester and Evesham.

20. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government released its Emergency Active Travel Fund, in two phases. We are currently awaiting feedback on our submission to phase two of the fund.

21. Delivery of the phase one elements of the fund is in progress, including cycle parking and mapping, surface improvements at Old Road Powick part of the linking to the new Hams Way footbridge, a link from the Stourport to Kidderminster route to the new development at Silverwoods and signing and lining the Bromsgrove to Redditch route on existing quiet lanes.

22. The phase 2 bid was based on Worcestershire's indicative allocation of

£1,082,000 to bring forward 4 active travel corridor schemes across Worcestershire. Details of these schemes are in appendix 3, and on the website at: https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20055/strategies_plans_and_bids/2248/emergency_active_travel_fund

Purpose of the meeting

23. The Panel is asked to:

- consider and comment on the latest information on cycling
- determine whether any further information or scrutiny is required at this stage
- agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Member.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Worcestershire County Council Comparison of Weekly Average County Cycle Flows

Appendix 2 – Cycle Infrastructure Delivered and Planned

Appendix 3 – Emergency Active Travel Phase 2 Bid

Appendix 4 – Maps (a-f) of Cycle Infrastructure for each District Area (Bromsgrove, Malvern, Redditch, Worcester, Wychavon and Wyre Forest)

Contact Points

Emma James / Jo Weston, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844964 / 844965
Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

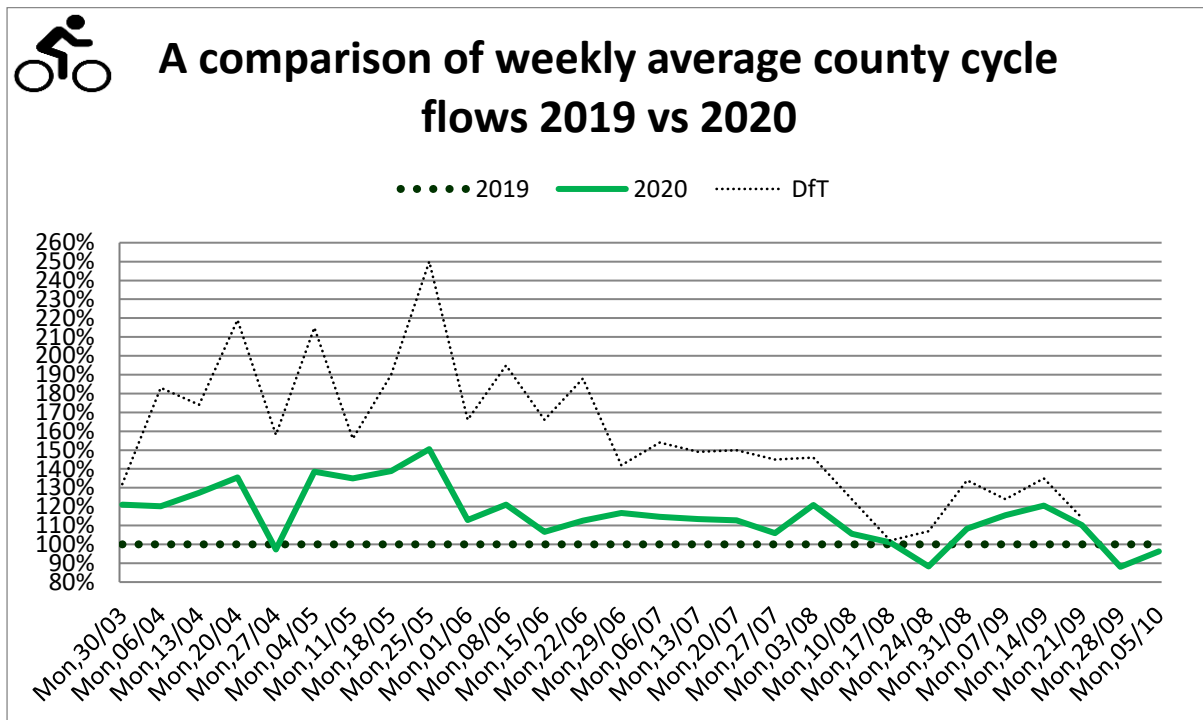
In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and Minutes of Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 19 June 2020, 8 May 2019 and 3 October 2017
- Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) - [web-link to LTP4](#)

Minutes and Agendas are available on the Council's website at: [web-link to minutes and agendas](#)

Appendix 1

Worcestershire County Council Comparison of Weekly Average County Cycle Flows



This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 2

Cycle Infrastructure delivered Sept 2019 – October 2020

Scheme	Brief Description	Current status (feasibility, development, delivery, complete)	Notes
Parkway ATC	Pedestrian and cycle signage	completed 09-04-2020	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 1 NCN5	Pedestrian and Cycle signage and lining	Completed 03-06-2020	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 2 LCN1	Pedestrian and Cycle signage and lining	Completed 03-07-2020	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 3 NCN5	Pedestrian and Cycle signage and lining	Completed 03-07-2020	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 4 LCN23	Pedestrian and Cycle signage and lining	Signs Planned Nov 2020 Lining complete	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 5 & 7 LCN 22	Pedestrian and Cycle signage and lining	Signs Planned Nov 2020 Lining complete	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 8 LCN 2	Pedestrian and Cycle signage and lining	Signs Planned Nov 2020 Lining complete	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 9 LCN 1 & 22 NCN46	Pedestrian and Cycle signage and lining	Signs Planned Dec 2020 Lining Complete	
Bromsgrove NPIF Town Centre Links LCN 1, 22 & NCN 5 & 46	Pedestrian and Cycle signage and lining	Signs Planned Dec 2020 Lining Complete	
Bromsgrove NPIF Finals	Pedestrian and Cycle signage for top of sign posts 50No Designed by local school pupil	Planned Jan 2021	
Whittington Rd Safety Improvements	Improved lining for safety, following reported cycle/vehicle conflict at junction of shared use path. Hedge cutting and repair of damaged shared use footways also resolved.	Completed 24-06-2020	.
NCN41 St Davids, Evesham	Footway widening to accommodate shared use, bollards, signing and lining	Completed 07-09-2020	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 7 LCN22 Stoke Road/ Newton Road	Footway widening to accommodate shared use, bollards, signs and lining	Completed 22-11-19	

Bromsgrove NPIF Link 3 NCN5 College Rd Crossing point	Build out with Rediweld bolt down islands and keep left bollards to make a shorter crossing point for users.	Completed 21-10-2020	Road had to be resurfaced before we could bolt islands down as surface poor. Delayed due to Covid 19
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 5 – Bant Mill Road	Footway widening to accommodate shared use, signs and lining	Completed 17-01-20	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 3 NCN5 Fordhouse Road and Carnforth	Shared footway widening and improvements to access existing bridge with new barriers added for safety on users joining the highway	Completed 01-06-2020	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 9 Watt Close LCN22	Footway widened and bollards added to prevent parking by parked cars	Completed 10-01-2020	Private road negotiated with school
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 1 NCN 5 Broad Street, Melbourne Rd & Providence St	Stagger junction on NCN5 cycle route made safer by making section of Broad Street 20mph with speed cushions and reduced certain private access to a few to help with safety and visibility of cyclist crossing busy road and shopping area	Completed 12-11-2019	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 9 LCN22 Watt Close	Hand rail and barriers fixed and made safe next to Spadesbourne Brook	Planned 02-11-2020	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 9 NCN46 LCN 1 Church Lane Kidderminster Rd Junction	One way Plug on Church Lane to allow cyclist on Link 9 to be protect when coming off the new shared path on Kidderminster Road turning up into Church Lane towards the town centre. Protected with build outs from traffic turning onto them as that vehicle movement will be banned	Planned Dec 2020	Legal TRO progressing
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 8 – LCN2 Manor Court Road	Footway widening to accommodate shared use, bollards, signs and lining	Completed 03-03-20	
Bromsgrove NPIF Link 5 LCN22 Old Station Road	Contra Flow Cycle Lane in one way street to allow cyclist to have short cut through a complicated one way system.	Planned Dec 2020	Legal TRO changes to allow cyclist to cycle against flow of traffic.

Bromsgrove NPIF Bridge Widening Phase 3 Sanders Park Link 9	Bridge widening and footpath widening to accommodate shared use	Completed 10-09-2020	
Bromsgrove NPIF Oakalls PROW Widening Link 4 LCN23	PROW widening to accommodate shared use	Completed 20-08-2020	Negotiating with landowners and local residents to get the upgrade
Redditch to Bromsgrove ATC	Creation of LCN 24 signing	Completed 27-10-2020	
NCN46 Cycle Link – Fernhill Heath Worcester	Improvements to route – signing and lining		
Bromsgrove NPIF Pig alley footway widening Link 8 LCN2	450m of footway widening to 4.0m to accommodate shared use 3.0m path and new lighting	Completed 05-09-2019	
Bromsgrove NPIF Sanders Park Phase 2 Link 9 LCN1 & NCN46	Footway widening to accommodate 3.0m shared use paths within the park	Completed 20-10-2019	
Bromsgrove NPIF Crossing upgrade Link 9 LCN22 Hanover St/ Worcester Road	Hanover St Bromsgrove, upgrade of zebra crossing to pelican crossing to manage movement and enable shared use	Completed March 2020	
Bromsgrove NPIF Crossing upgrade Link 9 LCN1 7 NCN46 Kidderminster Road	Kidderminster Rd upgrade crossing from pelican to toucan and introduce shared use paths on approach with new access into park.	Completed September 2019	Working around school holidays for minimum disruption to a critical Bromsgrove network link
Bromsgrove NPIF Crossing upgrades Link 1 NCN5	The upgrade and relocation of pelican crossing at Mill Lane, Bromsgrove (bus station) to better connect with shared use facilities introduced as part of the wider NPIF walking and cycling network	Completed 31-08-2020	Negotiations to relocate the existing taxi rank within the bus station to suit taxi drivers and bus operators
Bromsgrove NPIF Crossing upgrade Link 1 LCN1 & NCN5 Market Street	The upgrade and relocation of a pelican crossing to a toucan crossing along Market St, Bromsgrove to offer better walking and cycle connectivity to the town centre	Completed 31-08-2020	Working around school holidays for minimum disruption to a critical Bromsgrove network link
Evesham Town Centre – 20 cycle stands	Introduce cycle stands in various locations across Evesham town centre	Due to be completed at the end of October 2020	

Upcoming cycle infrastructure 2020 - 2022

Scheme	Brief Description	Current status (feasibility, development, delivery, complete)	Notes
Bridge widening – Pig Alley, Bromsgrove (NPIF)	Bridge widening with localised footpath widening to accommodate shared use and link up with recently upgraded Pig Alley via NPIF funding	In delivery – anticipated completion 02-11-2020	Working around school holidays and ecology concerns
Slingpool Walk to St Johns, Worcester	Widening of Slingpool Walk and new cycle route linking St.Johns Worcester	Feasibility, possible 2022 delivery	Land acquisition with multiple parties likely to be very challenging.
Segregated cycle path	New Rd Worcester	Delivery possibly 2021.	On hold due to COVID 19 and social distancing requirements
Old Road – Worcester	Surfacing improvements, connecting to Powick walk/cycle bridge	Delivery November 2020	
Upland Grove Park Bromsgrove Link	New Shared use cycle path between LCN1 and Norton Farm Development	Delivery 2020	Completing NPIF project first before starting s106
South Littleton to Blackminster	Creation of a shared use path, linking Blackminster Middle School	Delivery due Jan – Mar 2021	A percentage of funding has been withdrawn, now identifying an alternative stream
Abbey Lane Evesham	Resurfacing, signing and lining to accommodate shared use	Delivery due Feb-Mar 2021	
Cycle Parking Stands – Bromsgrove NPIF	Approx. 100 stands to be installed across NPIF network	Delivery due Jan 2021	
NCN41 St Margarets Road - Evesham	Footway widening to accommodate shared use	In development	Land purchase underway
NCN41 Honeysuckle Close - Evesham	Footway widening to accommodate shared use	In development	Negotiations between WCC and WDC in relation to ongoing maintenance
Cycle Route extension	Honeybourne to Pebworth & Bretforton, signage and lining	In development	Identifying suitable funding stream
ATC – Powick Hams to Malvern	Creation of a cycle link between Powick and Malvern (Newlands)	In feasibility	Funding some amounts of s106 funds are available – currently awaiting outcome of DfT Pinchpoint Expression of Interest

			It is likely that further funding will be required to deliver this route in line with the latest government guidelines LTN1/20. Obstacles such as “Powick gyratory” and limited footway widths may require significant, bold design work.
ATC – Worcester to Ketch	Creation of a cohesive cycle link between Diglis Bridge and Ketch	In feasibility	Funding – awaiting funding opportunities to move forward with phase one, Diglis Bridge to Duck Brook
ATC – Ketch to Kempsey	Creation of a cycle link between Kempsey and Worcester City	In feasibility	Awaiting the outcome of DfT Pinchpoint funding Expression of Interest. This route will need expert consideration to deliver within the parameters of the latest government guidelines LTN1/20 due to speed limits in force along the alignment.
ATC – Malvern to Three Counties	Creation of link between Peachfield Rd Malvern and Three Counties Showground – phase 1 of Malvern to Upton ATC	In feasibility	A number of options have been explored with land negotiations with Three Counties and other land owners reaching impasse. Further on road options have been explored and are likely to be discounted due to restricted widths. New guidance LTN1/20 does not fit with this alignment.
ATC – Three Counties to Upton	Phase 2 of Malvern to Upton cycle link, proposed alignment along the dismantled railway	In feasibility	Can only go ahead once phase 1 has been delivered
ATC – Bewdley to Wyre Forest	Proposed link to connect Bewdley Town Centre with Wyre Forest	In feasibility	Land ownership issues, alignment passes through Site of Special Scientific Interest land.
ATC Upgrade – Stourport to Kidderminster	Comprehensive widening and resurfacing of this well-used canal towpath linking Stourport with Kidderminster	Awaiting funding	Awaiting EATC bid outcome.
ATC – Arrow Valley, Redditch	A package of targeted widening and re-surfacing improvements to upgrade and enhance the capacity and utility of this valued network of	Awaiting funding	Awaiting EATC bid outcome.

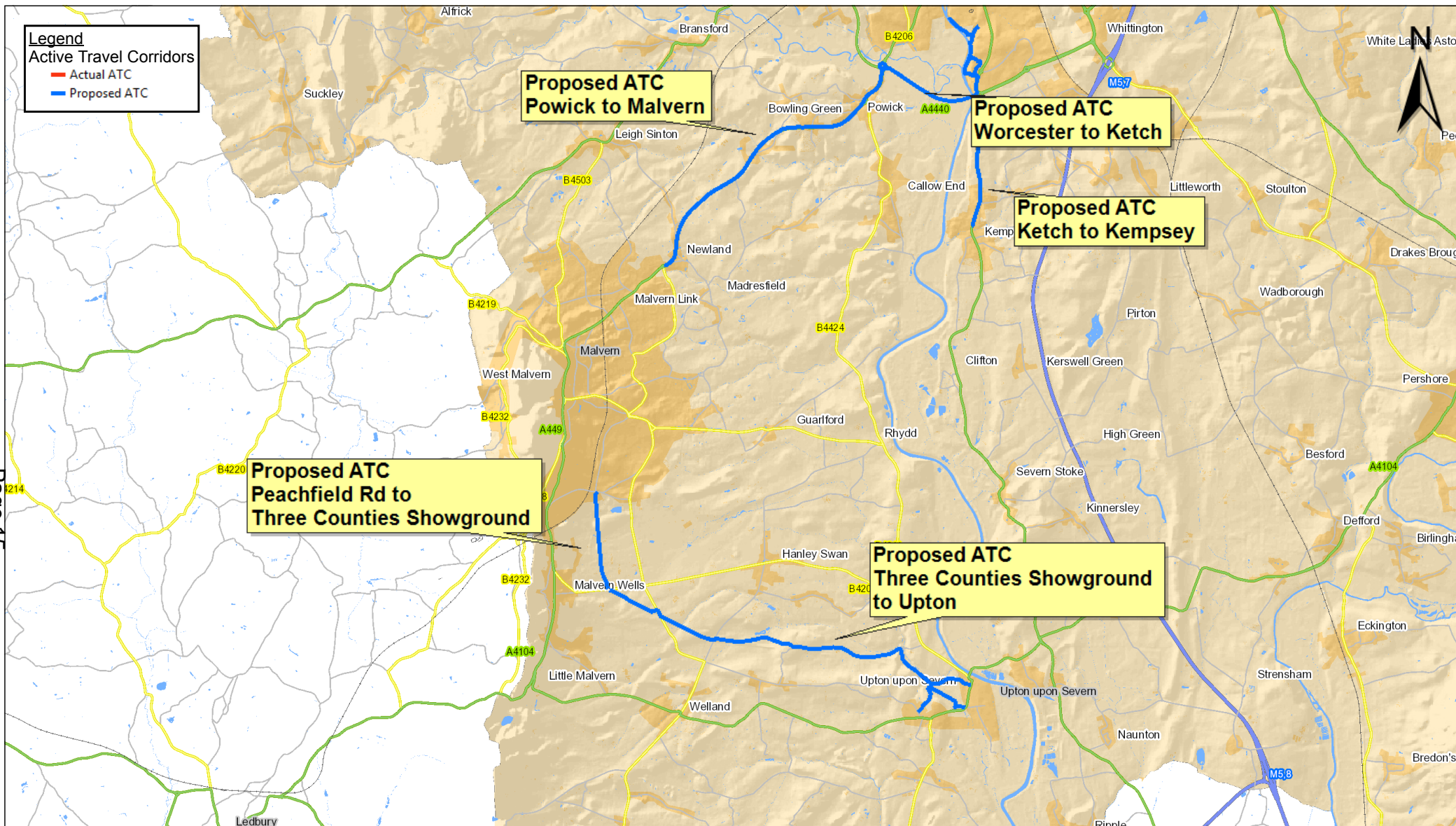
	routes which pass through Arrow Valley Country Park in Redditch		
ATC – Diglis to Sixways	Scheme involves the extensive widening and resurfacing of this very popular active travel corridor and connecting links, which links the City Centre directly with the extensive business parks and commercial sites on the northern fringes of the city	Awaiting funding	Awaiting EATC bid outcome.
ATC – Wyre Rd	Planned component of a wider major scheme involves the provision of a separated, high quality active travel link along Wyre Road, which will link the large villages of Wyre Piddle and Pinvin to Pershore Secondary School, Pershore Station and the Keytec Business Park, with existing good quality onward connections to Pershore Town Centre and proposed onward connections to Evesham and westwards towards Worcestershire Parkway and Worcester	Awaiting funding	Awaiting EATC bid outcome.

Appendix 3

Emergency Active Travel Phase 2 Bid

ATC Upgrade – Stourport to Kidderminster	This proposed scheme involves the comprehensive widening and resurfacing of this well-used canal towpath (Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal) that links Stourport with Kidderminster, as well as a number of links into nearby trip attractors including the Minster Road Employment Area, Silverwoods, Churchfields, Crossley Retail Park, Stourport and Kidderminster Town Centres (with onward connections to Kidderminster Rail Station). This scheme will also include a comprehensive waymarking investment and installation of permanent walking and cycling counters for ongoing monitoring
ATC – Arrow Valley, Redditch	This proposed scheme involves a package of targeted widening and re-surfacing improvements to upgrade and enhance the capacity and utility of this valued network of routes which pass through Arrow Valley Country Park in Redditch, including a section of National Cycle Network 5. This network provides direct access between residential areas, industrial estates, the Alexandra Hospital, Redditch Town Centre and the Railway Station, so has significant potential to attract greater levels of use by new and existing users. This scheme will also include a comprehensive waymarking investment and installation of permanent walking and cycling counters for ongoing monitoring.
ATC – Diglis to Sixways	This proposed scheme involves the extensive widening and resurfacing of this very popular active travel corridor and connecting links, which links the City Centre directly with the extensive business parks and commercial sites on the northern fringes of the city, Shrub Hill Rail Station, Worcester Leisure Centre and a number of residential areas. Despite increasing levels of usage, the route is too narrow and poorly surfaced in places, and so requires corridor-length upgrade (including surfacing, widening and waymarking improvements and installation of permanent walking and cycling counters for monitoring) to enable it to play a more strategic role to support increased levels of walking and cycling across the city and beyond
ATC – Wyre Rd	This planned component of a wider major scheme involves the provision of a separated, high quality active travel link along Wyre Road, which will link the large villages of Wyre Piddle and Pinvin to Pershore Secondary School, Pershore Station and the Keytec Business Park, with existing good quality onward connections to Pershore Town Centre and proposed onward connections to Evesham and westwards towards Worcestershire Parkway and Worcester. This scheme will also include a comprehensive waymarking investment and installation of permanent walking and cycling counters for ongoing monitoring

This page is intentionally left blank



© Crown copyright and
database rights 2020
Ordnance Survey 100024230.

0 0.5 2.5 5 Km

Proposed Malvern
ATC's

Indicative Scale: 1:100,000

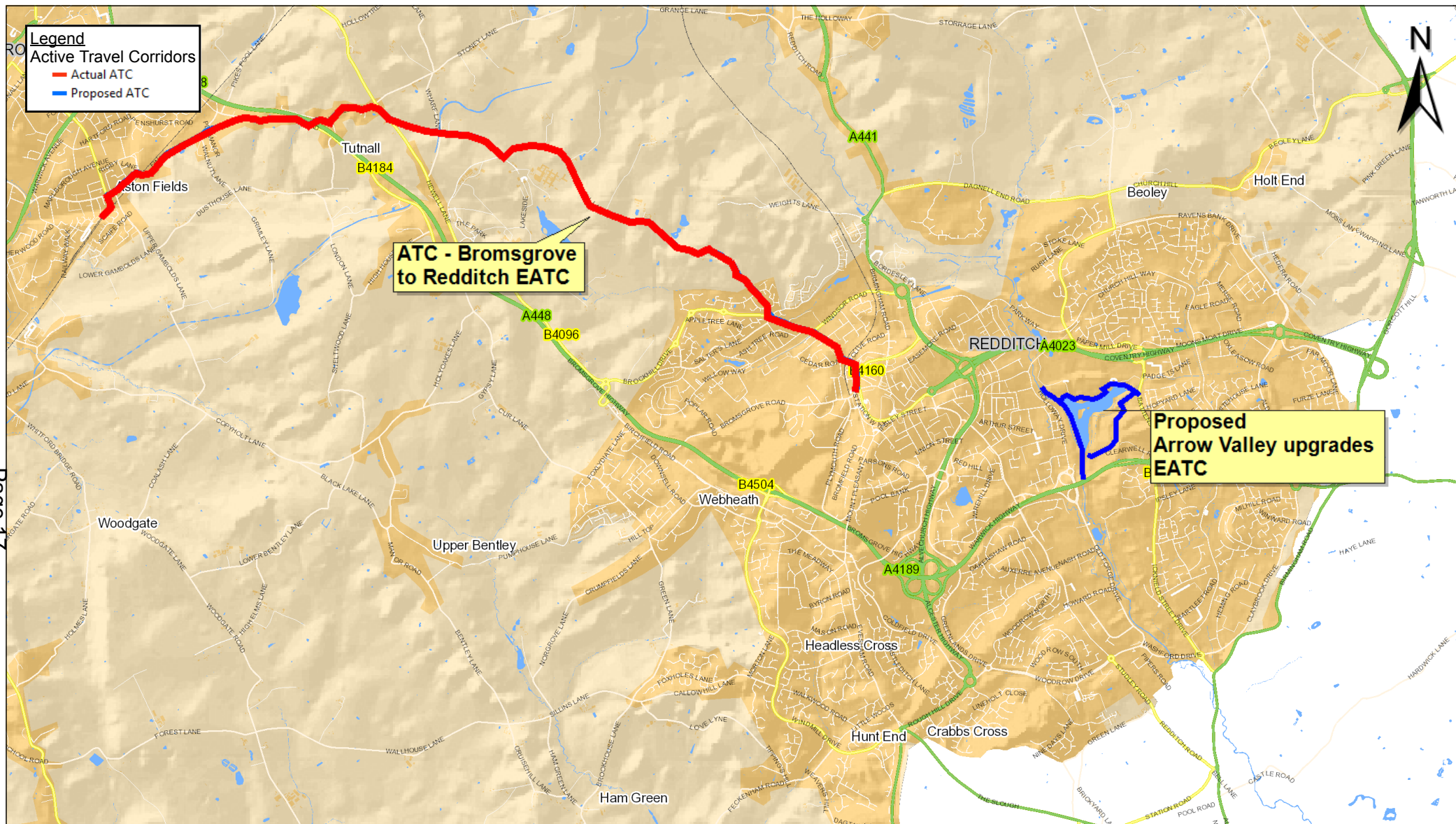
Date Printed: 29/10/2020



worcestershire
county council

Countryside Service
Worcester Woods Country Park
Wildwood Drive
Worcester
WR5 2LG

This page is intentionally left blank



This page is intentionally left blank

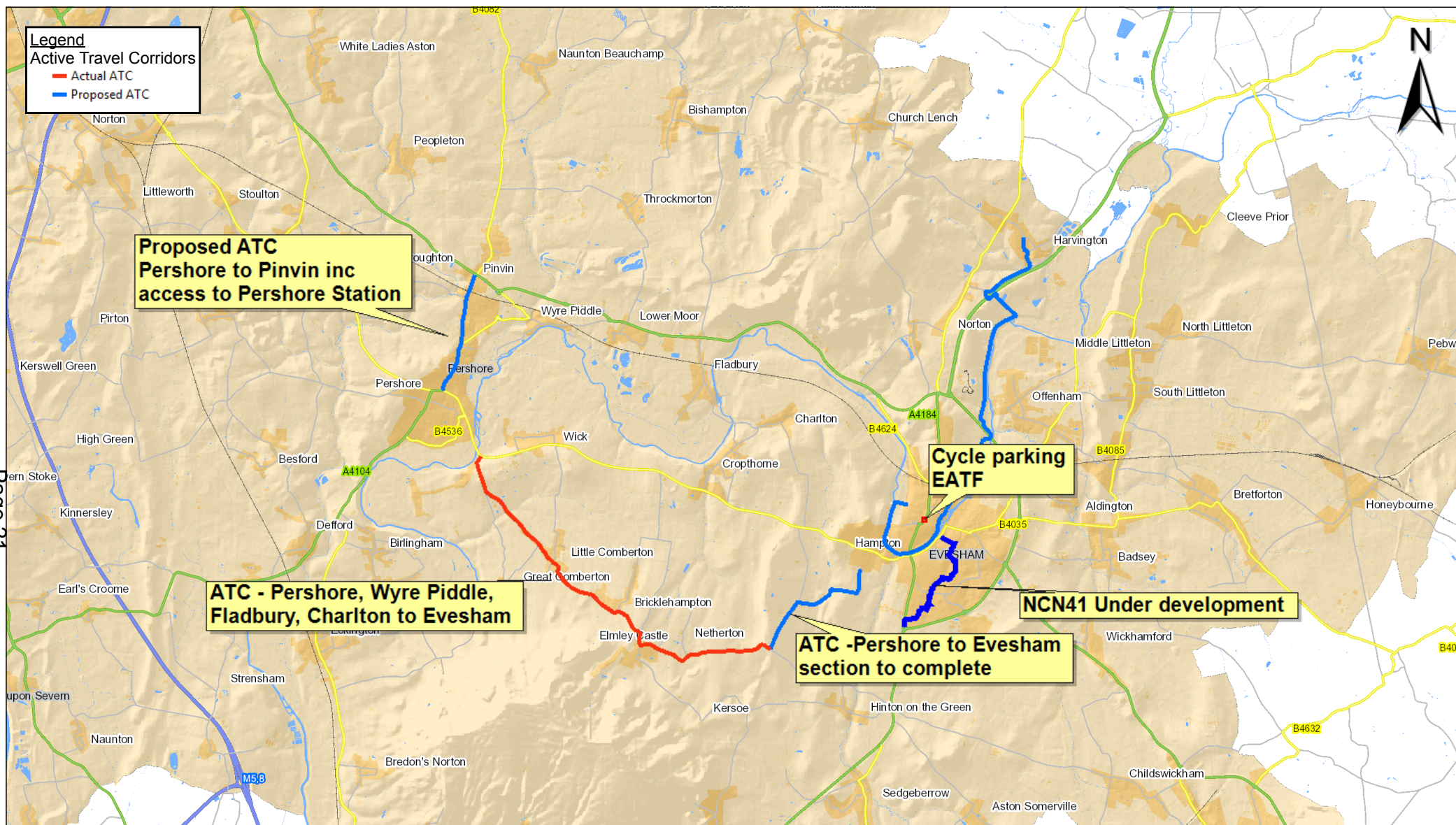
A horizontal scale bar with alternating black and white segments. It is labeled with '0' at the left end, '0.5' at the first segment boundary, '2.5' at the third segment boundary, and '5 Km' at the right end.

Worcester cycle infrastructure
Red = complete
Blue = proposed

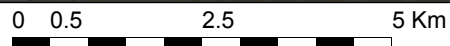


Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

This page is intentionally left blank



© Crown copyright and
database rights 2020
Ordnance Survey 100024230.



Indicative Scale: 1:100,000

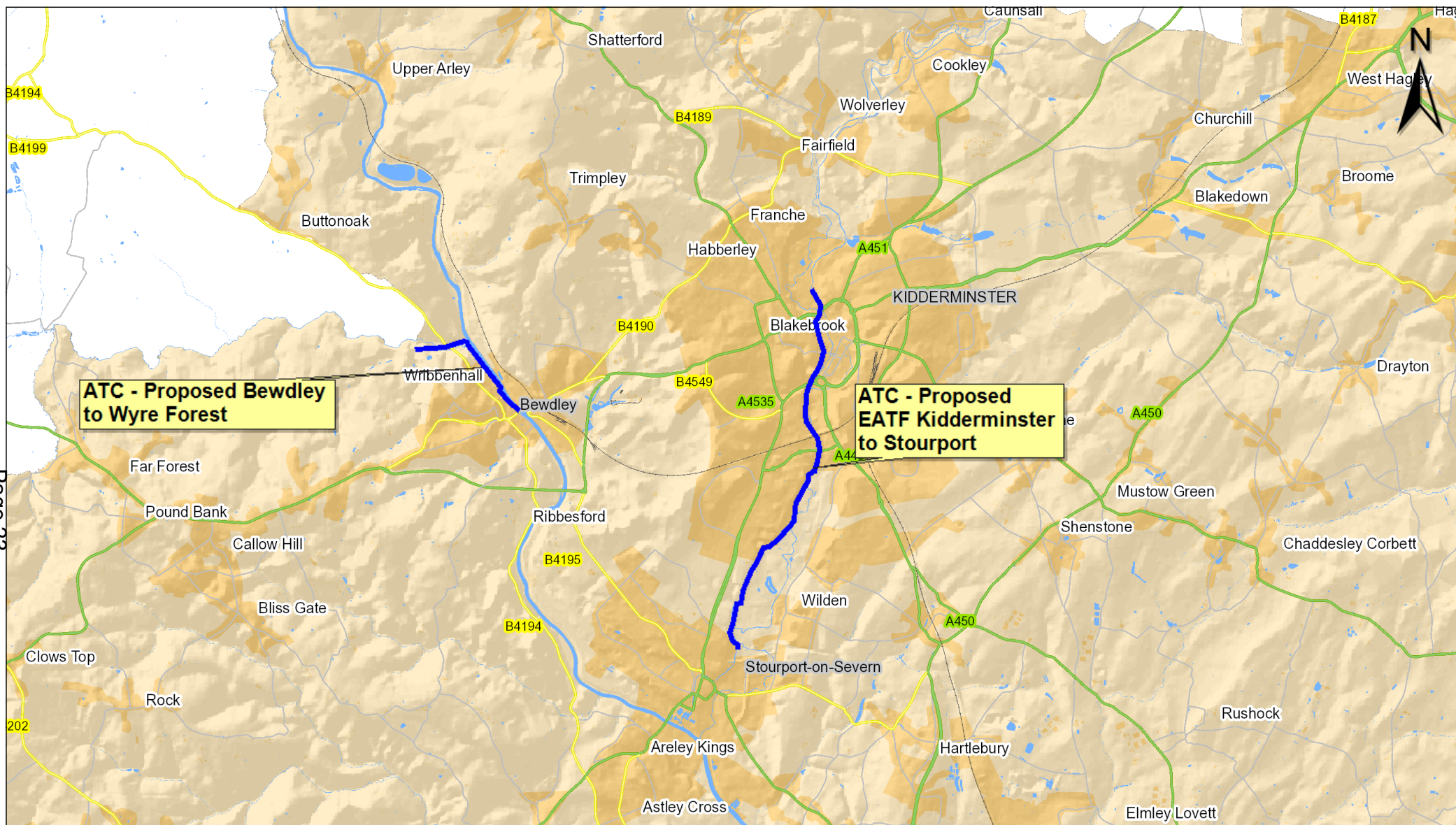
Date Printed:30/10/2020

Wychavon
Red = complete
Blue = proposed



Countryside Service
Worcester Woods Country Park
Wildwood Drive
Worcester
WR5 2LG

This page is intentionally left blank



© Crown copyright and
database rights 2020
Ordnance Survey 100024230.

0 0.5 2.5 5 Km

Wyre Forest
Proposed Routes

Indicative Scale: 1:75,000

Date Printed: 1/11/2020

 **worcestershire**
county council

Countryside Service
Worcester Woods Country Park
Wildwood Drive
Worcester
WR5 2LG

This page is intentionally left blank