



Norwich Western Link

Transport Assessment – Appendix 2 – Local Access 2020 Consultation Brochure

Part 2 of 2

Author: WSP

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Contents

1 Introduction

3



1 Introduction

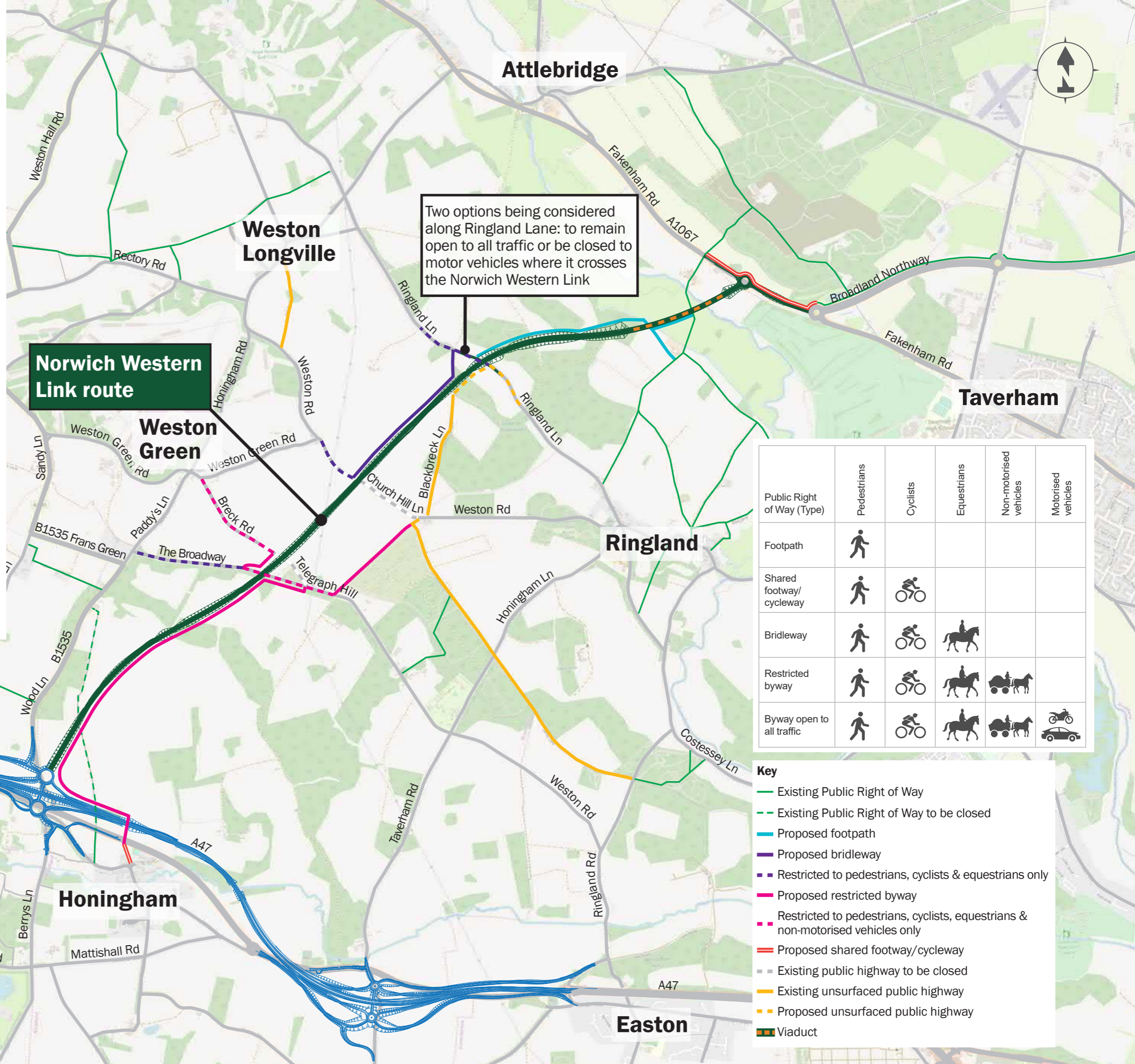
1.1.1 The brochure created for the 2020 Local Access Consultation which focused on local access in the vicinity of the Proposed Scheme for vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians and other users. The brochure set out the proposals for existing roads that cross the Classified Road (Ringland Lane, Weston Road, Breck Road, The Broadway) and sustainable transport measures across the wider area.

Changes to Public Rights of Way close to the Norwich Western Link

To help encourage travel by more sustainable forms of transport, such as walking and cycling, we've been looking at how we could improve the Public Rights of Way close to the Norwich Western Link route. A Public Right of Way is a route over which the public have the right to pass - footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways are all Public Rights of Way.

An overview of our proposals close to the route is shown here, and more detail is given further ahead in these consultation materials. In coming up with these proposals, we've sought ideas from representatives of local parish councils and others including walking, cycling and horse-riding groups. We have also been working with Highways England, so that our proposals at the southern end of the Norwich Western Link connect with theirs for the North Tuddenham to Easton dualling scheme. Together our plans will help people to safely cross the A47.

At the north end of the route we're proposing that the Public Right of Way which currently crosses the River Wensum is kept as a public footpath, for consistency with onward routes to which it connects and to avoid impacts on the integrity of the River Wensum Special Area of Conservation.



Public Right of Way (Type)	Pedestrians	Cyclists	Equestrians	Non-motorised vehicles	Motorised vehicles
Footpath					
Shared footway/cycleway					
Bridleway					
Restricted byway					
Byway open to all traffic					

- Key**
- Existing Public Right of Way
 - - Existing Public Right of Way to be closed
 - Proposed footpath
 - Proposed bridleway
 - - Restricted to pedestrians, cyclists & equestrians only
 - Proposed restricted byway
 - - Restricted to pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians & non-motorised vehicles only
 - Proposed shared footway/cycleway
 - - Existing public highway to be closed
 - Existing unsurfaced public highway
 - - Proposed unsurfaced public highway
 - Viaduct

Hockering

East Tuddenham

Honingham

Easton

Attlebridge

Weston Longville

Norwich Western Link route

Weston Green

Ringland

Taverham

Two options being considered along Ringland Lane: to remain open to all traffic or be closed to motor vehicles where it crosses the Norwich Western Link

Proposals for Ringland Lane and nearby Public Rights of Way

Ringland Lane is a rural road connecting the villages of Ringland and Weston Longville. We are proposing to keep Ringland Lane open, but we would like your views on whether it should be either:

- » **Kept open to all traffic, including motor vehicles (as it currently is), with footways installed to improve pedestrian access and connectivity with the wider Public Rights of Way network, or**
- » **Restricted to walkers, cyclists and horse riders at the point where the road crosses the Norwich Western Link. This means Ringland Lane would become a no-through road to motorised traffic except for vehicle access to adjacent land and property.**

Due to its location in a natural dip in the landscape, a bridge would be built over Ringland Lane to take the Norwich Western Link across. The bridge would provide clearance of at least 5.3 metres from Ringland Lane so that, for example, farm vehicles from adjacent land could still use the route.

If Ringland Lane is closed to motorised through traffic, a restriction would be imposed over a short section of the existing carriageway on each side of the Norwich Western Link to prevent motor vehicle access, with a barrier, such as bollards or gates, preventing access for vehicles. Vehicular traffic would be diverted to the A1067 Fakenham Road. Suitable turning points would be provided on each side of the restriction.



Artist's impression of Ringland Lane kept open to all traffic (looking north west).



Artist's impression of Ringland Lane closed to motor vehicles where it passes under the Norwich Western Link (looking north west).

Why are we proposing this?

Ringland Lane forms part of our proposals to help people walk and cycle in the local area, with enhanced links to nearby Public Rights of Way. The proposed underpass at Ringland Lane would also provide connectivity for wildlife to habitats either side of the Norwich Western Link.

Traffic flows on Ringland Lane measured in October 2019 were around 360 users per day, of which around 10% were pedestrians, cyclists or equestrians. It is the widest and most frequently used route crossing the Norwich Western Link, with better visibility for road users and as a C class road, it is maintained to a higher standard. If Weston Road, Breck Road and the Broadway are all closed to motorised through traffic, a small number of vehicles may divert to Ringland Lane if it were kept open to traffic. However, with the dualling of the A47 in place and the creation of the Norwich Western Link, we expect the amount of motorised traffic on Ringland Lane would reduce in comparison with 2019 levels.

What other options could we consider?

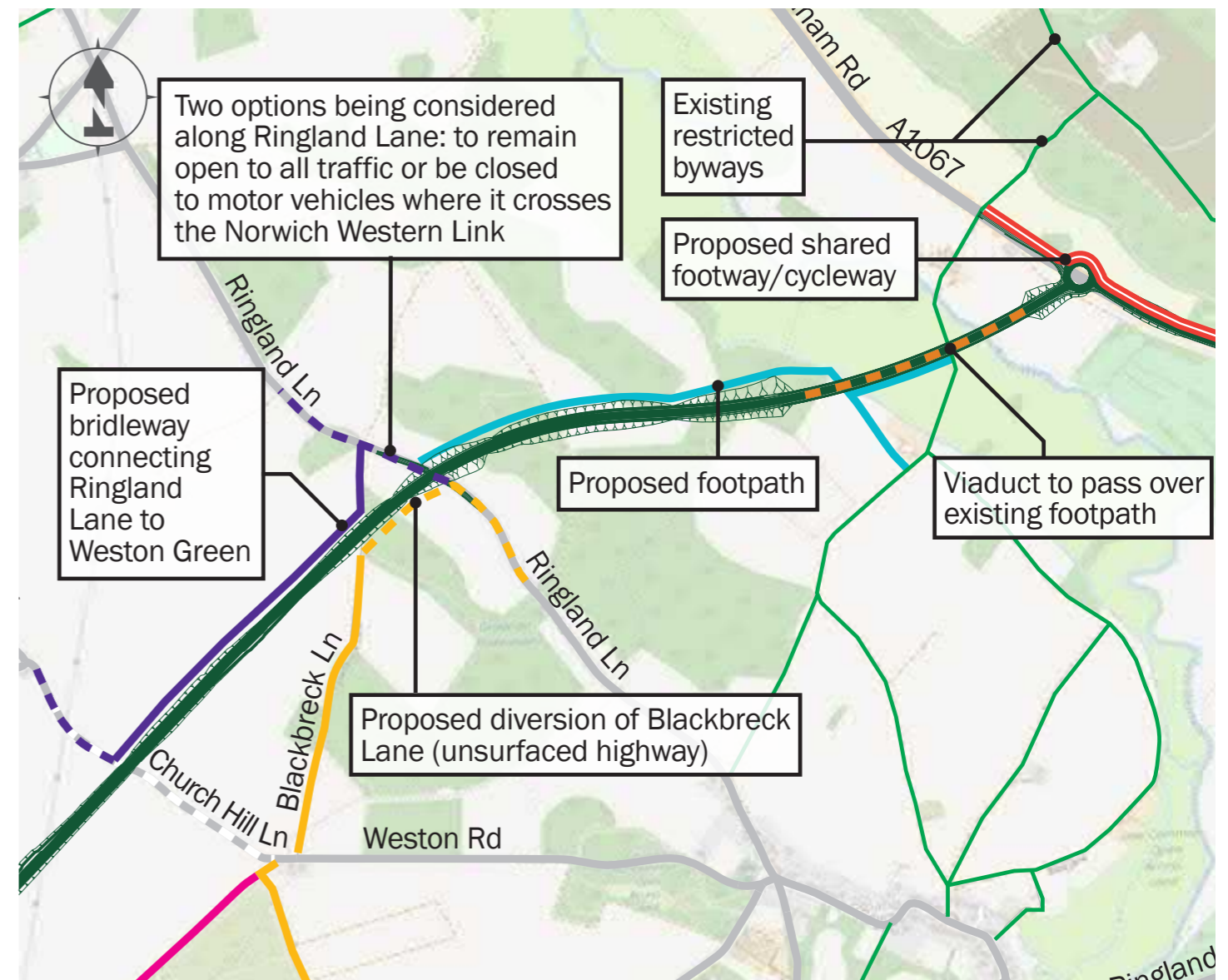
We could fully close Ringland Lane to all users. However, we are not proposing this as we want to maintain connectivity between the villages of Weston Longville and Ringland. Closing Ringland Lane entirely would also limit our ability to support walking and cycling in the local area. Due to the natural topography at Ringland Lane, it would not be feasible to reduce the height of the Norwich Western Link at this location even if Ringland Lane were closed to all users.

Nearby Public Rights of Way

In the vicinity of Ringland Lane, we are proposing the following changes to Public Rights of Way in order to improve connectivity:

- » **A shared footway/cycleway is proposed to the north side of the section of Fakenham Road. This would connect existing Public Rights of Way with the cycleway at Broadland Northway.**
- » **A new public footpath is proposed alongside the Norwich Western Link to provide a link to other existing footpaths around Ringland and close to the River Wensum.**
- » **On the north west side of the Norwich Western Link, a new section of bridleway would be provided, linking to the hamlet of Weston Green.**

An overview of the proposals for the Ringland Lane area is shown below.



Proposals for Weston Road (also known as Church Hill Lane) and nearby Public Rights of Way

In the centre of the route, Weston Road – a section of which is also known as Church Hill Lane – provides a connection between communities at Ringland and Weston Green.

We are proposing to permanently close Weston Road/Church Hill Lane to through traffic between Weston Green Road and Honingham Lane. The section to the west of the Norwich Western Link would be restricted to pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians only while the section to the east would be entirely closed approximately to the point where the road meets Blackbreck Lane. Access would be maintained to properties, businesses and agricultural land with access restrictions at either end.

With the Norwich Western Link in place the existing route between Weston Green and Ringland Hills would therefore be severed and vehicles would be diverted to alternative routes such as Ringland Lane (if it were kept open to all traffic), the A1067 Fakenham Road or the A47.



Weston Road near its junction with Honingham Lane at Ringland

Why are we proposing this?

The existing road is a narrow rural lane with limited forward visibility in places and the amount of traffic using it currently is low. Traffic flows on Weston Road were measured at around 80 users per day in October 2019, of which around 15% were pedestrians, cyclists or equestrians.

Based on existing levels of usage, installing a bridge to keep Weston Road open to through traffic would not represent good value for money and there is no requirement for habitat connectivity in this location.

What other options could we consider?

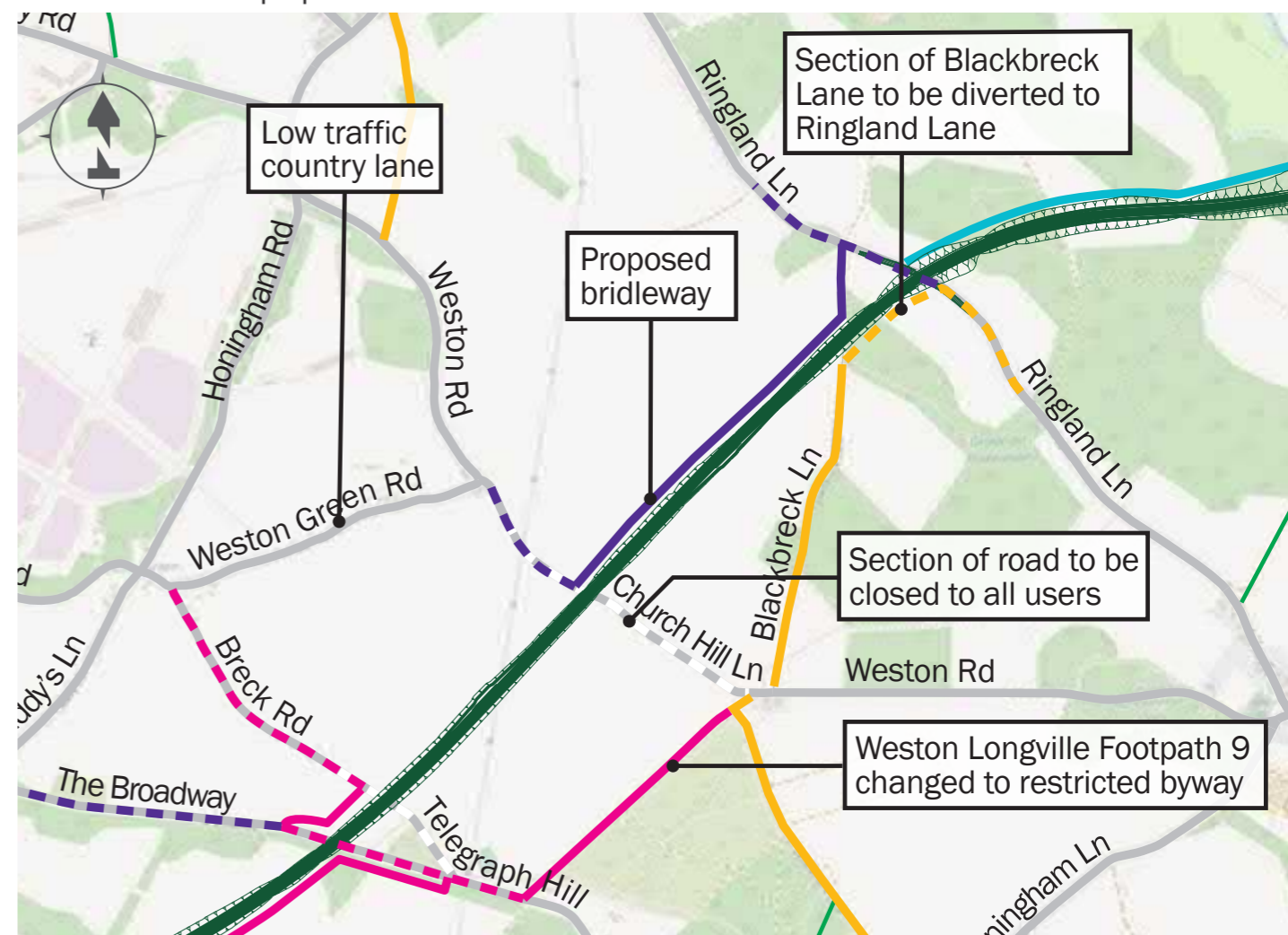
We could keep Weston Road/Church Hill Lane open to all through traffic, or to walkers, cyclists and horse riders only. However, we are not proposing this due to the low level of usage of this road and the ability of Ringland Lane to maintain connectivity across the Norwich Western Link more effectively. If Weston Road was to be maintained as a through road and an overbridge of the Norwich Western Link provided, there would be additional landscape and visual impacts due to the height of the new structure, in addition to the costs involved with constructing a new bridge.

Nearby Public Rights of Way

With Weston Road/Church Hill Lane closed to all users, we are proposing to provide upgraded walking, cycling and horse-riding routes parallel to the Norwich Western Link that would connect to crossing points further north and south:

- » **Weston Green Road is a tranquil rural route that is already attractive for non-motorised users due to its low traffic volumes. This would be promoted as a shared space between vehicles and other road users with appropriate speed limits defined and signage to warn vehicle users of cycles and pedestrians.**
- » **A section of an existing track (known as Blackbreck Lane) would be diverted to join Ringland Lane immediately to the east of the Norwich Western Link to prevent it being severed by the new road. Also on the eastern side, an existing public footpath (Weston Longville Footpath 9) would be changed to restricted byway standard so that it can also be used by, amongst others, cyclists and horse riders.**
- » **To the north west of the Norwich Western Link, a new section of public bridleway would be created to connect Weston Green with Ringland Lane.**

An overview of the proposals for the Weston Road area is shown below.

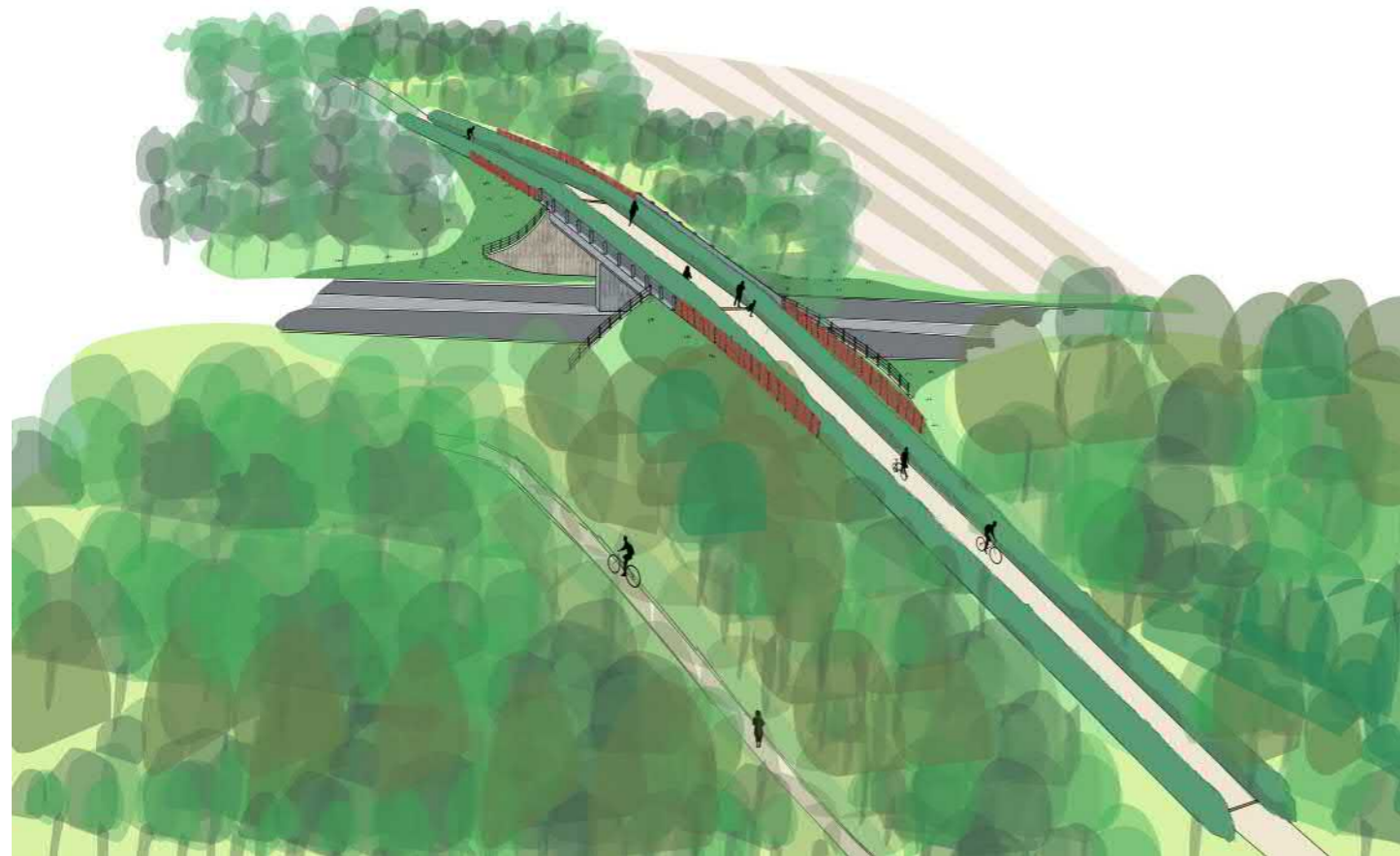


Proposals for Breck Road (also known as Breck Lane), The Broadway and nearby Public Rights of Way

Breck Road (also known as Breck Lane) and The Broadway are the southern-most roads crossing the Norwich Western Link route. The Broadway is a narrow, tree-lined, rural lane running broadly east-west from Telegraph Hill in the east to Paddy's Lane in the west. Breck Road is a narrow rural lane with restricted forward visibility in places. It runs broadly in a south-easterly direction from Weston Green, connecting with Telegraph Hill at its south-eastern extent. Breck Road becomes Telegraph Hill about 150m east of Weston Green Road.

We are proposing to close Breck Road to through traffic where it crosses the Norwich Western Link route, with access maintained to properties, businesses and agricultural land. To the west of the Norwich Western Link, Breck Road would be restricted to pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians only while the section on the east side, where the road becomes Telegraph Hill, would be closed entirely. Suitable turning facilities would be provided on Telegraph Hill on the east side of the Norwich Western Link.

We are proposing to close The Broadway to motorised through traffic (with a traffic restriction to allow property access only). A green bridge would be installed over the Norwich Western Link, with a clearance of at least 5.3 metres. The new bridge would create an environmental crossing for bats and other species, as well as pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Motorised through-traffic from both Breck Road and The Broadway would be diverted to alternative routes such as the A47 to the south.



Artists impression of The Broadway green bridge (looking west)

Why are we proposing this?

The Broadway has been identified as a key location to support habitat connectivity across the Norwich Western Link, which is why a green bridge is proposed in this location. This would also be available to walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

Surveys indicate that these routes carry a low volume of traffic currently, with Breck Road carrying about 90 users per day and The Broadway carrying about 20 users per day in October 2019. In both cases about 10% of the total users were pedestrians, cyclists or equestrians.

What other options could we consider?

We could keep Breck Road open to all through traffic, or to walkers, cyclists and horse riders only. However, we are not proposing this due to the low level of usage of this road, and the proximity of The Broadway, which will maintain connectivity. If an extra bridge was provided at Breck Road, there would be additional landscape and visual impacts, in addition to the extra construction costs.

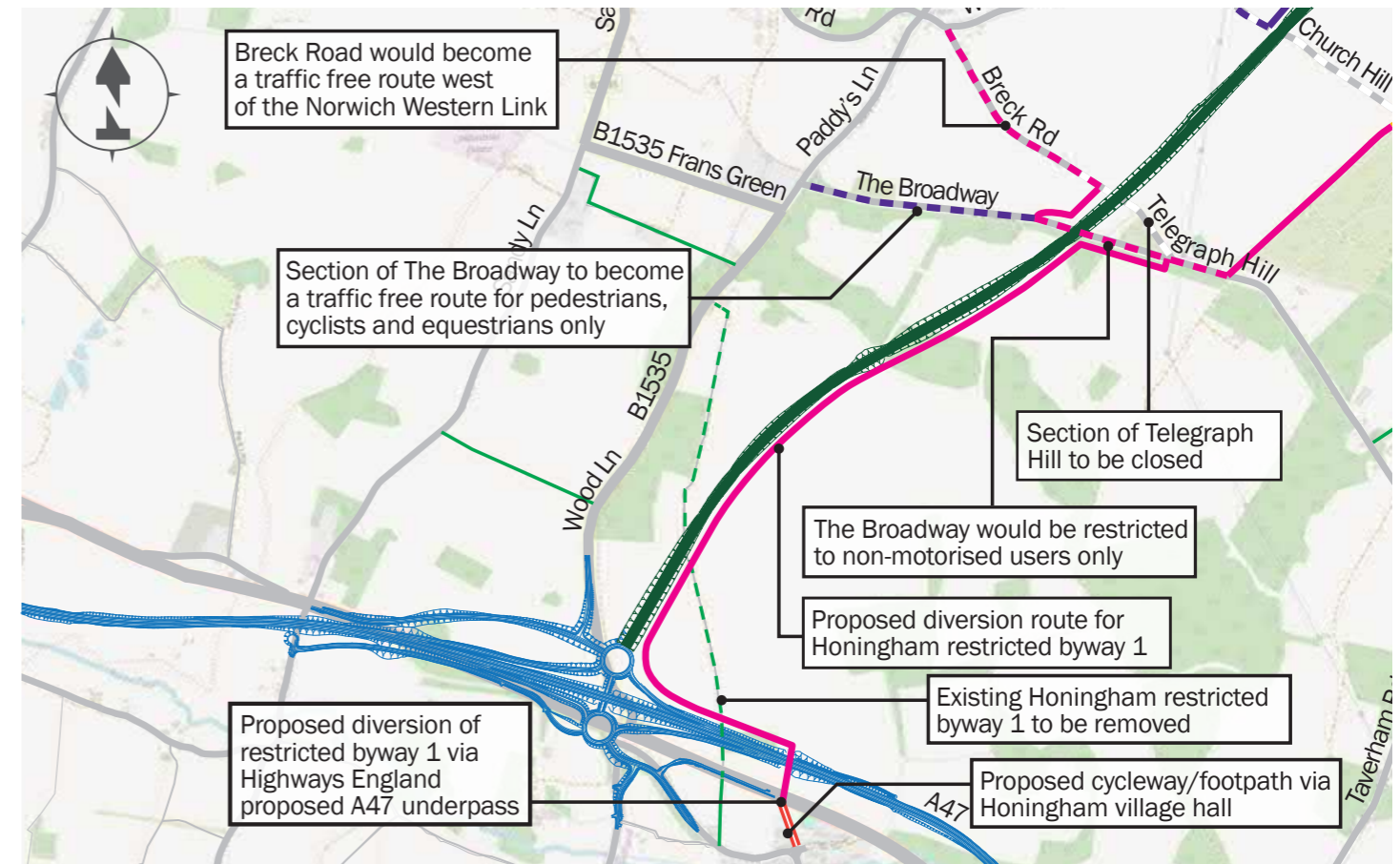
We could keep The Broadway open to vehicles. We are not proposing this due to the low level of traffic on this road. We could also prevent pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders from using the green bridge. However, we want to maintain connectivity for non-motorised users across the Norwich Western Link in key locations, both for local communities and for wildlife. Closing The Broadway entirely would also limit our ability to support people to walk and cycle in the local area.

Nearby Public Rights of Way

The following improvements are proposed in the vicinity of Breck Road and The Broadway:

- » **A new short section of restricted byway would be created alongside the west side of the Norwich Western Link, connecting Breck Road to The Broadway for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.**
- » **To the south of The Broadway, Honingham restricted byway 1 would be removed between Wood Lane and the former A47 and replaced with a new section of restricted byway along the east side of the Norwich Western Link. People using this route would be separated from traffic by landscape screening. This route would provide connectivity from The Broadway to a new underpass crossing of the A47 proposed by Highways England. The route would cross the former A47 and a new shared cycleway/footway access to Honingham village would be provided through the village hall overflow car park.**

An overview of the proposals for the Breck Road and The Broadway area is shown below:



Sustainable transport measures across the wider area

We want to build upon the benefits the Norwich Western Link road will create for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport and bring in some additional measures to support more sustainable forms of transport. This will complement the longer distance walking and cycling routes already introduced as part of Broadland Northway.

We've sought input and ideas from local parish councils and other groups to come up with some suggestions for ways we could support people to walk, cycle and use public transport – these are listed below and shown on the map opposite. We want to hear from you about which you think would be most effective so we can prioritise them for inclusion.

These potential measures would complement the Transport for Norwich project, which is making it easier to travel in and around the city, with a focus on clean and shared transport.

Potential measures

1 Create a new crossing facility on the A1067 Fakenham Road at Attlebridge to help pedestrians and cyclists cross safely and confidently.

2 Create a new pedestrian crossing on the A1067 Fakenham Road to connect Ringland Footpath 1, south of the A1067, with Attlebridge Restricted Byway 4, north of the A1067.

3 Create a new pedestrian and cycle crossing of Drayton High Road to improve connectivity with the Marriott's Way.

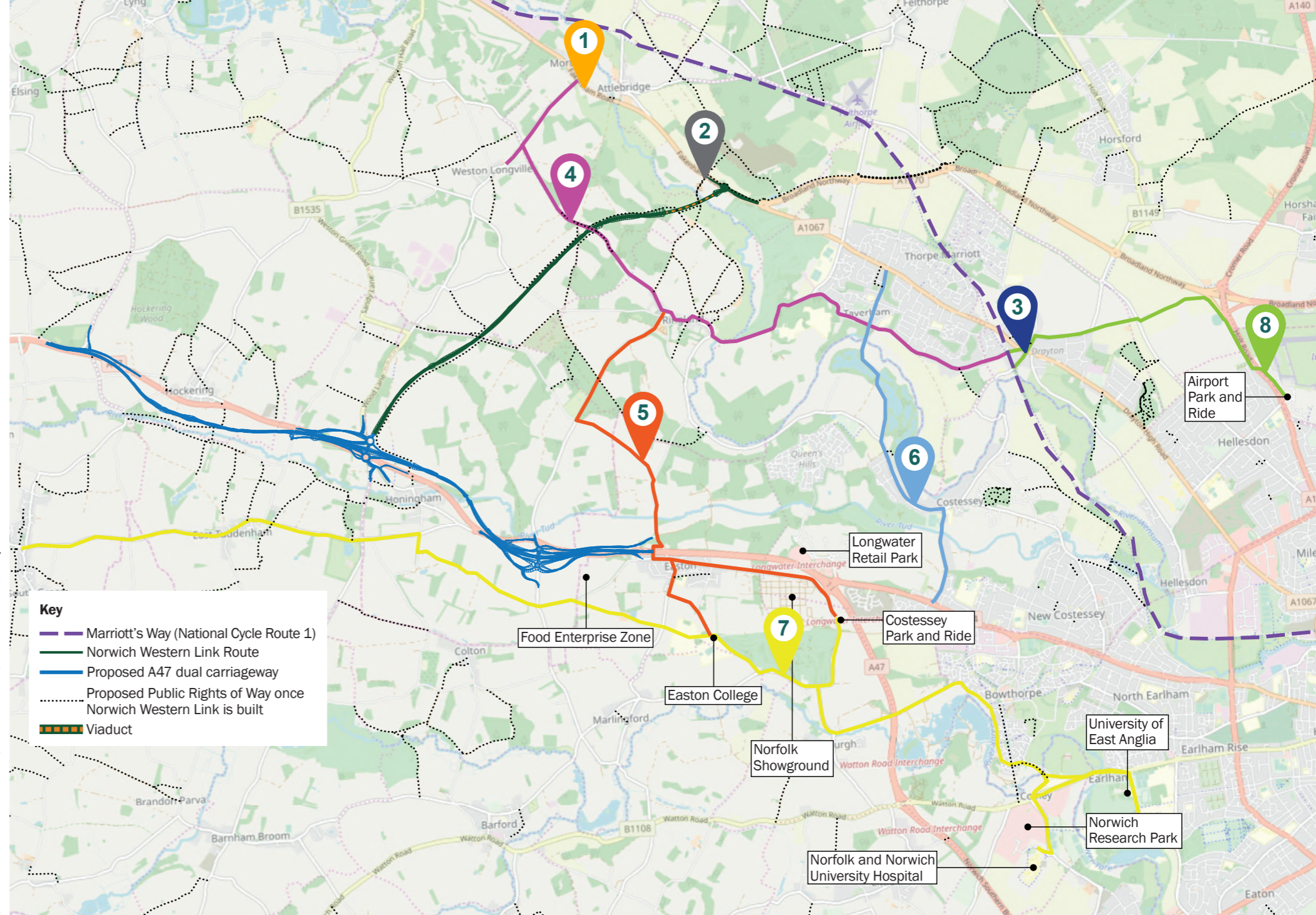
4 Create a cycle friendly on-road link towards central Norwich from Attlebridge and Weston Longville via Ringland and Taverham – improving cycle priority at junctions and on bridges on this lower traffic route would enhance access to schools and workplaces on the western edge of Norwich, and improve connectivity to the Marriott's Way (part of National Cycle Route 1).

5 Create a cycle friendly on-road link from Ringland to Easton. Once the Easton roundabout is removed as part of the A47 upgrade, this route would have lower traffic. Cycle safety could be improved at key junctions and pinch points. This would help to improve access to educational sites, such as Easton College, and Costessey Park and Ride site. Please note – providing this route is reliant on a new crossing of the A47, potentially a pedestrian and cycle bridge. However, provision of this crossing is not confirmed.

6 Create a cycle friendly on-road link from Taverham to Dereham Road – with the Norwich Western Link in place this route would have reduced traffic. Creating sections of cycle lane and introducing cycle priority measures at junctions would improve access to schools, shops and medical facilities and link to existing cycle paths on Dereham Road.

7 Create a cycle friendly on-road link south of A47 from Mattishall to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and University of East Anglia – this route would benefit from reduced traffic once the nearby A47 is dualled. Introducing cycle priority measures would improve access between residential areas, medical facilities and employment areas, including the Food Enterprise Zone at Easton, Norwich Research Park and Costessey Park and Ride site.

8 Improve cycle parking at and access to the Airport Park and Ride site from Drayton – this would provide opportunities to access Park and Ride bus services by cycling and improve connectivity to the Marriott's Way and onward destinations in the western fringe of Norwich.



What difference could these measures make?

- » Make it easier for people to walk, cycle or get a bus to important local facilities such as schools, shops and medical centres
- » Help people, including those with reduced mobility or a disability, to safely cross busier roads
- » Improve the health and quality of life of local residents by making it easier to access the countryside and walk and cycle for pleasure
- » Contribute to efforts to improve air quality in communities and in urban and suburban areas
- » Support commuters to shift from using their cars, helping to take vehicles off the roads at busy times
- » Improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, encouraging people to consider these as viable ways to travel
- » Make communities better connected and more pleasant places to live and visit

Bus strategy

We have been talking to bus operators about opportunities to improve bus services which could be supported by the Norwich Western Link.

Bus journey times would be likely to improve with the Norwich Western Link in place and congestion reduced on the existing road network. As a result, it may be viable for a bus operator to provide a new 'Western Arc' service through the more densely populated western suburbs of Norwich.

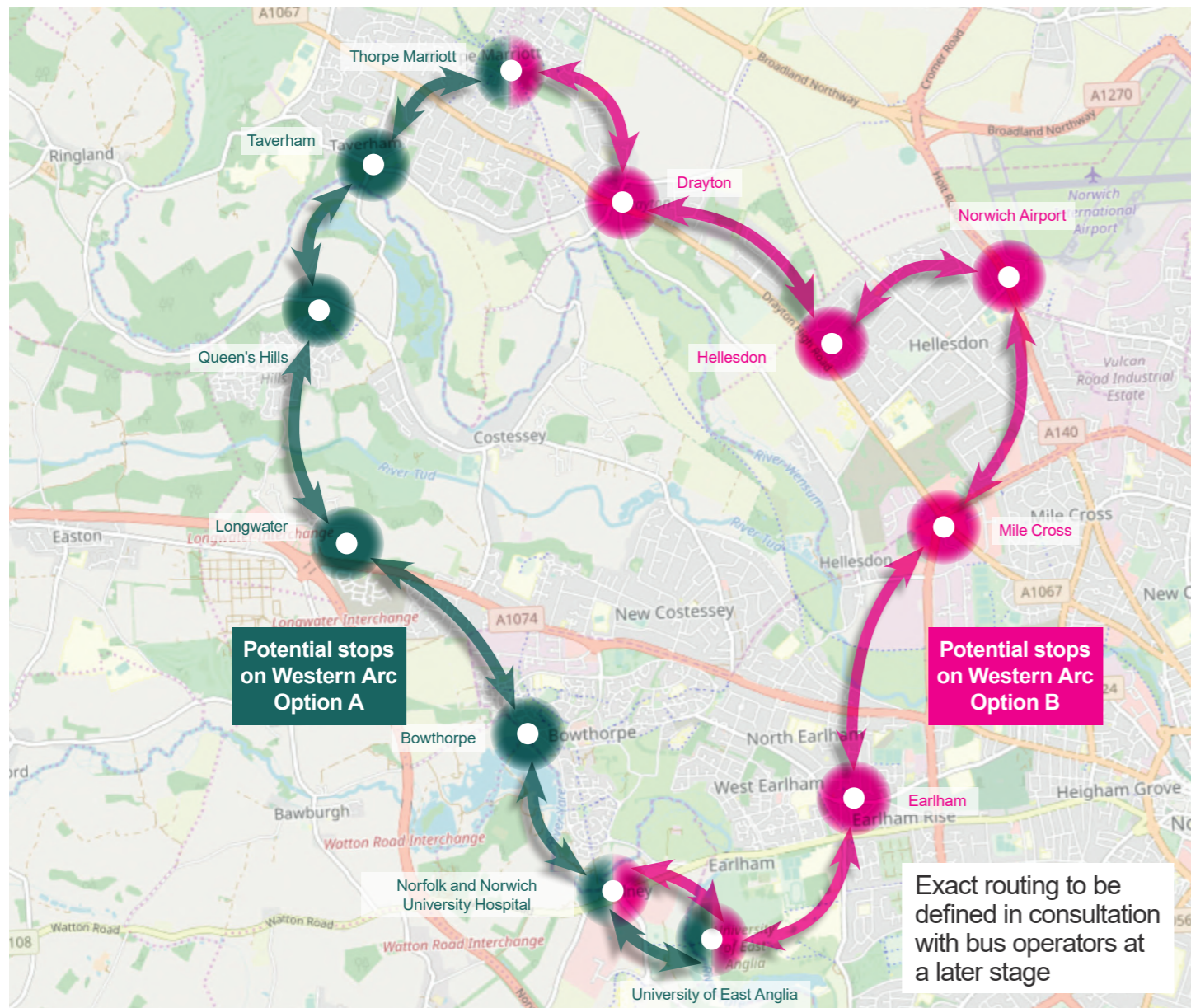
This would connect communities to medical facilities and employment areas including Norwich Research Park, the University of East Anglia (UEA) and the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (NNUH) without the need to travel into central Norwich to change buses.

We have identified two potential Western Arc bus service route options:

- » **Option A: Thorpe Marriott to NNUH/UEA via Taverham, Queen's Hills, Longwater and Bowthorpe.**
- » **Option B: Thorpe Marriott to NNUH/UEA via Drayton, Airport, Hellesdon and Earlham.**

To support the Western Arc service we would also improve facilities at bus stops on the A1067 and along the route of the proposed 'Western Arc' bus route. This could include raised kerbs, new or improved shelters and electronic displays.

Potential new bus route options



Protecting the environment

We are committed to building the Norwich Western Link in an environmentally responsible way. We are continuing to carry out ecological and environmental surveys in the area and taking advice from statutory environmental bodies to inform our work and ensure we can take up-to-date information into account in our planning application.

We want to limit any adverse environmental impacts the new road may have and seek opportunities to enhance the environment in the area. We're currently developing these proposals and more detailed information will be shared in our next public consultation. However, our aims include:

- » **Creating new habitats and improving existing ones** in the local area to support a wide range of wildlife. We are likely to focus on creating and improving significant areas of woodland and wetland habitat.
- » **Maintaining connectivity for wildlife** in the area by creating structures across the road designed to help species cross safely. Our current proposals include two green bridges and two underpasses designed for use by wildlife, and these would be complemented by planting. The proposed location of these structures is shown on the Norwich Western Link Route Map in these consultation materials.
- » **Not affecting the integrity of the River Wensum which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation**, which can be achieved through the design of the viaduct on which the Norwich Western Link would cross the river and its flood plain, as well as through the construction methods used.
- » **Minimising other environmental impacts** such as noise and visual impact through, for example, landscaping, planting and screening. In addition, we would compensate for any areas of floodplain affected, meaning there would be no increased risk of flooding as a result of the project.



Artist's impression of the green bridge towards the southern end of the Norwich Western Link route (looking west)

Find out more

The consultation runs from **Monday 27 July to midnight on Sunday 20 September 2020.**

We would encourage everyone to look through all the information available as part of the consultation before making their response. This information will be available to view via www.norfolk.gov.uk/nwl throughout the consultation period, where people can also respond by filling in the consultation questionnaire.

People who can't access the internet can request for paper copies of the consultation brochure and questionnaire to be posted to them – contact details for how to get in touch about this are below.

If you would like to request hard copies of the consultation brochure and consultation questionnaire...

Please email us at norwichwesternlink@norfolk.gov.uk or ring us on 0344 800 8020 and give us your postal address. We'll then put a copy of the brochure and consultation questionnaire in the post to you as soon as possible. The questionnaire can be returned to a freepost address (details below), meaning you won't need to put a stamp on your envelope.

If you would like to discuss the consultation proposals with staff involved in the project before responding to the consultation...

Staff will be available to discuss the consultation proposals via phone or internet calls during the consultation period. To book an appointment to discuss the proposals with members of the project team, please email norwichwesternlink@norfolk.gov.uk or ring us on 0344 800 8020 and we'll aim to arrange a time that is convenient for you. We will make weekday evening appointments available for people who have commitments during the day.

We would recommend people contact us as soon as possible after the consultation period has started to organise an appointment so that we can do our best to accommodate your request.

Have your say

There are several ways you can respond to the consultation. You can:

- » Complete the consultation questionnaire online via www.norfolk.gov.uk/nwl
- » Complete a paper copy of the consultation questionnaire and post it to: **Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK, Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH**
- » Email comments to norwichwesternlink@norfolk.gov.uk
- » Write to: **Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK, Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH**

The deadline for responses to this consultation is **midnight on Sunday 20 September 2020.**

If you need further assistance please email us on norwichwesternlink@norfolk.gov.uk or ring us on 0344 800 8020 and we'll do our best to assist you. However, please could all responses to the consultation be made in writing using one of the methods outlined above.

