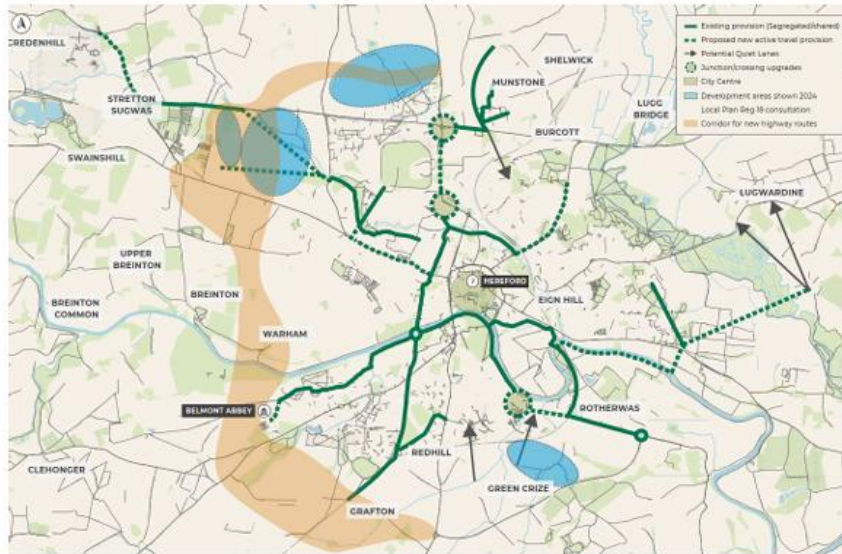


Notes on the LTP 5 Consultation document

Figure 10 Hereford City Network Map



Tackling climate change and protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment

Source: Herefordshire Council LTP5

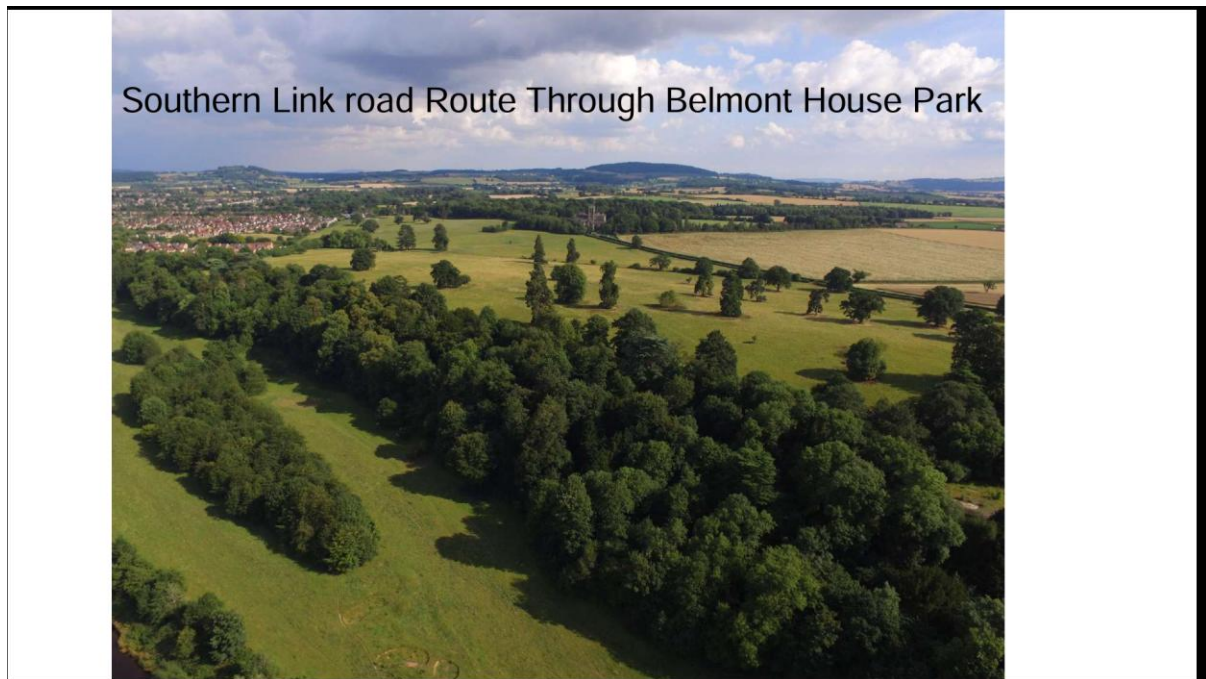
In summary - [Read the LTP read pages 32 to 34 first.](#)

- The proposed infrastructure is highly destructive to the heritage landscapes, the natural beauty of our cherished Wye Valley rural areas, protected by SSSI SAC designations. Loss of biodiversity is inevitable with severe environmental impacts during construction and operation, on habitat of numerous rare species.
- Local and regional flooding will increase through extensive soil sealing for vast new housing estates. The main catchment that floods the city is the proposed development area for both roads and 10,000 new houses. City flooding will increase, and all households and businesses could be affected with higher insurance premiums.
- The road cuts through Raglan Mudstone ridges, like Breinton Ridge, may drain the perched water tables and could flood the roads and houses seasonally from drovers' ponds and aquifers.
- The road and developments cross Source Protection Zone 2 of Hereford's commercial aquifer. If the secondary gravel aquifer is breached or disturbed, the factories dependent on the water source will be forced to close and relocate resulting in 3,000 job losses.

- The Wye bridge planned is a mile upstream from the city drinking water source. A chemical spill on that bridge would pollute city drinking water, which is extracted from the Wye at Broomy Hill.
- Road congestion will only increase on access routes to the city.

Heritage Landscapes need protection

The plan will destroy the western heritage landscapes of Hereford with a series of deep road cuts and high embankments, to bridge the Wye Valley, at a high level, through river mists from Belmont to Warham.



Source: Breinton Parish Council Presentation

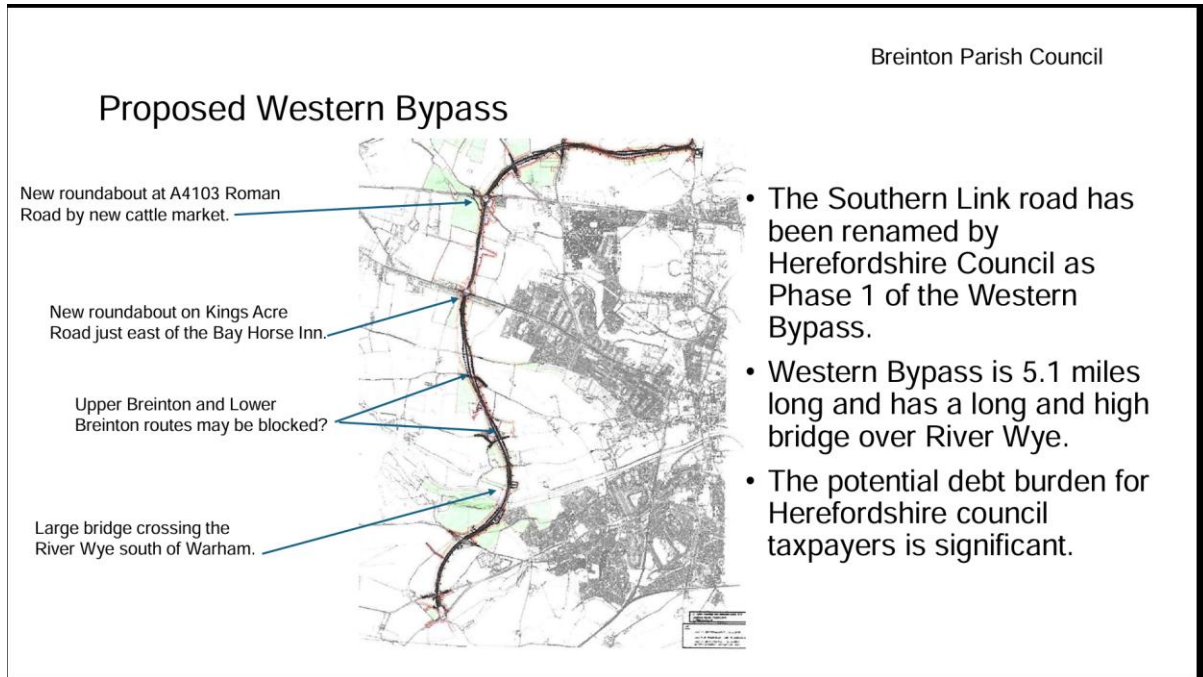
This landscape, shown above, is next to Belmont Abbey (in centre background) with grassland with mature trees, along the river cliffs in the foreground and south of the Wye.

It is a beautiful Country Park designed by [Humpry Repton](#) for the owners of [Belmont House](#) in the 1800's.

It is not protected because the original drawings (Red Book) cannot be located, and the Heritage carriageways and tree lined routes with mature oaks and giant cedars, can't speak for themselves.

Capital Costs will Escalate

This proposed road bridge alone will likely cost more than [current estimates](#) for the whole road. Its unfunded, without a carbon budget, and designed solely to access land for the western urban expansion of Hereford.



Source: Breinton Parish Council Presentation

The plan is to develop [a new settlement of 10,000 houses](#) west of Hereford, in the catchment that floods the city centre. Its money driven madness by any measure. A plan for vast housing estates upstream of the city.

If the same budget was first spent on sustainable travel such as

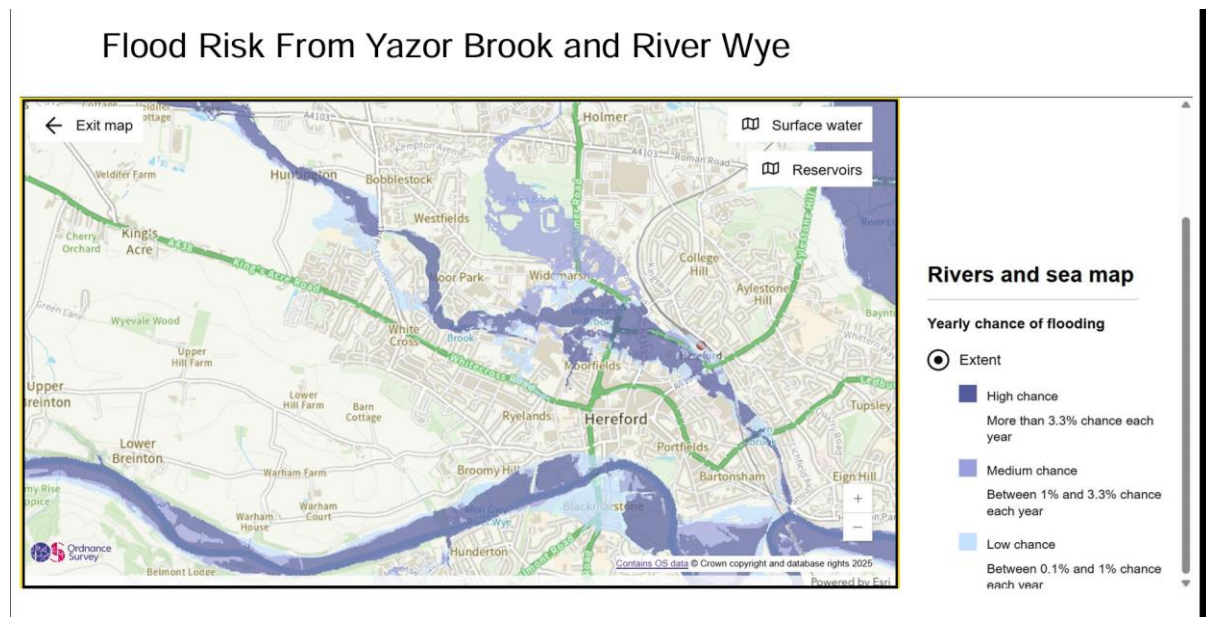
- Public transport to reduce car dependence with
 - commuter buses and
 - school buses
- Train stations north and south to serve
 - new settlements and city commuters
 - take freight off roads
- Segregated safe cycling networks for
 - rural routes and
 - urban networks

much of the proposed carbon intensive infrastructure would be unnecessary and involve far less risk.

Climate Change Increased Flood Risk

The [flood retention scheme](#) for 350 houses at [Three Elms](#) is at least ten years in the design and planning process expanding for climate change impact but still not complete for the entire phased development.

Developers expanded the surface ponds and suggested underground storage tanks for phase two of the circa 1,000 houses.



Source: Breinton Parish Council Presentation, EA Flood Risk Maps

Imagine the lakes and tanks required for a scheme ten times bigger. Just the flood retention infrastructure will demand hectares of farmland to prevent downstream flooding. There is far too much margin of error to risk more city flooding. Remember the first Yazor [Sustainable Urban Drainage](#) system that failed, costing millions to rectify?

The flow from half the catchment of the Yazor is now diverted to the Wye to reduce city floods, but it still flooded in 2020. The new road will have to cut through the aquifers that feed the spring waters west of Hereford. Springs run from the ridge down to Breinton Springs in the South and the Kings Acre Road to the North, where the [Lower Hill Farm flood attenuation scheme](#) failed despite £70,000 of groundworks.

Now consider the additional water that will flow off the roofs and roads in new estates with 10,000 planned houses, to flood the city.

Local perched aquifers on Drovers Routes at risk



Source: Breinton Parish Council Presentation

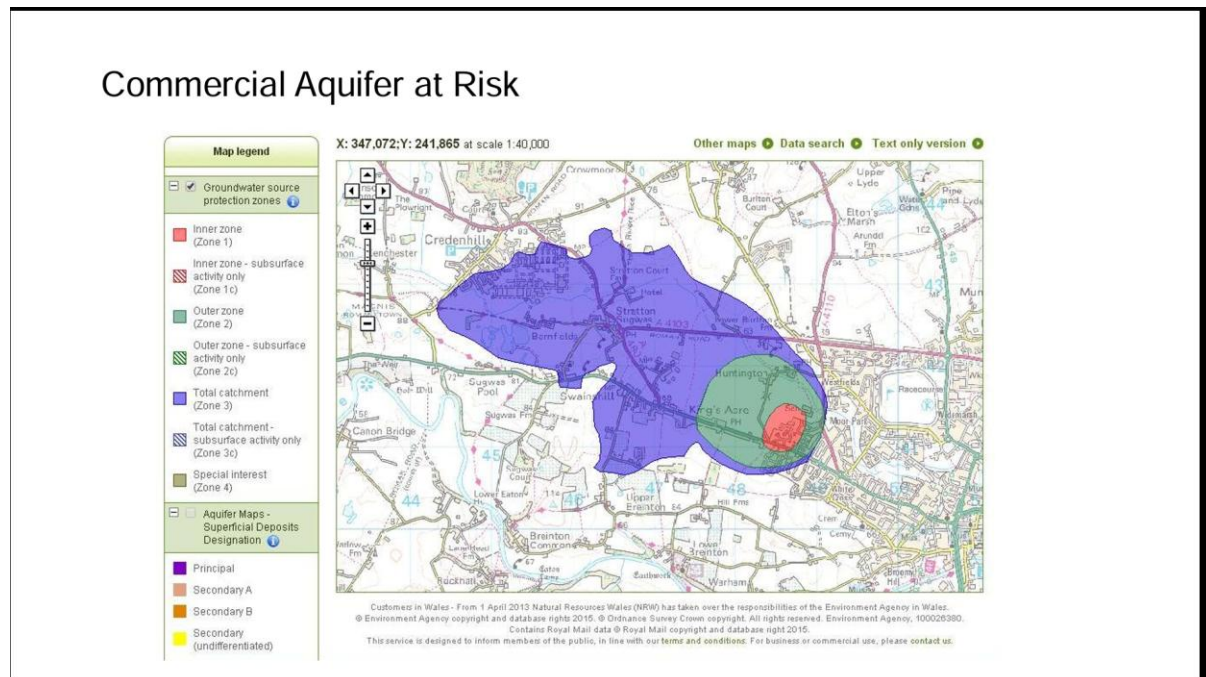
These springs also feed the City Brooks. Note also the proximity to our organic heritage cider apple tree collections of the [Cider Museum Trust](#).

The surface and foul drainage on the Kings Acre Road is a constant issue for residents due to its capacity and lack of maintenance.

A road cut through each Ridge of Raglan mudstone along the route of the road could add to the surface flooding on roads, diverting thousands of gallons of water from perched aquifers into surface drainage, that is already inundated during storms.

Main Commercial Aquifer at Risk

The infrastructure planned calls for a bridge over the babbling Yazor brook by the Livestock Market on the Roman Road, which hides a secret beneath its calm waters. Below the brook is a giant [commercial aquifer](#) serving the factories of Hereford.



Source: Breinton Parish Council Presentation, Magic Maps SPZ of aquifer west of Hereford

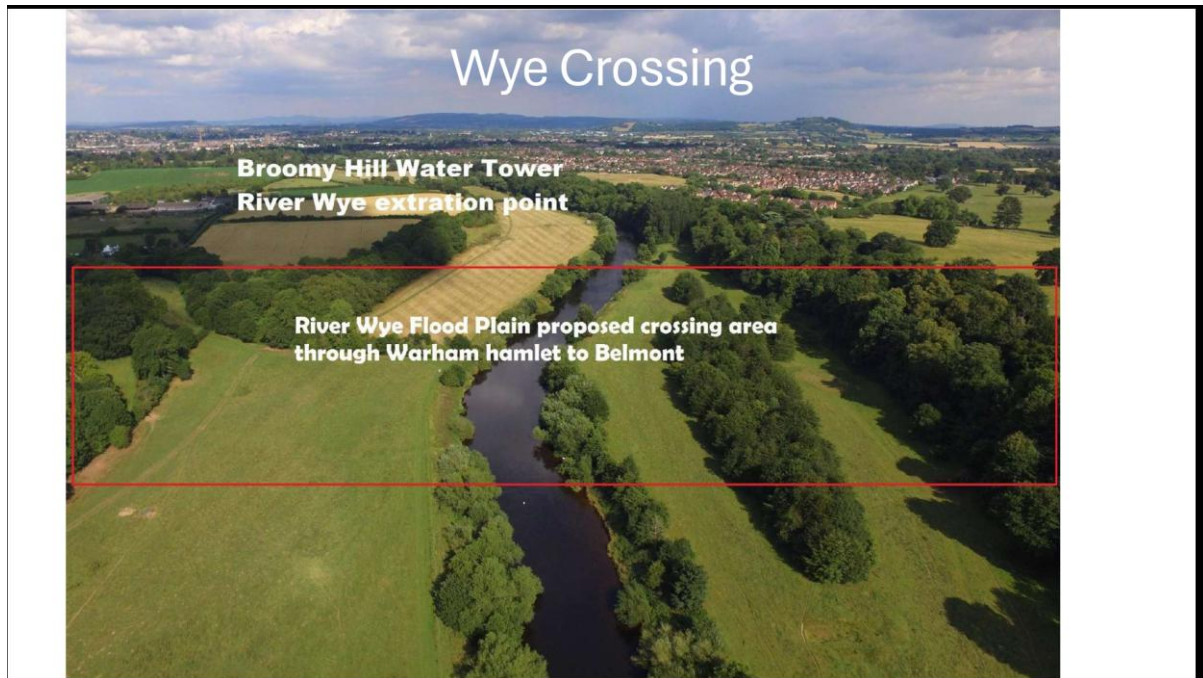
The green zone is SPZ2 and the route selected cuts through it by the Bay Horse pub on Kings Acre Road. It's a secondary gravel aquifer capped by clays from the last ice age, that lies in a wide channel.

3,000 jobs will be lost if the aquifer is polluted and yet the plan is to build a raised roadbed above the floodplain and bridge footings over this saturated gravel deposit.

These gravels that yield two Olympic swimming pools a day of fresh water to the factories that's just a few metres below surface.

Hereford City Drinking Water Supply at Risk

The transport plan calls for a bridge that is just upstream from the off take of our drinking water for the city. Imagine the situation if a transporter in a road accident, spilt chemicals or fuel into our water supply. The river is a valuable resource and protected asset, and this is an unacceptable risk.



Source: Breinton Parish Council Presentation, proximity of proposed bridge crossing to city drinking water off-take

Road Congestion Will Only Increase

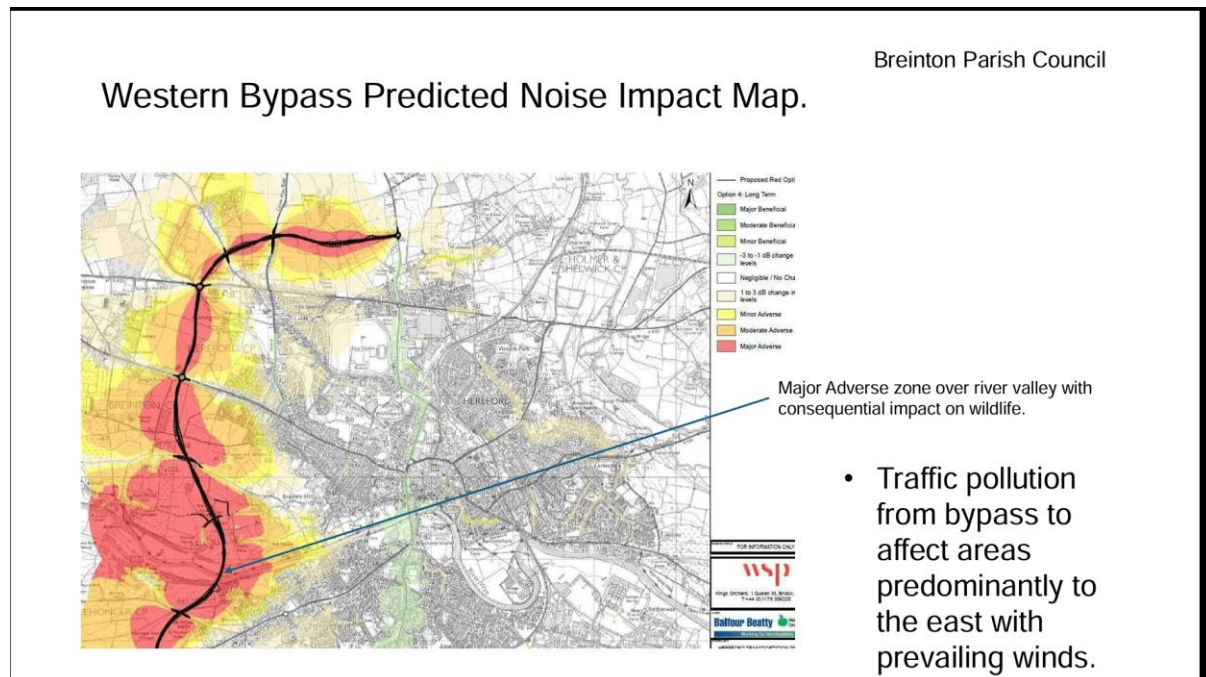
Finally, where is the promise to reduce congestion?

This capital-intensive strategy will add 60,000 daily one-way trips from the new settlement in and out of the city. How will that plan reduce congestion when it adds thousands more car dependent houses to the city suburbs?

Where is the plan for a much-needed, short, 60mph HGV bypass to reduce through traffic in the city?

A Major Adverse Impact from Pollution and Noise

The transport plan offers a road to vast new housing estates that could eventually cost half a billion, pollute your drinking water in the Wye, threatening the loss of 3,000 jobs in the city, delivering a settlement of car dependent houses in the catchment that floods the city.



Source: Herefordshire Council

It does seem the strategic plan is less about planning for climate resilience and more about capital gains for developers. Why build a road to vast new housing estates, west of the city, only for noise and pollution to spread back through the centre on prevailing winds?

Don't forget the strategic plan only pays [lip service to alternative sustainable transport](#) and have no plans for purpose-built segregated, safe cycling city and rural networks and satellite rail stations to take traffic off our roads.

Act now to change this destructive transport plan. The proposed development is unsustainable, unaffordable, poor value for money and threatens our largest city with floods, pollution of both commercial and drinking water.

Make your voice heard through the consultation, to your councillors and your MP.