

M4 Junction 18a Link Study

Consultation Document

August 2017

An overview:
context, errors and omissions

Cllr Gail Boyle, Vice Chair, Pucklechurch Parish Council

What has been provided?

Consultation document - this is the main document to read.
It contains background information and diagrams of the proposed routes.

Frequently Asked Questions - background information that should be read alongside the consultation document.

Study Phase 1 Report - background document that sets out how the scheme objectives were developed.

Equalities Impact Assessment - assesses the potential impacts of the project on issues related to equalities.

Also:

Indicative diagram of the east and west route options

A4174 ring road diagram

Constraints diagram

Diagram of route options initially considered by the feasibility study

How will the scheme options be assessed?

Impacts to consider include:

- Traffic volumes and capacity - insufficient/no detail provided
- Air quality: not mentioned at all
- Noise: no explanation of noise important areas & not marked on plan
- Water Resources: no details provided impact of eastern options
- Flood Risk: EA information not sourced/provided for eastern options
- Landscape: no detail provided other than reference to 'green belt'
- Ecology: insufficient detail, underestimates impact, biased presentation
- Visual Impacts: insufficient detail, biased presentation
- People and Communities : Option B – severe adverse impact
- Cultural Heritage: insufficient detail, underestimate of impact
- Greenhouse gas effects : not mentioned at all

Financial and commercial affordability – could the options be afforded?

Who knows? Funding not secured, estimates do not compare like with like.

Phase 1 Study Report: March 2017

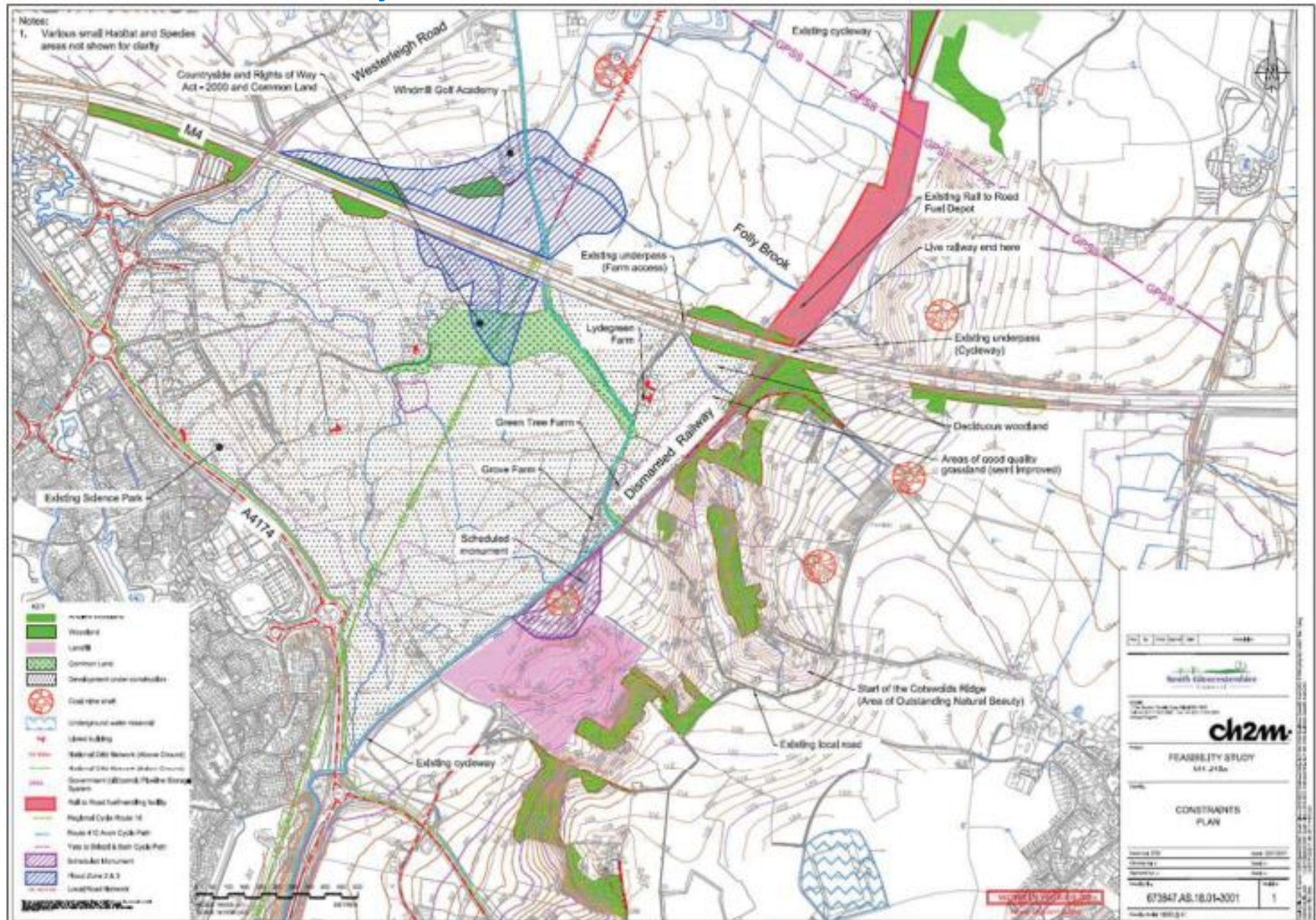
“This study involves the assessment of options for a new motorway junction between the M4 Junction 19 and M4 Junction 18, and provision of a Link to the A4174, north Bristol. The study will:.....

*“- Identify options for increasing capacity and resilience on this part of the transport network **across all surface transport modes.**”*

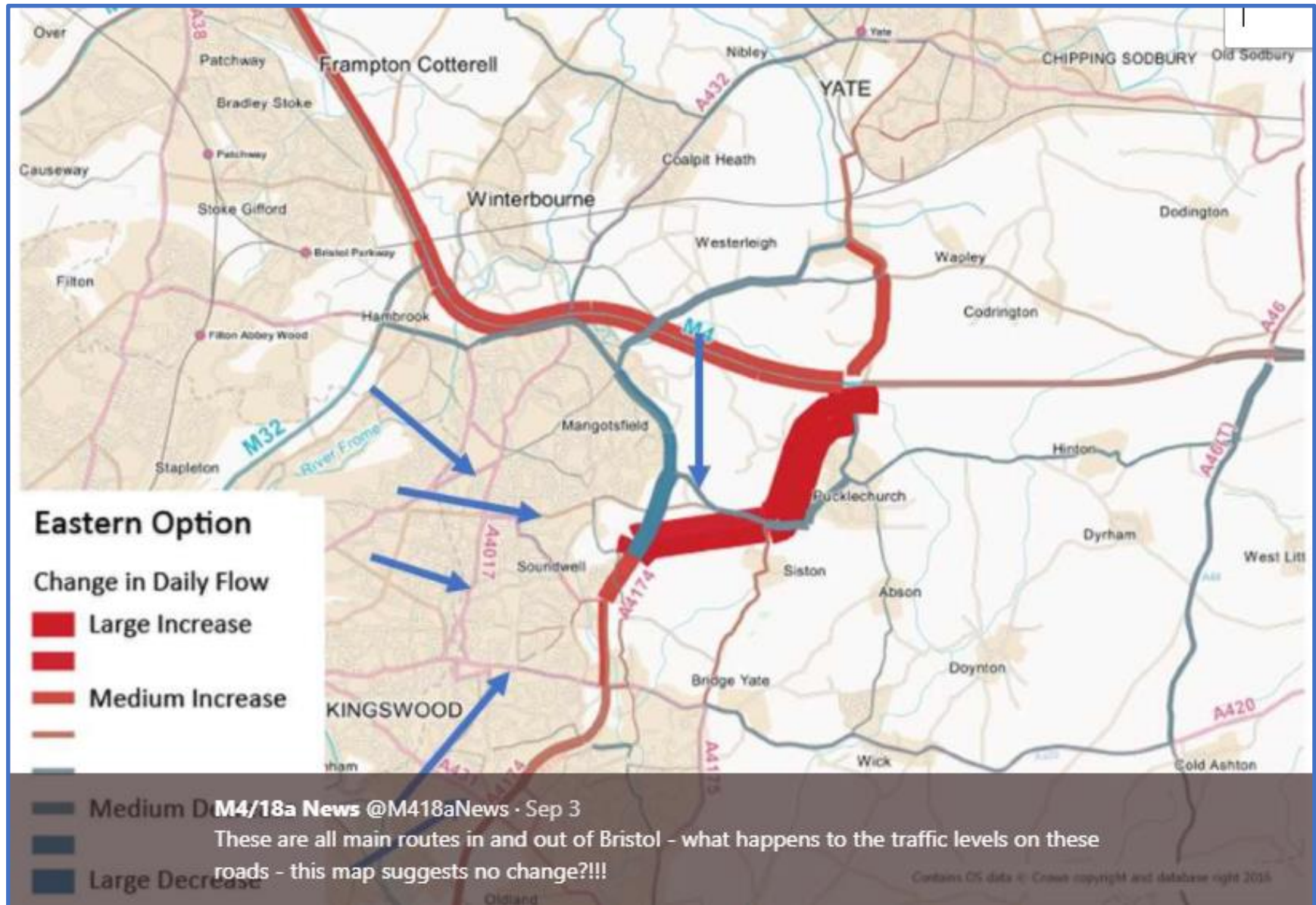
Doesn't that also include public transport?

“Public transport, walking and cycling will be considered within scheme option design”.

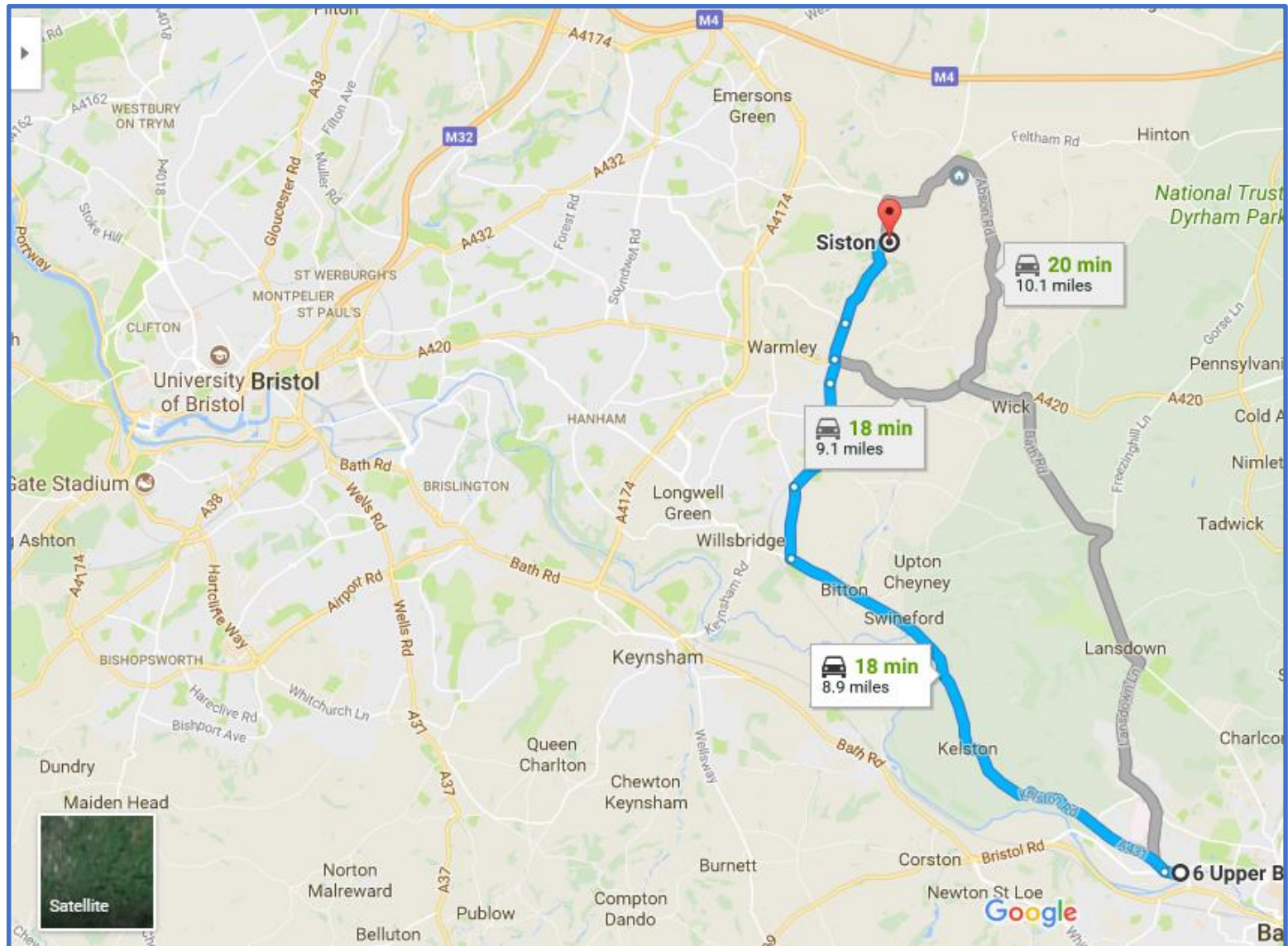
Area of Study March 2017



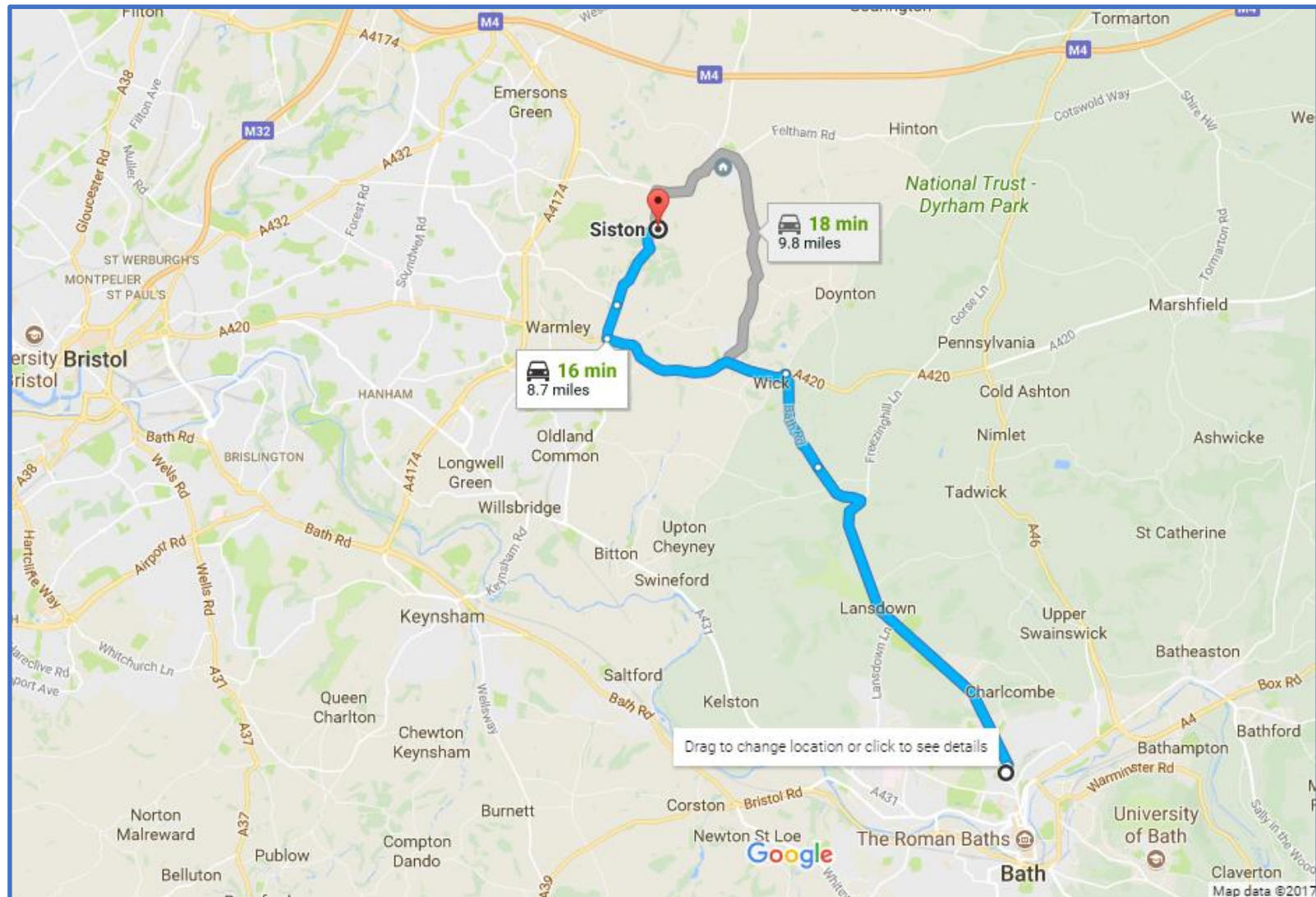
Traffic impact: lack of detail, figures and modelling



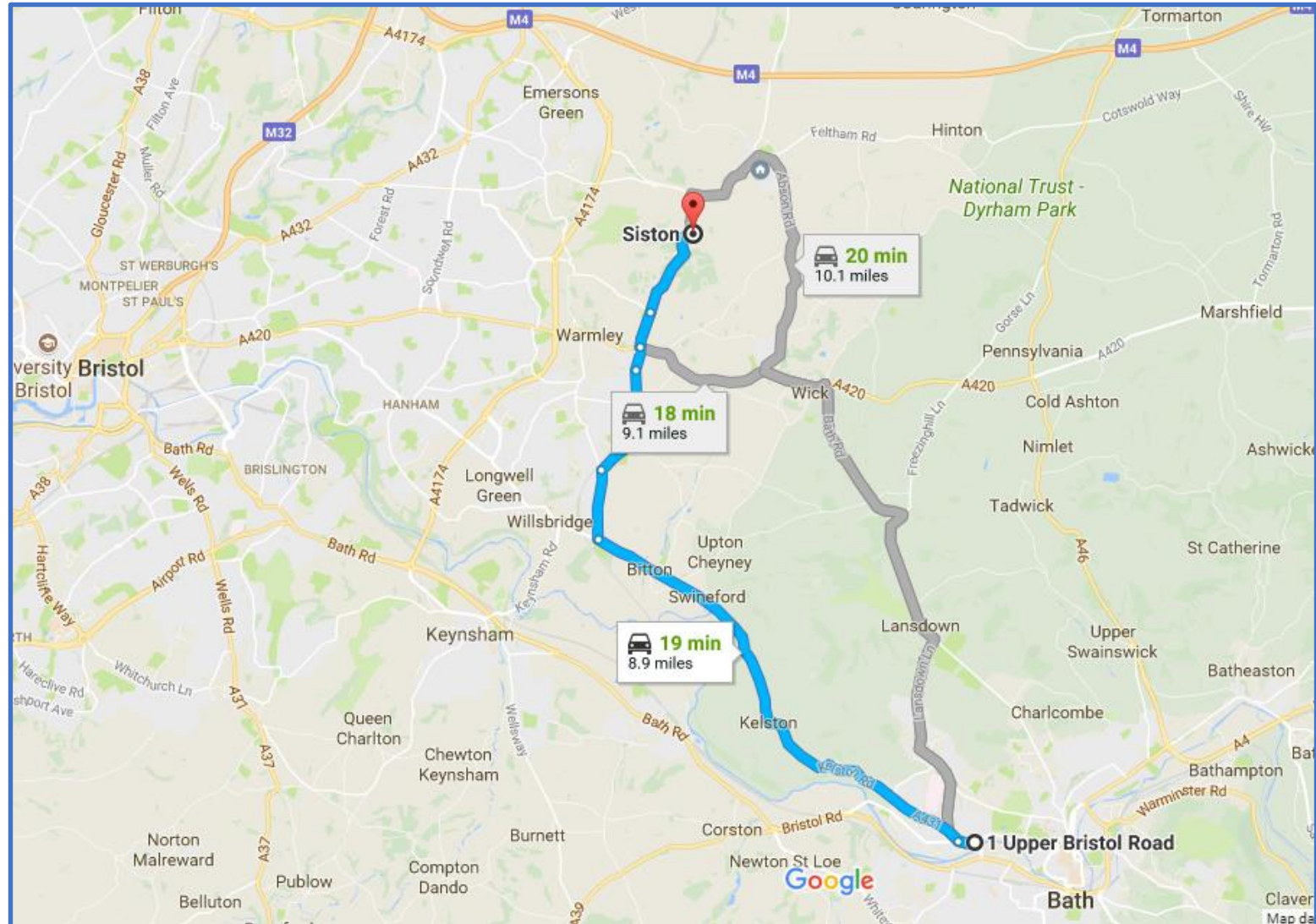
How to avoid the A46 and still get to the M4



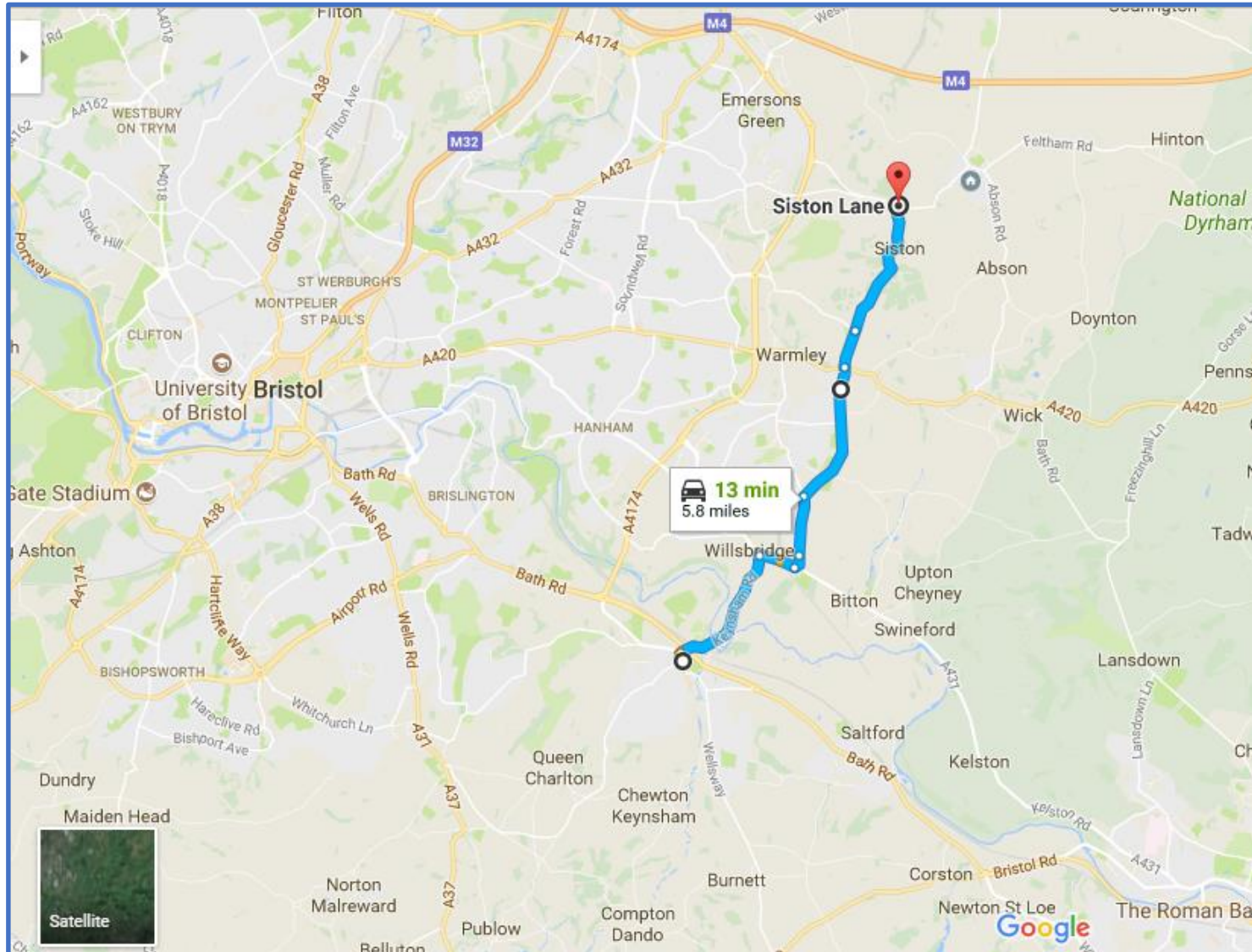
How to avoid the A46 and still get to the M4



How to avoid the A46 and still get to the M4

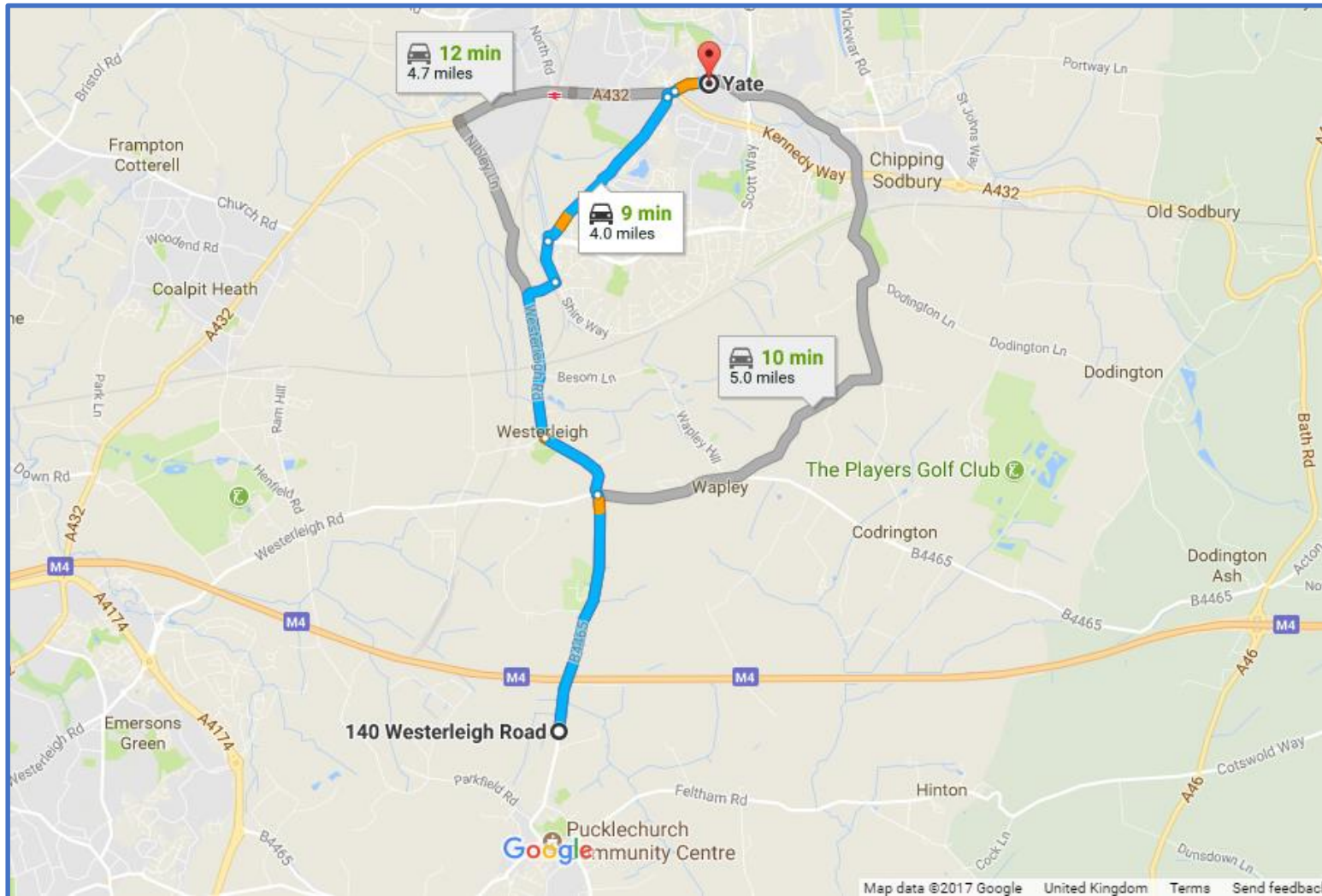


How to avoid A4174 to get to M4 from Keynsham

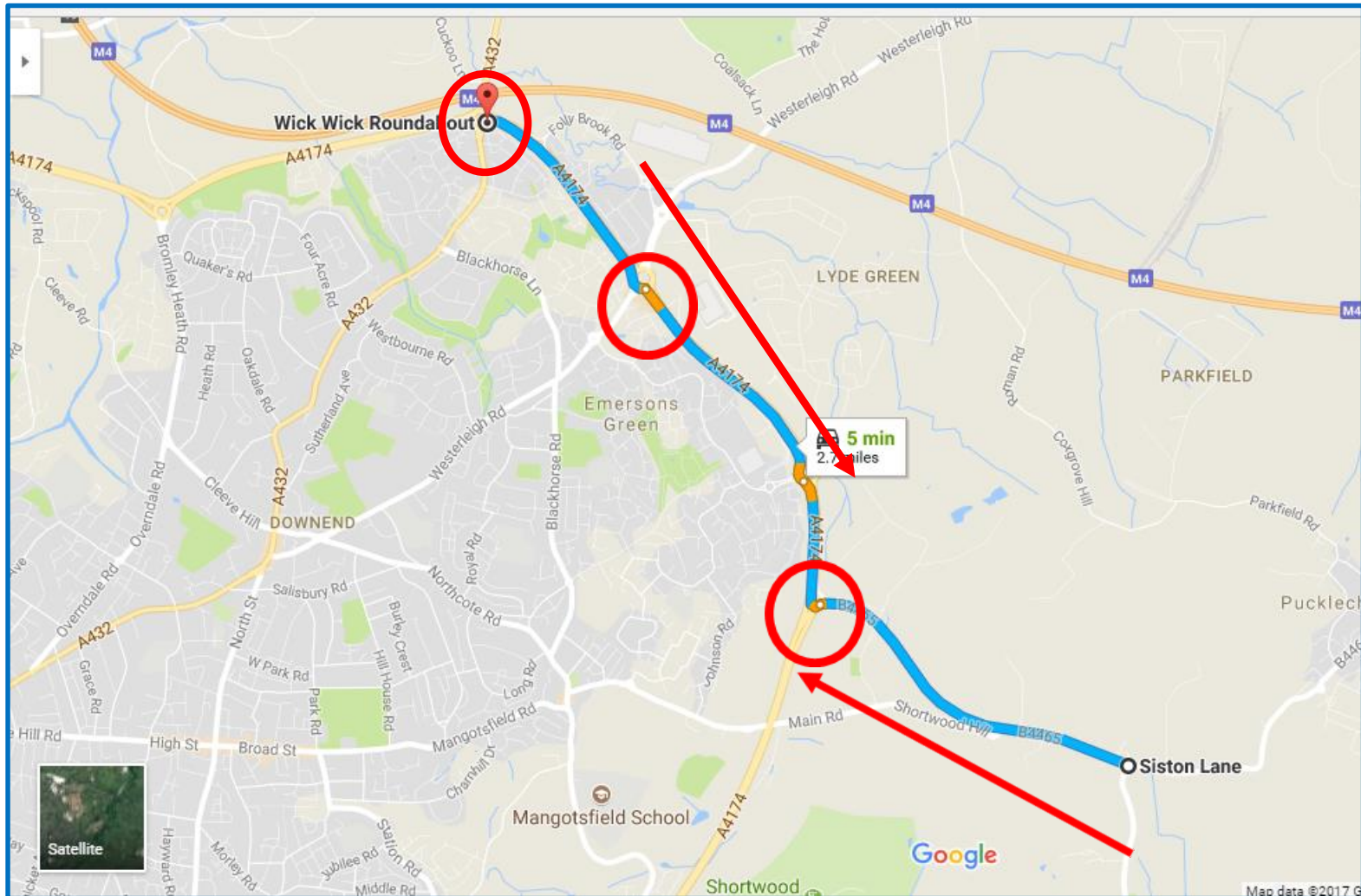


A Google Map of Bristol, England, showing a route from the city center to Siston Lane. The route is highlighted in blue and starts near Cabot Circus. A callout box indicates a travel time of 24 minutes and a distance of 8.0 miles. The map includes various landmarks such as the University of the West of England, Mangotsfield School, and Shortwood Lodge Golf Club. Road numbers like A38, A432, and A4174 are visible. The map also shows the University of Bristol, Cabot Circus, and the Lawrence Hill Depot. The route passes through areas like Montpelier, St Werburgh's, and St Paul's. The map is credited to Google and includes a copyright notice for 2017.

If you live in Yate would you drive to the M32 via Badminton Rd....or do this?



AND which roundabouts on the Ring Road will become traffic **hotspots**?
All traffic from Emerson's Green (commercial & residential) will use the nearest access points.... As will all from Downend



Facts and figures

No figures are provided as to the exact levels of traffic flows within the Consultation document: the only figure that is supplied is contained within the FAQ document.....

“The traffic predictions show that on average the 400, 000 journeys will take around 2% less time”

That equates to just 72 seconds per one hour journey!

Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study 2006:






"6.76 Although the new M4 to A4174 Link road scheme has a strong economic case, mainly derived from travel time savings for journeys from outside the study area, it is not being recommended by the study. The new link would alter flow patterns in the congested area between M4 J20 and M4 J19, M32 J1 and the northern stretch of the A4174 Avon Ring Road, putting additional strain on the A4174 and causing congestion problems on the M4 to the east of the new junction with the strong likelihood that the widening of the M4 between Junctions 18A and 18 would be necessary. The improved linkage to the M4 is likely to encourage long-distance commuting to and from developments in Emersons Green and Pucklechurch, which would go against the principles of sustainable development."

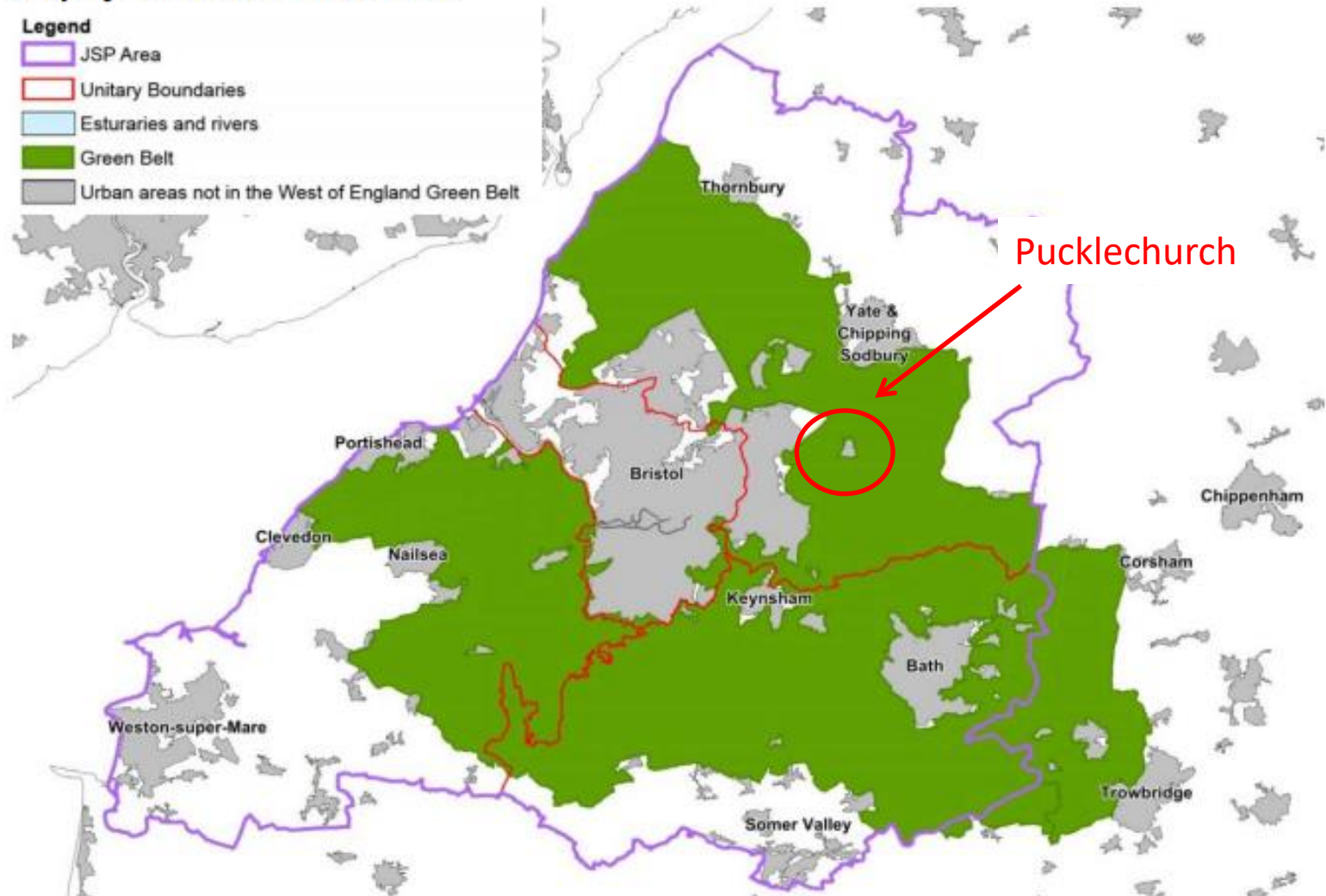
What has changed???

Green Belt:

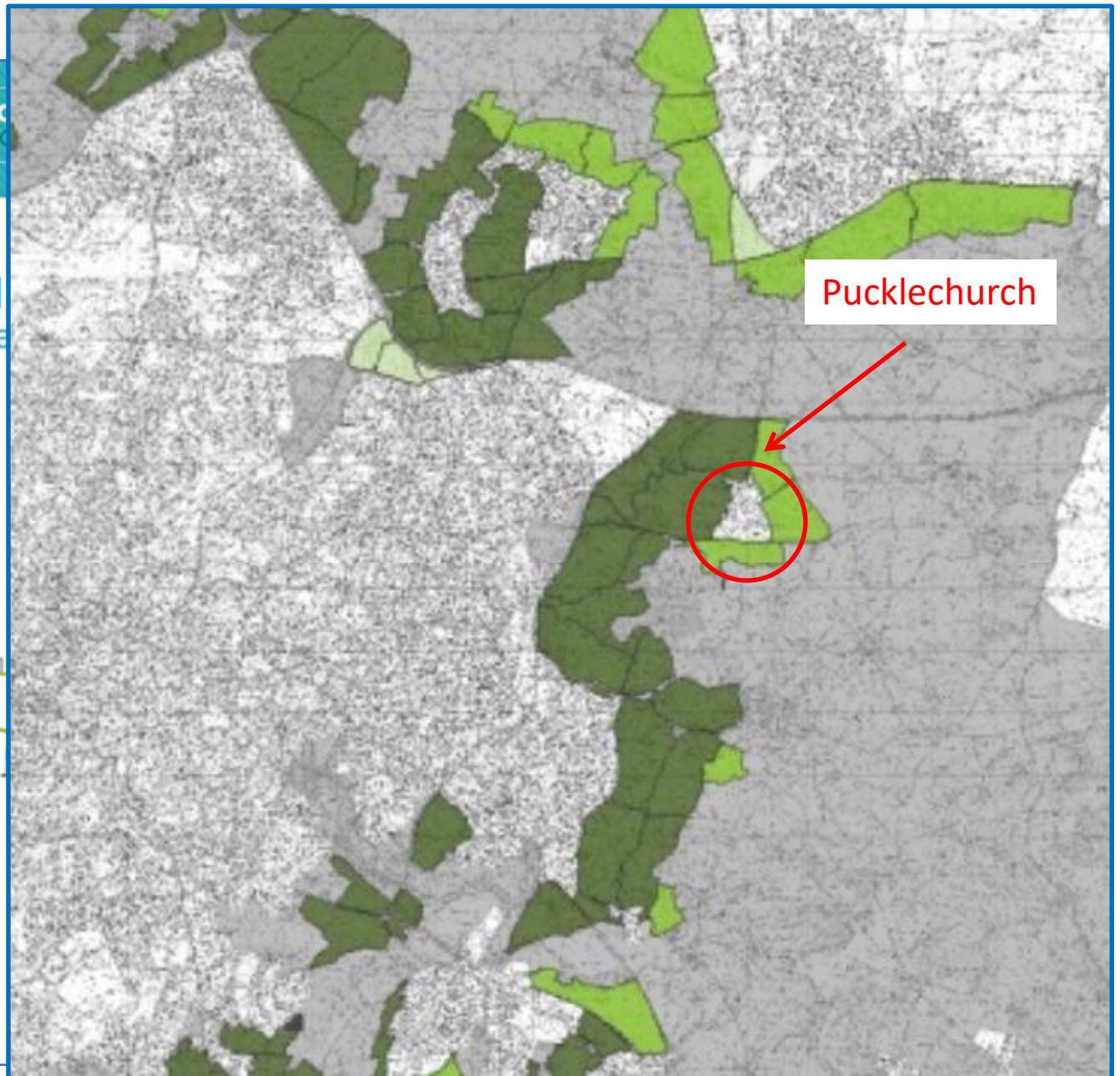
Map of Bristol Bath Green Belt

Legend

-  JSP Area
-  Unitary Boundaries
-  Estuaries and rivers
-  Green Belt
-  Urban areas not in the West of England Green Belt



Green Belt

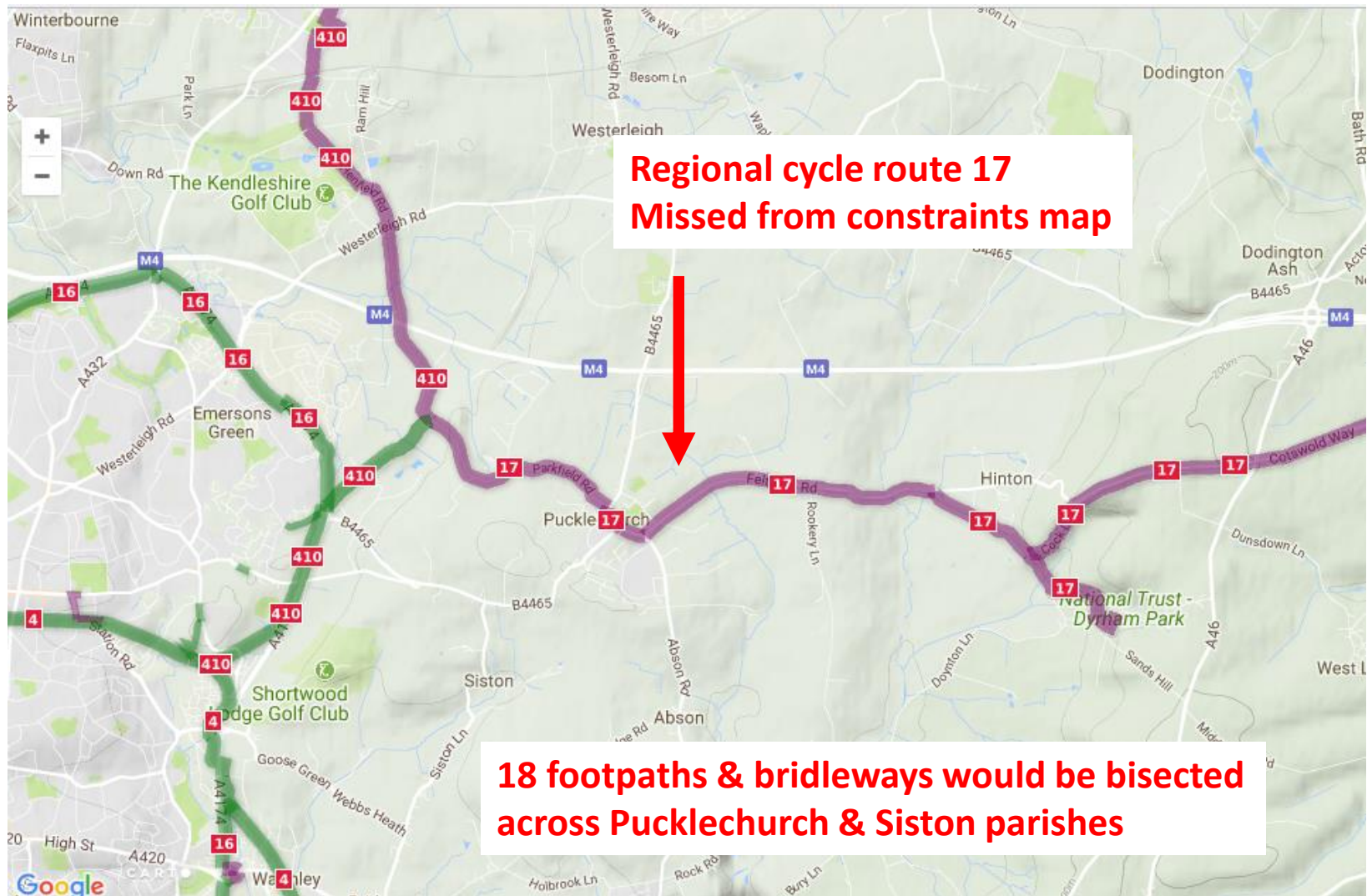


Agricultural landscape

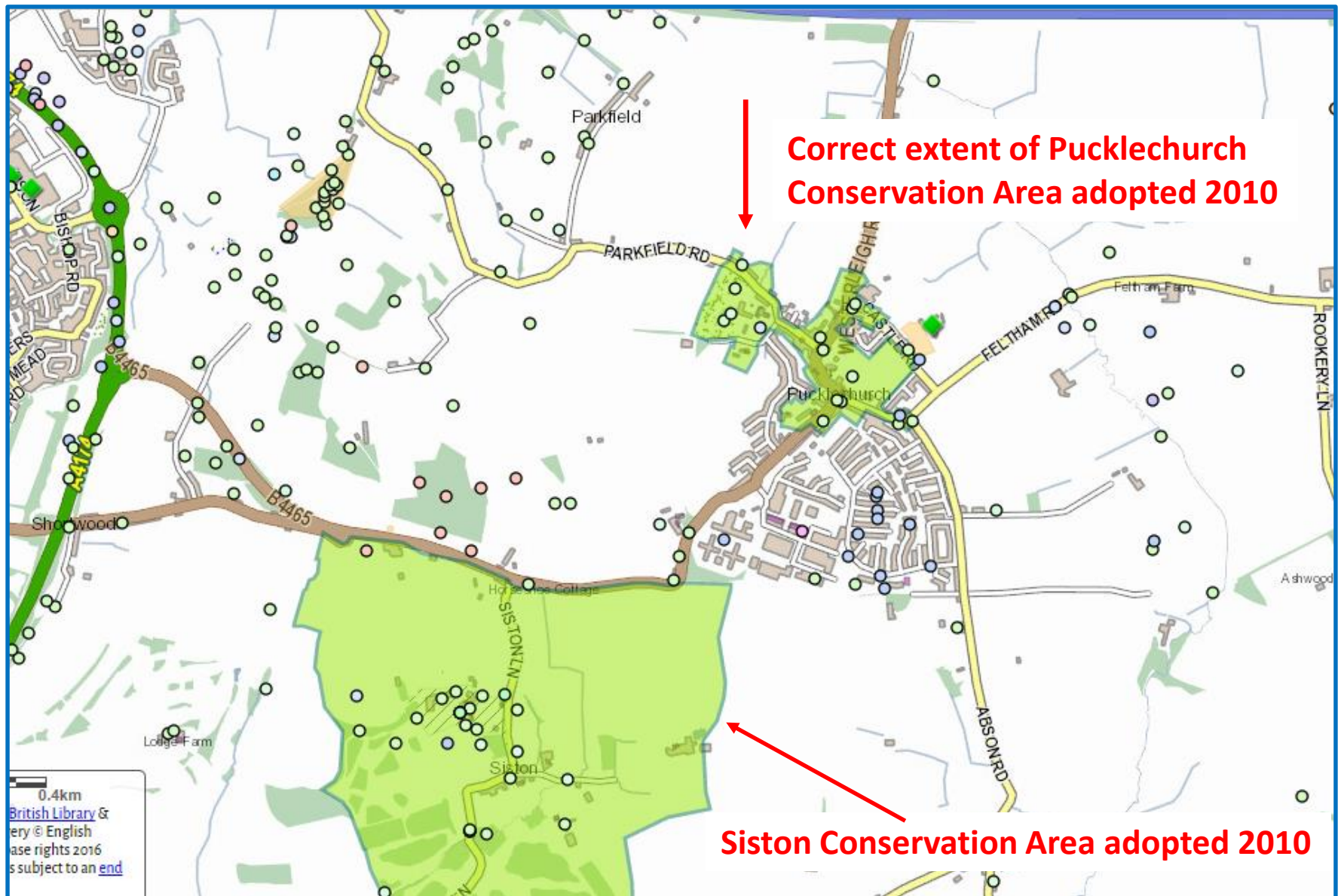


Image courtesy Philippa Vandeleur Powell

Accessible & Recreational Landscape



Historic & Archaeological landscape



Historic & Archaeological landscape

Pucklechurch Conservation Area

Supplementary Planning Document

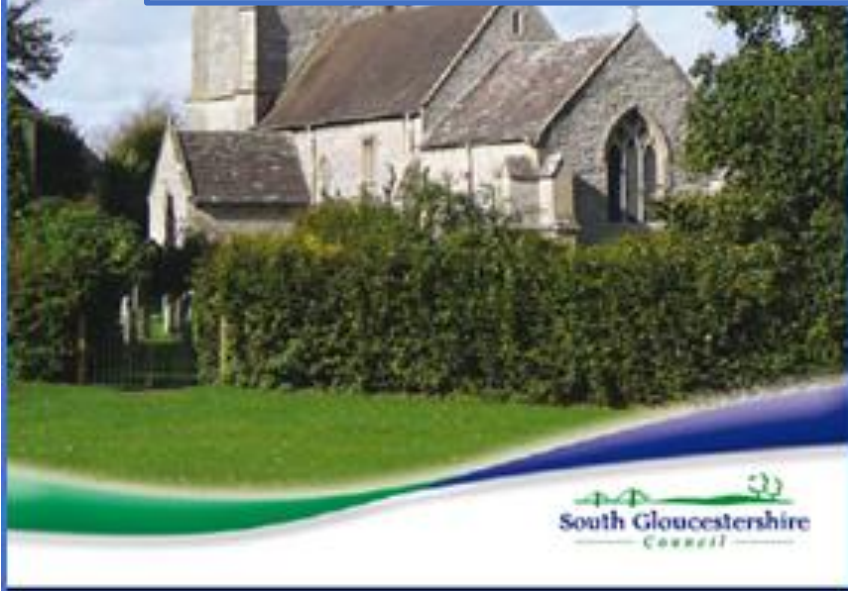
Adopted July 2010

Siston Conservation Area

Supplementary Planning Document

Adopted March 2010

Designation provides recognition of the collective value of buildings and their settings and emphasizes the need to protect not just the individual buildings, but the distinctive character of the area as a whole.



Some other issues

- Impacts on other infrastructure: Bristol Water and the gas pipe line
- Compulsory Purchase – would be required for land AND buildings in the case of Option B
- The EIA makes no allowance for the impact that both Eastern options would have on the Gypsy & Traveller community & safe-guarded sites
- Contradictions between costings estimated at earlier stages of the feasibility study process as evidenced by FOI
- Bias in consultation descriptions and language

Failings in public engagement

- No attempt has been made to engage with or assess the impact on small business owners prior to consultation
- No attempt has been made by SGC to engage with hard to reach communities
- The public exhibition and its staffing proved to be less than satisfactory
 - just 15% of attendants that provided feedback reported that they were satisfied with what they were told
 - Staff often did not have answers and provided opinions rather than fact
 - Some answers that were given contradicted each other
 - No record of residents' concerns was made – SGC only recorded the number of people that attended
 - Many people reported the maps were hard to understand with no landmarks or street names
 - People couldn't identify who they were talking to (SGC or CH2M)

Consultation

The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based upon a genuine exchange of views, and normally with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action.

Royal Town Planning Institute

Guidelines on Effective Community Involvement and Consultation

Can consultation be meaningful if we are not given complete, objective and accurate information?