

3.5 Cycle Route 2 NCN Route 5 Improvements, linking to WMLCWIP route

Cycle Route 2 creates links to an existing network. It forms a part of the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 5 and has connections to the West Midlands LCWIP routes. The length of the SCWIP route is approximately 1km. The link runs through a residential area consisting of a connecting road, a local road and segregated off road pathway. NCN Route 5 incorporates Sandwell Valley Country Park in the route and as such provides off carriageway cycling for leisure and transport purposes. The route does vary in terms of gradient, however, the distance of the gradient would not necessarily discourage people from using the route as it is not excessive. As such the SCWIP route was realigned from the existing route to provide a more direct connection to Sandwell Valley Country Park and take advantage of off-carriageway infrastructure. Approximately half of the route falls into a regeneration corridor and provides good links with existing and planned cycle infrastructure:

- Route 2 is part of NCN Route 5
- WM LCWIP considers improvements to the southern section of this scheme
- Connects to Sandwell Valley Country Park

The results from the RST show that with the improved infrastructure the route:

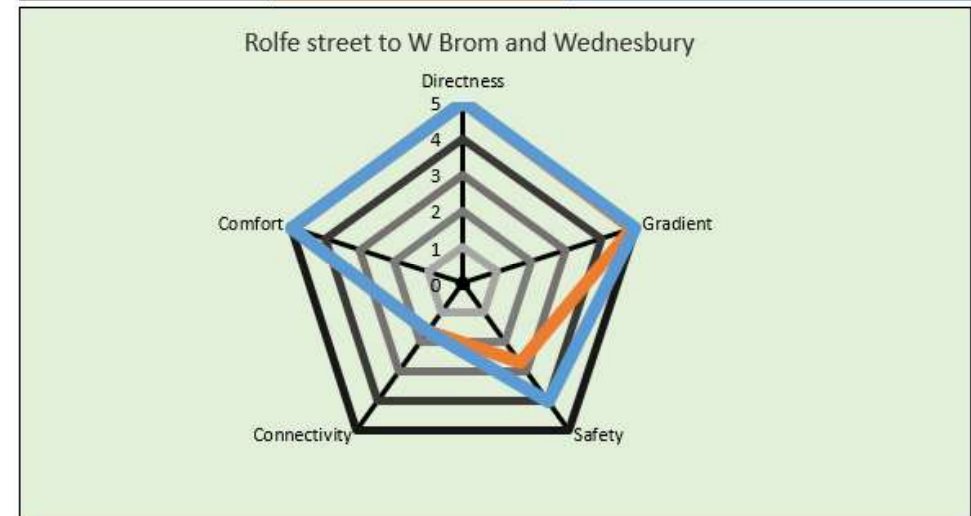
- Scored slightly better in directness, having shorter distance to travel than the original route
- Gradient scoring remained the same as re-routing the alignment made no significant difference to the score
- Scored much higher for safety which would naturally improve on comfort (although, as comfort previously scored high, this is not reflected in the RST scoring), due to segregating cyclists from

motor vehicles for the entire route and improving infrastructure on potential conflict points such as junctions

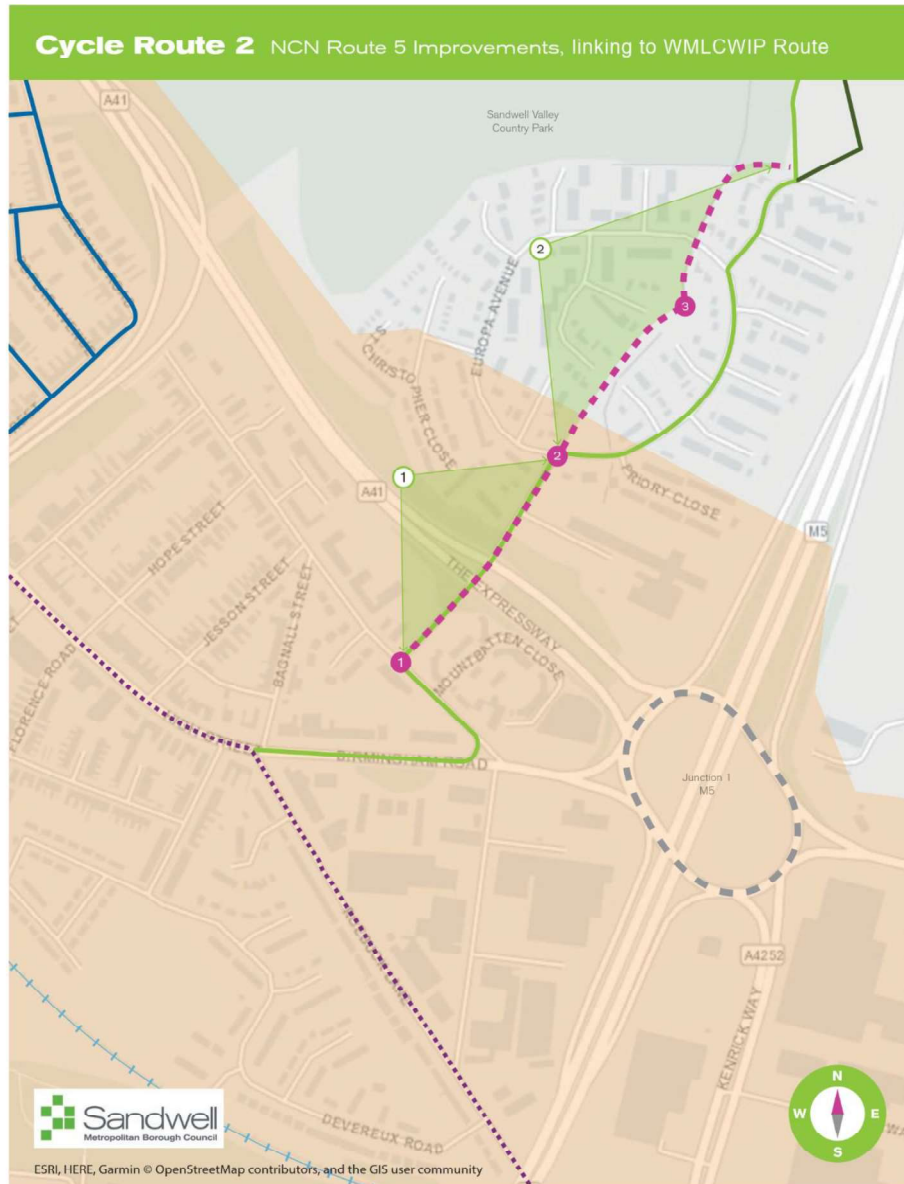
- The score for connectivity remained the same as no new links were identified by realigning the route

Figure 3.10 Route 2 RST scores

Criterion	Performance Scores	
	Existing	Potential
Directness	5.00	5.00
Gradient	4.89	5.00
Safety	2.67	4.01
Connectivity	1.65	1.65
Comfort	5.00	5.00



Number of Existing Critical Junctions/Crossings	8
Number of Potential Critical Junctions/Crossings	0



Key

- - - Cycle Route 2
- - - WM LCWIP
- Off road cycle route
- Existing cycle route
- - - Future transport scheme
- Multimodal corridor KRN
- Regeneration corridor
- + + Metro line

- 1 **Junction 1**
Change road priority.
- 2 **Junction 2**
Tiger crossing.
- 3 **Junction 3**
Raised table.
- 1 **Section 1**
Two way track on north west side of road.
- 2 **Section 2**
Widen pathway to create a segregated cycle path.