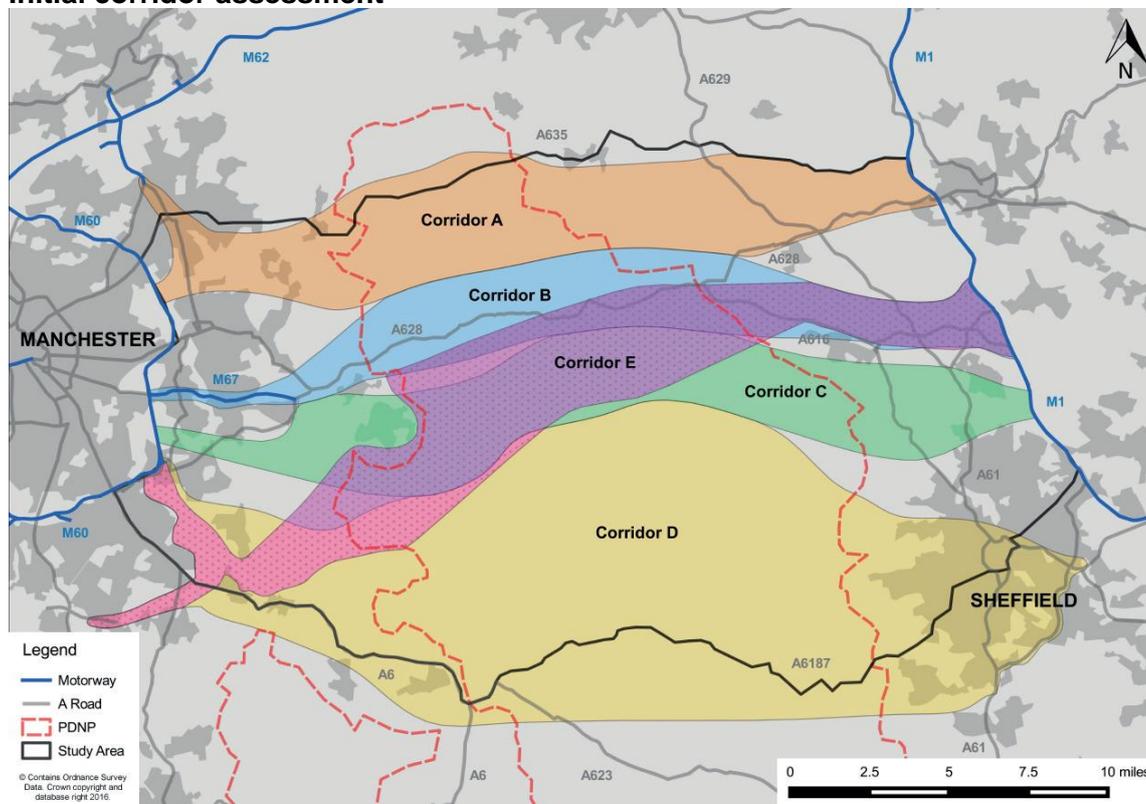


## Appendix One: Initial Strategic Route Option Assessment<sup>1</sup>

Through the 2015 study, potential options for a strategic link were developed. In line with government guidance, and in collaboration with stakeholders, an incremental sifting process (as described below) was followed.

### Initial corridor assessment

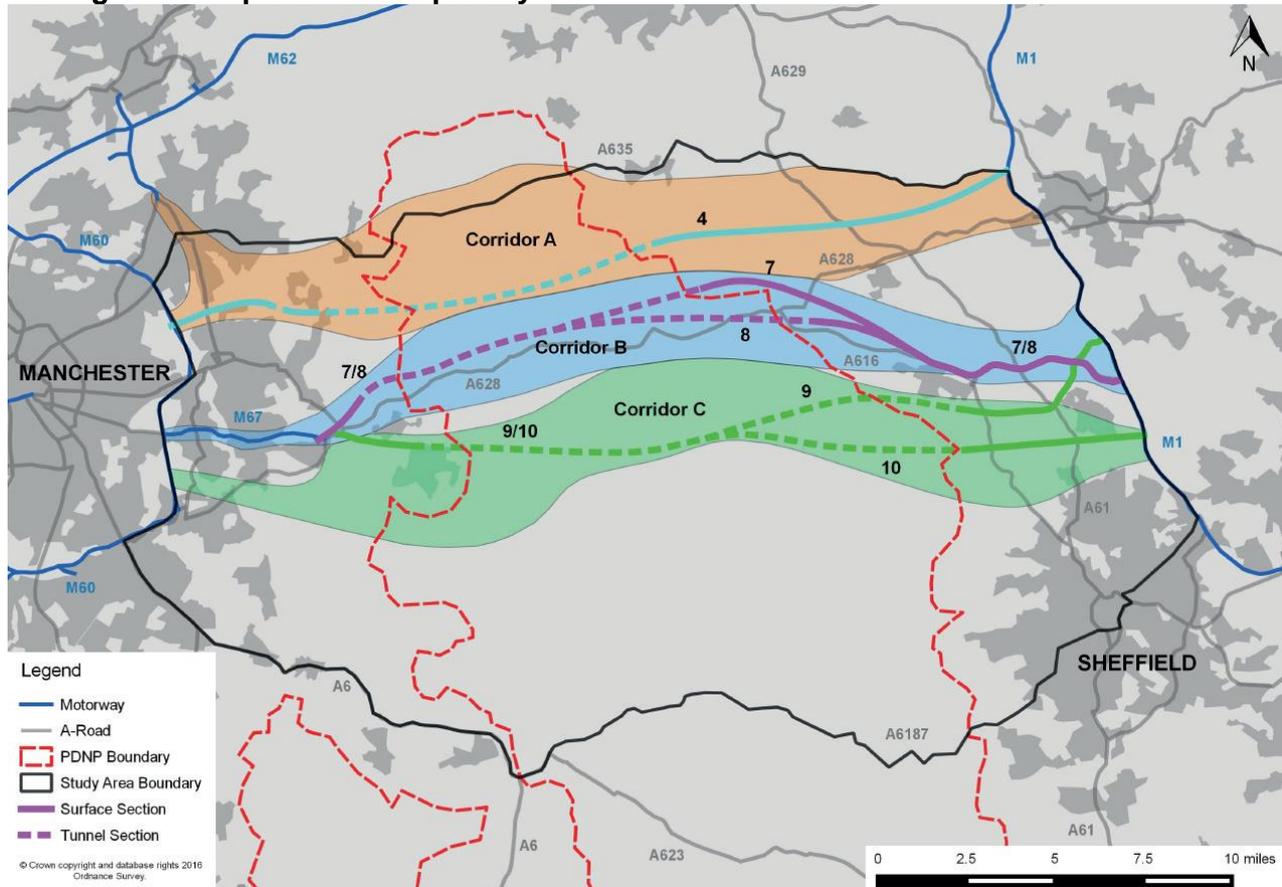


Corridors A, B and C were identified as the better performing corridors, including the fact that construction may be easier (with less environmental impact), take less time, require shorter tunnels and deliver materially more economic benefits. The initial sift also concluded that Corridors D and E scored

<sup>1</sup> Based on Trans-Pennine Study, Stage 3 report – DfT, HE and TfN (2016)

less well in terms of meeting the objectives of the study, so should not be prioritised for further assessment.

### Strategic route options within priority corridors



Route options within corridors A, B and C were then identified, including ideas suggested by stakeholders. 36 route options were identified and following a consolidation process that involved identifying routes with similar characteristics (for example, same start and end points, similar lengths and alignments) these were refined down to 12 distinct route options.

The 12 route options were then subject to a more detailed sifting exercise, in order to develop a shortlist of route options which could be assessed during the next stage of the study. Based on the analysis, it was considered that, whilst in some areas the differentiation was marginal in places, there were sufficient strengths and weaknesses between the 12 route options to refine down to five short-listed route options. The analysis concluded that Route Options 7, 8, 9 and 10 were the better performing options in terms of deliverability, providing a greater degree of beneficial impacts (particularly in terms of the strategic case and the impacts on the economy) and fewest adverse impacts environmentally (with some positive impacts within the Peak District National Park).