

# Notice of Consultation

## A417 Missing Link

### Section 47 Planning Act 2008

#### Notice Publicising a Statement of Community Consultation

Highways England is proposing to upgrade the connection between two dual carriageway sections of the A417 at Brockworth and Cowley, known as the Missing Link. The scheme comprises the following main elements:

- 3.4 miles (5.5 km) of new dual carriageway connecting the existing A417 Brockworth bypass with the existing A417 dual carriageway south of Cowley;
- the section to the west of the existing Air Balloon roundabout would follow the existing A417 corridor. However, the section to the south and east of the Air Balloon roundabout would be offline, away from the existing road corridor;
- a new crossing near Emma's Grove for walkers, cyclists and horse riders including disabled users, which would accommodate the Cotswold Way National Trail;
- a new junction at Shab Hill, providing a link from the A417 to the A436 (towards the A40 and Oxford) and to the B4070 (for Birdlip and other local destinations);
- a new multi-purpose crossing in the region of 25m wide to provide essential mitigation for bats and for landscape integration. It will also further benefit from accommodating the Gloucestershire Way and provide an improved visitor experience;
- a new junction would be included near Cowley, replacing the existing Cowley roundabout, making use of an existing underbridge to provide access to local destinations such as Nettleton Bottom and Brimpsfield. The use of the existing underbridge would allow for all directions of travel to be made; and
- the existing A417 between the Air Balloon roundabout and the Cowley roundabout would be repurposed. Some lengths of this existing road would be converted into a route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders including disabled users. Other sections would be retained to maintain local access for residents and replacement Common Land.

We intend to apply to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO), which would authorise the construction of the scheme under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act).

Before making our application, we have produced a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), setting out how we will consult with the local community about our proposals. Following our provision of the SoCC, we will carry out the consultation in accordance with this statement.

This notice contains a summary of the consultation details; **full details of the consultation can be found in the SoCC which can be viewed online, alongside our consultation materials at:**

[www.highwaysengland.co.uk/a417-missing-link](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/a417-missing-link).

**Please note:** At the time of writing, due to COVID-19, it will not be possible to host physical documents for inspection at local deposit points. Instead, Highways England will work with the host local authorities to make sure that copies of the consultation materials will be made available for inspection via their websites from **Tuesday 13 October to Thursday 12 November 2020** at the following online locations:

**Cotswold District Council website:**

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/>

**Gloucestershire County Council website:**

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

**Tewkesbury Borough Council website:**

<https://www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/>

**You can also view our consultation materials at on our virtual consultation room.** Due to COVID-19, Highways England is not proposing to host face to face consultation events in the local community. Instead, we will host a number of online events in the form of a virtual exhibition during the consultation period. To replicate public events as much as possible, topic specialists and members of the project team will be on hand to answer questions from members of the public at allocated times. The virtual exhibition room will be open 24/7 during the consultation period. Highways England will hold 17 web chats at a range of times and days, to include lunchtimes, evenings and weekends. The specialists will be available at the following times but you will be able to submit a question at any time during this consultation period via the virtual exhibition room:

Date	Time
Tuesday 13 October	11am – 2pm
Tuesday 13 October	6pm – 8pm
Friday 16 October	8am – 11am
Friday 16 October	4pm – 7pm
Saturday 17 October	9am – 1pm
Tuesday 20 October	11am – 2pm
Thursday 22 October	6pm – 9pm
Saturday 24 October	1pm – 4pm
Tuesday 27 October	8am – 11am
Thursday 29 October	2pm – 5pm
Monday 2 November	10am - 1pm
Monday 2 November	6pm - 9pm
Wednesday 4 November	4pm – 7pm
Saturday 7 November	9am – 1pm
Tuesday 10 November	8am – 11am
Tuesday 10 November	6pm – 9pm
Thursday 12 November	8am – 11am

The scheme will require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and therefore we are publishing a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report as part of the consultation material.

It also means that an Environmental Statement will be produced and submitted with the application in due course, anticipated in the first half of 2021.

#### Contact the team:

**Email:** [a417missinglink@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:a417missinglink@highwaysengland.co.uk)

**Write:** FREEPOST A417 MISSING LINK

**Telephone:** 0300 123 5000  
(this phone line is open 24/7)