

A417 Missing Link

**Public consultation
feedback questionnaire**

13 October - 12 November 2020





Introduction

The A417/A419 provides an important route between Gloucester, Cheltenham and Swindon that helps connect the West Midlands and the north to the south of England via the M5 and M4 motorways. While most of the route is dual carriageway, there is one section that isn't. Known as the Missing Link, this three-mile stretch of single carriageway between the Brockworth bypass and Cowley roundabout severely restricts the flow of traffic.

Why we're consulting

As part of the planning process, we're required to consult on changes to our project design before submitting our Development Consent Order application to the Planning Inspectorate. You can find out more about the planning process online at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>.

Since our consultation in autumn 2019, we've been reviewing all the feedback received. We've amended our plans in direct response to requests to improve local connectivity and accessibility, and to reduce the scheme's impact on communities, the environment, and the local landscape. It's now important you have your say and provide feedback on our updated proposals.

Your views matter

You can respond to this consultation in a number of ways:

- **Online:** complete the online feedback questionnaire at: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A417-missing-link/
- **Email:** email your response to: a417missinglink@highwaysengland.co.uk
- **Post:** send your feedback to us at: FREEPOST A417 MISSING LINK (the address must be written in capital letters and you do not need a stamp)

The consultation is taking place between 13 October and 12 November 2020. **It's important that you submit your response by 11.59pm on Thursday 12 November 2020. Responses received after this time may not be considered.**

More information

We've produced a consultation booklet to accompany this feedback questionnaire, which describes our updated proposals. You may also wish to read *A417 Missing Link; Responding to your feedback: public consultation 2019*, which summarises how the feedback we received during our consultation in autumn 2019 has helped shape our latest plans for the A417 Missing Link scheme.

The booklets and further information, including plans of the scheme and our *Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) report* are available to view on our website: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/a417-missing-link.

Hard copies are also available on request via a417missinglink@highwaysengland.co.uk or by calling 0300 123 5000.

If you have any questions, or would like to talk to the project team, you can visit our online exhibition at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/a417-missing-link and use its web chat function, or register via our website for one of our live Q&A events.

What we're consulting on

We're proposing to upgrade the single carriageway section of the A417 between the Brockworth bypass and Cowley roundabout. Our proposed scheme comprises 3.4 miles (5.5km) of new dual carriageway connecting the existing A417 Brockworth bypass with the existing A417 dual carriageway south of Cowley.

We've made some improvements and changes to the scheme, which will further enhance local connectivity and accessibility and reduce the scheme's impact on communities, the environment, and the local landscape. Now it's your chance to have a say on our updated proposals.

While we welcome feedback on the entire scheme, the changes we're seeking feedback on are:

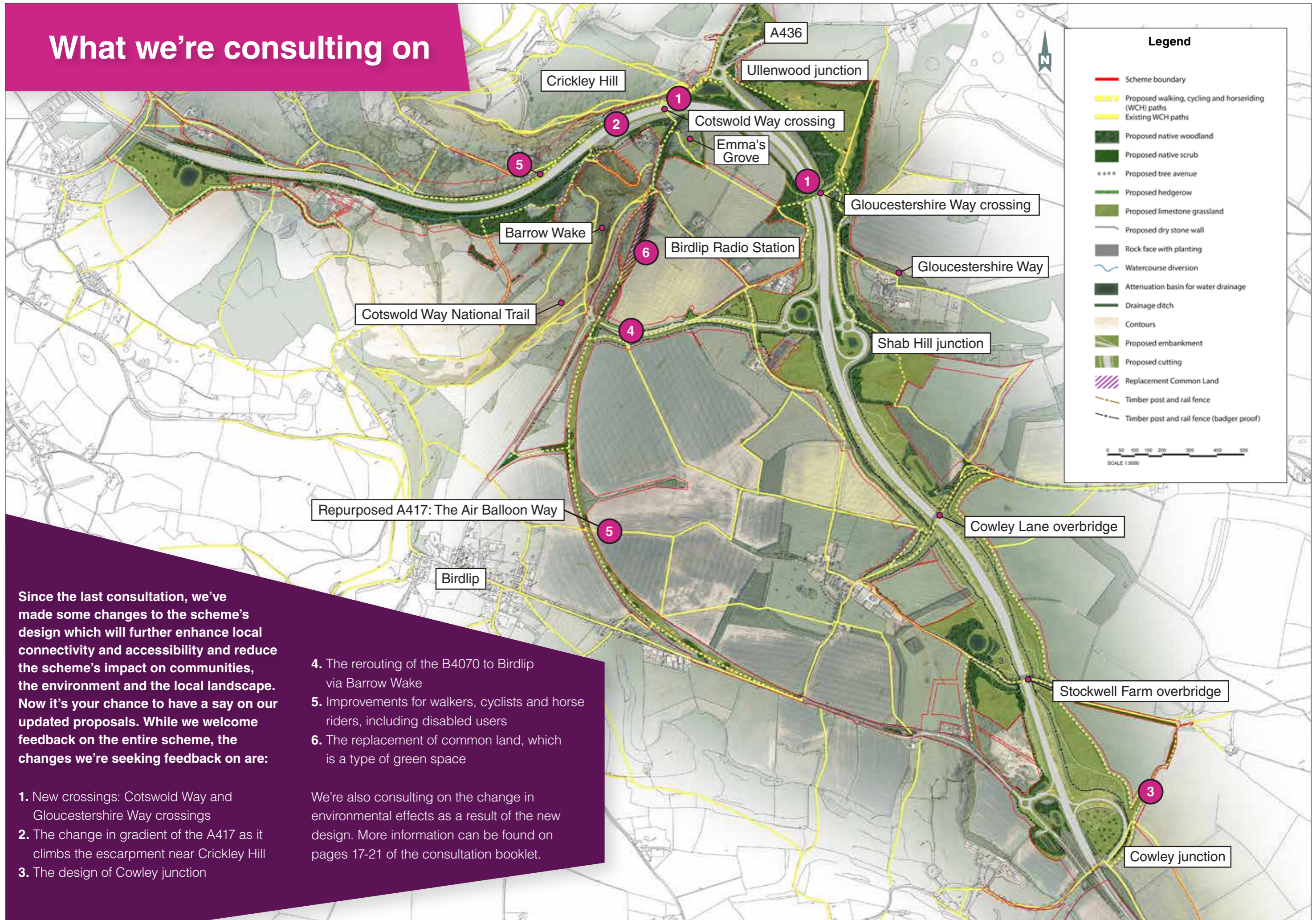
1. new crossings: Cotswold Way and Gloucestershire Way crossings
2. the change in gradient of the A417 as it climbs the escarpment near Crickley Hill
3. the design of Cowley junction
4. the rerouting of the B4070 to Birdlip via Barrow Wake
5. the improvements we've made for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, including disabled users
6. the replacement of common land, which is a type of green space
7. the change in environmental effects as a result of the new design

How to provide comments

Please tick one of the provided options to indicate your response. We've also provided feedback boxes which you can use to provide further detail to support your selection.

Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither support nor oppose	Support	Strongly support
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What we're consulting on



Since the last consultation, we've made some changes to the scheme's design which will further enhance local connectivity and accessibility and reduce the scheme's impact on communities, the environment and the local landscape. Now it's your chance to have a say on our updated proposals. While we welcome feedback on the entire scheme, the changes we're seeking feedback on are:

1. New crossings: Cotswold Way and Gloucestershire Way crossings
2. The change in gradient of the A417 as it climbs the escarpment near Crickley Hill
3. The design of Cowley junction

4. The rerouting of the B4070 to Birdlip via Barrow Wake
5. Improvements for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, including disabled users
6. The replacement of common land, which is a type of green space

We're also consulting on the change in environmental effects as a result of the new design. More information can be found on pages 17-21 of the consultation booklet.

New crossings: Cotswold Way and Gloucestershire Way crossings

Responding to your feedback, and with the benefit of new survey information, we're now proposing two key new crossings of the A417:

- **Cotswold Way crossing** - a new crossing in the region of 5m wide that would enable users of the Cotswold Way National Trail to safely cross the A417.
- **Gloucestershire Way crossing** - a new crossing in the region of 25m wide that would enable users of the Gloucestershire Way to safely cross the A417, without having to navigate the busy Shab Hill junction. It would also be planted with hedgerows to help bats and other animals such as badgers and barn owls cross safely.

More information on this section can be found on pages 8 and 9 of the consultation booklet.

1a. To what extent do you support the Cotswold Way crossing?

Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither support nor oppose	Support	Strongly support
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you explain why you've chosen this option?

1b. To what extent do you support the Gloucestershire Way crossing?

Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither support nor oppose	Support	Strongly support
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you explain why you've chosen this option?

The change in gradient of the A417 as it climbs the escarpment near Crickley Hill

At consultation in 2019, we proposed to reduce the road's gradient from 10% to 7% to improve safety and congestion but there were concerns about the impact of the required cutting through the escarpment, which at its deepest point would have been approximately 20 and 25 meters deep.

As a result of your feedback, and to conserve and enhance the special character of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), we're now proposing to change the gradient of the A417 as it climbs the escarpment at Crickley Hill to 8% rather than 7%. This will include a third climbing lane to help heavy goods vehicles climb the escarpment.

More information on this section can be found on pages 10 and 11 of the consultation booklet.

2. To what extent do you support the change in gradient of the scheme?

Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither support nor oppose	Support	Strongly support
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you explain why you've chosen this option?

The design of Cowley junction

Feedback received during our consultation in autumn 2019 highlighted concerns about safety and rat running at the proposed Cowley junction.

As a result of this, we've redesigned the roundabout at Cowley junction to prevent vehicles from accessing Cowley Lane from this junction. Access would, however, be retained along Cowley Lane for local properties, as well as for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, including disabled users.

More information on this section can be found on page 12 of the consultation booklet.

3. To what extent do you support the changes to Cowley junction?

Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither support nor oppose	Support	Strongly support
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you explain why you've chosen this option?

The rerouting of the B4070 to Birdlip via Barrow Wake

We're planning to reroute the B4070 to Birdlip via the entrance of Barrow Wake car park and along the existing road to Birdlip.

We're proposing a new, safer roundabout on the road leading to Barrow Wake, which will help slow traffic and deter large goods vehicles from using the road.

This change would see the road follow its historic alignment, improve safety, accessibility and natural surveillance of the area, and make Barrow Wake a more welcoming place to visit.

More information on this section can be found on page 13 of the consultation booklet.

4. To what extent do you support the rerouting of the B4070 to Birdlip via Barrow Wake?

Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither support nor oppose	Support	Strongly support
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you explain why you've chosen this option?

Improvements for walkers, cyclists, and horse riders, including disabled users

Both users of the Cotswold Way National Trail and the Gloucestershire Way currently cross the busy A417, which impacts on the experience of visitors to the area and locals alike. There's also a wider network of footpaths, bridleways and other routes with public access rights, which makes the area attractive to walkers, cyclists and horse riders, including disabled users.

We've been working closely with stakeholders, who have given up their time to help us develop proposals for a new and improved network for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, including disabled users.

More information on this section can be found on page 14 of the consultation booklet.

5. To what extent do you support the changes to public rights of way?

Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither support nor oppose	Support	Strongly support
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you explain why you've chosen this option?

Replacement of common land

The scheme will result in some loss of common land near Crickley Hill and at Barrow Wake. We're proposing to replace this with an area of new common land next to Barrow Wake which would be made up from the repurposed A417, north of the proposed new Air Balloon Way. It would be connected to the existing area of common land and Crickley Hill and Barrow Wake Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), be bigger than the area lost, and could be used for the same purposes.

As it's an area of common land, it would not be accessible to cyclists or horse riders. This would, however help protect Crickley Hill and Barrow Wake SSSI.

This location has been identified following an assessment, which is summarised in Chapter 12 of our Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) report.

More information on this section can be found on page 15 of the consultation booklet.

6. Do you agree with our proposals for replacement common land?

Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither support nor oppose	Support	Strongly support
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you explain why you've chosen this option?

Environment

More information on this section can be found on pages 17-21 of the consultation booklet and our Preliminary Environmental Information report.

7. Do you have any comments on the likely environmental effects that have changed since the previous consultation?

General commentary

8. Do you have any comments on any of the other design changes that have been introduced since the previous consultation?

9. Do you have any other comments?

About you

Please tell us your name and address. This information is optional but will enable us to update you on the outcome of the consultation and the next stages for this scheme. If you do not want to provide these additional details, please provide us with your postcode.

Name	
Email	
Address	
Postcode	
Are you an affected landowner?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, which organisation?	
How did you find out about the consultation? <i>Please tick all that apply</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct mail to your home/business	<input type="checkbox"/> Advert in the local press
<input type="checkbox"/> Facebook	<input type="checkbox"/> Twitter
<input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth	
Other, please state:	

It is important that you submit your response by **11.59pm on Thursday 12 November 2020**. Responses received after this time may not be considered.

Your data, your rights

On 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) became law. The law requires Highways England to explain to you – consultees, stakeholders and customers – how your personal data will be used and stored.

Highways England adheres to the government's consultation principles, the Planning Act 2008 and the Highways Act 1980 as required, and may collect personal data to help shape development of highways schemes.

Personal data collected by the project team will be processed and retained by

Highways England and its appointed contractors until the scheme is complete. In some instances consultation responses may also be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

Under the GDPR regulations you have the following rights:

- Right of access to the data (Subject Access Request)
- Right for the rectification of errors
- Right to erasure of personal data – this is not an absolute right under the legislation
- Right to restrict processing or to object to processing

■ Right to data portability

If, at any point, Highways England plans to process the personal data we hold for a purpose other than that for which it was originally collected, we will tell you what that other purpose is. We will do this prior to any further processing taking place and we will include any relevant additional information, including your right to object to that further processing.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioner's Office.



If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact: DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

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Highways England creative job number BRS20_0105

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Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ

Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363