

A417 Missing Link

The environment

We've designed the scheme in a sensitive way to reduce the impact on this special landscape and the natural and historic environment of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

We're carrying out a huge amount of surveys, assessing the environmental impact of the scheme, and identifying the measures we'll take to reduce any impact.

We're assessing:

- air quality
- cultural heritage
- landscape and visual effects
- biodiversity
- geology and soils
- materials, assets and waste
- noise and vibration
- population and human health
- road drainage and the water environment
- climate
- cumulative effects

Our surveys are ongoing. The results will be reported in an Environmental Statement, which we'll submit with our Development Consent Order (DCO) application and make publicly available.

While this process is ongoing, we're required to prepare and publish an interim report known as a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) report, which helps people understand the potential effects of the scheme and what mitigation we're proposing to minimise the impact of the scheme, before we submit our DCO application.

We published a PEI report in 2019 and at the time a number of concerns and issues were raised about the potential environmental impacts of the scheme. We've listened to your feedback, worked closely with our environmental specialists and tried to address them.

We've now updated the PEI report to reflect the improvements and changes we've made to the scheme since 2019. We do not anticipate that the design changes would introduce any new significant adverse environmental effects.

To view the updated PEIR report and a map showing the mitigation measures we're proposing, go back to the exhibition room and head to the consultation materials table.

Biodiversity

We're planting new woodland, grassland, trees and hedgerows to help preserve and create additional habitats in the local area. These new and improved habitats will be in keeping with the AONB, and have been carefully designed to improve habitat connectivity and biodiversity.

We've worked hard to maximise biodiversity improvements on the land we have available. We're continuing to investigate further opportunities to improve biodiversity with neighbouring landowners, and other off-site measures.

Integrating the landscape and habitat creation

- 7.2 miles of new Cotswold drystone walls
- 4.8 miles of new hedgerows
- 19.67ha of new native woodland
- 4.52ha of new scrub, e.g. small bushes and trees
- 14.9ha of new species rich, native grassland
- 68.45ha of new limestone grassland