

A417 Missing Link



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

At our last consultation, 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 up to 25m 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 near Crickley Hill to 8% rather than 7%.

By changing the gradient from 7% to 8%, we would:

- reduce the depth of the cutting from approximately 25 metres to approximately 15 metres
- reduce the visual intrusion on this special landscape and the road's impact on the Cotswold AONB and Emma's Grove scheduled monument
- reduce the effects on groundwater
- reduce the impact on geological features at Crickley Hill and Barrow Wake Site of Special Scientific Interest
- reduce the impact on valuable agricultural land
- reduce the amount of material that needs to be dug out and removed from site by nearly one million cubic metres – equivalent to the contents of approximately four Kingsholm Stadiums
- reduce the number of vehicle and lorry movements during construction and help minimise the impact on communities and businesses
- reduce the scheme's impact on local waste management facilities, as there would be less material to dispose of
- remove the need for around 1,200 metres of retaining walls, therefore reducing the construction carbon footprint of the scheme
- reduce the impact of the scheme on veteran trees in the area
- reduce construction noise for nearby properties
- reduce the construction period by up to six months, meaning less disruption