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# A417 Missing Link scheme

Summer 2020

## Welcome to the latest edition of the A417 Missing Link newsletter

### Project update:

Despite the ongoing pandemic, we've been working hard since our consultation last autumn to develop our plans for improving the A417 Missing Link between the Brockworth bypass and Cowley roundabout.

We've been reviewing all your feedback and we're continuing to engage with our stakeholders to develop our proposals, whilst working safely and following social distancing guidelines.

We're now using your feedback to amend our design to improve local connectivity, accessibility and reduce the scheme's impact on communities and the environment.

To do this properly and complete all the necessary surveys, we need some extra time and now plan to submit our Development Consent Order (DCO) application in 2021.

We're fully focused on delivering the best practicable solution for you and for the region, as established in the government's second Road Investment Strategy, published earlier this year.



## Thank you

We'd like to thank you for providing your views on the scheme, for the continued support of our proposals and for your patience during this time. Your feedback is helping to shape the A417 Missing Link.

## Design changes we're making

Following a detailed review of your feedback, we're currently making the following changes to the scheme. You can watch a video about these changes on our website at:

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a417-missing-link/>

## The gradient of the A417 as it climbs Crickley Hill

At consultation, we proposed to reduce the road's gradient from 10% to 7% to improve safety and congestion. Following feedback, we're going to change this to 8% and include a one-mile climbing lane for slow and heavy goods vehicles.

The benefits remain, but this will further improve safety and reduce the visual impact of the road, impact on local woodland and water courses, waste, traffic, carbon footprint, and construction time.

## The green bridge

Following feedback, we're looking at alternative solutions to the green bridge. Our aim is to identify an improved and more acceptable solution that continues to link the Cotswold Way National Trail, the Gloucestershire Way, and important wildlife habitats and cultural heritage sites.

## Barrow Wake

After considering your feedback, we're amending our plans and rerouting the B4070 to Birdlip closer to the entrance of Barrow Wake car park and along the existing road to Birdlip, improving safety, accessibility and natural surveillance of the area, and making it a more welcoming place to visit.

## Cowley junction

To address your concerns about safety and rat running, we're going to remove the proposed access from Cowley junction to Cowley village.

Access will be retained for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, and journeys to other destinations will not be affected.

## Walking, cycling and horse riding at Shab Hill junction, and between Brockworth and Crickley Hill

The repurposed A417 will enhance the enjoyment of the area and improve local walking, cycling and horse riding routes for all users. Following your feedback, we're also going to add a new, safe bridge crossing near Shab Hill junction, which will incorporate the Gloucestershire Way and act as a vital crossing point for bats, badgers and other wildlife.

A connection for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and disabled users along and between Dog Lane and Cold Slad Lane will also be added. This will improve links between Brockworth and Nettleton Bottom via Crickley Hill and the planned repurposed A417.



## Surveys

As part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application, we're continuing to carry out surveys along the route of the A417. This work ensures we're fully informed of the local environmental and archaeological landscape, and helps us assess how we can refine our design to avoid, mitigate or offset any impacts. We also need to undertake some additional surveys to help inform some of the design changes we're making.





## Our ongoing surveys include:

### **Water environment surveys**

We're surveying bodies of water like ponds, rivers and ditches to better understand the local ecology systems and wildlife. By assessing and monitoring areas of water around the A417, we're able to effectively minimise any impact our work might have on the local water-based wildlife.

### **Biodiversity surveys**

We're undertaking surveys of local grasslands and woodland to ensure we fully understand the landscape ahead of the start of construction works. We'll also be carrying out the early migration of bats and invertebrates, which involves moving any species we find to safe areas away from the scheme.

### **Archaeological trial trenching**

We're carrying out trial trenching to identify any archaeological remains surrounding the A417. These surveys involve our team excavating

pre-located trenches in the local area, and assessing the ground for any significant finds. It's important for us to carry out the trial trenching now to allow sufficient time for any required archaeological mitigation before we start building the scheme.

### **Agricultural Land Classification surveys**

We need to survey the land quality and soil profile in the area around the scheme to ensure we protect the land during and after construction.

### **Geotechnical surveys**

We're undertaking ground investigation surveys to allow us to analyse the geological and groundwater conditions along the A417. Using investigation techniques called trial pits and boreholes, we're assessing the ground conditions and continuously building our understanding of the landscape.





By clicking on the titles below, you can find more information about the surveys we are currently undertaking.

- Water environment surveys
- Ecology surveys
- Archaeological trial trenching
- Agricultural Land Classification surveys
- Geotechnical surveys

### Scheme timeline

Once we've refined our design and completed the above surveys, we'll update you all and give you a chance to have your say on the updated design.

We plan to submit our proposals to the Planning Inspectorate for formal examination in 2021 and despite this change in timeline, we're working towards a programme to open the road by the end of 2025.

### Keep updated

We're continuing to engage with our stakeholders to finalise our proposals. You can keep up to date with our progress by visiting our website, emailing us, following us on Twitter and/or Facebook.

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

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