Welcome to our latest update on the A417 Missing Link project

Consultation feedback
Earlier this year, we held our public consultation on possible routes for providing a solution to the Missing Link, a three mile bottleneck on the A417 between the Brockworth bypass and Cowley roundabout in Gloucestershire.

Around 800 people visited our drop-in events, and nearly 2,000 people and organisations gave us their thoughts on the routes we presented.

We’d like to thank everyone for taking part in the consultation and providing their views on our proposals. Your feedback will be taken into account and used to inform the selection and development of a preferred route.
Bringing the scheme to life
To help explain the need for a road improvement scheme and the route options we’ve been investigating, we’ve created some useful tools, which are still available.

Our fly-through video shows the route options we presented during the consultation. Many people commented that they found it useful to see a visual representation of how the routes may look, even at this early stage. You can watch the visualisation here.

We’ve also produced a short animation to explain the challenges of the Missing Link, and what Highways England is doing to help resolve them. You can watch the animation here.

The above videos and consultation materials can be found at: https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a417-missing-link/

What will improving the A417 mean?
Upgrading this section of the A417 to dual carriageway, in a way that is sensitive to the surrounding Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, will:

- reduce congestion, making journey times more predictable and improving road safety
- make access to local villages, towns and cities easier
- improve landscape and biodiversity through landscape and habitat restoration, and provision for a green bridge
- improve access for people walking, cycling and horse riding, including the Cotswold Way National Trail and the Gloucestershire Way, helping more people to enjoy them safely
- enable businesses to move goods and services around more easily and help staff get to and from work more quickly and safely
- support the predicted growth in jobs and housing by increasing the capacity of the strategic road network
Next steps
Over the next few months, we will analyse all of the feedback that we collected as part of our consultation and consider any issues that have been raised. This will then help us to select and develop the preferred route.

In recognition of the scheme’s complexity, we are also going to be working more closely with the Department for Transport. This will help to provide greater assurance for delivering a scheme that carefully balances the needs of the local landscape, environment and economy, while managing affordability and value for money.

As part of this we need to carry out additional engineering, environmental and economic work. We’ll be carrying out several surveys over the coming months so you may see people in the area carrying out various activities. This includes:

- groundwater surveys – our teams will use public rights of way to review streams, springs and other groundwater features
- ecology surveys – our teams will be carrying out surveys to look for a range of species that may be present on the site, such as bats, dormice, otters and reptiles
- unregistered land – our teams will visit areas of land that are not registered on Land Registry records to obtain further information on land ownership

We will contact you in advance if our team need to access any of your property.

Due to the extra work we are carrying out there will be some change to the scheme’s overall time-line. Details are below:

- Selection and development of preferred route
- Preferred route announcement
- Statutory consultation
- Development Consent Order (DCO) submission
- Development Consent Order (DCO) decision
- Start of works
- Open to traffic

After we have selected our preferred route, and before we submit an application to build the scheme, we will hold a second consultation to get people’s views on our more refined proposals.

For further information, please:

Visit our website:
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