

A417 Missing Link  
TR010056

6.4 Environmental Statement  
Appendix 7.4 Landscape  
Assessment Tables

Planning Act 2008

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)  
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**The Infrastructure Planning  
(Applications: Prescribed Forms  
and Procedure) Regulations 2009**

**A417 Missing Link**

Development Consent Order 202[x]

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**6.4 Environmental Statement Appendix 7.4 Landscape  
Assessment Tables**

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# Table of Contents

	Pages
1 Introduction	i
1.1 Landscape assessment	i
2 Landscape assessment tables – construction	i
2.1 LCT 18 Settled Unwooded Vale/LCA 18A Vale of Gloucestershire	i
3 Landscape assessment tables - operation year 1	iii
3.1 LCT 18 Settled Unwooded Vale/LCA 18A Vale of Gloucestershire Fringe	iii
4 Landscape assessment tables - operation year 15	iv
4.1 LCT 18 Settled Unwooded Vale/LCA 18A Vale of Gloucestershire Fringe	iv
References	v

## Table of Tables

Table 2-1	LCT 18/LCA 18A construction effects	ii
Table 3-1	LCT 18/LCA 18A operation effects – year 1	iii
Table 4-1	LCT 18/LCA 18A operation effects – year 15	iv

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Landscape assessment

- 1.1.1 The landscape assessment records the likely magnitude of change to landscape receptors as a result of the scheme. It does this by combining judgements on the sensitivity of the receptor group with the likely magnitude of change they would experience to determine the significance of effect of the scheme on each receptor.
- 1.1.2 The following assessment addresses the landscape receptor that are unlikely to experience significant effects as a result of both the construction and operational phases (year 1 and 15) of the scheme. Significant effects are reported in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual Effects (Document Reference 6.2), and non-significant effects are reported below.
- 1.1.3 Presented below are the landscape receptor which have been assessed but report no significant effects. As such they were removed from the main chapter (Chapter 7) so to present a proportionate assessment and focused on significant effects. The assessments below are provided for completeness.

## 2 Landscape assessment tables – construction

### 2.1 LCT 18 Settled Unwooded Vale/LCA 18A Vale of Gloucestershire

- 2.1.1 The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Landscape Character Assessment defines landscape character type (LCT) 18, with landscape character area (LCA) 18A forming the only LCA within the LCT. LCA 18A, therefore, covers the whole of LCT 18 and both can be considered together in combination.

#### Description

##### Key characteristics of the LCT and LCA

- 2.1.2 Listed below are a number of relevant key characteristics reproduced from the Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment<sup>1</sup>:
- *“soft gently undulating landform, with lower escarpment slopes forming a transitional area between the vale and escarpment;*
  - *Cotswolds Escarpment defines the eastern limit of the Vale and provides a dramatic backdrop to vale settlements and landscapes;*
  - *mixed arable and pasture land use with occasional orchards;*
  - *well maintained hedgerows forming a strong landscape pattern;*
  - *limited woodland and ancient woodland cover;*
  - *quiet winding lanes linking villages, hamlets and farms at the foot of the escarpment;*
  - *varied mix of building materials, including use of brick, timber and stone, and slate and thatch roofing, but with Oolitic Limestone still prevalent within the vale villages in closer proximity to the Cotswolds Escarpment;*
  - *proliferation of modern ‘suburban’ building styles and materials;*
  - *major transport corridors through vale;*
  - *rural areas bordered by large urban and suburban areas and interspersed with commercial and industrial uses; and*
  - *widespread network of pylons and transmission lines.”*

### LCT management and guidance (published)

- AONB Management Plan 2018-2023; and
- landscape strategy and guidelines LCT 18 Settled Unwooded Vale<sup>2</sup>.

### Description of section of scheme within the LCT and LCA

- 2.1.3 The construction activity would be localised to either side, and on top of, the A417 corridor in the LCT and LCA. The construction activity would comprise the general activities of a major highway scheme as outlined in ES Chapter 2 The Project (Document Reference 6.2), in addition to the main construction compound in adjacent fields to the west bound carriageway.
- 2.1.4 Construction access would be provided along a haul route to the south of the carriageway. Earthworks movements to create a landscape earthwork and excavate a drainage basin would occur in the location of the main construction compound and a new access track to Grove Farm would be constructed along field boundaries to the south of the mainline.
- 2.1.5 Trees would be felled along the existing A417 to accommodate the wider A417 corridor on the southern side, creating a more open character locally. Trees would be felled along the northern side to accommodate drainage and a layby.

### Landscape sensitivity

- 2.1.6 Combining the LCT and LCA's district value with its medium ability to accommodate change, they are assessed as having a **medium** sensitivity to change.

### Magnitude of effect

- 2.1.7 Combining judgements of an imperceptible size/scale of change over a small geographical extent, with a short duration and direct-and-indirect but partially reversible effects, a minor magnitude of effect to the landscape would be likely.
- 2.1.8 The scheme is therefore predicted to result in a **minor and adverse magnitude of effect** on the landscape.

### **Significance**

- 2.1.9 Overall, the level of effect on both the LCT and LCA is considered to be a slight adverse and a combination of direct and indirect effect.
- 2.1.10 For the receptor at this location the construction works are predicted to result in a **slight adverse effect**, due to a minor and adverse magnitude of effect on a landscape affecting medium sensitivity receptors. This would result in a non-significant effect.

**Table 2-1 LCT 18/LCA 18A construction effects**

<b>Sensitivity</b>	Very high	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Negligible
<b>Magnitude of effect</b>	Major	Moderate	<b>Minor</b>	Negligible	No change
<b>Significance of effect</b>	Very large	Large	Moderate	<b>Slight</b>	Neutral

### 3 Landscape assessment tables - operation year 1

#### 3.1 LCT 18 Settled Unwooded Vale/LCA 18A Vale of Gloucestershire Fringe

##### Description

- 3.1.1 Landscape characteristics and key guidance is as per the construction assessment.

##### Description of section of scheme within the LCT and LCA

- 3.1.2 The proposed A417 would follow the existing A417 corridor through the LCT/LCA, extending the number of lanes on the south side of the road. The proposed landscape earthwork and drainage basin would create new permanent features in the landscape.
- 3.1.3 Trees and coppices would be planted between road infrastructure and in neighbouring land to the south of the road to provide connectivity with existing landscape features but would not yet be functional. Neighbouring land would be restored to arable or pasture and local land uses would include new green features with tree and calcareous grassland planting to help reduce long-term effects of the scheme.

##### Landscape sensitivity

- 3.1.4 Combining the LCT and LCA's district value with its medium susceptibility to change, they are assessed as having a **medium** sensitivity to change.

##### Magnitude of effect

- 3.1.5 Combining judgements of an imperceptible size/scale of change over a small geographical extent, with a medium duration and direct-and-indirect and not reversible effects, a negligible magnitude of effect to the landscape is likely.
- 3.1.6 The scheme is therefore predicted to result in a **negligible magnitude of effect** on the landscape.

##### **Significance**

- 3.1.7 Overall, the level of effect on both the LCT and LCA is considered a neutral effect.
- 3.1.8 For the receptor at this location it is predicted to result in a **neutral effect**, due to a negligible magnitude of effect on a landscape, affecting medium sensitivity receptors. This would result in a non-significant effect.

**Table 3-1 LCT 18/LCA 18A operation effects – year 1**

<b>Sensitivity</b>	Very high	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Negligible
<b>Magnitude of effect</b>	Major	Moderate	Minor	<b>Negligible</b>	No change
<b>Significance of effect</b>	Very large	Large	Moderate	Slight	<b>Neutral</b>

## 4 Landscape assessment tables - operation year 15

### 4.1 LCT 18 Settled Unwooded Vale/LCA 18A Vale of Gloucestershire Fringe

#### Description

4.1.1 Landscape characteristics and key guidance is as per the construction assessment.

#### Description of section of scheme within the LCT and LCA

4.1.2 The presence of the proposed A417 would now be integrated into the landscape, enclosed by tree planting which has now matured. Visual openness that was present during construction and Year 1 of operation would now be more enclosed to a similar extent as the baseline situation. The drainage basin and landscape earthwork in the adjoining field would be integrated into a large glade of calcareous grassland, scattered with copses of trees and bounded by hedgerow and trees.

#### Landscape sensitivity

4.1.3 Combining the LCT and LCA's district value with its medium susceptibility to change, they are assessed as having a **medium** sensitivity to change.

#### Magnitude of effect

4.1.4 Combining judgements of an imperceptible size/scale of change over a small geographical extent, with a long duration and direct-and-indirect and not reversible effects, a negligible magnitude of effect to the landscape is likely.

4.1.5 The scheme is therefore predicted to result in a **negligible magnitude of effect** on the landscape.

#### **Significance**

4.1.6 Overall, the level of effect on the LCT and LCA is considered a neutral effect.

4.1.7 For the receptor at this location it is predicted to result in a **neutral effect**, due to a negligible magnitude of effect on a landscape affecting medium sensitivity receptors. This would result in a non-significant effect.

**Table 4-1 LCT 18/LCA 18A operation effects – year 15**

<b>Sensitivity</b>	Very high	High	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Negligible
<b>Magnitude of effect</b>	Major	Moderate	Minor	<b>Negligible</b>	No change
<b>Significance of effect</b>	Very large	Large	Moderate	Slight	<b>Neutral</b>

## References

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<sup>1</sup> Cotswolds Conservation Board, Landscape Design Associates, Oct 2002. Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Landscape Character Assessment [https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/3\\_TheCotswoldsLandscape\\_1.pdf](https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/3_TheCotswoldsLandscape_1.pdf) & [https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/3\\_TheCotswoldsLandscape\\_2.pdf](https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/3_TheCotswoldsLandscape_2.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Cotswolds Conservation Board, June 2016. Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategies and Guidelines. <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/our-landscape/landscape-strategy-guidelines/>