

Hello,

It has been brought to my attention that you are accepting late submissions, so I would please like to make a written representation if possible.

I would like to express my opposition to the scheme. Given the climate crisis we currently face and with the UK due to host COP26 imminently it is more important than ever to protect our environment and to limit carbon emissions and pollution; however this proposed scheme cuts through a substantial area of an AONB destroying the irreplaceable ecosystem, and will increase reliance on cars in the area leading to elevated pollution and increased carbon emissions which is contrary to the Government's target of cutting emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels and of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Investment would be better spent on improving public transport in the area to reduce reliance on the use of personal vehicles. The Government's Road Investment Strategy (for the 2015/16 – 2019/20 Road Period Presented to Parliament pursuant to section 3 of the Infrastructure Act 2015) identified this stretch of the A417 as needing to be upgraded; however this document was written in 2015 under the assumption that traffic growth would be indefinitely increasing into the future, however due to altered travel patterns triggered by the pandemic and the geographical effects of Britain leaving the European Union, the need for this new road should be reappraised. I appreciate that there are safety and congestion issues on this stretch of road however Option 12 would utilise and widen the existing road and subsequently could achieve the desired aim of improving the flow of the A417 without the widespread damage to the environment which would be caused by the proposed option.

Thank you for considering my late submission.

Kind regards,

Dr W. Rimington