

**To:** Harrold, George <[George.Harrold@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:George.Harrold@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: A417 Missing Link [TR010056] - Important email regarding your Deadline 1 submission

Dear George

Please find below.

Many thanks

Jane

The proposed Route 30 A417 scheme has in no way taken into account the enormous impact it will have on the Village of Cowley and the ANOB that it will destroy in its construction. As a villager of Cowley for over 5 years, I feel that we have consistently been ignored, dismissed and not listened to. Even from the very initial consultation meetings where Cowley did not even appear on the original planning maps. We will be the community that is impacted most by this scheme, yet at no point has a briefing ever been held for us. This alone to me seems incredulous when our village and local area are about to be changed and destroyed beyond recognition. Why was an initial consultation meeting not held for Cowley? Why has Cowley been side lined and ignored?

I believe that the enormous destruction of the current pristine countryside that will happen as a result of Option 30 can no way be mitigated. As a Biologist myself, I fully support the 42 questions that have been raised in ExQ1 section 1.3 and believe that for many of these questions there is no 'answer' or 'solution'. Areas on the edge of the carriage way are no replacement for biodiversity rich, historic woodland and virgin grassland. Where is the evidence that they will thrive biologically as the current land does? There will be permanent destruction of habitats that simply cannot be 'replaced'. Development of Option 12 would significantly reduce the impact on biodiversity and habitat loss. The National Biodiversity Network atlas shows that there are well over 3000 species in the area that is set to be destroyed, including three species of endangered bat. The impact of their habitat being decimated is without doubt going to be devastating in comparison to the impact of widening the road through the Option 12 scheme. I have seen no evidence of biodiversity surveys done on the bats, owls, dormice, voles, newts etc of the area and believe that this must be done. Why have there not been detailed surveys carried out on specific species, specifically those that are already endangered? This land will be changed beyond repair and species loss is a travesty in any circumstances but never more so than when it can be avoided. As a Biologist, a nature lover and an environmentalist, I cannot see any justifiable reason why we would devastate such incredibly beautiful, established and biodiverse land when the alternative is so much better environmentally. Why is biodiversity and impact on climate change not being given a higher priority in the selection of the route for the new road?