

A417 Missing Link TR010056

8.2 Suggested Location for Site Inspections

Planning Act 2008

APFP Regulation Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

A417 Missing Link

Development Consent Order 202[x]

Suggested Location for Site Inspections

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This document sets out a suggested itinerary prepared by National Highways (the Applicant) for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) to be carried out by the Examining Authority (ExA) during the Examination of the A417 Missing Link scheme.
- 1.1.2 The document has been prepared in response to Annex D of the Rule 6 Letter (PD-005) published on 30 September 2021, in which Deadline 1 (14 December 2021) includes a request by the ExA for:

'Submission by the Applicant, IPs and APs of suggested locations for the ExA to include in any Site Inspection, including the reason for nomination and issues to be observed, information about whether the location can be accessed using public rights of way or what access arrangements would need to be made'

- 1.1.3 The draft Examination timetable contained in Annex D of the Rule 6 Letter (PD-005) states that an ASI, if required, would take place in the week commencing 28 February 2022. This itinerary has been produced on the assumption that no restrictions will remain in place as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and a physical ASI will be undertaken. It is however possible that the ExA will elect to undertake a virtual ASI, in which case the itinerary will be followed using Google Earth and other visual materials¹. The Applicant proposes to keep this under review and will update the document if and as required.
- 1.1.4 Please note that if the ASI is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, the Applicant will endeavour to contact attendees beforehand. However, it is recommended that attendees regularly check the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) website.

2 Suggested Itinerary

2.1.1 The suggested itinerary and stopping points are set out in Table 1. This is accompanied by maps representing the route and the stops in Appendix A. The maps provided in Appendix A depict the route both with the scheme alignment overlaid and without (i.e. as existing) in order to aid orientation and understanding of the proposed route.

2.1 Notes about the proposed route

Start and finish points

- 2.1.1 The ASI itinerary is designed to provide an overview of the offline section first, beginning in the location of the proposed Shab Hill Junction, journeying to the existing A417 which is to become part of the Air Balloon Way, and commencing at Crickley Hill.
- 2.1.2 The proposed route has been designed to ensure the safety of all attendees and so minimises the need for right-turns.

¹ <u>https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-6-virtual-examination-events/</u>

- 2.1.3 The ASI will start and finish at Crickley Hill Country Park. Attendees could park at:
 - Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) coach/car park² (Crickley Hill); or
 - Crickley Hill National Trust Car Park (currently £2 fee per day³). Please note that this location also collect a penalty fee for unauthorised vehicles/unpaid fees.

Transport

- 2.1.4 On the assumption that there are no Covid-19 restrictions on attendees travelling together at the time of the ASI, the vehicle will be provided by National Highways. However, some of the locations will be observed on foot, possibly on uneven or wet ground.
- 2.1.5 It is proposed that a minibus (i.e. 17 seats including driver) is the most appropriate vehicle for the ASI. Spaces in the minibus for members of the public wishing to attend will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the vehicle is at capacity, attendees will be required to use their own vehicle to follow the itinerary, subject to confirmation by PINS.
- 2.1.6 Should there be changes to restrictions on travel or gatherings at short notice prior to the scheduled ASI, the itinerary and arrangements may need to be jointly reconsidered by National Highways and PINS.
- 2.1.7 There is limited parking at some of the proposed stop locations, should any parties in attendance choose to or are required to travel in their own vehicles.

Timings

2.1.8 The ExA will confirm the start and finish times of the ASI. Indicative durations of each stop (including travel from the previous point) are included in Table 1. The total expected duration of the ASI is approximately 6 hours.

Plans and Information

2.1.9 National Highways will bring relevant plans submitted as part of the DCO Application. This will be in either hard copy or electronic format and specific requirements can be determined in discussion with PINS nearer the time.

Attire

- 2.1.10 Attendees are advised to wear appropriate warm clothing, including sturdy footwear appropriate for walking on uneven or wet ground. Waterproof clothing should be worn in the event of inclement weather.
- 2.1.11 National Highways will provide high-visibility jackets to be worn by attendees.

Lunch and Comfort Breaks

2.1.12 A lunch break has been included on the itinerary and there may be an opportunity to purchase food or drinks during this break. However National Highways will not provide lunch during the site visit and all attendees are advised to bring their own lunch and other refreshments.

² Please note that consent of GWT would be required for use of their coach/car park

³ https://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/visit-crickley-hill

2.1.13 Comfort breaks are not currently proposed in the itinerary but will be available on request. There are facilities available at some stops along the route, including the Air Balloon Public House, Royal George Hotel and Crickley Hill Visitors Centre.

Land Access

- 2.1.14 Where private land access is required, this is detailed in Table 2-1.
- 2.1.15 Landowner details will be provided once the final route is confirmed by the ExA. National Highways will seek to make access arrangements with the landowners or occupiers, followed up by contact from the ExA.
- 2.1.16 National Highways will make every effort to agree access to land but depending on the landowner/ occupier this may not be possible in all cases.

First Aid Facilities

- 2.1.17 There are no first aid facilities on site, and it is assumed in the worst-case scenario that no intended attendees from National Highways are a qualified First Aider.
- 2.1.18 The nearest hospital with Accident and Emergency facilities is Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Gloucester, GL1 3NN (11 minutes west of Air Balloon Roundabout by car).

Key Site Hazards

- 2.1.19 A safety briefing will be provided by the Applicant. All attendees must follow safety instructions given by National Highways. All attendees are responsible for their own safety and must never act in a manner that might reduce the safety of themselves or others.
- 2.1.20 The following key hazards have been identified:
 - The existing A417 is a busy, high-speed road with restrictions on stopping
 - Some land parcels to be visited are active farms
 - The stopping points of the minibus may include areas of uneven ground and therefore care should be taken when stepping on and off the bus
 - Many side roads are narrow country lanes with limited visibility
 - Lay-bys on the A417 have limited space to accommodate vehicles. The bus will not stop in such locations unless it is safe to do so and use of hazard lights is advised.
 - Barrow Wake is an area which is known for anti-social behaviour and attendees are advised to be cautious in this location.
 - Site visit attendees may be approached by members of the public and/or landowners when present on site.
 - There is potential for poor or changeable weather conditions and attendees should be dressed appropriately for such risk.
 - Stage 3 Ground Investigation (GI) works are likely to have commenced on site. Liaison is therefore required with the Principle Contractor in advance, and sign-in will be required on the day.

Table 2-1	I Suggested Itinerary for Accompanied Site Insp	pection
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Stopping Point	Location	Indicative duration	Description and Purpose	Notes
A	Start Point Crickley Hill Country Park GL4 8JY	9:00 – 9:50 (50 minutes)	Attendees should park and join the group from the GWT coach/car park. A compulsory site safety briefing will be provided by National Highways. Attendees will then walk approximately 15 minutes to the following viewpoints from Sheet 1 of the Environmental Statement (ES) Figure 7.1 (Document Reference 6.3, APP-136): • Viewpoint 15 • Viewpoint 16 These will allow attendees to understand the landscape and how the scheme sits within it. Attendees will then walk back to the initial meeting point and then board the minibus (or own vehicles) situated at the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) Coach car park.	Agreement with GWT will be required beforehand for use of car park. Alternative parking provision is also available in the main National Trust Crickley Hill car park, however a fee (currently £2 per day) would apply and it would be subject to availability.
	Travel Time	9:50 – 10:05	Travel via A436/Seven Springs and Cowley toward	ds Stockwell.
В	Point between Cowley and Stockwell Farm	10:05 – 10:20 (15 minutes)	Travel to Point B would be via the A436/Seven Springs and Cowley to observe these locations in relation to the scheme. Stop at Point B to view and understand the location of proposed Cowley overbridge and overall scheme alignment in this area.	Please note that there may be limited capacity for parking at Stop B and it will require parking on a road verge.
	Travel Time	10:20 – 10:25	Continue south-west along lane towards A417	

Stopping Point	Location	Indicative duration	Description and Purpose	Notes
C	Stockwell Farm	10:25 – 10:35 (10 minutes)	 Stop at Stockwell Farm and view site on foot to observe and understand the location of proposed Cowley and Stockwell overbridges and overall scheme alignment and land acquisition in this area. Please note that the following viewpoints from Sheet 1 of ES Figure 7.1 (Document Reference 6.3, APP-136) are near to this location: Viewpoint 35 Viewpoint 38 	Please note that there may be limited capacity for parking in this location. Landowner consent to stop outside the property is recommended. If any access to private property is required, landowner consent should be sought beforehand.
	Travel Time	10:35 – 10:40	Travel east onto A417 from Stockwell and then we	st via existing Cowley Roundabout
D	Golden Heart Inn, existing A417	10:40 – 10:45 (5 minutes)	View site on foot to understand location of existing A417 to be repurposed into Air Balloon Way. Please note that Viewpoint 41 from Sheet 2 of ES Figure 7.1 (Document Reference 6.3, APP-137) is near to this location.	Recommended that consent is sought from the Golden Inn Public House to use their car park. A comfort break may be available here subject to final timings of itinerary, opening hours of the Golden Heart Inn and their permission.
	Travel Time	10:45 – 10:50	Drive through Birdlip via existing B4070	
E	Ermin Road, Birdlip	10:50 – 11:05 (15 minutes)	View site on foot to understand proposals for Air Balloon Way and relationship to existing Ermin Road. A short walk on uneven ground to an existing A417 layby is possible from this location. The drive to this location will also provide an opportunity to view Birdlip and the existing B4070.	Parking on public highway outside Clavell and Hind. A comfort break may be available at the Royal George hotel/pub in Birdlip, subject to final timings of itinerary, opening hours of the Inn and their permission.
	Travel Time	11:05 – 11:10	Drive through Birdlip to Barrow Wake via existing B	34070

Stopping Point	Location	Indicative duration	Description and Purpose	Notes
F	Barrow Wake	11:10 – 11:30 (20 minutes)	 Park at Barrow Wake, view site on foot to understand: Viewpoint and landscape context Views of existing A417 and understand alignment of proposed scheme. Existing Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) context Proposals for replacement Common Land Alignment of B0470 link road Links to Public Rights of Way (PRoW) in the vicinity Please note that the following viewpoints from Sheet 1 of ES Figure 7.1 (Document Reference 6.3, APP-136) are near to this location: Viewpoint 10 Viewpoint 11 	Please note that if visit is carried out unaccompanied, there are existing issues with anti-social behaviour at this location that visitors should be made aware of. It is advised that solo visits are not undertaken.
	Travel Time	11:30 – 11:35		

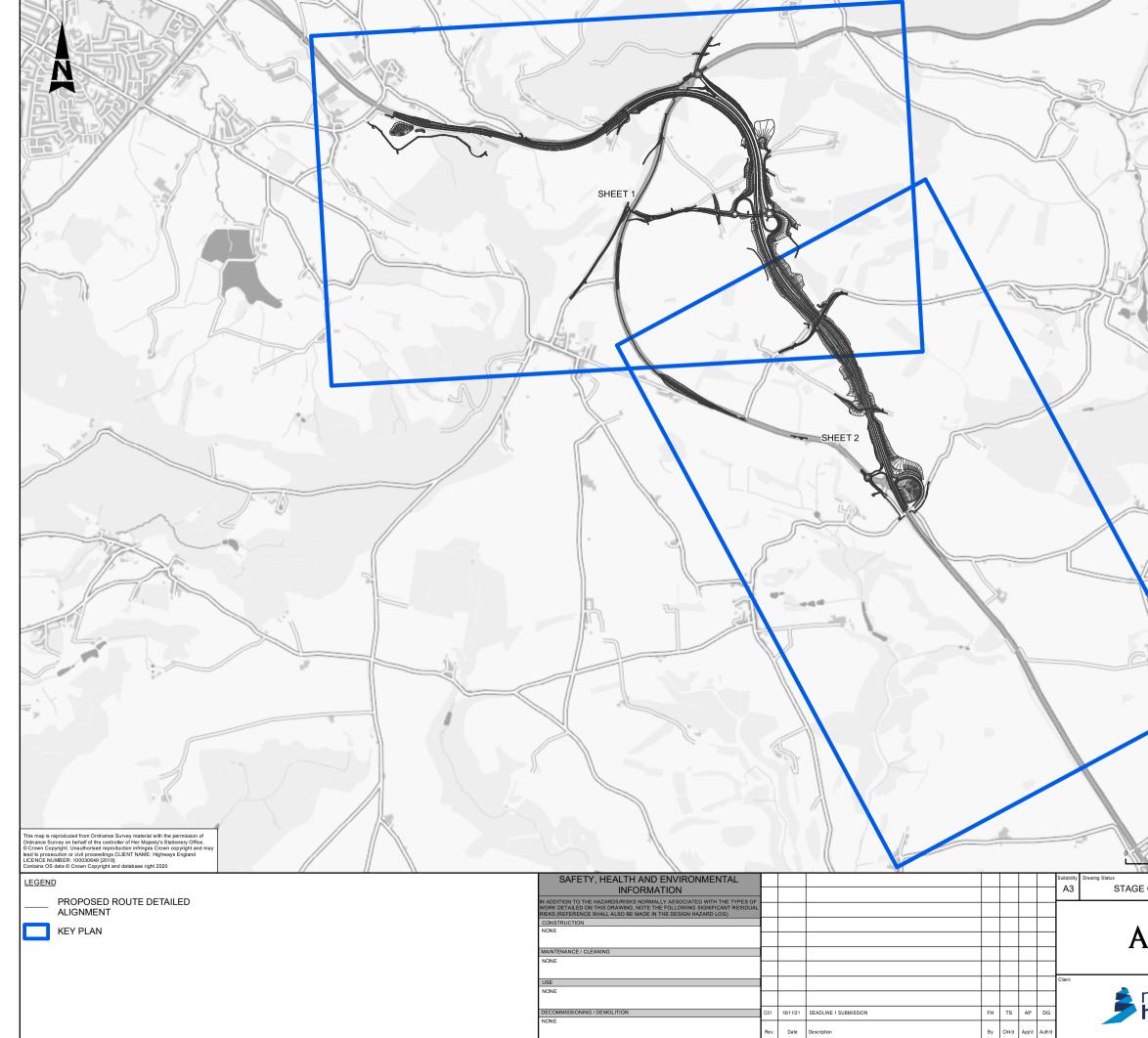
Stopping Point	Location	Indicative duration	Description and Purpose	Notes
G	Birdlip Radio Station area	11:35 – 12:20 (45 minutes)	 Park at Birdlip Radio Station and view site on foot to understand overall alignment of proposed Shab Hill junction and Gloucestershire Way crossing. Recommended sites to visit and viewpoints from Sheet 1 of ES Figure 7.1 (Document Reference 6.3, APP-136) in this location are listed below: Birdlip Radio Station Please note that viewpoint 33 is near to this location. Rushwood Kennels Please note that viewpoint 27 is near to this location. Existing Gloucestershire Way Please note that, following a short walk along the existing Gloucestershire Way, viewpoint 25 can be viewed. Barrow Wake House Shab Hill Farm Emma's Grove Please note that viewpoint 23 is near this location. 	Agreement with landowner will be required for use of car park. Access to properties in the vicinity of the Radio Station is also subject to prior agreement of individual landowners. Likely to be uneven ground in this location.
	Travel Time	12:20 – 12:30		

Stopping Point	Location	Indicative duration	Description and Purpose	Notes
н	Air Balloon Roundabout	12:30 – 12:50 (20 minutes)	 Park at Air Balloon Public House car park and view site on foot: Site of proposed Cotswold Way crossing 	Recommended that consent is sought from the Air Balloon Public House to use their car park.
			• Site of proposed Ullenwood Junction Please note that viewpoint 21 from Sheet 1 of ES Figure 7.1 (Document Reference 6.3, APP-136) is near this location at the entrance to Crickley Hill Car Park.	Note that access by foot onto section of existing Cotswold Way is possible from this stop, but requires attendees to cross the existing Air Balloon roundabout. This is a busy A-road and great care should be taken.
	Lunch Break	12:50 – 13:20 (30 minutes)	Refreshments for purchase and toilet facilities required (open 11am to 11pm Monday to Frid	
Travel Time 13:20 - 13:25	13:20 – 13:25	Via Air Balloon roundabout, join westbound A417 a this is a sharp turning and extra care should be tak		
1	Crickley Hill Tractors/ Grove Farm Underpass	13:25 – 13:45 (20 minutes)	 Recommended sites to visit and viewpoints from Sheet 1 of ES Figure 7.1 (Document Reference 6.3, APP-136) in this location are listed below: Grove Farm Underpass Please note that viewpoint 12 is near to this location. Grove Farm Cold Slad Lane Please note that viewpoints 13 and 14 are near to this location. 	Be aware that Grove Farm shows as Crickley Hill Tractors on Google Maps. Please note that there may be limited capacity for parking in this location and access is directly off the A417 – great care should be taken in using the access. Landowner permission for stop required.
	Travel Time	13:45 – 14:00	Re-join A417 westbound. Be wary of turning left or care. Travel west on A417, exit to Dog Lane via Be	
J	Dog Lane	14:00 – 14:10 (10 minutes)	Understand PRoW proposals in this area.	Please note that there may be limited capacity for parking in this location.
	Travel Time	14:10 - 14:15	Travel via Dog Lane and underpass to entrance to	FlyUp 417

Stopping Point	Location	Indicative duration	Description and Purpose	Notes
К	FlyUp 417	14:15 – 14:30 (15 minutes)	 View site on foot to understand: impacts on property Location of construction compound Alignment of 'online' section of A417 	 Please note that this site is a working bike park and caution should therefore be given to any hazards which may be present. Please note that there may be limited capacity for parking in this location. Landowner permission for stop required.
	Travel Time	14:30 – 14:45	Join A417 eastbound via Witcombe and travel to	Crickley Hill Country Park
L	End Point Return to Crickley Hill Country Park (GWT coach/car park)	14:45 – 15:00 (15 minutes)	View site on foot.	Refreshments for purchase and toilet facilities available at Crickley Hill Visitors Centre if required.

Appendices

Appendix A Maps of Suggested Itinerary



ECOMPLETED	Meters 1,200 2,400 Project Tile A417 MISSING LINK Drawing Tite ACCOMPANIED SITE INSPECTION:
	SUGGESTED ITINERARY PLAN KEY PLAN Scale 1:25,000 By FH Checked TS Approved AP Authorised DG Original Size A3 Date 18/11/21 Date 18/11/21 Date 18/11/21 Date 18/11/21 Date 18/11/21 Drawing Number Kervison Kervison Kervison







