

The Examining Authority (ExA) asked if any Interested Party (IP) had suggestions for further site visits.

*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;*

### **Gloucestershire Ramblers Request for further site visits**

It was noted that on the day of the the unaccompanied site inspection 14 Sept 2021, that visibility was greatly restricted by fog.

1. It would therefore seem prudent to revisit Barrow Wake and to repeat the walk past Shab Hill to Cowley Lane on a clear day to appreciate the wonderful open views and the countryside which are such a feature of walking in this area.

The walk could follow a route from Barrow Wake via Emma's Grove to Shab Hill and onto Stockwell Lane and ACY26 and ACY22 to Cowley Lane, then back along ACY 22, noting ACY 21 returning to Stockwell Lane and Barrow Wake via ORPA 50944 and Footpath ACY44.

2. A further walk would take in Dog Lane and the footway to the Air Balloon.

Park at Bentham in Dog Lane to the north of the current A417 near where ABA125 crosses the end of the dual carriageway.

Walk east along Dog Lane (the old A417) and look out for the ends of ABA80 and ABA84 on the other side of the A417, interpreting the 7% gradient of the A417 there.

Continue onto the footway alongside the current A417 heading towards the cottages opposite the Air Balloon noticing how the present road has tree cover. At Cold Slad Lane pause and view the step change in the landscape where the proposed new road would depart the present alignment.

Examine the proposed location of the Cotswold Way Bridge and pass the cottages to the gate where the Cotswold and Gloucestershire Ways currently emerge.

Cross the A417 at the Air Balloon note the alignment of the old road next to the wall, now a footway before entering the track to Barrow Wake.

Descend the escarpment viewing the alignment of the footpaths and bridleways to the south side of the current A417 before emerging along ABA125 to pass under the Bentham underpass and back to Dog Lane.

Continued

**Notes on ExA Preliminary unaccompanied site visit.**

There are (at least) two systems of Public Right of Way in the UK - PRow Public Rights of Way and Roads - Classified and Un-Classified. PRows are shown on a definitive map while Roads are described within a separate List of Streets.

A footpath can terminate at a road while a continuing footpath can begin the other side perhaps some distance along. Walking routes can therefore comprise both PRows and Roads. In this scheme boundary the Cotswold Way and the Gloucestershire Way use the road alongside the Air Balloon Inn. At this location the Ways use the verge separated footway alongside the carriageway.

**a) Stage 3**

The eastern extremity of the route followed has recently been fenced in where it leaves the woods of Emma's Grove. The route (on the ground) here doesn't follow the alignment on the definitive map. This can happen and the definitive map does have an update procedure which can be used when necessary.

However, should such deviations be noted within some part of the ExA note or even the DCO plans?

**b) Stage 4**

*'The ExA headed north-east on the A417 by car, stopping to view the setting of the National Star College.'*

Rather than A417, was this route the C377 (formerly B4070 and still signed in places) heading towards Leckhampton?

**c) Stage 5**

*'The ExA travelled to a prominent right-hand bend in the highway and commenced a walking route.'*

*'The walk followed a footpath that initially headed north-west along the edge of a woodland and then through agricultural fields up onto Shab Hill'*

There are ( at least ) two types of public access within the scheme boundary those following what may be termed PRow ( footpaths bridleways etc) and those following various classes of roads either along verges, or unclassified roads - some are sometimes termed green lanes.

The prominent right bend is part of an ancient cross roads. The road driven is, in Gloucestershire County Council terms, an unclassified tarmac class 4 highway numbered 40859 or U40859 in the proposals.

There is an unclassified road UCR proceeding straight on. It's a grass class 5 highway 50855 or U50855.

The ExA followed the grass class 5 highway to the left - U50853 in the proposals.

At this junction the finger post shows 'public path' rather than the more usual 'public footpath' or 'public bridleway' used for a PRow, to give some indication of a UCR or ORPA on OS maps Should the ExA note mention that this is a UCR rather than footpath?

Where the ExA noted the change from woodland to agricultural fields there should be a waymark on the right for Crickley Hill Circular Path pointing left down U50944 to Stockwell. This may not be fully apparent from the DCO plans. Would it be useful for the ExA note to mention this junction?

**d) Stage 6**

*'The ExA explored local roads before returning past Westerleigh Cottage in a westward direction back towards Stockwell. The ExA paused at the Stockwell junction, observing visibility and traffic conditions'*

Straight ahead over the junction U47251 emerges. It's the Old Cirencester or Roman Road from Birdlip, blocked to vehicles other than cycles and signed as a cycling route. It's also used by walkers and cyclists from Birdlip to reach the U40859 to Stockwell just followed by the ExA.