

In response to Table 2: Examining Authority’s general questions arising from the draft Development Consent Order (DCO)

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 1.11.24. Gloucestershire Ramblers  
**Rights of Way**

- a) Please provide a table listing all those rights of way and footpaths where you consider the proposed changes would not be beneficial and, where relevant, provide reference to any related conflict with the DMRB.  
 b) If there are elements of improvements or betterment, these can be drawn to the ExA’s attention.
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<p><b>Background Note</b></p> <p>Ramblers have campaigned here for over 20 years for through traffic to be removed from local roads (preferably with a tunnel) so that they become crossable and walkable again, the landscape remaining much the same.</p> <p>The aims for this scheme can be summarised as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep the Cotswold Way and Gloucestershire Way on their Authors’ line</li> <li>- Ensure safe footpath crossings</li> <li>- Retain the landmark Air Balloon Inn – a meeting place for walkers</li> <li>- ‘Green-up’ proposals for the new A417 in preference to applying measures to the current road.</li> </ul> <p>Currently some crossings have effectively become obstructed, during large parts of the day, as levels of through-traffic have increased over the years. Removing this traffic to a new road or providing suitable bridges or underpasses should bring them back into use.</p> <p>The proposed new A417 scheme permanently extinguishes a number of crossings which could be retained with suitable bridges or underpasses. Green bridges would allow connection for wildlife and contribute to the Net gain in biodiversity.</p>	<p><b>The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA112 Population and Human Health</b></p> <p>Section 3.12 lists diversions greater than 500 metres (0.3 mile) as major adverse impact. Diversions greater than 250 metres (0.15 mile) are adverse impact.</p> <p>Section 3.15 states  <i>The following mitigation hierarchy shall be implemented during design and assessment:</i></p> <p><i>1) avoidance and prevention:</i></p> <p><i>a) identify alternative design/route options that avoid the requirement to compulsory purchase property, land and assets; and</i></p> <p><i>b) identify alternative design/route options that avoid introducing or worsening severance and avoid reducing WCH provision/increasing journey times.</i></p>
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**Brockworth to Air Balloon Section**

<b>PRoW or Road Number</b>	<b>RoW type</b>	<b>Present Situation</b>	<b>Proposed Scheme not beneficial to walkers</b>	<b>Length of proposed diversion</b>	<b>DMRB impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
ABA 125	Bridleway	Links Bentham Lane (pre-1985 A417) to a number of footpaths and crosses A417 at end of Dual Carriageway using the central reservation. Crossing is little used at busy times as traffic volumes are effectively an obstruction.	Obstructed Crossing across new A417 to Dog Lane and FP ABA91 is extinguished. Diversion route is via private road to Bentham underpass and back along Dog Lane	1 mile, 1.6km	3.12 Major adverse	Provide bridge or underpass. A green bridge would benefit wildlife migration
ABA74, ABA77, ABA78, ABA80, ABA126	Footpath	All connect to Bridleway ABA125	Linkage to BW ABA125 diverted onto Private road to Bentham Underpass	1 mile, 1.6km	3.12 Major adverse	Ensure public access alongside private road to ABA125 crossing
A417 W-E	Footway	Southern verge of A417 links ABA125 ABA87 ABA84 ABA86	No linkage along proposed new A417.	1-2 miles 2-3km	3.12 Major adverse	Crossings along proposed A417.
ABA 84	Footpath	Connects from north of Crickley Hill Farm to A417. Crossing now only possible in low traffic levels.	Obstructed Crossing lost. Diversion via private road to Bentham underpass.	1.3 miles 2km	3.12 Major adverse	An ABA125 crossing may be sufficient.
ABA 86	Footpath	Connects from Cotswold Way Barrow Wake and drops to south verge of A417 and when quiet across to footway between Cold Slad and Dog Lane.	Obstructed crossing lost. Diversion to Grove Farm underpass. Change in use to Bridleway unnecessary - Bridleway ABA87 nearby	0.8 miles 1.2km	3.12 Major adverse	Nearby bat crossing should be usable for walkers.
ABA 89	Footpath	Steep wooded path to old quarry from ABA87 to ACY24 & Cotswold Way. Not aligned with Definitive Map but within access land.	Diversion to open field extending ACY24 north to ABA87 – gives a different walking experience.	Similar	Not part of new A417.	Retain ABA 89 Provide Both.
3/377	Footway	Footway on east side of the Leckhampton Road to Ullenwood	Change to a bridleway on the west side.	Similar	Not part of new A417	Retain, provide both.
A417 N-S Cotswold & Gloucestershire Ways alongside Air Balloon	Footway	Verge separated footway used by WCH to link Barrow Wake with FP ACO51, BW ACO117 Crickley Hill, the Air Balloon and crossing to FP ACY1 Emmas Grove	Landmark Air Balloon demolished - Loss of heritage and amenity, social receptor, employment. Flat route becomes elevated.	Similar	3.15 Avoid compulsory purchase by identifying alternative options	Build new A417 beneath Footway and Air Balloon car park - a 150 metre Wildlife Green Bridge.

**Air Balloon to Cowley Section via Shab Hill**

<b>PRoW or Road Number</b>	<b>RoW type</b>	<b>Present Situation</b>	<b>Proposed Scheme not beneficial to walkers</b>	<b>Length of proposed diversion</b>	<b>DMRB impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
ACO 16 Gloucestershire Way	Footpath	Links to FP ACO15 Ullen Wood, 50852 South Hill Barber Wood 50852 Barrow Wake and ACY3	Provide 37m wide green bridge crossing, but offline	0.2 miles 300 metres	3.12 Adverse	Consider 50 metre wide bridge on current line
ACY 3 Gloucestershire Way	Footpath	as above	Crossing is offline	0.2 miles 300 metres	Adverse	as above
50853/50944	Track	Part of popular circular Crickley Hill walk	No crossing	0.6 miles	3.12 Major adverse	Lower new A417 Provide flat Green Bridge to include wildlife
40859 Stockwell Lane ACY44 ACY26	Tarmac Lane. Footpath Restricted Byway	Green verge lane with avenue of Lime trees either side Flat access to ACY44 and ACY26	New bridge is offset, elevated with steps to ACY44 and ACY26. Loss of lime tree avenue. Road set high in the landscape	0.1 mile 100 metres	3.12 Minor Adverse	Lower new A417 Retain lime trees on Green bridge. (short tunnelling method)
ACY 26	Restricted byway	Follows alignment of veteran hedgerow with registered veteran trees. Latest plans show veteran trees in hedgerow are retained	Loss of part of a veteran hedgerow.	Diverting to other side of hedge	Minimal	Lower A417 and move away from ACY26
ACY 36	Restricted Byway	Cross field route from Stockwell to Cowley	RB extinguished. Divert to 40859 road and ACY26	0.5 miles	Major adverse	Include green flat bridge
ACY 21	Footpath	Path down from ACY22 to A417 at Nettleton Bottom	Field footpath lost. Change in use to bridleway.	no proposed alternative		Retain footpath with bridleway alongside.
ACY 22	Footpath	Wide Sunken footpath from Stockwell Farm towards ACY26 and onwards to Cowley.	section of green track lost. Change in use to bridleway to offline Cowley bridge.	0.1 mile	Minimal	Design green bridge on current line
ACY 22	Footpath	Open path from ACY26 towards Cowley	Change in use to Restricted Byway		Minimal	Change of use ACY45 Bridleway to footpath

**Barrow Wake Section**

<b>PRoW or Road Number</b>	<b>RoW type</b>	<b>Present Situation</b>	<b>Proposed Scheme not beneficial to walkers</b>	<b>Length of proposed diversion</b>	<b>DMRB impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
47282	Road	Access road to Barrow Wake car park used for views and as over flow and for parking away from viewpoint. The road is also Barrow Wake car park (70 spaces) and continues as the footway to the Air Balloon (30 spaces +30 overflow)	Proposed Birdlip Link Road Loss of approx 80 parking spaces together with loss of 60 at the Air Balloon. Could generate verge parking or on SSSI grassland, or in Birdlip.	3 miles to park at Nettleton but very few spaces	Major adverse	Retain as access road. Consider alternative route for link road to Birdlip. Retain Air Balloon facilities and parking.
50852	Road	Quiet Lane from Barrow Wake to Shab Hill used for WCH etc.	Loss of a quiet lane for WCH due to its use as the main Birdlip link road		Minimal	Route Birdlip link road direct to Birdlip junction.

**Betterment Table Birdlip Bypass**

<b>PRoW or Road Number</b>	<b>RoW type</b>	<b>Present situation</b>	<b>Benefit of scheme</b>	<b>Further improvement to the scheme</b>
ACY8, ACY18, ACY20	Footpath	Difficult crossings due to traffic volume on A417 Birdlip bypass	Remove through traffic to allow the road to become crossable and walkable.	Retain local, farm and bus access. A hierarchy of roads separates through traffic from local traffic.

**Attached Maps**

Page 5. Current Applicant 2021 Proposal with possible updates shown in colour - Types of PRoW are not distinguished

Page 6. OS map overlaid with 2019 proposals with 7% gradient. PRoW and UCR numbers added  
(Green= Current paths and tracks crossed by the proposed new A417, Yellow= Air Balloon site)



