

Further to my submission dated 12.01.2022 Submission ID 7273, I am providing a second submission containing photographs to demonstrate how National Highways plan to increase traffic on 'Cowley Lane' is unsafe for vehicles and more importantly for local residents, walkers, children, horse riders and cyclists. Please consider this as an addendum to Submission ID 7273.

One of the aims of the 'Missing Link' is to reduce rat-running on local villages. However, as per document TR10056 8.3 Responses to Relevant Representations Volume 8 December 2021 Section 2.9.4 National Highways have changed their plans, without consultation, which will result in more traffic on 'Cowley Lane'.

'Cowley Lane' is a single-track lane, with limited passing places, no pavements, and in places it does not have any verges or places where pedestrians, or any road users on foot, hoof or cycle, can get out of the way of vehicles. It has a 60mph limit; it is already used as rat run for vehicles to access the A419 off the A435 and A436, and due to its long straight stretches some vehicles drive very fast along it.

Consequently, the edges of the lane have been gauged out in places where vehicles try to squeeze past each other rather than reversing relatively long distances to a suitable passing place. Where the lane has been gauged out it creates a falling off of the side of the lane, which is often where pedestrians have to step into in order to let vehicles pass. These are unsafe, deep in mud and usually coursing with water.

Please find below photographs which demonstrate how narrow the lane is in places and where some edges have been gauged out, creating gullies, where vehicles have squeezed past each other.

Question:

Is the Inspectorate satisfied that this route could sustain an increase of vehicles of more than 1000% as per National Highways revised plans?







Another concerning aspect of directing more traffic onto this lane, is the junction where it meets the centre of Cowley village. This junction is a notorious spot where drivers travelling down Cowley Lane (east to west) frequently don't stop properly, and frequently pull straight out into the path of vehicles approaching from the right.

There is also a safety issue of vehicles approaching the junction from west to east: many don't stop on the corner to check for cars travelling down the hill from the left. They often cut straight across the lane and turn right without due care and attention, so often pull across in front of vehicles coming down the hill from the left. These two scenarios are always worse in the morning and afternoon peak traffic times.

I have even witnessed a driver, travelling east to west, who had stopped to wait for a vehicle from the left before turning right. A second car drove up behind them, drove around them, and turned right straight across the junction directly in front of the vehicle approaching from the left.

Below are photos to show the junction.

Questions:

- Is the Inspectorate satisfied that National Highways change of plan to push more traffic onto Cowley Lane satisfies the objective of reducing traffic on Cowley Wood Lane which National Highways agreed would lead to *an increase in traffic would cause disruption in Cowley village* " " [TR10056 8.3 Section 2.15.16]?
- Is the Inspectorate satisfied that by pushing more traffic from Cowley Wood Lane to Cowley lane, that National Highways haven't just moved a problem from one part of the village to another?

- Is the Inspectorate satisfied that an increase of traffic on this lane and increased rat running through Cowley meets the objective of reducing rat running through local villages?
- Is the Inspectorate satisfied that Cowley Lane is a suitable road for directing and increase in traffic of over 1000%?



Cowley Lane junction at the centre of Cowley village, approaching from west to east



Cowley Lane junction at the centre of Cowley village, approaching from east to west