

## **Issue : Lack of Consideration for the Impact of the A417 Missing Link on Local Residents**

The ExA is already aware of Cowley residents' concerns about NH's lack of communication and consultation with the village.

Many residents are also very concerned about the accuracy of NH's traffic data and modelling for Cowley Lane, and very concerned about the amount of traffic NH forecast will drive through this small village, that is entirely unsuitable and unsafe for increased traffic, once the A417 Missing Link is open.

Furthermore, many villagers believe rat-running from the A4136/A435 through Cowley will increase and not decrease as claimed by NH once the Missing Link is completed. See below.

Cowley is a very small village of under 50 properties. However it also has the boutique hotel Cowley Manor situated in its centre, the Green Dragon shop and pub, and The Girl Guides HQ used for camping and Rainbows, Brownies, and Girl Guide camping and activities, all of which have residents, and attract visitors who walk through Cowley (often with their dogs). We also have Cotswold Alpacas who offer alpaca walking experiences along the lanes and through the village. In addition, as a unique Cotswold village with many footpaths in an AONB and SSI we have many walkers and DofE teenagers who come to Cowley solely for its walking routes. As well as horse riders, cyclists, and local hunt groups.

We are a close-knit village that cares for its surrounding environment, cares for its community, and cares for those who use it. We strongly feel that NH have failed to communicate the increased predicted traffic in a cohesive or formal manner – *if it weren't for some residents being Interested Parties and taking the time to try to protect our village, we wouldn't have known about this very significant proposed change and its potential impact on road safety in our community until after the event.*

Many of us feel very strongly that NH have tried to brush us aside, without due consultation and consideration, believing that our safety, our homes, and our wellbeing, as well as the people who visit Cowley to enjoy the local scenery and walking, don't matter because we are "only" a small community and therefore immaterial and irrelevant.

We also share similar concerns to Leckhampton and Warden Hill about the lack of consultation and mitigation proposed by NH for the increased traffic on our local roads, and the consequent increase in accidents (which is quite the opposite of one of the aims of the Missing Link which is to reduce accidents).

## **Issue : NH's Cowley AADT Data Age and Modelling Queries**

NH have supplied their Cowley AADT data, which was obtained from 6<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> October 2015, and their forecast data for 2041 (A417 Missing Link TR010056 8.21 Comments on Responses received by Deadline 2).

The 2015 data of 125 cars on Cowley Lane is lower than the average data collected by Cowley villagers in January 2022 – see Table 1 (and supplied with more detail on 04/02 by

Richard Hamilton TR010056-001400); and their PM traffic flow data is much lower than recent counts. Therefore, we suggest that their Cowley Wood lane data counts are also out-of-date and the forecast data for Cowley Lane in 2041 will be higher if using current data.

In addition, NH's modelling forecasts absolutely traffic on Cowley Lane at off-peak times (Table B-5). We would strongly question the validity of such modelling which doesn't account for villagers using the lane; food, oil, wood, and online shopping deliveries to residents; business deliveries and visitors to Cowley Manor, The Green Dragon Pub and Shop, and the Girl Guides Centre; and agricultural vehicles using the lane during off-peak periods.

#### Questions:

- ***Based on Cowley villagers' recent traffic data, is the ExA satisfied that the Applicant's 2015 traffic data, which is now almost 6.5 years old, is an adequate portrayal of current traffic volumes through Cowley? Would the ExA agree that new traffic counts and modelling needs to be run for Cowley village?***
- ***Is the ExA satisfied with the accuracy of NH's modelling, particularly based on the fact that they unrealistically predict no traffic during off-peak periods?***
- ***Based on Cowley residents' data provided at Deadline 3, is the ExA satisfied that NH have taken into account the safety of other road users, namely walkers, horse riders and cyclists, on Cowley Lane?***
- ***As per the Joint Council's Local Impact Report (December) Para 3.1.5 states that NH should provide more information to demonstrate how the impacts associated with the traffic increases on the local road network can be mitigated and how these measures would be secured and implemented. Is the ExA satisfied that this will be executed by NH?***

#### **Issue : Future Rat Running Through Cowley Village**

As stated in a previous submission, based on local knowledge and experience, many villagers believe rat running from the A435 and A436 through Cowley to the A417 will increase and not reduce as per NH's forecasts.

The A436 from Severn Springs to the A417 is (and will remain) a single carriage way with a 50mph limit. However, speed on this route is often much slower due to the volume of HGVs and also farm traffic that traverse this route.

Consequently, we foresee that, as A417 traffic volumes increase, the A436 route will become even slower due to more HGVs using it and therefore more traffic will drive through Cowley and use Cowley Lane as a short cut to the A417. This situation is accentuated by the fact that we have 4 other entry points into the village to enable vehicles to quickly access the A417 at peak times.

#### Questions:

- ***What modelling scenario has the Applicant used to forecast reduced rat running and traffic data so significantly in Cowley after the A417 Missing Link has been***

*completed? Or has this just been made on an assumption and wishful thinking? Is the ExA satisfied that this has been robustly modelled and tested (particularly when we know NH have very unrealistically forecast no traffic at off-peak times)?*

- *As per my last submission, I would also like to ask again as to what traffic and rat run mitigation has been put in place should the Shab Hill exit onto the A417 be shut due to bad weather or an accident? What will stop traffic for all routes using neighbouring villages (particularly Cowley and Leckhampton) from being used by ALL traffic trying to access the A417 both southbound and west bound?*
- *Is the ExA satisfied that NH have accommodated for the safety of other road users on a single carriage way, with a 60mph speed limit and no passing places apart from private gateways and verges?*

#### **Issue : Micro-climate Safety Concerns Remain Unanswered by NH**

In their written responses in Deadline 3, I still cannot see any answer from the Applicant to the ExA's question regarding times during the year when climatic conditions reduce actual speed and if any scenario testing has been one to test this. And if this would affect the route. This question was raised by Mr Stone during the January hearings but wasn't answered.

#### **Questions:**

- **Is the ExA satisfied that the Applicant has adequately considered the microclimatic conditions of Option 30, and its consequent speed and safety implications? Particularly when this was expressly referred to during a meeting attended by Cllr Knox in December 2021.**
- **Can the ExA be advised as to whether this "volatile microclimate" could reduce journey times on Option 30 to journey times like those achieved on Option 12?**

<b>Cowley Village, Road User Survey</b>				
<i>Study carried out by residents during period 28th-31st January 2022, Cowley Lane</i>				
National Highways Current Daily Count		<b>18</b>		
National Highways Projected Count		<b>118</b> (revised down 27/01/2022)		
<b>Friday 28th Jan</b>	<b>Car</b>	<b>Horses</b>	<b>Pedestrians</b>	<b>Cyclists</b>
12:00 - 13:00	6			
13:00 - 14:00	8	2	5	1
14:00 - 15:00	9		1	
15:00 - 16:00	34		2	
16:00 - 17:00	14			
17:00 - 18:00	42	2		
18:00 - 19:00	14			
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Time Period 7hrs</i>				
<i>Average per hour</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>0.57</i>	<i>1.14</i>
				<i>0.14</i>
<b>Saturday 29th Jan</b>	<b>Car</b>	<b>Horses</b>	<b>Pedestrians</b>	<b>Cyclists</b>
08:00-9:00	5		3	
09:00-10:00	10		1	6
10:00-11:00	10	2	10	
11:00-12:00	10	1	1	
12:00-13:00	11	1	4	
13:00-14:00	9	3	15	
14:00-15:00	11		9	
15:00-16:00	4		12	1
16:00-17:00	6		6	2
17:00-18:00	9			
18:00-19:00	8		2	
19:00-20:00	1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Time Period 12 hours</i>				
<i>Average per hour</i>		<i>7.8</i>	<i>0.58</i>	<i>5.25</i>
				<i>0.75</i>
<b>Sunday 30th Jan</b>	<b>Car</b>	<b>Horses</b>	<b>Pedestrians</b>	<b>Cyclists</b>
08:00-9:00	4			
09:00-10:00	9	2		4
10:00-11:00	8			
11:00-12:00	24	1	7	2
12:00-13:00	38	1	52	4
13:00-14:00	14		3	
14:00-15:00	18	2	9	2
15:00-16:00	41		21	3
16:00-17:00	19		11	
17:00-18:00	8			
18:00-19:00	7			
19:00-20:00	2			
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>Time Period 12 hours</i>				
<i>Average per hour</i>		<i>16</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>8.58</i>
				<i>1.25</i>
<b>Monday 31st Jan</b>	<b>Car</b>	<b>Horses</b>	<b>Pedestrians</b>	<b>Cyclists</b>
07:00-08:00	3		1	
08:00-9:00	19			
09:00-10:00	17		2	1
10:00-11:00	12	1	6	2
11:00-12:00	6	2	2	
12:00-13:00	9		3	1
13:00-14:00	11			
14:00-15:00	13		2	3
15:00-16:00	8			
16:00-17:00	16			
17:00-18:00	29			
18:00-19:00	9			
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>Time Period 12 hours</i>				
<i>Average per hour</i>		<i>12.6</i>	<i>0.25</i>	<i>1.33</i>
				<i>0.58</i>

Table 1 Cowley Village Road User Survey 28-31 January 2022