



# The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

## **The Planning Act 2008**

### **Application for Development Consent for the A417 Missing Link**

Application ref: TR010056

### **Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI3) incorporating Access Required Site Visits**

*1 March 2022, 09:00 to 12:00*

Both Members of The Examining Authority (ExA), Kenneth Stone and David Wallis, together with the Case Manager for the application, George Harrold, undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI3) which incorporated Access Required Site Visits (ARSV). This note is a brief record to inform the Applicant, Interested Parties and other parties of the actions taken by the ExA. For the avoidance of doubt, the ARSVs comprised access to areas of private land which was facilitated by prior arrangement and through obtained landowner consent.

The ExA used a combination of driving and walking routes to experience and record the local area, the details of which are broadly summarised below.

The weather was stable, with high cloud and moderate visibility throughout the visit. There was no rain, with moderate winds in places.

The following is a summary of the visit.

## **Stage 1**

09:10 – 10:20

The ExA travelled west along the A436 towards the Air Balloon Roundabout, turned right up Leckhampton Road, and then into Ullenwood Manor Road to access the grounds of the National Star College. For safety and security reasons only, the ExA was escorted by facilities management personnel around the external grounds of the college with occasional internal access granted to enable efficient movement around the site, observe teaching facilities and accommodation areas.

External spaces at the college for its various activities and enterprises were also observed from footpaths within the college estate, as well as the longer views towards the A436, the Air Balloon Roundabout and Leckhampton Hill. The areas subject to requests for compulsory acquisition and temporary possession powers were observed both from within the college grounds and from Leckhampton Hill.

## **Stage 2**

10:25 – 11:30

The ExA travelled by car down Leckhampton Hill, across the Air Balloon Roundabout and south onto the A417. The car journey continued from the Birdlip turning to Barrow Wake car park, under the A417 and along the track to Shab Hill Farm. The ExA entered land belonging to Shab Hill Farm and proceeded on foot to explore the farm and its surroundings, principally focused on the beech tree copse and land said to be within environmental stewardship. This included a climb up from the copse into the field adjoining the Birdlip Radio Station.