

A417 Missing Link
TR010056

1.1a Introduction to the Application
(Rev 6)

Planning Act 2008

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009

Volume 1

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Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009**

A417 Missing Link

Development Consent Order 202[x]

Introduction to the Application (Rev 6)

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 Highways England (the Applicant) has submitted an application (DCO Application) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) for an order to grant development consent (DCO) for the A417 Missing Link (the scheme).
- 1.1.2 This document provides an accessible guide to the scheme, Applicant and application, and it will assist those in reviewing the application documentation.
- 1.1.3 This document will be updated during the Examination of the scheme to reflect any new documents submitted by the Applicant. This version of the document is correct as of Deadline 76 of the Examination, ~~1130 March~~ April 2022.

1.2 Structure of this document

- 1.2.1 This document comprises 12 chapters as described below:
- Chapter 1 - introduces this document
 - Chapter 2 - provides a high-level description of the proposed scheme
 - Chapter 3 - introduces the Applicant
 - Chapter 4 - gives an overview of the application documentation
 - Chapter 5 to 12 - these sections explain the purpose of each of the documents submitted
 - Chapter 13 - a list of defined terms and abbreviations used within the DCO Application.
- 1.2.2 An Application Document Tracker is provided alongside this document (Document Reference 1.1b) in order to help the Examining Authority and interested parties understand the application as it evolves through examination by identifying the latest version of any application document.

2 The scheme

2.1 Scheme overview

- 2.1.1 The A417/A419 is a strategic route between Gloucester and Swindon that provides an important link between the Midlands/North and South of England. The route is an alternative to the M5/M4 route via Bristol. The section of the A417 near Birdlip, known as the 'Missing Link', forms the only section of single carriageway along the route and is located in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- 2.1.2 In 2014, the Department for Transport (DfT) announced its five-year investment programme for making improvements to the Strategic Road Network (SRN) across England. This scheme is one of more than 100 schemes identified as part of the first Road Investment Strategy (RIS1) 2015-2020^[i]. Funding for delivery of the scheme has been confirmed within the second Road Investment Strategy (RIS2)^[ii], which covers the period between 2020 and 2025 and was published on 11 March 2020.
- 2.1.3 The scheme to upgrade this section of the A417 to dual carriageway, in a way that is sensitive to the surrounding AONB, would help unlock Gloucestershire's potential for growth, support regional plans for more homes and jobs, and improve life in local communities.
- 2.1.4 The scheme would provide 3.4 miles (5.5 km) of new, rural all-purpose dual carriageway for the A417. The new dual carriageway would connect the existing A417 Brockworth bypass with the existing dual carriageway A417 south of Cowley. The new dual carriageway would be completed in line with current trunk road design standards. The section to the west of the existing Air Balloon roundabout would follow the existing A417 corridor, but to the south and east of the Air Balloon roundabout, the corridor would be offline, away from the existing road corridor. The scheme would comprise the following key components:
- A new crossing near Emma's Grove for walkers, cyclists and horse riders (WCH) including disabled users, which would accommodate the Cotswold Way National Trail (referred to as the Cotswold Way crossing).
 - A new junction near to Ullenwood, connecting the existing A436 and Leckhampton Hill with the new A436 Link Road and Cold Slad Lane.
 - A new 37m wide multi-purpose crossing north of Shab Hill to provide essential mitigation for bats and enhancement opportunity for ecology and landscape integration. The crossing would also carry the Gloucestershire Way (referred to as the Gloucestershire Way crossing).
 - A new junction at Shab Hill, providing a link from the A417 to the A436 (towards the A40 and Oxford) and to the B4070 (for Birdlip and other local destinations).
 - A new junction would be included near Cowley, replacing the existing Cowley roundabout and providing local access to Stockwell and other local settlements including Caudle Green, Nettleton Bottom and Brimpsfield. The

^[i] Department for Transport (March 2015), Road investment strategy: 2015 to 2020, Accessed 29th January 2020, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/road-investment-strategy-for-the-2015-to-2020-road-period>

^[ii] Department for Transport (March 2020), Road investment strategy: 2020 to 2025, Accessed 11th March 2020, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/road-investment-strategy-2-ris2-2020-to-2025>

junction would make use of the existing Cowley Wood Lane underbridge to allow for all directions of travel to be made.

- The re-purposing of the current A417 between Stockwell Lane and the Cotswold Way crossing, providing a traffic free WCH route, including for disabled users. Other sections would be retained as lower-class public roads, maintaining local access for residents.

2.2 Scheme vision and objectives

2.2.1 The scheme vision is for a landscape-led highways improvement scheme that will deliver a safe and resilient free-flowing road whilst conserving and enhancing the special character of the Cotswolds AONB, reconnecting landscape and ecology; bringing about landscape, wildlife and heritage benefits, including enhanced visitors’ enjoyment of the area; improving local communities’ quality of life; and contributing to the health of the economy and local businesses.

2.2.2 In order to deliver this vision, the following scheme objectives have been set:

- **Safe, resilient and efficient network:** to create a high-quality resilient route that helps to resolve traffic problems and achieves reliable journey times between the Thames Valley and West Midlands as well as providing appropriate connections to the local road network.
- **Improving the natural environment and heritage:** to maximise opportunities for landscape, historic and natural environment enhancement within the Cotswolds AONB and to reduce negative impacts of the scheme on the surrounding environment.
- **Community and access:** to enhance the quality of life for local residents and visitors by reducing traffic intrusion and pollution, discouraging rat-running through villages and substantially improving public access for the enjoyment of the countryside.
- **Supporting economic growth:** to facilitate economic growth, benefit local businesses and improve prosperity by the provision of a free-flowing road giving people more reliable local and strategic journeys.

2.3 Scheme history timeline and future milestones

2.3.1 The history of the scheme and future milestones are summarised in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 Scheme history and milestones

Year	Activity
1998	Dual-carriageway improvements completed to over 90% of the length of the A417/A419 link. The single carriageway near Birdlip was not improved. This section is termed the ‘A417 Missing Link’.
2001	Study undertaken to identify the environmental assets within a study area centred on the existing route alignment. This supports on-line dualling as the most viable option for completing the ‘A417 Missing Link’
2003	The Highways Agency holds a value management workshop to identify potential routes. Four on-line routes are developed (Blue, Purple, Green and Brown).
2003	Engagement held between the Highways Agency and stakeholders.

Year	Activity
	The 'Brown Route' is shown to present an opportunity for improvement to the A417.
2004	The Brown Route is developed further. Impacts on Birdlip are reduced, a balance in 'cut and fill' surplus is achieved, and safety concerns are mitigated. Resulting route becomes known as the 'Modified Brown Route'. The Environment Agency, Countryside Agency and English Heritage recommend the route be included in the next Roads Programme.
2005	Route is reclassified as being of regional importance rather than national importance. Funding would now have to be awarded through the South West Region's funding allocation. The South West Regional Assembly requested that the Highways Agency examine the possibility of a lower cost solution.
2005	The Highways Agency carried out a review of off-line schemes, quick win solutions and junction improvements. This review determined that there were no realistic schemes that could achieve a significant improvement other than the full dualling of the route between Cowley roundabout and Brockworth bypass.
March 2006	The Modified Brown Route is taken forward as the preferred solution. The scheme is prepared for public consultation; however, it is not included in the Roads Programme therefore the consultation and development are not progressed.
2008	The Highways Agency reviews opportunities for a lower cost scheme. The review concludes there are no lower cost long term solutions for the A417. The Modified Brown Route is confirmed as the only viable solution.
2010	The Highways Agency leads workshops identifying short-term, low cost measures to improve the route. None of the identified measures were implemented for the A417 Missing Link.
2014	A study of the potential for low cost options to solve the A417 congestion problem is undertaken. Two potential options were identified, Option 12 and Option 30. Neither of the identified options are taken forward due to concerns over buildability.
2015	Consultants were appointed to develop the pre-project strategy, shaping and prioritisation of the A417 Missing Link scheme. The strategy concludes that a highways scheme is the most viable transport solution, and that a major roads project should be initialised.
September 2016	Highways England progresses the options phase for the scheme. The Scheme Assessment Report (Document Reference 7.4) leads to the non-statutory consultation on route options.
15 February – 29 March 2018	Non-statutory consultation. Having undergone a thorough modelling and sifting process in 2016, Highways England undertook a public non-statutory consultation on two different routes, with different alignment options for the 'A417 Missing Link'. This led to the Preferred Route Announcement.
March 2019	Preferred Route Announcement. Following feedback on the proposals, the route was modified and improved, and it was announced that Option 30 had been chosen as the preferred route, involving on-line improvements, and a new offline section of road from the existing Air Balloon roundabout to Cowley junction.
March-September 2019	The preferred route was developed to be ready for statutory public consultation in September 2019.

Year	Activity
September 27 – 8 November 2019	Statutory consultation takes place on the scheme, including the preferred option for the local road connection between the A436 and Shab Hill junction.
December 2019 – September 2020	Further design development and refinement was undertaken following responses received during the 2019 consultation and the green bridge was removed from the scheme.
October 13 – 12 November 2020	Supplementary statutory consultation Further consultation in relation to a number of design changes made to the scheme following the previous round of statutory consultation between September and November 2019.
February 2021 – March 2021	Targeted statutory consultation with land interests Highways England carried out an additional targeted consultation with landowners in relation to minor changes to the scheme design, the red line boundary and land ownership information.
Late Spring 2021	Submission of the application for a DCO to the Planning Inspectorate.
2022	Decision by Secretary of State
2023 - 2026	Construction
2026	Road open

2.4 Qualification as a National Significant Infrastructure Project

- 2.4.1 The scheme is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14(1)(h) and 22(1)(a) of the Act.
- 2.4.2 Section 14(1)(h) of the Act defines an NSIP as highway-related development subject to falling within the criteria set out in section 22 of the Act.
- 2.4.3 Under section 22(1) of the Act, an NSIP for highway-related development must fall within one of three specified categories; construction, improvement or alteration of a highway.
- 2.4.4 The scheme is a new offline section of dual carriageway and therefore constitutes the “construction” of a highway within the meaning of section 22(1)(a) and meets the requirements of this definition under section 22(2) and 22(4) as follows:
- The highway will (when constructed) be wholly in England (section 22(2)(a));
 - Highways England (as the strategic highways company), will be the highway authority for the highway (section 22(2)(b)); and
 - The speed limit on the section of the A417 in the DCO Boundary exceeds 50 mph and the area of development within the DCO Boundary is 198.2 hectares, which is greater than 12.5 hectares (sections 22(2)(c) and 22(4)(b)).
- 2.4.5 As the scheme is an NSIP, development consent must be obtained from the Secretary of State for Transport (SoS) to authorise it, and an application for a DCO must be made to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) who administer the DCO process on behalf of the SoS, under section 37 of the Act. If granted by the SoS, the DCO will provide the necessary authorisation to allow the scheme to be constructed, operated and maintained.

3 The Applicant

3.1 Highways England

3.1.1 The Applicant is appointed and licensed by the SoS as the strategic highways company for England. It is responsible for operating, maintaining and improving the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in England on behalf of the SoS. The SRN is made up of England's motorways and all-purpose trunk roads (the major "A" roads) and the existing A417 is part of the trunk road network for which Highways England is responsible. Following construction of the scheme, Highways England will be responsible for operating, maintaining and improving (under its general statutory powers in respect of the latter) the new route of the A417.

3.1.2 The scheme contact details are:

A417 Missing Link Project Team, Regional Investment Programme, Major Projects

Highways England
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6HA

Email: A417MissingLink@highwaysengland.co.uk

Telephone: 0300 123 5000

3.2 The A417 Missing Link project team

3.2.1 The scheme is managed by the Applicant from its Bristol office by the A417 Missing Link project team, which is responsible for delivering the scheme in accordance with the scheme's requirements.

4 Application documents

4.1.1 A list of documents within the application is set out in the application Covering Letter (Document Reference 1.2); further detail on the documents within the application is provided in the following chapters.

Table 4-1 DCO application volumes and documents

Volume	Document reference	Document title
Vol. 1 Application Information	1.1a	Introduction to the Application
	1.1b	Application Document Tracker
	1.2	Application Covering Letter (including Section 55 checklist)
	1.3	Application Form
Vol. 2 Plans, Drawings and Sections	2.1	Location Plan
	2.2	Land Plans
	2.3	Special Category Land Plans
	2.4	Works Plans
	2.5	Rights of Way and Access Plans
	2.6a	General Arrangement Plans
	2.6b	Engineering Drawings and Sections
	2.6c	Structures Engineering Drawings and Sections
	2.7a	Traffic Regulation Measures – Speed Limits
	2.7b	Traffic Regulation Measures – Clearways and Prohibitions
	2.7c	Traffic Regulation Measures – Classification of Roads
	2.8	De-Trunking Plans
	2.9	Environmental Features–Statutory or Non-Statutory Sites or Features of Nature Conservation
2.10	Habitats of Protected Species, Important Habitats or Other Diversity Features and Water Bodies in a River Basin Management Plan -Plans	
2.11	Confidential: Habitats of Protected Species: Location of Badger Setts Plans	
2.12	Heritage Designation Plans	
2.13	Trees and Hedgerows to be Removed or Managed Plans	
Vol. 3 Draft Development Consent Order	3.1	Draft DCO
	3.2	Explanatory Memorandum
Vol. 4 Compulsory Acquisition Information	4.1	Statement of Reasons
	4.2	Funding Statement
	4.3	Book of Reference
Vol. 5 Consultation Report	5.1	Consultation Report
	5.2	Consultation Report Appendices
Vol. 6 Environmental Information	6.1	Non-Technical Summary
	6.2	Environmental Statement
	6.3	Environmental Statement – Figures
	6.4	Environmental Statement – Appendices

Volume	Document reference	Document title
	6.5	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Statement to Inform Appropriate Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening Report
	6.6	Statement of Statutory Nuisance
Vol. 7 Other Reports	7.1	Case for the Scheme
	7.2	Consents and Agreements Position Statement
	7.3	Statement of Commonality
	7.4	Scheme Assessment Report (March 2019)
	7.5	Route Options Consultation Report (March 2019)
	7.6	Combined Modelling and Appraisal Report
	7.7	Design Summary Report
	7.8	Equality Impact Assessment
	7.9	Technical Appraisal Report (February 2018)
	7.10	Transport Report
	7.11	Cotswold Way National Trail Diversion Report

4.1.2 The Examination of the DCO application commenced on 16 November 2021 and will close on 16 May 2022. During this period, the Applicant will submit a number of additional documents in response to requests made by the ExA or other third parties, or where the Applicant considers it is necessary to provide comment or clarification to aid the ExA. The Applicant also submitted some additional documents ahead of the commencement of the Examination, in response to advice provided by the ExA under section 51 and section 55 of the Act.

4.1.3 Documents submitted since the submission of the DCO Application are listed below, correct as of Deadline ~~76~~ (1130 March-April 2022):

Table 4-2 Documents submitted since DCO submission

Volume	Document reference	Document title
Vol. 3 Draft Development Consent Order	3.3	Table of Amendments to the Draft Development Consent Order
Vol. 6 Environmental Information	6.7	Environmental Statement - Updates and Errata
Vol. 8 Examination Submissions	8.1	Responding to the revised National Planning Policy Framework
	8.2	Suggested Location for Site Inspections
	8.3	Responses to Relevant Representations
	8.4	Responses to the Examining Authority's Written Questions (ExQ1)
	8.5	Cotswolds Conservation Board Options Report
	8.6	Cut and Cover Tunnel Feasibility Study
	8.7	Letters of No Impediment
	8.8	Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding Access across A417 Online Section file note
	8.9	Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (including current objections)

Volume	Document reference	Document title
	8.10	Biodiversity Net Gain Calculation
	8.11	Responses to Written Representations
	8.12	Comments on Local Impact Report
	8.13	Comments on Responses to the Examining Authority's Written Questions (ExQ1)
	8.14	Response to Cultural Heritage Issues Raised
	8.15	Leckhampton Hill Technical Note
	8.16	Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case – Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)
	8.17	Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case – Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) Draft Development Consent Order
	8.18	Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case – Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1)
	8.19	Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case – Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) Environmental Matters
	8.20	Response to Rule 17 Request - Cotswold Way National Trail Diversion
	8.21	Comments on responses received by Deadline 2
	8.22	Landowner Position Statements
	8.23	Areas subject to archaeological surveys
	8.24	HRA Matrices – Severn Estuary Ramsar Site
	8.25	Comments on responses received by Deadline 3
	8.26	Comments on responses received by Deadline 4
	8.27	Post hearing submissions including written submission of oral case – Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4)
	8.28	Comments on responses received by Deadline 5
	8.29	Responses to Examining Authority's Written Questions (ExQ2)
	8.30	Surface and Ground Water Monitoring
	8.31	Comments on submissions received by Deadline 6

4.1.4 Table 4-2 will be updated at future Examination deadlines to reflect any further new Application documents submitted by the Applicant during the Examination.

4.1.5 If you require a copy of any of the application documents, or parts of them, please contact the A417 Missing Link Project Team (contact details in section 3.1.2). A USB memory stick containing these documents will be provided free of charge; a reasonable charge for printing and distribution of hard copies may be made.

5 Volume 1: Application Information

- 5.1.1 This volume provides details of the application information required by PINS for the application and how to navigate the documentation.
- 5.1.2 **Document Reference 1.1a: Introduction to the Application** (this document). This document acts as a guide to the Applicant's Development Consent Order application, providing a brief description of the volumes and documents that make up the application.
- 5.1.3 **Document Reference 1.1b: Application Document Tracker**. This is a 'live' document which will track document versions as and when documents are updated. The tracker will be updated throughout the examination period and submitted at each deadline.
- 5.1.4 **Document Reference 1.2: Application Covering Letter**. Enclosed with the letter is a checklist completed by the Applicant to evidence how the application fulfils the conditions for acceptance by the PINS under section 55 of the Act. The Schedule of Compliance with section 55 will also be completed by the PINS on receipt of the DCO application.
- 5.1.5 **Document Reference 1.3: Application Form**. A completed version of the PINS application form, which provides a high-level summary of the scheme and the documents that have been submitted. It is a form that originates from Schedule 2 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009.

6 Volume 2: Plans, Drawings and Sections

- 6.1.1 This volume contains the plans which show where and how the Applicant proposes to undertake the scheme. Each set of plans is accompanied by a key plan and a legend, which shows the symbols used on the plans, to help you understand what they show.
- 6.1.2 **Document Reference 2.1: Location Plan.** This identifies the location of the scheme in its wider context.
- 6.1.3 **Document Reference 2.2: Land Plans.** These plans correspond to the Book of Reference (Document Reference 4.3) and set out:
- the limits of land to be acquired or used permanently or temporarily for the scheme.
 - the land to be acquired or used permanently for construction, operation and maintenance works for the scheme.
 - any land over which temporary possession may be taken for the scheme.
 - any land to be used temporarily and for rights in the land to be acquired permanently for the scheme.
- 6.1.4 **Document Reference 2.3: Special Category Land Plans.** These plans show the boundaries of any special category land.
- 6.1.5 **Document Reference 2.4: Works Plans.** These plans show the centre line of the proposed works and the limits of deviation within which the development and works may be carried out. Most importantly, the plans will show the extent of the individual works.
- 6.1.6 **Document Reference 2.5: Rights of Way and Access Plans.** These plans show any new or altered means of access, stopping up of streets, roads and any diversions, extinguishment or creation of rights of way.
- 6.1.7 **Document Reference 2.6 (a and b): General Arrangement Plans and Engineering Drawings and Sections.** These plans and sections show the levels of the proposed works including the ground levels, the height of certain structures and the depths of any cuttings required for the project and any drainage details.
- 6.1.8 **Document Reference 2.6 (c): Structures Engineering Drawings and Sections.** This document provides further detail of the design of structures proposed in the scheme. These drawings have been submitted at Deadline 6 on 30 March 2022.
- 6.1.9 **Document Reference 2.7 (a, b and c): Traffic Regulation Measures.** Plans to show the speed limits, clearways, classification of roads and restrictions on vehicles proposed to be applied to the scheme.
- 6.1.10 **Document Reference 2.8: De-trunking Plans.** Plans showing the downgrading from trunk road to the local road network of the existing A417. These sections would be operated and maintained by Gloucestershire County Council as the local highway authority.
- 6.1.11 **Document Reference 2.9: Environmental Features – Statutory or Non-Statutory Sites or Features of Nature Conservation.** Plans to show statutory or non-statutory sites or features of nature conservation.

- 6.1.12 **Document Reference 2.10: Habitats of Protected Species, Important Habitats or Other Diversity Features and Water Bodies in a River Basin Management Plan - Plans.** Plans to show the locations of protected species and important habitats.
- 6.1.13 **Document Reference 2.11: Confidential: Habitats of Protected Species: Location of Badger Setts Plans.** Plans showing the location of protected species, in particular, the location of badger setts.
- 6.1.14 **Document Reference: 2.12: Heritage Designation Plans.** Plans showing historic features such as listed buildings and scheduled monuments.
- 6.1.15 **Document Reference 2.13: Trees and Hedgerows to be Removed or Managed Plans.** Plans detailing the trees and hedgerows affected by development.

7 Volume 3: Draft Development Consent Order

7.1.1 In order to build the proposed development, the Applicant needs consent from the Government. These documents outline the legal powers the Applicant is seeking.

7.1.2 **Document Reference 3.1: Draft Development Consent Order.** This sets out the powers that the Applicant is seeking to enable it to construct and maintain the scheme. It sets out the parameters for what development would be permitted. It consists of seven parts and is accompanied by nine schedules as outlined below.

Table 7-1 Structure of the draft DCO

Part/schedule	Contents
Part 1	Preliminary
Part 2	Principal powers
Part 3	Streets
Part 4	Supplemental powers
Part 5	Powers of acquisition
Part 6	Operations
Part 7	Miscellaneous and general
Schedule 1	Authorised development
Schedule 2	Requirements
Schedule 3	Classification of roads, etc
Schedule 4	Permanent stopping up of highways and private means of access & provision of new highways and private means of access
Schedule 5	Land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired
Schedule 6	Modification of compensation and compulsory purchase enactments for creation of new rights and imposition of restrictive covenants
Schedule 7	Land of which temporary possession may be taken
Schedule 8	Protective provisions
Schedule 9	Documents to be certified

7.1.3 **Document Reference 3.2: Explanatory Memorandum.** This explains the purpose and effect of each provision in the draft order including why it is considered necessary.

7.1.4 **Document Reference 3.3: Table of Amendments to the Draft Development Consent Order.** This document sets out the amendments that have been made to the draft DCO since submission of the Application.

8 Volume 4: Compulsory Acquisition Information

- 8.1.1 This volume provides evidence of why the Applicant requires powers of compulsory acquisition and identification of the land affected.
- 8.1.2 In order to implement the scheme, the Applicant will need to use statutory powers to acquire land and rights in land, and to possess and use land temporarily. The Applicant is required to provide evidence that the use of these powers would be justified, proportionate and in the public interest and this evidence is set out in a Statement of Reasons (Document Reference 4.1), Funding Statement (Document Reference 4.2) and Book of Reference (Document Reference 4.3) as explained below.
- 8.1.3 **Document Reference 4.1: Statement of Reasons.** This statement explains that there is a compelling case in the public interest which would justify the Applicant's exercise of powers of compulsory acquisition in order to acquire land and rights permanently and to use land temporarily to enable it to construct, operate and maintain the scheme.
- 8.1.4 **Document Reference 4.2: Funding Statement.** This explains how the scheme, including any compulsory purchase acquisition, would be funded.
- 8.1.5 **Document Reference 4.3: Book of Reference.** This identifies all parties who own or occupy land and/or have an interest in or right over the land affected by the scheme, and/or who may be entitled to make a 'relevant claim' as defined in section 57 of the Act. It is structured in five parts in accordance with relevant regulatory requirements. The five parts are:
- Part 1: Names and addresses for service of each person/organisation within Categories 1 and 2 as defined in section 57 of the Act in respect of any land which it is proposed shall be subject to powers of compulsory acquisition; rights to use land; or rights to carry out protective works to buildings.
 - Part 2: Names and addresses for service of each person/organisation within Category 3. These are interests who might be entitled to make a relevant claim if the DCO were consented and implemented, e.g., potential claimants under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 (c. 26), section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965, section 152(3) of the Act.
 - Part 3: Names of all those entitled to enjoy easements or other private rights over land (including private rights of navigation over water) which it is proposed shall be extinguished, suspended or interfered in the draft DCO.
 - Part 4: Owner of any Crown interest in the land which it is proposed to be used for the purposes of the order for which application is being made.
 - Part 5: Land for which the acquisition could be subject to special parliamentary procedure, is special category land, or is replacement land.

9 Volume 5: Consultation Report

- 9.1.1 This volume details the pre-application consultation that the Applicant has undertaken on the scheme.
- 9.1.2 **Document Reference 5.1: Consultation Report.** This provides an account of the pre-application consultation undertaken on the scheme. The report includes details of the statutory consultation which the Applicant is required to undertake in accordance with the Act, the informal engagement that has taken place, and how the comments received have been taken into account when developing the scheme.
- 9.1.3 **Document Reference 5.2: Consultation Report Appendices.** Supporting documents for the Consultation Report including the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and newspaper notices to publicise the proposed application in accordance with section 48(1) of the Act.
- 9.1.4 The appendices that support the Consultation Report are set out in Table 9-1.

Table 9-1 List of consultation report appendices

Appendix No.	Appendix Title
5.1	Draft 2019 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
5.2	Copy of email to Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Cotswold District Council regarding consultation on the draft 2019 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) under section 47(3) of the Planning Act 2008
5.3	Copy of the responses received from Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Cotswold District Council regarding consultation on the draft 2019 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) under section 47(3) of the Planning Act 2008
5.4	Published 2019 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
5.5	Copy of the 2019 section 47 notice and scanned copies of the notice in newspapers
5.6	2019 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) Compliance Table
6.1	List of section 42(a) prescribed consultees for 2019 consultation
6.2	Map of local authorities relevant to the scheme, identified under section 43 of the Act
6.3	List of section 42(1)(d) Persons with an Interest in the Land for 2019 statutory consultation
6.4	Sample copy of letters sent to each category of section 42 consultee for 2019 statutory consultation
6.5	Copy of the section 46 notification letter for 2019 statutory consultation
6.6	Copy of acknowledgment of receipt of section 46 letter provided by PINS
6.7	Map of 2019 statutory consultation mailing zone
6.8	Copy of mailing zone postcard for 2019 statutory consultation
6.9	List of additional organisations (including 'hard to reach' groups) notified of the 2019 statutory consultation
6.10	Copy of documents provided as part of Stakeholder Information Packs for 2019 statutory consultation
6.11	Copy of section 48 notice for 2019 statutory consultation and scanned copies of notices in publications
6.12	Copy of 2019 statutory consultation booklet
6.13	Copy of 2019 statutory consultation feedback questionnaire

Appendix No.	Appendix Title
6.14	Copy of 2019 statutory consultation plans
6.15	Copy of 2019 statutory consultation exhibition boards
6.16	Photographs of 2019 statutory consultation public events
6.17	Copy of information poster for 2019 statutory consultation
6.18	Screenshots of adverts on the Gloucestershire Live website for 2019 statutory consultation
7.1	Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to the 2019 statutory consultation and the Highways England response
7.2	Summary of the matters raised by section 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees and section 42(1)(b) local authorities in response to the 2019 statutory consultation and the Highways England response
7.3	Summary of the matters raised by section 42(1)(d) PILs in response to the 2019 statutory consultation and the Highways England response
7.4	Summary of the matters raised by section 47 additional organisations in response to the 2019 statutory consultation and the Highways England response
8.1	Draft 2020 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
8.2	Copy of email to Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Cotswold District Council regarding consultation on the draft 2020 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) under section 47(3) of the Planning Act 2008
8.3	Copy of the responses received from Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Cotswold District Council regarding consultation on the draft 2020 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) under section 47(3) of the Planning Act 2008
8.4	Copy of the published 2020 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
8.5	Copy of the 2020 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) notice and scanned copies of the section 47 notice in newspapers
8.6	2020 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) Compliance Table
9.1	List of the section 42(a) prescribed consultees for 2020 supplementary statutory consultation
9.2	List of the section 42(1)(d) Persons with an Interest in the Land consulted for the 2020 supplementary statutory consultation
9.3	Sample copy of letters sent to each category of section 42 consultee for 2020 supplementary statutory consultation
9.4	Copy of the section 46 notification letter for 2020 consultation
9.5	Copy of the acknowledgment of receipt of the section 46 letter, provided by PINS on 21 October 2020
9.6	Map of mailing zone for 2020 supplementary statutory consultation
9.7	Copy of mailing zone postcard for 2020 supplementary statutory consultation
9.8	List of additional organisations (including 'hard to reach' groups) notified of the 2020 supplementary statutory consultation
9.9	Copy of documents provided as part of Stakeholder Information Packs for 2020 supplementary statutory consultation
9.10	Copy of the section 48 notice for 2020 supplementary statutory consultation and scanned copies of notices in publications
9.11	Copy of the 2020 supplementary statutory consultation booklet
9.12	Copy of the response form provided at 2020 supplementary statutory consultation

Appendix No.	Appendix Title
9.13	Copy of the Main Scheme Map, Proposed Mitigation Plan and Red Line Boundary Plan provided at 2020 supplementary statutory consultation
9.14	Copy of the additional documents available on the 2020 supplementary statutory consultation website
10.1	Summary of the matters raised by section 47 general public respondents to the 2020 consultation and the Highways England response
10.2	Summary of the matters raised by section 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees and section 42(1)(b) local authorities in response to the 2020 supplementary statutory consultation and the Highways England response
10.3	Summary of the matters raised by section 42(1) (d) PILs in response to the 2020 supplementary statutory consultation and the Highways England response
10.4	Summary of the matters raised by section 47 additional organisations in response to the 2020 supplementary statutory consultation and the Highways England response
11.1	Copy of letters sent to Persons with an Interest in the Land notifying of first targeted statutory consultation
11.2	List of Persons with an Interest in the Land consulted at first targeted statutory consultation 2020
11.3	Copy of letters sent to Persons with an Interest in the Land notifying of second targeted statutory consultation 2020
11.4	List of Persons with an Interest in the Land consulted at second targeted statutory consultation 2020
11.5	Copy of letters sent to Persons with an Interest in the Land notifying of third targeted statutory consultation 2020
11.6	List of Persons with an Interest in the Land consulted at third targeted statutory consultation 2020
11.7	Copy of letters sent to Persons with an Interest in the Land notifying of fourth targeted statutory consultation 2020
11.8	List of Persons with an Interest in the Land consulted at fourth targeted statutory consultation 2020
11.9	Copy of letters sent to Persons with an Interest in the Land notifying of fifth targeted statutory consultation
11.10	List of Persons with an Interest in the Land consulted at fifth targeted statutory consultation 2021
11.11	Summary of the matters raised by section 42(1)(d) PILs in response to the targeted statutory consultations and the Highways England response
12.1	Copy of Regulation 11 List provided by PINS

10 Volume 6: Environmental Information

- 10.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the scheme to consider what significant effects the scheme is likely to have on the environment. The Environmental Statement (ES) (Document Reference 6.2) reports the findings of the EIA.
- 10.1.2 The ES also provides general information on the scheme including context, description of the scheme and its construction, main alternatives considered, the consultation process that was part of the EIA and technical information on a range of topics. This chapter provides an overview of the structure of the document to assist with navigation.
- 10.1.3 **Document Reference 6.1 Non-Technical Summary.** A summary of the likely significant environmental effects of the scheme in non-technical language.
- 10.1.4 **Document Reference 6.2: Environmental Statement.** Reports on the likely significant effects on the environment resulting from the scheme.
- 10.1.5 The ES includes the following chapters:
- Chapter 0 Contents
 - Chapter 1 Introduction
 - Chapter 2 The project
 - Chapter 3 Assessment of alternatives
 - Chapter 4 Environmental assessment methodology
 - Chapter 5 Air quality
 - Chapter 6 Cultural heritage
 - Chapter 7 Landscape and visual
 - Chapter 8 Biodiversity
 - Chapter 9 Geology and soils
 - Chapter 10 Material assets and waste
 - Chapter 11 Noise and vibration
 - Chapter 12 Population and human health
 - Chapter 13 Road drainage and the water environment
 - Chapter 14 Climate
 - Chapter 15 Assessment of cumulative effects
 - Chapter 16 Summary
 - Chapter 17 Abbreviations
 - Chapter 18 Glossary
- 10.1.6 **Document Reference 6.3: Environmental Statement Figures.** The diagrams, plans and figures referred to within the ES.
- 10.1.7 **Document Reference 6.4: Environmental Statement Appendices.** The ES is accompanied by a series of appendices which provide further information and detail to support the EIA.
- 10.1.8 The ES is accompanied by a series of appendices as set out in Table 10-1.

Table 10-1 List of Environmental Statement appendices

Appendix	Appendix title
Appendix 1.1	Planning Policy Framework
Appendix 1.2	Competent expert evidence
Appendix 2.1	Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
Appendix 2.1	Outline EMP Annex A Environmental Constraints Plan
Appendix 2.1	Outline EMP Annex B Construction Traffic Management Plan
Appendix 2.1	Outline EMP Annex C Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Overarching Written Schemes of Investigation
Appendix 2.1	Outline EMP Annex D Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Appendix 2.1	Outline EMP Annex E Materials Management Plan
Appendix 2.1	Outline EMP Annex F Public Rights of Way Management Plan
Appendix 2.1	Outline EMP Annex G Ground and Surface Water Management Plan
Appendix 2.1	Outline EMP Annex H Site Waste Management Plan
Appendix 3.1	Scheme Assessment Report Appraisal Summary Tables
Appendix 3.2	Option 30 Alternatives Technical Note
Appendix 4.1	The Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion
Appendix 4.2	Responses to Scoping Opinion
Appendix 4.3	Major accidents and disasters legislation and methodology
Appendix 4.4	Major accidents and disasters long and short list
Appendix 4.5	Changes to Scope and Methodology
Appendix 5.1	Air quality legislation policy and guidance
Appendix 5.2	Air quality operational assessment methodology
Appendix 5.3	Air quality receptors
Appendix 5.4	Air quality baseline data
Appendix 5.5	Air quality sites used for verification
Appendix 5.6	Air quality operational phase impacts
Appendix 5.7	Air quality construction phase impacts
Appendix 6.1	Designated assets: value (sensitivity)
Appendix 6.2	Archaeological assessment
Appendix 6.3	Historic landscape characterisation
Appendix 6.4	Geophysical survey report
Appendix 6.5	Trial trenching report
Appendix 7.1	LVIA policy and guidance
Appendix 7.2	Published Landscape Character Assessments
Appendix 7.3	Visual baseline
Appendix 7.4	Landscape assessment tables
Appendix 7.5	Visual assessment tables
Appendix 7.6	Arboricultural impact assessment
Appendix 7.7	Visually verifiable montage methodology
Appendix 8.1	Phase 1 Habitat Survey Target Notes
Appendix 8.2	Hedgerow technical report
Appendix 8.3	NVC woodland survey report

Appendix	Appendix title
Appendix 8.4	Botanical assessment
Appendix 8.5	Bat roost surveys technical report (confidential)
Appendix 8.6	Bat activity survey report
Appendix 8.7	Bat crossing point survey report
Appendix 8.8	Bat advanced survey technical report (confidential)
Appendix 8.9	Badger survey report (confidential)
Appendix 8.10	Breeding bird technical report
Appendix 8.11	Wintering bird survey report
Appendix 8.12	Stage 1 & 2 barn owl survey report (confidential)
Appendix 8.13	Stage 3 barn owl survey report (confidential)
Appendix 8.14	Dormouse survey report
Appendix 8.15	Great crested newt survey report
Appendix 8.16	Reptile survey technical report
Appendix 8.17	Otter technical report
Appendix 8.18	Water vole technical report
Appendix 8.19	White-clawed crayfish technical report
Appendix 8.20	Terrestrial Invertebrate Survey Report
Appendix 8.21	Roman snail survey technical report 2019
Appendix 8.22	Aquatic Invertebrate Survey report
Appendix 8.23	River Habitat Survey and Fish Habitat Assessment Report
Appendix 8.24	Assessment of Tufaceous Vegetation
Appendix 8.25	Tufa-forming springs: selection of potential compensation sites
Appendix 9.1	Preliminary Sources Study Report
Appendix 9.2	Preliminary ground investigation report
Appendix 9.3	Ground Investigation Factual Report
Appendix 9.4	Groundsure enviro insight reports
Appendix 9.5	Geodiversity at Crickley Hill and Barrow Wake SSSI
Appendix 9.6	Agricultural land classification report
Appendix 11.1	Glossary of acoustic terminology
Appendix 11.2	Baseline noise survey results
Appendix 11.3	Construction plant machinery
Appendix 11.4	Assessment locations and noise prediction results
Appendix 11.5	Noise and vibration guidance and standards
Appendix 12.1	Health evidence literature review
Appendix 12.2	Walking, Cycling & Horse-riding including Disabled Users Review at Preliminary Design
Appendix 13.1	Water legislative and policy framework
Appendix 13.2	WFD compliance assessment
Appendix 13.3	Flood risk assessment
Appendix 13.4	Water quality assessment
Appendix 13.5	Hydromorphology assessment
Appendix 13.6	Spillage risk assessment

Appendix	Appendix title
Appendix 13.7	Hydrogeological impact assessment
Appendix 13.8	GWDTEs assessment
Appendix 13.9	Non-significant effects
Appendix 13.10	Drainage Report
Appendix 13.11	Water Features Survey
Appendix 13.12	Water Environment Monitoring Data
Appendix 14.1	Greenhouse gas assessment assumptions, methodology and emissions factors
Appendix 14.2	Climate change resilience assessment
Appendix 14.3	In-combination climate change impacts assessment
Appendix 15.1	Consideration of cumulative effects

- 10.1.9 In addition, the Environmental Scoping Opinion received from PINS (Appendix 4.1, Document Reference 6.4) identifies the agreed scope and content of the EIA. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) environmental standards were updated. Changes in scope and methodology brought about by these updates are documented in ES Appendix 4.5 (Document Reference 6.4).
- 10.1.10 **Document Reference 6.5: Habitats Regulation Assessment: Statement to Inform Appropriate Assessment and Screening Report**, have also been produced in support of the DCO application. These reports have been produced to inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process for the scheme.
- 10.1.11 **Document Reference 6.6: Statement Relating to Statutory Nuisance**. This identifies the matters set out in section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in respect of statutory nuisances and considers, whether the scheme would engage one or more of those matters. Where any matters may be potentially engaged, this statement sets out its proposals for mitigating or limiting them.
- 10.1.12 **Document Reference 6.7: ES Updates and Errata**: This document provides updates and errata to the ES submitted with the DCO Application, where necessary and in response to requests made by the ExA or Interested Parties.

11 Volume 7: Other Reports

- 11.1.1 A range of additional documents have been submitted with the DCO application. These documents are intended to provide useful information on the scheme and aid detailed understanding of the application and its justification.
- 11.1.2 **Document Reference 7.1: Case for the Scheme**, including the National Policy Statement (NPS) Accordance Table. This sets out the need for the scheme, the objectives that it seeks to address, options and alternatives considered and an explanation of the scheme over time. It sets out how the scheme meets its objectives and how it accords with government policy in the National Policy Statement for National Networks.
- 11.1.3 **Document Reference 7.2 Consents and Agreements Position Statement**. This sets out the intended strategy for obtaining the consents and associated agreements needed to implement the scheme.
- 11.1.4 **Document Reference 7.3 Statement of Commonality**. This document provides the latest position on Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) between The Applicant and statutory consultees in relation to the scheme. This is a 'living' document that will be updated during the examination stage. Eight draft SoCGs with a range of stakeholders are appended to this document at the time the DCO Application is being made.
- 11.1.5 **Document Reference 7.4: Scheme Assessment Report (March 2019)**. This document sets out the option identification and option selection process undertaken by the Applicant to establish the preferred route.
- 11.1.6 **Document Reference 7.5: Route Options Consultation Report (March 2019)**. This document explains the consultation that took place on the route options and reports on the consultation feedback.
- 11.1.7 **Document Reference 7.6: Combined Modelling and Appraisal Report**. This report details the traffic data collection, traffic modelling, traffic forecasting and economic appraisal in relation to the scheme.
- 11.1.8 **Document Reference 7.7: Design Summary Report**. This report summarises the 'landscape-led' approach taken on the A417 Missing Link scheme design and demonstrates how all reasonable steps have been taken to meet high environmental standards required within the Cotswolds AONB.
- 11.1.9 **Document Reference 7.8: Equality Impact Assessment**. This report details how the scheme considers protected characteristic groups, paying particular attention to vulnerable users of the highway network.
- 11.1.10 **Document Reference 7.9: Technical Appraisal Report (February 2018)**. This document forms part of the options identification stage of the scheme and reports on the development of solutions to the existing issues and constraints. It provides details of the identification, sifting and appraisal of options.
- 11.1.11 **Document Reference 7.10: Transport Report**. This document provides a non-technical summary of the transport planning works that have been completed to support the DCO application for the scheme.
- 11.1.12 **Document Reference 7.11: Cotswold Way National Trail Diversion Report**. This report provides details of the works required in order to divert the Cotswold

Way National Trail as part of the draft DCO, including details in relation to the permanent and temporary diversions and ongoing maintenance.

12 Volume 8: Examination Submissions

- 12.1.1 This volume comprises of documents submitted during the Examination of the DCO Application as of Deadline ~~76~~ (1130 ~~March~~ April 2022). This section will be updated at future deadlines of the Examination to reflect ongoing submissions that may be made by the Applicant.
- 12.1.2 **Document Reference 8.1 Responding to the revised National Planning Policy Framework.** This document provides a summary of the changes made to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as revised on 20 July 2021 and assesses their likely impact on the scheme and supporting documents as submitted.
- 12.1.3 **Document Reference 8.2: Suggested Location for Site Inspections.** This document provides a suggested itinerary for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) to be carried out by the ExA during the Examination of the scheme.
- 12.1.4 **Document Reference 8.3: Responses to Relevant Representations.** This document provides the Applicant's response to Relevant Representations submitted to the ExA by Interested Parties.
- 12.1.5 **Document Reference 8.4: Responses to the Examining Authority's Written Questions (ExQ1).** This document provides the Applicant's response to the ExA's first written questions issued on 16 November 2021.
- 12.1.6 **Document Reference 8.5: Cotswolds Conservation Board Options Report.** This document provides a record of representations made by Cotswolds Conservation Board (CCB) and the associated responses and actions from National Highways in relation to alternative design options suggested by CCB.
- 12.1.7 **Document Reference 8.6: Cut and Cover Tunnel Feasibility Study.** This report provides a high-level feasibility study which of a cut and cover alternative design suggestion provided by stakeholders.
- 12.1.8 **Document Reference 8.7: Letters of No Impediment.** This document provides a copy of the letters of no impediment received by the Applicant from Natural England, in relation to bats, badgers and Roman snails.
- 12.1.9 **Document Reference 8.8: Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding Access across A417 Online Section file note.** This report considers feedback from stakeholders through the WCH TWG within which some members have expressed the need for additional crossing facilities along the A417 at Crickley Hill as part of the scheme
- 12.1.10 **Document Reference 8.9: Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (including current objections).** This document details discussions that are ongoing with all freeholders who have an interest in the order lands.
- 12.1.11 **Document Reference 8.10: Biodiversity Net Gain Calculation.** This document provides the detailed biodiversity net gain calculations for the scheme using the Biodiversity Metric 2.0 Calculation Tool.
- 12.1.12 **Document Reference 8.11: Responses to Written Representations.** This document provides the Applicant's response to Written Representations submitted to the ExA by Interested Parties at Deadline 1 of the Examination.

- 12.1.13 **Document Reference 8.12: Comments on Local Impact Report.** This document provides the Applicant's comments on the Local Impact Report (LIR) submitted by the Joint Councils at Deadline 1 of the Examination.
- 12.1.14 **Document Reference 8.13: Comments on Responses to the Examining Authority's Written Questions (ExQ1).** This document provides the Applicant's comments on the responses made by Interested Parties to the ExA's first written questions, as submitted at Deadline 1 of the Examination.
- 12.1.15 **Document Reference 8.14: Response to Cultural Heritage Issues Raised.** This document provides the Applicant's response and comments on matters raised by stakeholders regarding the scheme's cultural heritage assessment and impacts.
- 12.1.16 **Document Reference 8.15: Leckhampton Hill Technical Note.** This document provides a response to the Examining Authority's written question 1.11.20. It presents results of analysis undertaken based on outputs from the scheme traffic model regarding the impacts of the Ullenwood roundabout on Leckhampton Hill.
- 12.1.17 **Document 8.16: Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1).** This document provides a written summary of oral submissions made at the Open Floor Hearing 1 held on 24 January 2022.
- 12.1.18 **Document Reference 8.17: Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) Draft Development Consent Order.** This document provides a written summary of oral submissions made at the Issue Specific Hearing 1 held on 25 January 2022.
- 12.1.19 **Document Reference 8.18: Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1).** This document provides a written summary of oral submissions made at the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing held on 26 January 2022.
- 12.1.20 **Document Reference 8.19: Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) Environmental Matters.** This document provides a written summary of oral submissions made at the Issue Specific Hearing 2 held on 27 January 2022.
- 12.1.21 **Document Reference 8.20: Response to Rule 17 Request - Cotswold Way National Trail Diversion.** This document provides a response to a request by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedures) Rules 2010, in which it asked the Applicant to respond in further detail to ExQ1 1.5.17 related to the Cotswold Way National Trail.
- 12.1.22 **Document Reference 8.21: Comments on Responses received by Deadline 2.** This document provides the Applicant's response to submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 2 of the Examination.
- 12.1.23 **Document Reference 8.22: Landowner Position Statements.** This document provides the draft Position Statements with Affected Parties as requested by the ExA at the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1) held on 26 January 2022.
- 12.1.24 **Document Reference 8.23: Areas subject to archaeological surveys.** This drawing sets out where archaeological surveys have been undertaken and is submitted further to National Highways' response to ExQ 1.7.16 (Document Reference 8.13, REP2-014) submitted at Deadline 2.

- 12.1.25 **Document Reference 8.24: HRA Matrices – Severn Estuary Ramsar Site.** This document provides updated Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) matrices for the Severn Estuary Ramsar site, in response to a Hearing Action Point taken at Issue Specific Hearing 2 on 27 January 2022 (Reference Number ISH2-AP7).
- 12.1.26 **Document Reference 8.25: Comments on Responses received by Deadline 3.** This document provides the Applicant's response to submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 3 of the Examination.
- 12.1.27 **Document Reference 8.26: Comments on Responses received by Deadline 4.** This document provides the Applicant's response to submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 4 of the Examination.
- 12.1.28 **Document Reference 8.27: Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4).** This document provides a written summary of oral submissions made at the Issue Specific Hearing 4 held on 3 March 2022.
- 12.1.29 **Document Reference 8.28: Comments on Responses received by Deadline 5.** This document provides the Applicant's response to submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 5 of the Examination.
- 12.1.30 **Document Reference 8.29: Responses to the Examining Authority's Written Questions (ExQ2).** This document provides the Applicant's response to the ExA's second written questions issued on 17 March 2022.
- 12.1.31 **Document Reference 8.30: Surface and Ground Water Monitoring.** This document provides a response to the ExA's written question 2.12.4.
- 12.1.3112.1.32 **Document Reference 8.31: Comments on Submissions received by Deadline 6.** This document provides the Applicant's response to submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 6 of the Examination. This includes the Applicant's comments on the responses made by Interested Parties to the ExA's second round of written questions (ExQ2).

13 Defined Terms and Abbreviations

- 13.1.1 The following defined terminologies and abbreviations are used throughout the DCO Application documents for the A417 Missing Link scheme*.
- 13.1.2 Document References are references to those documents forming part of the Applicant's DCO Application.
- 13.1.3 All references within the Applicant's DCO Application to legislation are references to legislation as in force in England on the date of the DCO Application.

Table 13-1 Defined terms

Term	Meaning/definition
2019 PEI report	The report containing PEI published as part of the 2019 statutory consultation for the scheme.
2020 PEI report	The report containing PEI published as part of the 2020 statutory consultation for the scheme.
The Act	The Planning Act 2008.
Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)	The system devised and introduced to classify agricultural land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations on agricultural use. Land is graded between 1 (excellent quality) and 5 (poor quality).
APFP Regulations	Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.
Appropriate Assessment	An assessment of the effects of a plan or project on the network of European sites of nature conservation significance in accordance with Habitats Regulations 2017. The assessment focuses on the plan or project's implications for the site and any potential adverse impacts on its integrity.
The Applicant	Highways England.
Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)	An area declared by a local authority which has been determined will exceed the relevant air quality strategy objective.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Land protected by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It protects the land to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.
Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)	The Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) is a presentation of the amount of benefit being bought for every £1 of cost to the public purse – the higher the BCR, the greater the benefit for every £1 spent.
Best and Most Versatile agricultural land (BMV)	Land defined as grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification. This land is considered to be the most flexible, productive and efficient and is most capable of delivering crops for food and non-food uses.
Common Land	Common Land is defined as " <i>any land subject to be enclosed under the Inclosure Acts 1845 to 1882...</i> ". Common Land is also open access land under the under the CRoW Act unless there is evidence that the public have a right of access on foot for recreation by some other means. In addition, there is no right for use over common land by bicycle or on horseback unless that right has been specifically provided by the landowner.
Competent Authority	The public body, statutory undertaker, government department, or public office-holder that must carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), to test if a plan or project proposal could significantly harm the designated features of a European site.

Term	Meaning/definition
Cotswold Conservation Board (CCB)	Independent statutory body that works to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, to increase understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities, and to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities. Publicly, CCB are also known as Cotswold National Landscape (CNL).
Cotswold District Council (CDC)	The local planning authority for Cotswold District.
Country Park	An area designated for people to visit and enjoy recreation in a countryside environment.
CRoW Act	The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
Department for Transport (DfT)	The Government department responsible for transport in Britain, and therefore in overall control of the road network. It is mainly responsible for policy decisions, and its responsibilities are carried out by a range of agencies and local authorities.
Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB)	The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges contains information about current standards relating to the design, assessment and operation of motorway and all-purpose trunk roads in the United Kingdom.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	The consent for a NSIP required under the Act.
DCO Application	The application for a DCO for the scheme.
DCO Boundary	Means the boundaries within which the scheme may be carried out under any approved DCO.
The draft DCO	The draft DCO (Document reference 3.1) submitted as part of the DCO application for the scheme
Environment Agency (EA)	The Government agency established to protect and improve the environment and contribute to sustainable development in England. Responsibilities include: water quality and resources, flooding and coastal risk management and contaminated land.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The statutory process through which the likely significant effects of a development project on the environment are identified and assessed, in accordance with the EIA Regulations.
EIA Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	The environmental management plan provides the framework for recording environmental risks, commitments and other environmental constraints and clearly identifies the structures and processes that will be used to manage and control these aspects. The EMP for the scheme is presented in ES Appendix 2.1 Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4). The various stages of the EMP are explained further in section 2.7 of ES Chapter 2 The project (Document Reference 6.2).
Environmental Masterplan	The plans which illustrates the mitigation measures integrated into the design of the scheme and presented in ES Figure 7.11 Environmental Masterplans (Document Reference 6.3).
Environmental Statement (ES)	A statutory document which reports the EIA process, produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations.
Examining Authority (ExA)	The person(s) appointed by the Secretary of State (SoS) to assess the DCO application and make a recommendation to the SoS.
Exchange Land	Land to be provided in exchange of Common Land being used / acquired as part of the scheme.
Existing A417	The current route of the A417 between Brockworth Bypass and Cowley Junction.

Term	Meaning/definition
Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)	The county council and local highways authority for Gloucestershire County.
Habitat Regulations 2017	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
Highways England	Highways England is the strategic highway company responsible for the operation, maintenance and improvement of England's trunk roads and motorways. Formerly the Highways Agency.
Historic England	The executive non-departmental public body created the National Heritage Act 1983 to: secure the preservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings situated in England; promote the preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of conservation areas situated in England; and promote the public's enjoyment of, and advance their knowledge of, ancient monuments and historic buildings situated in England and their preservation.
Joint Councils	Gloucestershire County Council, Cotswold District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council.
Limits of Deviation (LoD)	Limits within which the scheme can deviate should consent be granted as described in ES Chapter 2 The project (Document Reference 6.4).
Local Impact Report	A report prepared by Local Planning Authorities giving details of the likely impact of the a proposed NSIP on the authority's area.
Local Planning Authority (LPA)	The local authority or council that is empowered by law to exercise planning functions.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	A planning framework which sets out the Government's planning policies for planning applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in England and how these are expected to be applied.
National Policy Statement (NPS)	Statements prepared and designated by the Secretary of State under the Act, which establish national policy for NSIPs, including energy, transport and water, waste water, waste and against which applications for DCOs are assessed.
National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN)	A statement setting out the need for, and Government's policies to deliver, the development of nationally significant infrastructure projects on the national road and rail networks in England.
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)	A type of project listed in the Act, which must be consented by a DCO.
National Trail	Long distance footpaths and bridleways in England and Wales administered by Natural England.
National Trust	The charity and membership organisation for heritage conservation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Natural England	The executive non-departmental public body constituted under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.
Open Access Land	Open Space land made available to the public for recreation on foot only under the CRow Act.
Open Space	Any land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation.
Order Land	The land authorised to be compulsorily acquired as part of the scheme as shown on the Land Plans (Document Reference 2.2) and listed in the Book of Reference (Document Reference 4.3).

Term	Meaning/definition
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The agency responsible for operating the planning process for NSIPs on behalf of the SoS.
Preferred Route Announcement (PRA)	The announcement made by Highways England following the selection of a preferred option or solution for a given road project (March 2018).
Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)	Preliminary environmental about the scheme provided for the purposes of consultation in accordance with the Act and the EIA Regulations and as set out in the 2019 PEI report and the 2020 PEI report.
Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	A way over which the public have a right to pass and repass. The route may be used on foot, on (or leading) a horse, on a pedal cycle or with a motor vehicle, depending on its status. Although the land may be owned by a private individual, the public may still gain access across that land along a specific route.
Road Investment Strategy (RIS1)	The Government's long-term vision for England's motorways and major roads, outlining how smooth, smart and sustainable roads will be achieved through investment over a five year period (2015 - 2020).
Road Investment Strategy (RIS2)	The Government's long-term strategic vision for the network. With that vision in mind, it then: specifies the performance standards Highways England must meet; lists planned enhancement schemes we expect to be built; and states the funding that we will make available during the second Road Period (RP2), covering the financial years 2020/21 to 2024/25.
The scheme	The A417 Missing Link scheme as more particularly described in Chapter 2 The Project (Document Reference 6.2) .
Secretary of State (SoS)	The Secretary of State for Transport.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	A SSSI is a conservation designation notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, denoting a protected area in the United Kingdom, designated due to special interest in its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features. They are protected by law to conserve their wildlife or geology.
Strategic Road Network (SRN)	The network of motorways and trunk roads in England.
Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC)	The local planning authority for Tewkesbury Borough.
Walkers, cyclists and horse-riders (WCH)	A collective term used to describe pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.

Table 13-2 Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BCR	Benefit to Cost Ratio
BMV	Best and most versatile land
BOAT	Byway open to all traffic
ComMA	Combined Modelling and Appraisal Report (Document Reference 7.6)
CCB	Cotswolds Conservation Board

Abbreviation	Description
CDC	Cotswold District Council
DCO	Development Consent Order
Defra	Department for Environment, Foods and Rural Affairs
DfT	Department for Transport
DMRB	Design Manual for Road and Bridges
EA	Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPS	European Protected Species
ES	Environmental Statement
ExA	Examining Authority
GCC	Gloucestershire County Council
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSWMP	Ground and Surface Water Management Plan (Annex G of ES Appendix 2.1 EMP)
GWT	Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Ha	Hectare
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
KM	Kilometre
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LIQ	Land Interest Questionnaire
LoD	Limits of Deviation
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LSE	Likely Significant Effects
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
MP	Member of Parliament
NE	Natural England
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statement
NPSNN	National Policy Statement for National Networks
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
NT	National Trust
PEI	Preliminary Environmental Information
PIA	Personal Injury Accidents
PIL	Persons with an Interest in the Land
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
PMA	Private Means of Access
PRA	Preferred Route Announcement
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
REAC	Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments
RIP	Road Investment Programme

Abbreviation	Description
RIS1	Road Investment Strategy 2015/16-2019/20
RIS2	Road Investment Strategy 2: 2020-2025
RP2	Second Road Period
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SPP	Special Parliamentary Procedures
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoS	Secretary of State
SRN	Strategic Road Network
SSP	Strategic Stakeholder Panel
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
SWRTM	South West Regional Traffic Model
TAG	Transport Analysis Guidance
TBC	Tewkesbury Borough Council
TWG	Technical Working Group
WCH	Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding

*Please see the Glossary in Chapter 17 of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference 6.2) for specific terminology within the Environmental Statement.

*Please see the list of Abbreviations in Chapter 18 of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference 6.2) for abbreviations specific to the Environmental Statement.

*Please see the Glossary in the Combined Modelling and Appraisal Report (ComMA) (Document Reference 7.6) for specific terminology within that report.