

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Sparkford to Ilchester](#)
Subject: Reference: SPIL-AFP053
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REQUEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMENTS FROM ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

CYCLING

[REDACTED] I cycle to my place of work. I cross the A303 on to Gason Lane up to 4 times a day, 4 days a week. I take my life in to my own hands when I am waiting in the filter lane to cross the A303. I find that oncoming traffic is fairly kind to me and see me as very vulnerable waiting in the middle of the road, therefore slowing down to allow me to cross the A303 safely.

In the last few years, Gason Lane has become a rat-run for traffic trying to avoid queues on the A303 heading west. On my bike, I have met up to 10 vehicles on the 5 minute (or less) cycle ride on the lane. Some of the drivers of the vehicles can be very aggressive towards me; on occasion, I had someone blowing their horn behind me as I cycled up the hill. These attitudes are getting much worse. And if Gason Lane gets closed off, how is a cyclist/NMU meant to get in to Queen Camel from Camel Hill? Cycling on the A303 itself is not safe and a no-go.

In a car, I can wait in the filter lane to cross the A303 for quite a while before there is a gap for me to get across. When on Gason Lane, I find that oncoming vehicles have no single track lane protocol. The majority of the time, they are unable to find reverse, and when they do, it would have been quicker for me to reverse a lot further in the time it took them to find a passing place.

The local villages have had the brunt of vehicles trying to avoid queues on the A303. This has been going on for years now and is not improving. I can only see more chaos in these villages going forward if the dualling of the A303 goes ahead.

With the proposed road layout from Camel Hill to Queen Camel, I feel although cyclists have been totally forgotten about. If I don't feel safe cycling, I will regretfully resort to using my car, upping my carbon footprint. Is it possible to have an underpass from Camel Hill to Gason Lane?

MY CONCERNS OF THE PROPOSED ROUTE

In the 20+ years that I have lived on Camel Hill, I have been very aware of vehicles bumping in to one another (at 20mph) when there is an aeroplane landing at Yeovilton. A driver only has to take their eyes off the road for seconds, and they have bumped in to the car in front. This does not bode well when the road is duelled and cars are travelling at 70mph.

If the proposed route goes ahead, what will happen if there is a big accident and both carriageways would have to close? As I envisage, the local villages, again, will bear the brunt of diversions.

If, however, the other route (in the valley) was the final decision, local traffic would be able to continue to use the (current) A303 in a much more convenient way. If both carriageways were blocked due to an accident, the relief road would be the (current) A303.

Kind regards

Martine Hardy
[REDACTED]

