



A417 MISSING LINK - WRITTEN REPRESENTATION AT DEADLINE 5
(REFERENCE NO. TR010056)

Cotswolds Conservation Board (the 'Board')

9 March 2022

This Written Representation has been prepared jointly with the following organisations:

- Joint Councils – comprising GCC, TBC and CDC
- National Trust
- Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

National Highways has committed to submitting new engineering drawings and sections of proposed structures by Deadline 6. This is welcomed. Cotswold Conservation Board, National Trust, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and the Joint Councils comprising GCC, TBC and CDC have jointly compiled the following shortlist of key concerns, all expressed at previous deadlines, which should be addressed on the new drawings. The new drawings should be accompanied by a Design Code style document, reflective of a landscape-led solution that fulfils the criteria outlined in the collaborative Bridges Brief that was submitted by the key partners to the applicant in October 2020. These drawings and documents should be secured directly under Requirement 11 of the dDCO in order to provide assurances that the highest quality of design is achieved, in consultation with the identified partners, noting that National Highways would require no further independent third-party approvals of its detailed design of structures following grant of the DCO.

- Existing commitments to the design of structures set out in the Environmental Management Plan are incomplete;
- There should be clear evidence that the design, form and appearance of all bridge structures will respond to the natural and built character of this part of the Cotswolds and that best practice from other schemes (as previously shared with the applicant), have been incorporated;
- There should be clear evidence that the structures will make a positive contribution to sense of place;
- There should be clear commitments to ensure the Gloucestershire Way Bridge will be engineered to successfully sustain calcareous grassland and hedgerow habitats and that there is a clear long-term management plan for this structure;
- There should be clear evidence that the suite of bridges – Gloucestershire Way bridge, Stockwell bridge and Cowley bridge will provide both human and wildlife connectivity. We are still concerned that these structures will not provide the necessary landscape connectivity nor be engineered to sustain habitats (whether hedgerows and trees on Stockwell and Cowley, or full habitat creation on Gloucestershire Way bridge);

Cotswolds Conservation Board

The Old Prison, Fosse Way, Northleach
Gloucestershire GL54 3JH



The Cotswolds National Landscape is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), managed and looked after by the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Chairman:
Brendan McCarthy

Vice Chair:
Rebecca Charley

- There should be clear evidence that the Cotswold Way crossing will, sympathetically and visually, reflect its position between Crickley Hill and Barrow Wake, drawing from the aesthetics, settings (situated amongst geological exposures) and woodland surroundings;
- There should be a commitment to the use of locally sourced materials for all structures;
- There should be evidence that an options appraisal has been carried out and/or commitment that an options appraisal will be carried out in detailed design

If this additional information is not submitted into examination and these concerns are not fully addressed to the satisfaction of the stakeholders, we would request that Requirement 11 is redrafted to ensure that the stakeholders are named consultees at the pre-submission stage and that the detailed designs of structures is submitted to the Secretary of State for written approval prior to the commencement of those parts of the development.

ENDS