



Meeting note

Project name	A417 Missing Link
File reference	
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	02 October 2018
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Temple Quay House
Meeting objectives	Inception Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project Overview

The Applicant provided an overview to the scheme for a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP): A417 Missing Link.

The project is located in between Brockworth bypass and Cowley roundabout, near Gloucester. This stretch of the A417 is referred to as the missing link due to it being the only section of the A417 that is single carriageway rather than dual carriageway.

The Applicant explained that the project would seek to remove the “missing link” by providing a dual carriageway on a partially new alignment, bringing with it improved safety for drivers and non-motorised users. The Applicant noted a high level of collisions on this stretch of road, including a high number of fatal injuries. The Applicant provided an overview of the process to date, outlining optioneering and consultation processes and a potential Preferred Route Announcement next year. (Post meeting note: the PRA was made on 14 March 2019).

The Applicant described the environmental considerations the project are working with, including its location entirely within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the topography of the escarpment. The Applicant noted the engagement and joint working with relevant organisations including Natural England, the Environment Agency, Cotswolds AONB Conservation Board and Gloucestershire County and Cotswolds District Councils. These bodies make up the project’s Strategic Stakeholder Panel.

The Applicant described the existence of an Air Quality Management Area at Air Balloon roundabout and highlighted that it was anticipated that the project would improve the situation sufficiently that this declaration could be removed.

The Applicant explained that engagement with key stakeholders was underway and would continue as the project evolved. The project has been identified in the Road Infrastructure Strategy (RIS) 2015-2020 to be delivered in the next RIS period (2020-2025). The Applicant provided a high-level overview of the project programme moving forward.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant is to come back in 2019 before Statutory consultation for an update.