

A417 Missing Link

Stakeholder resource pack



31 October 2023

What is this pack for?

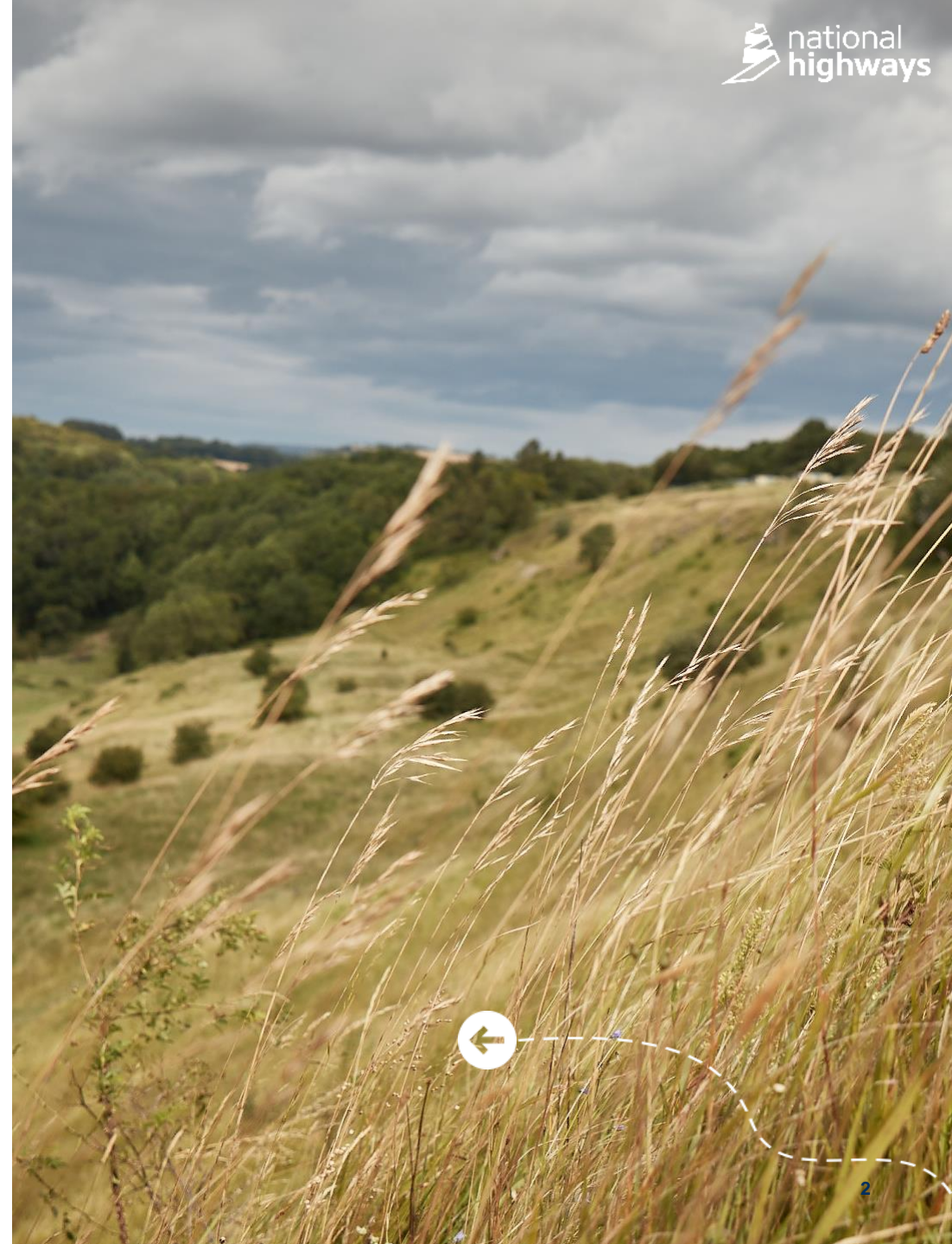
We're delighted that the Secretary of State for Transport Mark Harper has visited the A417, to see for himself the progress being made on the project and to meet the project team that are making it happen.

His visit comes as the project enters the next phase of construction and we have today published our latest newsletter, which provides a comprehensive update.

We'd appreciate it if you could share a project update on your comms channels and help us keep local people updated.

On the following pages, you'll find lots of useful information to help you do this.

Note that this PDF is not for sharing, just the content included in it.



Text block

The following text can be cut and pasted and used in newsletters, web updates, etc. Photos to accompany this can be found on the following pages.

National Highways welcomes Secretary of State on site visit as major A417 scheme enters next phase

As National Highways enters the next phase of construction on one of the Gloucestershire's busiest road links – Secretary of State for Transport Mark Harper was welcomed onto site at the end of October for a guided tour and to see the progress so far.

The £460m landscape-led scheme is already on its way to delivering a safe and resilient free-flowing road while conserving and enhancing the special character of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).


The scheme will improve the connection between two dual carriageway sections of the A417 at Brockworth and Cowley, and links between the M4 and M5.

Upgrading this section of the A417 to dual carriageway, in a way that is sensitive to the surrounding Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, will help unlock Gloucestershire's potential for growth, support regional plans for more homes and jobs and improve life in local communities.

Having progressed preliminary construction works, including archaeology and biodiversity enhancements, the scheme will now look to the next stage of enabling works, which includes the widening of the A417 at Crickley Hill.

Once completed, the scheme will move to main construction in early 2024, which will see a new section of road built away from the current road, and earthworks at Ullenwood and Shab Hill junctions. The project is due to be completed in early 2027.

For all the latest project news visit National Highways' website and read its latest newsletter: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link/

 **To view our latest press release visit:**
<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/article/national-highways-welcomes-secretary-of-state-on-site-visit-to-celebrate-next-phase-of-major-a417-scheme/>

Images



National Highways Chief Executive Nick Harris, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Richard Graham MP, Secretary of State for Transport Mark Harper MP, Siobhan Baillie MP, Alex Chalk MP, Laurence Robertson MP, Kier CEO Andrew Davies.

→ Image can be viewed and downloaded from our website Resource pack: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link

More images are available via email at a417missinglink@nationalhighways.co.uk

Images



The A417 Missing Link



The Gloucestershire Way Crossing



The A417 Missing Link



The Cotswold Way Crossing

→ Images can be viewed and downloaded from our website resource pack: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link

More images are available via email at a417missinglink@nationalhighways.co.uk

Newsletter

We publish a monthly newsletter on our website which contains all the latest project updates and information.



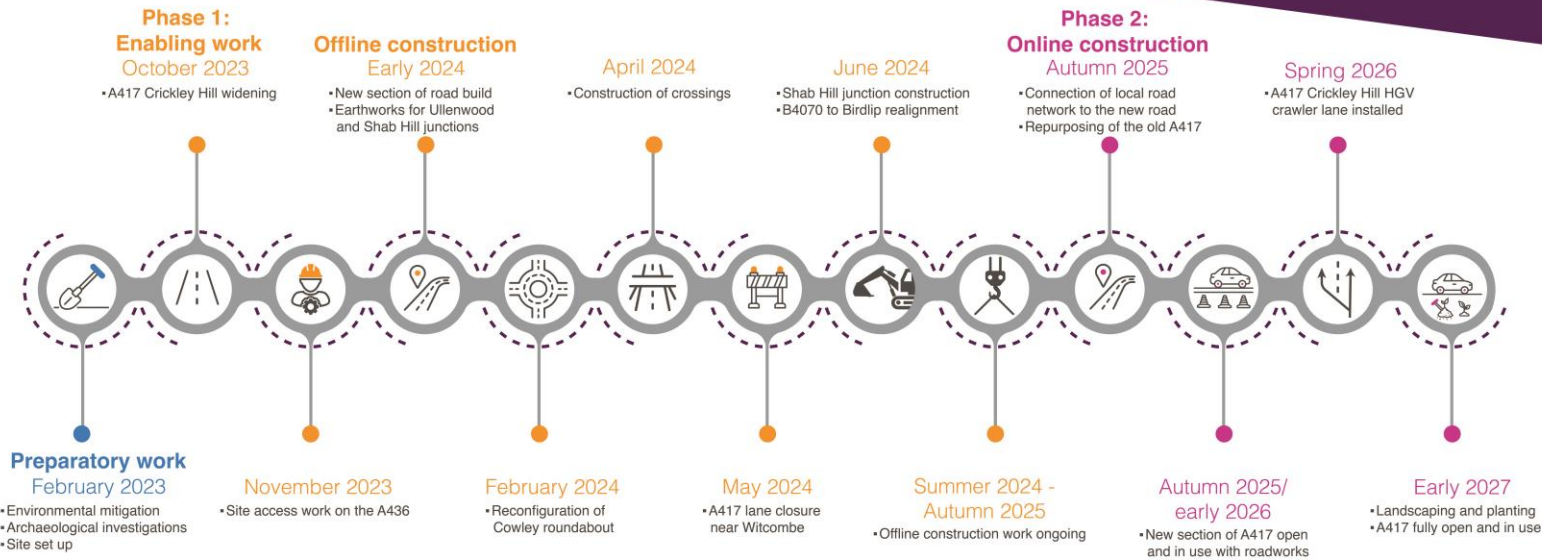
→ The latest newsletter can be shared and viewed here:
<https://sway.office.com/7RX3FRveqFpZox0a?ref=Link>

Timeline

As we enter the next phase of construction, we've published our latest project timeline. Here you can see when construction activities are scheduled to start. The project is due to be completed in early 2027.



A417 Missing Link Construction timeline: start dates



→ The timeline can be viewed and downloaded from our website: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link

*Dates are subject to change

Scheme visualisations

To help the public visualise the layout and the benefits of the new roadway, we published a series of fly-through animations in November 2022. There is a long version on our website home page and a short version can be found in our Resource pack, linked below.



→ The fly-through animation videos can be shared and viewed on our website:
www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link

Infographics

We're making journeys quicker and more reliable.

A417
Missing Link

We're dualling 3.4 miles of single carriageway.



We're making journeys quicker and more reliable.

A417
Missing Link

'Mile-a-minute' journeys will become the norm.



We're making the road safer.

A417
Missing Link

A free-flowing road will help reduce accidents.



We're improving connections.

A417
Missing Link

Unlocking opportunities for economic growth.


More jobs ↑
More visitors ↑
More economic growth ↑



We're making the road safer.

A417
Missing Link

We're reducing the gradient of the road and...



We're creating new and improved wildlife habitats.

A417
Missing Link

We're planting lots of native woodland, grassland & hedgerows.



We've pledged to leave biodiversity in a better place than where we found it



We have an ambitious plan to rapidly decarbonise road construction



- We've produced animated infographics which focus on the benefits of the scheme and our environmental commitments.
- These can be viewed and downloaded from our Resource pack here: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link

What the A417 Missing Link scheme means to you

We've produced a series of videos, which reflect on why the A417 Missing Link project is so important and what the scheme means to local people. They can be viewed and downloaded from our website:

www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link



Handouts

There are some useful handouts on our website, including a 2-page summary of the project, a 2-page summary of how we're tackling climate change and a 1-page high-level summary of the construction programme. Please feel free to share them.

A17 Missing Link
A landscape-led road improvement scheme
How we're tackling climate change

The national picture
The UK has committed to being a net zero economy by 2050. To deliver a net zero economy, our roads must be net zero too - they are an integral part of our transport system and will continue to be important as they are a convenient, low cost and practical way to travel to see family, to travel to work and to deliver goods around the UK.

At a project level
This project will improve local air quality and reduce pollution caused by congestion.

Design
The scheme has been carefully designed to minimise carbon emissions, for example, in 2020, we changed the gradient of the A417 as it climbs the escarpment near Chickley Hill. We previously proposed to reduce the gradient from 10% to 7% but changed this to 8% to reduce the amount of soil and rock that needs to be dug out and transported, and the need for 1,200 metres of large retaining walls. We've also changed the design of our bridges and excluded road lighting, which will further reduce the impact of the schemes.

Operation and maintenance
User emissions will be cut radically as the UK phases out the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles from 2030 and hybrid vehicles from 2035.

Construction
During construction, we will set strict carbon reduction targets of at least 10% for our contractor, which is in line with our Net Zero Highways Plan.

Where possible we will also:

- use renewable or low carbon energy generation at construction compounds and vehicles
- use low carbon plant equipment and vehicles
- use low carbon materials or materials that absorb carbon dioxide
- use low carbon construction techniques
- source recycled or secondary materials from the local area.

Emissions arising from our operations and maintenance activities will be radically reduced via energy efficiencies and the use of electric vehicles, renewable energy tariffs, and renewable energy generation at our sites.

A417
The Missing Link

The A417 scheme will upgrade the three-mile stretch of single carriageway (known as the Missing Link) between the Brockworth bypass and Cowley roundabout in Gloucestershire. This will improve road safety and connectivity, support the economy, ease congestion and reduce air pollution.

We have consulted local people and worked collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a landscape-led highways scheme that will tackle these issues and deliver a safe and resilient free-flowing road while conserving and enhancing the special character of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The A417 (A19) is an important route between Gloucester, Cheltenham and Swindon that helps connect the West Midlands and the north to the south of England via the M5 and M4 motorways. Frequent and unpredictable levels of congestion at this location often results in motorists, including HGV drivers, diverting onto smaller local roads to avoid long delays.

There are also a higher than average recorded collisions along this three-mile stretch of road. In the five years to the end of June 2019, there were 43 collisions that resulted in personal injury. Eight of those collisions unfortunately resulted in fatalities.

We are building 5.4 miles (8.7 km) of new dual carriageway, which will follow the alignment of the existing A417 at Chickley Hill with less of a slope than the existing road. The new section of road will be built through Shab Hill to the east of the existing A417, joining the road near the existing location of Cowley roundabout.

A417
Missing Link
Construction programme

Construction of the A417 Missing Link will begin in 2023 and be completed by early 2027.

During construction, there will be a short-term temporary impact on the way people access and enjoy the area. However, in the long term, the scheme will improve safety and journey times, which will benefit the local and regional economy and make the area a more attractive place to explore and visit.

This map shows how construction work will be phased.

Kier has a dedicated team who will provide more detail ahead of every construction phase, keep people informed about up-and-coming work and be available to answer questions.

Key
Phase 1
Phase 2

Offline vs Online construction
Offline: the built will take place away from the A417. There will be limited impact on motorists using the A417 and the A417 will run as normal.
Online: the built will take place on the A417. Roadworks and/or contraflows will be in place and temporarily impact motorists.

2023
Preparatory work
Kier will begin preparing for the build in early 2023. There's a lot to do before the actual road can be built, including archaeological and ground investigations, installation of environmental mitigation like animal fencing, diverting and protecting utilities and setting up the construction site.

2024
Phase 1: predominantly offline construction
During Phase 1, the work will mainly be offline but there will be some online working that will impact journeys on the A417. This will, however, be minimal and the A417 will be running as normal. In late 2023*, widening work on the existing A417 at Chickley Hill will take place so that traffic management can be safely installed and operated during the main build.

2025
In early 2024*, construction of the offline section between the existing Air Balloon roundabout and Cowley junction will begin. This includes the building of Ullenwood and Shab Hill junctions, the A428 to Shab Hill, the realignment of the B4070 and all the crossings. At the end of this phase, traffic will be switched from the old A417 to the newly built road.

2026
Phase 2: predominantly online construction
In this phase, the new section of the A417 will be open and in use, with traffic management and contraflows in place whilst construction continues. This phase will have the most impact on motorists using the A417. Work will continue on the new section of the A417 and Kier will start widening the southbound section of the existing A417 between Brockworth and the existing Air Balloon roundabout. Kier will reconfigure and connect the local road network to the new A417. Alongside this, the old A417 will be turned into a new walking, cycling and horse riding route and extensive landscaping will take place.

2027
*dates are subject to change

How we're tackling climate change

Project summary

Construction programme summary

➔ The handouts can be viewed and downloaded on our website: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link

Social media

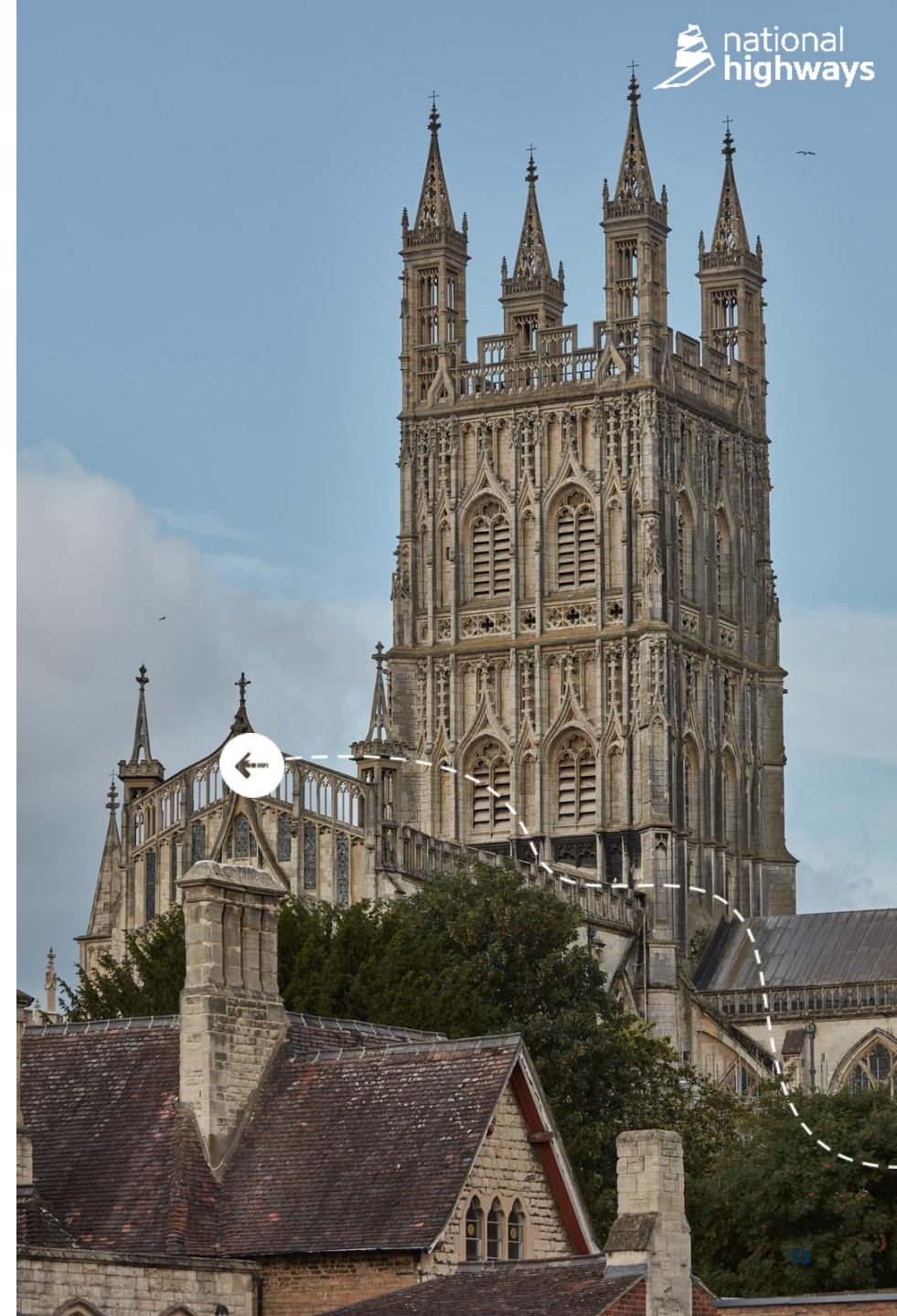
We posted the content below on our LinkedIn and X page (@NationalHways) on 27 October. Feel free to share. If you are tweeting or posting your own messages, please use the following hashtag: #A417MissingLink and tag us in.

Content:	Date	Time
LinkedIn We have welcomed Secretary of State Mark Harper MP onto our A417 scheme site today to mark its next construction phase, enabling works. The scheme will improve the connection between two dual carriageway sections of the A417 at Brockworth and Cowley, and links between the M4 and M5. This upgrade is sensitive to the surrounding Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It will unlock Gloucestershire's potential for growth, supporting regional plans for more homes, as well as jobs, and improving life in local communities.	27/10/23	15:45
X/Twitter We have welcomed Secretary of State Mark Harper MP onto our A417 scheme site in Gloucestershire today to mark its next construction phase, enabling works. The scheme will support regional plans for more homes and jobs and will improve life in local communities.	27/10/23	15:45

*Please note timings may change slightly if we are dealing with an incident on the network

Further Information

- The A417 is a vital route that helps people get to work, to school, and to visit friends and family. We have developed a landscape-led road upgrade to improve safety, support the economy and ease congestion and pollution, making it more convenient for its regular users and improving the wellbeing of those who live nearby.
- Safety on this stretch of the A417 needs improving to reduce accidents and associated fatalities.
- On an average day, the road carries approximately 40,000 vehicles and congestion can be frequent and unpredictable, causing some motorists to divert onto local roads to avoid tailbacks. This causes difficulties for neighbouring communities since local roads were not built to accommodate so much traffic.
- With the number of homes and people in the area set to increase, congestion, delays and accidents will likely get worse if the current issues are not resolved.
- The A417 project will help facilitate 54,000 new homes and 370 hectares of employment land due to be created before 2031, providing opportunities for people live and work and for businesses to invest in the southwest. The need for a more reliable, safer road is greater than ever.
- The A417 passes through the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty so the new road has been designed sensitively and with local stakeholder consultation to preserve the special character of the landscape, environment and history.
- The improvement will see Cotswold District Council remove the Air Quality Management Area designation in the necessary around Air Balloon Roundabout.



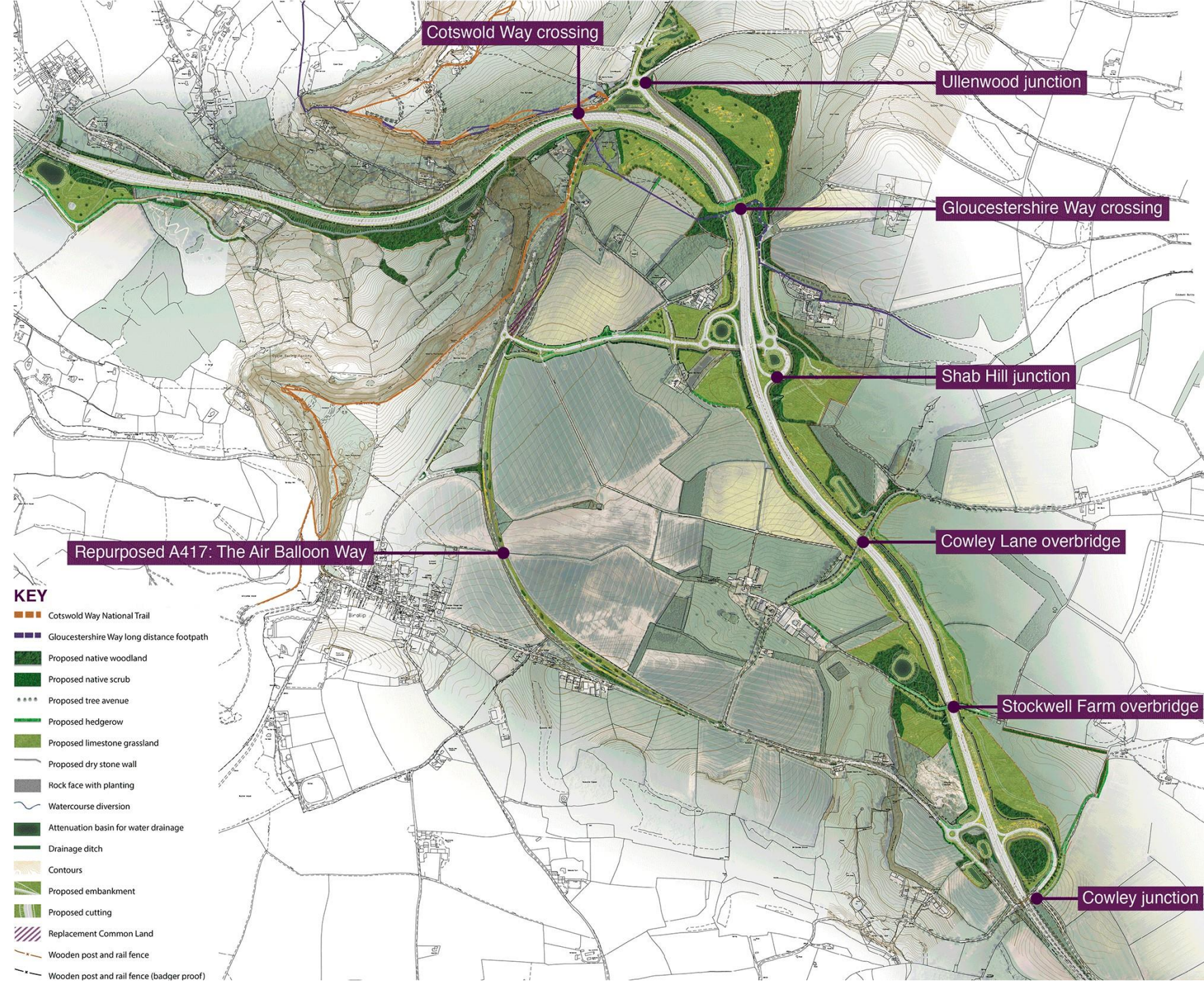
What we're doing and why?

- We are building 3.4 miles (5.5 km) of new road
- It will reduce collisions and improve safety
- Reduce congestion, improving air quality
- Reducing rat running, improving public rights of way
- Unlock economic growth in Gloucestershire and beyond



This map can be viewed and downloaded from our website Resource pack:

www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link



Useful links

To follow are some useful links:

Planning Inspectorate website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a417-missing-link/>

Our project website: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link

Email: a417missinglink@nationalhighways.co.uk

X (formally Twitter): @HighwaysSWEST

Highways England Customer Contact Centre: 0300 123 5000