

About the A417 Missing Link

The A417/A419 provides 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.

While most of the route is dual carriageway, there's one section that isn't.

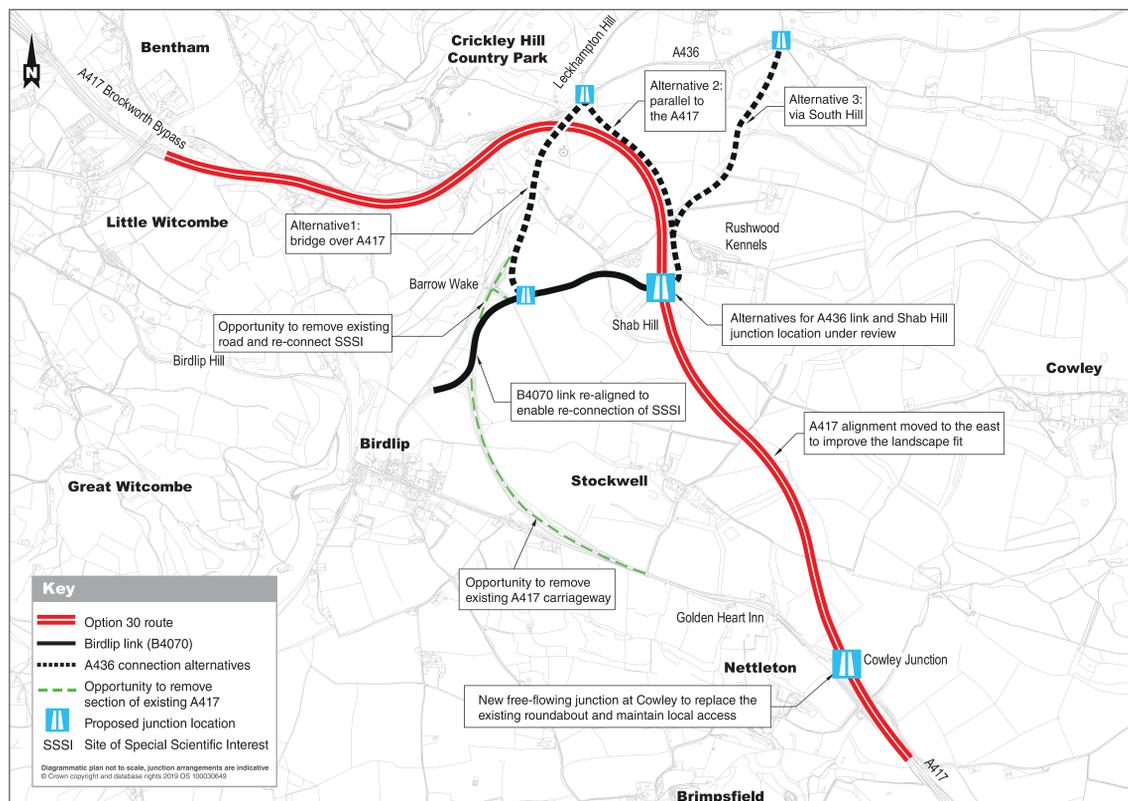
Known as the Missing Link, this three-mile stretch of single carriageway on the A417 between the Brockworth bypass and Cowley roundabout severely restricts the flow of traffic.

Traffic congestion can be frequent and unpredictable, leading motorists, including HGV drivers, to divert onto smaller local roads to avoid long delays. This causes difficulties for neighbouring communities as these local roads were not built to accommodate such a high level of traffic.

The sensitive nature of the Cotswold escarpment, the shape of the landscape and the area being part of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) means that there isn't an easy answer for improving this section of road. Over the years, there have been numerous attempts to find a solution to the A417 Missing Link. However, in recent years, the case for improvement has become more compelling – to improve safety, support the economy, ease congestion and reduce pollution.

We investigated a range of route options for the A417 Missing Link, assessing them against the scheme's vision and objectives, as well as a range of engineering, economic and financial criteria.

Since we announced Option 30 as the preferred route, we've been working to refine the scheme so that we can ask you for further feedback on our detailed proposals.



Option 30

The consultation showed widespread public support for improving the A417 Missing Link, and particularly for Option 30, which 72% of respondents to the consultation favoured.