

A green bridge can refer to standard concrete bridge with a layer of vegetation on the top. However below left shows where the National Trust helped secure green flanked bridges on the Weymouth link in the Dorset AONB that assist migration of all manner of wildlife, fungi, fauna etc.



Above shows where National Trust property at Hindhead in the South Downs AONB, was threatened by a bypass, and saved using a new, relatively low cost, method for digging 1.8km tunnels underneath.

The image left shows twin green bridges over a dual carriageway in Norway. The A465 dualling, west of Abergavenny, uses the same.

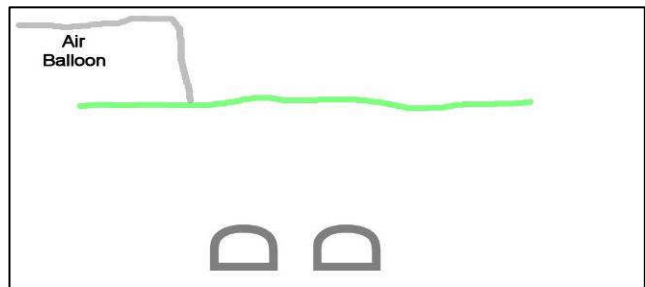
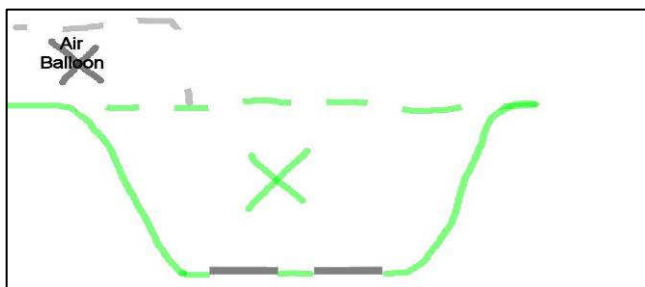
What is the difference between a bridge & a tunnel?

It might be thought that a tunnel is dug under, while a bridge is built over. However in Highways terms, the distinction is made by length. Even if it looks like a tunnel, if it's less than 150metres it's a bridge. It's a useful distinction. Government has said 'no tunnels' for the new A417 scheme & led to proposals for a 25-30 metre (100ft) deep cutting through the Air Balloon site, demolishing the landmark Inn & rerouting the Cotswold Way.



However taking the road (shown black above) underneath the site car park would only need a tunnel or bridge less than 150 metres, keeping the trees and hedgerows around the site, and meet the funding requirements.

The sketches below show that tunnelling methods not only save the landscape above ground, they should also minimise excavation works below the surface and reduce the impact on underlying water courses etc.



30 metre deep cutting at the Air Balloon Inn vs. Dual tunnel type bridge underneath its car park

Green Bridges, Cuttings or Tunnels? Simplified Option 30 Key Features

1. Retain Air Balloon Inn on 150metre Green Bridge excavated underneath the Car Park.



2. Perhaps extend Air Balloon site with 50 metre Green Bridge north over current A417.

3. Green bridge east over new A417, junction of South Hill track & Gloucestershire Way,

4. Possible tunnel to replace proposed deep cutting between these two Green Bridges.

5. Possible separate 50 metre Wildlife-Only Green Bridge west, south of The Scrubbs.

6. Slip road from the new A417 to the current A417 which in turn connects to the Air Balloon roundabout as at present.

7. Retain the lane alongside the new A417 for Walkers, Horses and Cyclists WHC (& possibly light traffic) Benthams to Cold Slad.

8. Retain Birdlip Bypass for local traffic & now amenable for Walkers, Horses and Cyclists.

9. Consider free flow junction at Cowley.

10. Consider a small satellite roundabout at A436 Leckhampton turn north for Cheltenham.

11. New A417 kept low in the landscape with series of Green Bridges –biodiversity connect.

