

1. Do you have any comments on our proposed route from the Brockworth bypass to Shab Hill Junction?

This response uses still images from Highways England Video Flythrough

Looking East heading from Brockworth at the end of the current A417 dual carriageway, Google maps shows the gateway on the left where riders and walkers can cross to the end of the central reservation. From there they can cross to the verge on the right before heading along to the side turning before the truck in the right middle distance.



The dashed lines added to this image from the video flythrough show where a bridge could be provided to cross the proposed Dual Carriageway



The crossing is from Dog Lane, Bentham on the north (left) side of the road to these multiple paths to the south i.e. from the right side of the image near where the trails of the biking centre can be seen.

- ABA125 Badgeworth Bridleway 125
- ABA74 Badgeworth Footpath 74
- ABA77 Badgeworth Footpath 77
- ABA80 Badgeworth Footpath 80
- ABA91 Badgeworth Footpath 91



The image above looking east shows ABA84 Footpath on the right emerging from the biking centre – the entrance to Crickley Hill Farm. There should be sufficient height here to take the footpath across to Dog Lane on the left.

This image below from Google Maps (looking west) shows, next to the white car, the footpath sign post for ABA84. The post would be in the middle of the central reservation once the west bound carriageway is constructed the other side. Dog Lane stays in place for local use. As traffic levels increased these crossing points have become less usable.



Heading East approaching the A436 turn on the flythrough video- there is a missing crossing for



footpath ABA86.

Looking west the footpath sign is just visible to the left on current google maps



Note the wide verge and footway to the right i.e heading down towards Bentham

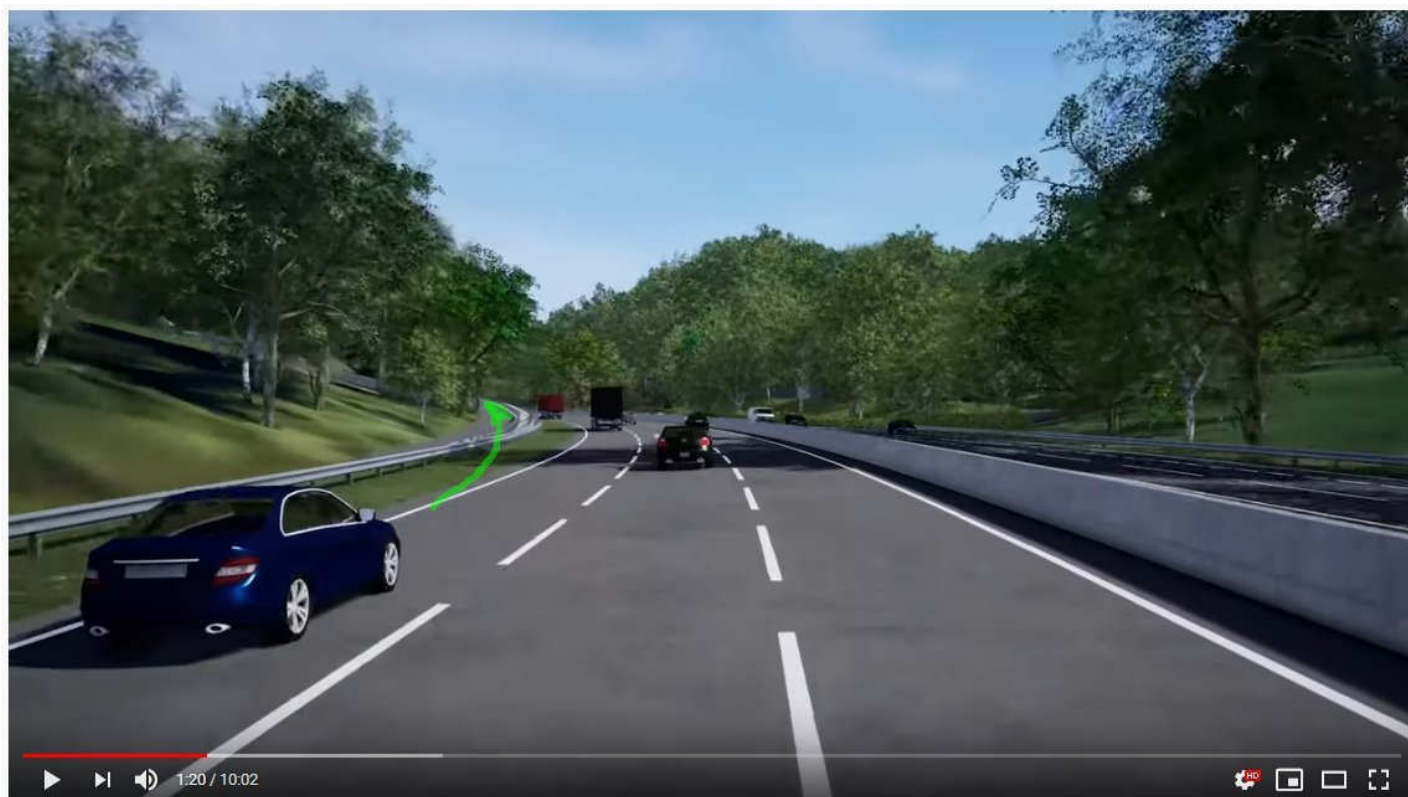
The Flythrough video shows Cold Slad turn here on the left that will be no longer accessible from the new road. There is a missing Bridleway Crossing from Cold Slad lane on the left to ABA87 over on the right (south) A low green bridge could connect the embankments on either side.



Google maps shows the entrance to Grove Farm to the right where Bridleway ABA87 emerges. (Footpath ABA89 joins the Bridleway a few hundred metres south i.e. off to the right of the farm entrance) Cold Slad turn is on the left.



At the Cold Slad turn the new A417 Dual Carriageway diverges to the right away from the current A417. The green arrow highlights the route heading left up towards the Air Balloon Roundabout. Simplified or greened up Option 30 uses this as an A436 short cut up to the roundabout and on to Oxford.



Further east the proposed green (grass) bridge ahead for a wildlife crossing seems more concrete than green. The current A417 is on top of the embankment to the left.



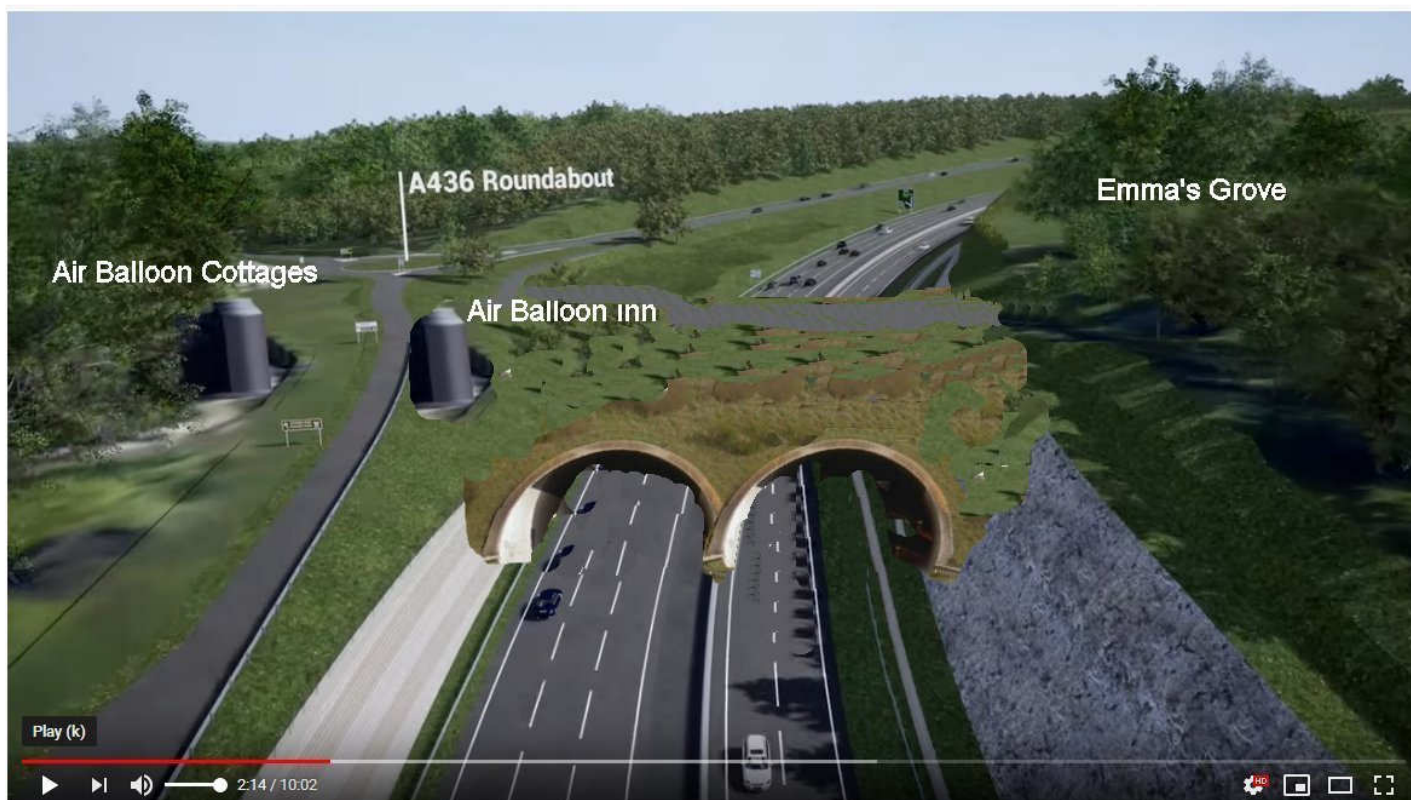
Simplified Option 30 would take a single lane slip road across the Dual Carriageway in the foreground here, for traffic heading down from the Air Balloon Roundabout and wishing to travel west on the carriageway to the right.

Further along the wall at the right illustrates the depth of the new A417 below current ground level.

The Air Balloon Inn and roundabout have been removed but to the left the standard Highways England feature of a silo indicates the location of the Cottages currently opposite the Air Balloon.



Below photoshop sketch image of the Air Balloon Inn retained next to a green flanked bridge over the new A417. Just behind the Inn (these videos use silos for buildings) is the road across past Emma's Grove which currently heads towards Birdlip and Cowley Roundabout. This is shown as alternative 1 in Highways England plans. Alternative 2 incorporates the new A436 link road ahead to reach Shab Hill junction and either head to Birdlip or drop down to the A417 dual carriageway.



An updated image shows the Gloucestershire Way also passing the Air Balloon before heading away through Emma's Grove and the Neolithic round barrows. The Cotswold Way passes the Air Balloon but continues to Barrow Wake.

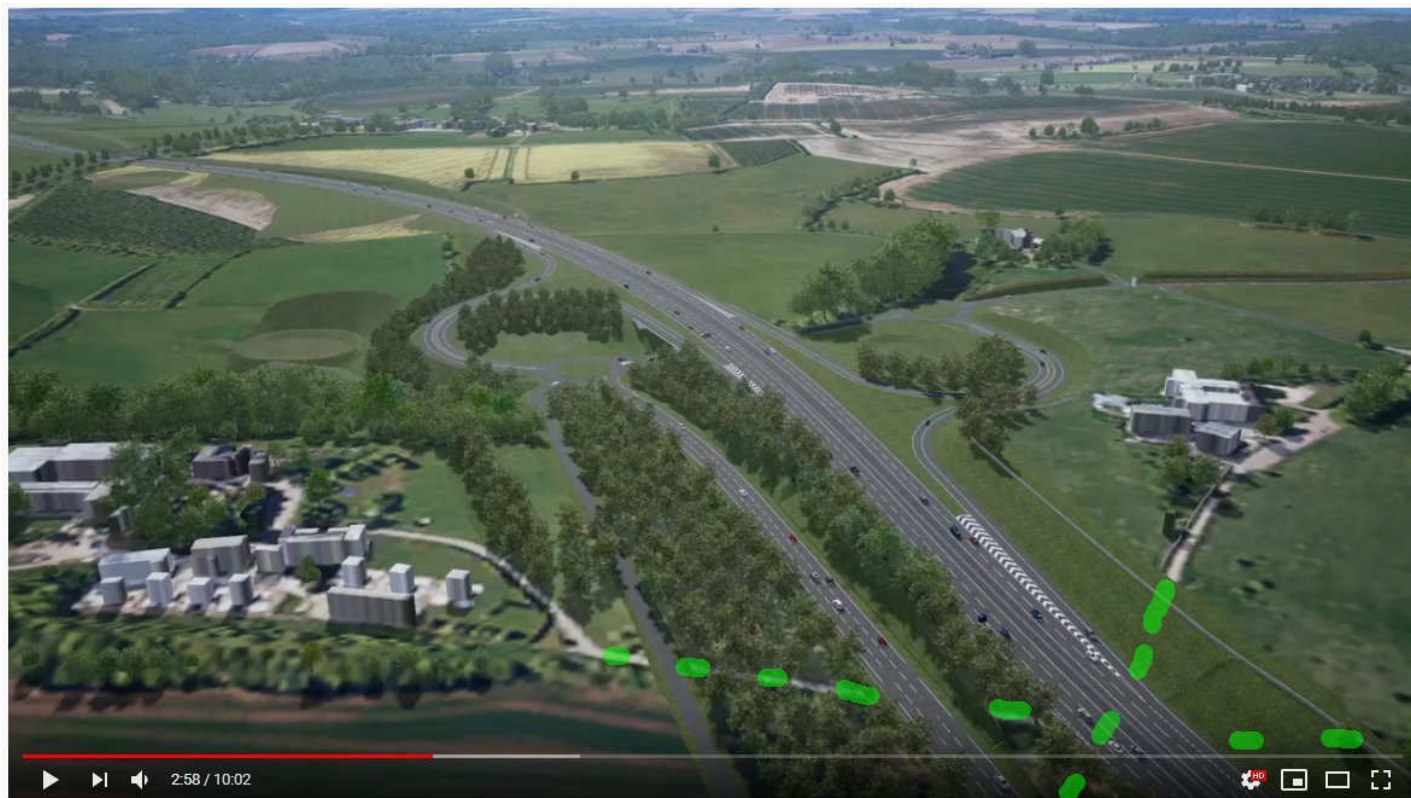


A 50metre Wildlife Corridor over the current road left could link Crickley Hill SSSI over the new dual carriageway and on to the Barrow Wake SSSI if they didn't mind being next to the Air Balloon site.

Below continuing from the Air Balloon Site towards Shab Hill, looking south east. This is where the proposed A436 alternative 2 link road is higher than the rising new A417. It might be expected to find a standard roundabout junction ahead over the Dual Carriageway.

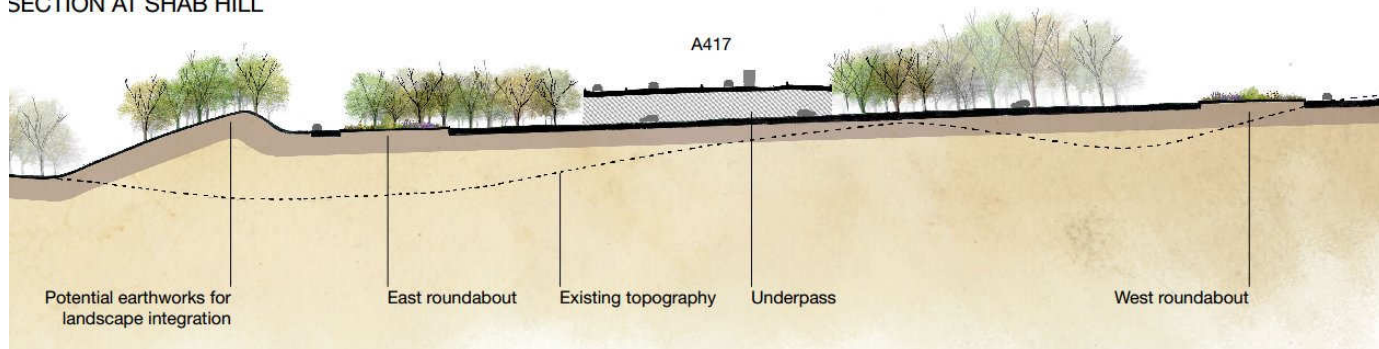


However the Dual carriageway continues to rise until it's on a flyover above the junction.



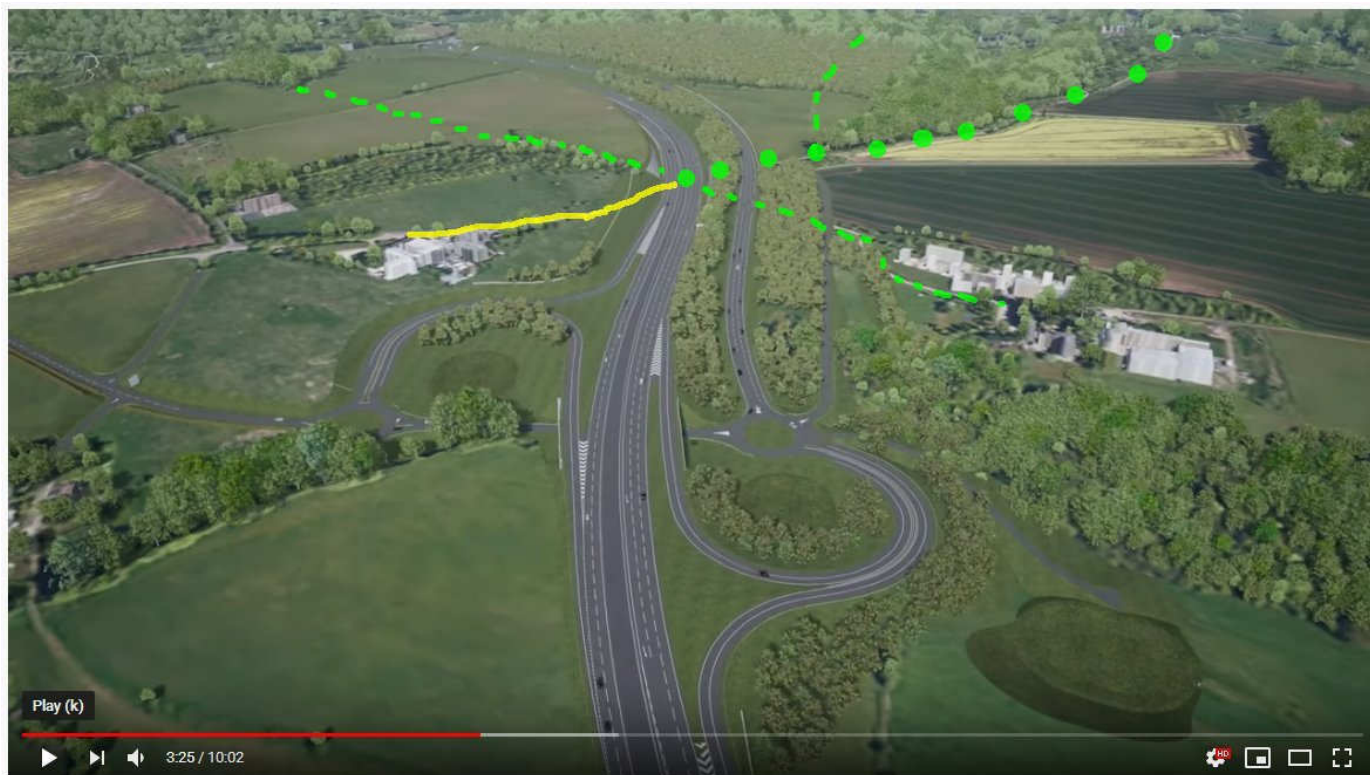
Notice in the foreground the junction of the Gloucestershire Way footpath ACO16 and other popular walking and riding routes have not been given a bridge.

SECTION AT SHAB HILL



The proposed Shab Hill Junction is upside down – traffic has to accelerate uphill to join the new A417. It's also at a landscape high point. With the new A417 taken on a flyover, its elevation could give noise concerns across the countryside.
Surely if the junction is to be located here, it should be inverted with the A417 in a cutting underneath the link road.

Another view of the Shab Hill junction this time looking north and showing where there is a 'crossroads' a number of paths bridleways tracks etc. Footpath ACY3 and ACO16. ORPA 50852 (dots) with Footpath ACO15 heading north. The yellow lane passes through Birdlip radio station. Although a crossing point here seems obvious, there is currently no plan for a bridge. Walkers cyclists and riders are diverted elsewhere.



Other notes along the route

Emma's Grove

There is a triangle of trees at grid ref SO 934-159 alongside the current road, opposite the Air Balloon which contains three bowl barrows, a mix of predominantly beech, ash, oak trees and some carved stonework was observed on the ground there. Option 30 proposal impacts the woodland and heritage site.

According to the PEIR, the plan is to remove the apex of the triangle and place a retaining wall there alongside the new road. The plans show a thinning of the trees at the sites of the bowl barrows leaving one strip alongside the Gloucestershire Way Footpath.

This woodland and heritage site, through which the Gloucestershire Way runs, is a treasured part of the walking environment, contributing to the enjoyment of the countryside. The trees should be retained with thinning kept to a minimum, especially in the beech grove section which contribute to the areas of beech wood renowned in the Cotswolds.

A Walking, Cycling and Horseriding route within the proposed scheme

Alongside the current road from Benthams is the remains of the pre 1990 road. This road is a single lane in places, begins as Dog Lane and becomes a foot or cycleway alongside the current road past Cold Slad Turn and on to the Air Balloon.

Following construction of the new A417, it would be used as a means to connect the bridges that bring the bridleways and footpaths across the new road.