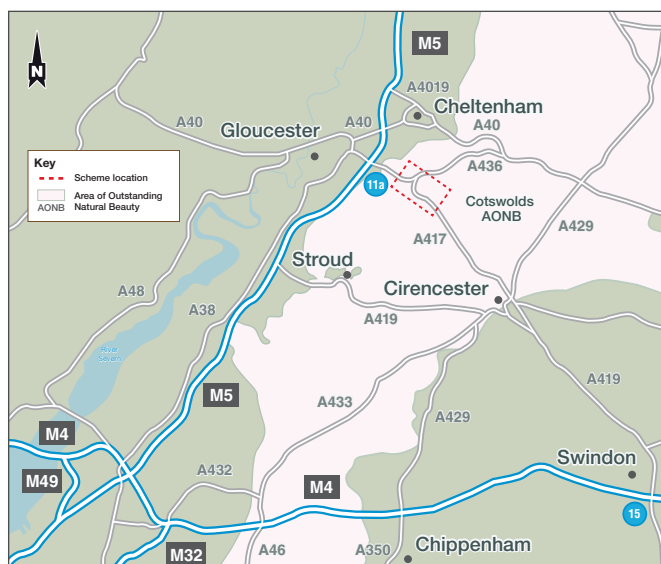


A417

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.

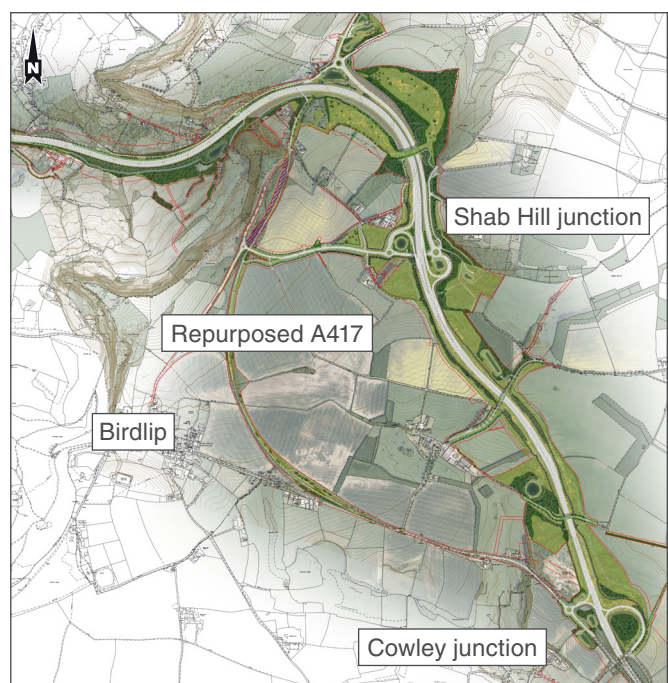


The route of the A417 through the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
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Diagrammatic - not to scale

The A417 / A419 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 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 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.



We are building 3.4 miles (5.5 km) of new dual carriageway, which will follow the alignment of the existing A417 at Crickley 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, rejoining the road near the existing location of Cowley roundabout.



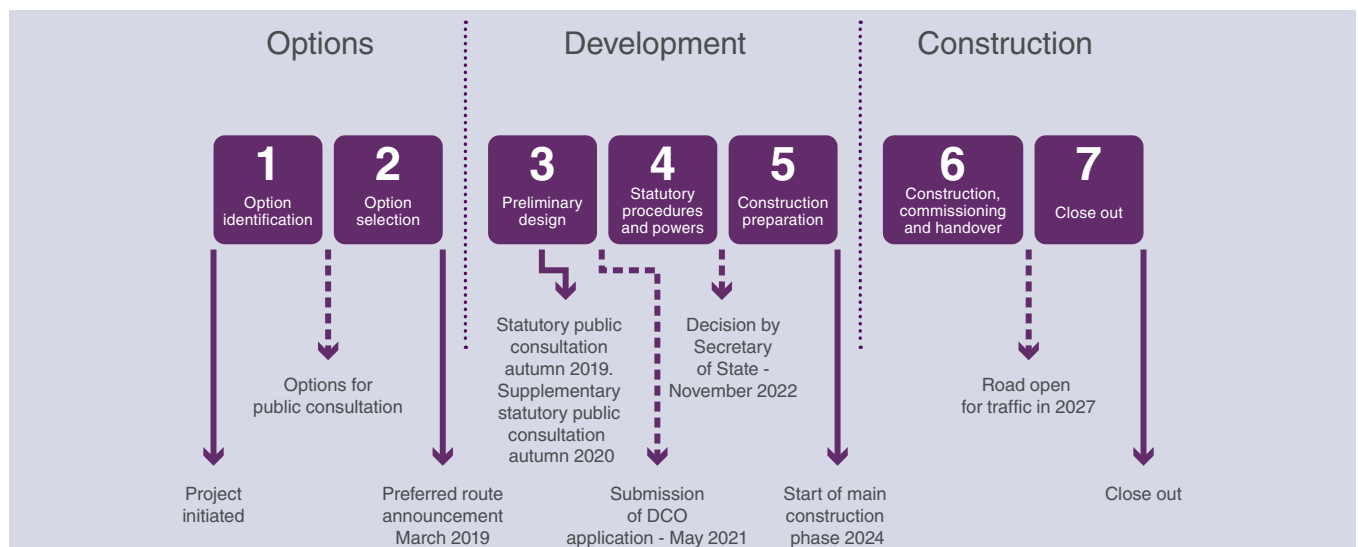
We've designed the road to fit in with this unique landscape. At every stage, design decisions have been made with this special landscape in mind. As part of this scheme, we intend to plant lots of new, native and high-quality woodland, grassland, trees and hedgerows to help preserve and create additional habitats for local wildlife in the area.

Developing this scheme is challenging: any improvement to the road needs to consider the sensitive environment of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as well as the challenging shape of the landscape in the area.





The scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008. In May 2021, we applied to the Planning Inspectorate for a special type of planning

permission, called a Development Consent Order (DCO). Transport Minister Huw Merriman gave the project the go ahead in November 2022.

The main construction phase of the A417 Missing Link will begin in early 2024 and be completed by early 2027. Once complete, the road will be handed back to National Highways' operations team and therefore officially 'open for traffic'.



If you'd like any more information on the scheme you can visit our website or contact us using one of the methods below:

-  nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link
-  A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk
-  [@HighwaysSWEST](https://twitter.com/HighwaysSWEST)
-  [Facebook@HighwaysSWEST](https://facebook.com/HighwaysSWEST)

If you need help accessing this or any other National Highways information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.