

# Re: M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme – GG 142 walking, cycling and horse-riding assessment

From: Jan Mallett <jan.catbells@gmail.com>

To: Sissons, Jack <jack.sissons@atkinsglobal.com>

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your e-mail with attachments and the opportunity for us (The Teddington & Alstone A46 Advisory Group, TAAG) to provide you with our feedback to your WCHAR review.

As you may know, we formed in 2018 with the purpose of keeping up to date with A46 bypass proposals, developing relationships with key stakeholders and communicating with local residents including regular updates for the Teddington & Alstone Parish Council. In the limited time available to provide a response, we have not had time to consult with residents but our comments are consistent with issues previously shared with them.

With reference to the overall study area you are looking at, we have confined our comments to a smaller area adjacent to our villages of approximately 5km by 5km centred on Teddington. A screen shot of this area is attached below for reference.

Key points:

- The area to the East of the A435 and South of the Teddington to Alstone village road is directly bordered by the Cotswold National Landscape (CNL). The CNL should have provided specific feedback on the constraints that this has on new developments (whether accessing, joining or adjacent) but we would highlight two walking routes which cross this area: the Winchcombe Way to the East which crosses the B4077 northwards and a path running South from Teddington Village to Oxenton and Woolstone which then joins the Gloucestershire Way. Retention of these paths is hopefully a given as they pass through the CNL but there is also an opportunity to provide a safe crossing for the Gloucestershire Way as it crosses the busy A435.
- A new bypass running to the south of the A46 would probably sever the Gloucestershire Way route requiring provision for safe passage.
- A footpath running from Teddington Village to Teddington Hands Roundabout crosses a protected Special Landscape Area. Our understanding is that such areas should remain undeveloped in priority to adjacent areas of lesser or no classification (i.e. land to the North and West of the Teddington Hands Roundabout). This particular footpath provides the only safe walking access for residents to the local Public House, Garage and Teddington Store amenities.
- To the North of the Teddington Hands Roundabout there are local footpaths that converge on Little Beckford/Beckford, one crossing West-East from Aston on Carrant and three leading to crossings over the A46. There may be opportunities to improve the safety of these crossings.
- There are two further footpaths which run westwards from Teddington village across the busy A435 and onto Pamington/Aston Cross. Little used because they are not maintained by the Council and have now become impassable. This has been reported to Tewkesbury Borough Council with no response. It's worth noting there is no other walking access westwards to Ashchurch or Northway.
- There are currently a large number of leisure cyclists who use our village roads to access routes to avoid or minimise using the A435, A46 and even the B4077. Any new road development using the A435, particularly

dualling, would constrain entry and exit for all road users.

- The national cycle path (route 41) runs East-West approximately 2 miles North of Teddington and is difficult/dangerous to access. There is no cycling provision running southwards to Bishops Cleeve as the A435 is too dangerous for most cyclists to want to use.
- In view of a Borough strategy to reduce car dependency we suggest that providing cycling and walking access westwards towards Ashchurch/Northway and southwards to Bishops Cleeve are two improvements that should be considered.
- A further aspiration is to provide safe cycling access to the local amenities at the Teddington Hands Roundabout i.e one which avoids use of the busy A435. The existing footpath across fields is for pedestrians only.
- There are four sizeable livery yards in the area: one in Teddington, one in Bengrove, one at Alstone Fields Farm and one at the eastern side of the A46 at Little Beckford. The three in Teddington, Bengrove, and Alstone use the lanes around Teddington, Alstone and towards Dixon. Currently, these quiet lanes are fairly safe for hacking; however, should the A435 becomes busier and difficult for residents to access due to increased traffic volume, they will use these as alternative routes for car journeys to Bishop's Cleeve, Stow and Winchcombe. Similarly, if the Teddington Hands roundabout becomes too congested, our lanes will be used as a rat run for traffic to save time bypassing the roundabout. In both cases, the increase in traffic volumes using these narrow lanes will be a huge safety concern for equestrians and pedestrians alike.
- The riders at the livery yard in Little Beckford access the bridleways in Beckford by crossing the A46 at Little Beckford. This is already difficult and any increased volume of traffic will make this harder and more dangerous to all road users.

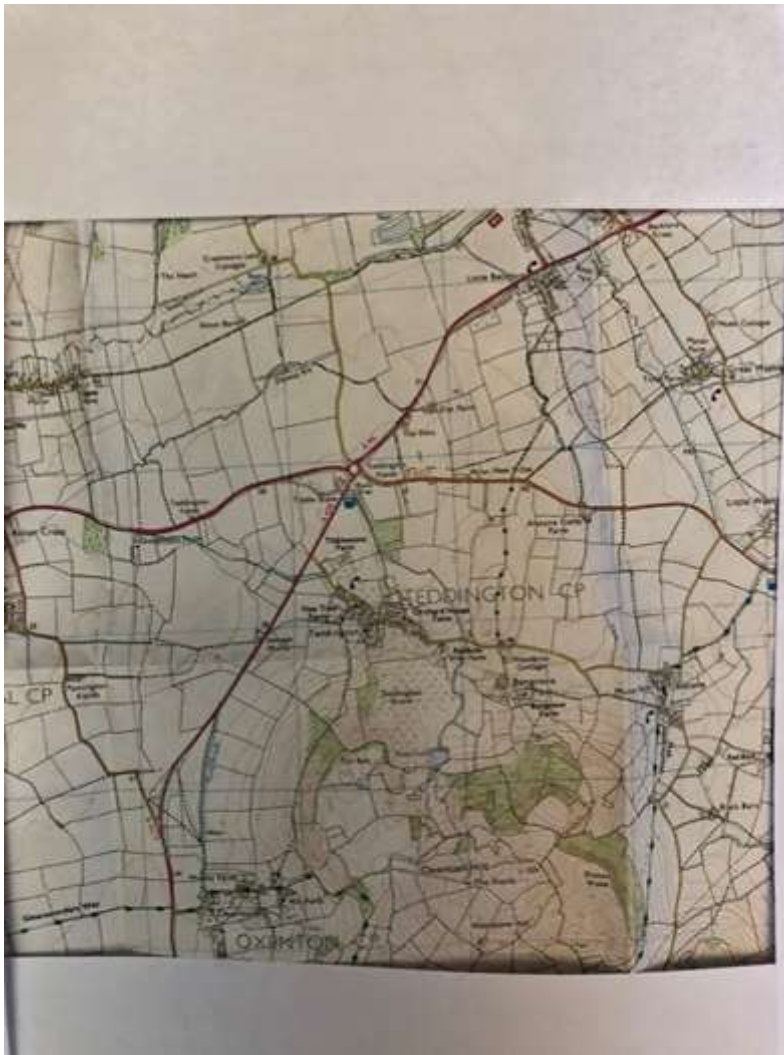
I hope these comments are of use. Please feel free to come back if you require any clarification or additional detail.

Jan Mallett (Chair)

TAAG

<https://taagroup.co.uk/>

**“Our aim is to prevent any expansion or realignment of the A46 which would have a detrimental effect on our villages and residents”**



On 08/07/2022 17:04:30, Sissons, Jack <jack.sissons@atkinsglobal.com> wrote:

Good afternoon Jan,

**Subject: M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme – GG 142 walking, cycling and horse-riding assessment**

The M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme is a potential scheme to develop a new or reconfigured M5 junction near Tewkesbury, and to re-route the section of the A46 which currently passes through Ashchurch between M5 Junction 9 and Teddington Hands roundabout.

The potential scheme would thereby remove significant volumes of strategic traffic from the A46 through Ashchurch and enable this existing section to better cater for local traffic movements. A wide variety of route options running to the north and south of the existing A46 are being considered and technically assessed for suitability.

I am part of a team delivering a GG 142 Walking, cycling and horse-riding assessment, which is a requirement for a scheme that affects the National Highways network and is being used by many local highway authorities as good practice on major schemes. If you haven't heard of GG 142 (and its predecessor HD 42/17), it was introduced by National Highways as a means to improve the consideration of the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians in the design of their schemes.

The use of GG 142 is intended to gather together all the relevant information about pedestrian, cyclist and equestrian activity, facilities and aspirations to help inform the design team as they develop their design. The last part of the assessment is where we highlight opportunities for improving facilities for these users within the scheme extents as well as further afield. If these opportunities cannot be accommodated in the scheme itself, they can be recorded for future consideration.

I'm looking for any suggestions or aspirations that the Teddington & Alstone Advisory Group might have for the benefit of pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians within the vicinity of the scheme (our approximate study area is shown in the included plan) and to gain an understanding of the current network constraints. These might be missing links or areas of the existing network that could be improved, or they might be aspirations for new connections or routes that have not yet been explored.



If there is a colleague that you feel might be more appropriate to consider this request, then I would be most grateful if you could forward this email on so they can consider and reply.

Due to the completion date of this study, we would appreciate it if any responses could be returned to us by Friday 22 July.

Kind regards,

**Jack Sissons** *MEng*

Graduate Civil Engineer, Transportation

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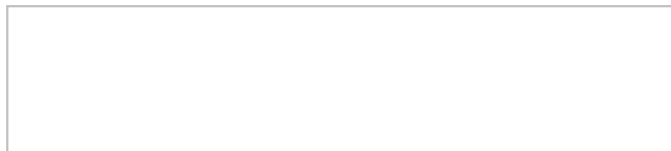
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