



National Highways
Three Snowhill
Snowhill Queensway
Birmingham

Tel: 0300 123 5000
11 September 2026

Dear Customer

A417 Missing Link – Permanent Traffic Switch

A417 Missing Link reaches major milestone with new, permanent road layout opening on 18 September

Kier Infrastructure is working on behalf of National Highways to improve the existing A417 Missing Link.

We're writing to let you know that on **Friday 18 September at 6am**, we will be opening a new part of the A417. This change will be the permanent route for northbound and southbound traffic travelling between Gloucester, Cirencester, Cheltenham and Oxford.

Please note that our works and traffic switch date can change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. Any updates will be communicated on our project website and email distribution list.

New, permanent road layout from Friday 18 September 2026

The A417 will open to traffic in its permanent layout on Friday 18 September at 6am under traffic management, allowing northbound journeys from Cirencester to continue directly towards Gloucester without exiting at Shab Hill junction.

Traffic travelling from Gloucester will continue up the hill and straight ahead towards Cirencester on the new A417, following the removal of Air Balloon roundabout.

The new B4070 leading to Birdlip and the northbound slip road at Cowley junction will open later this year. Access to Birdlip will remain via the existing route through Cowley junction.

Changes to travel routes for Cheltenham and Oxford

This will be a significant change for traffic travelling to Gloucester, from Cheltenham via Leckhampton Hill or from Oxford via Seven Springs and the A436.

There will be no direct route from Cheltenham and Oxford to Gloucester. Traffic will use the new A436 to reach Shab Hill junction, where it can either continue ahead towards Cirencester or use the underpass to access the northbound slip road towards Gloucester.

There may be some delays when the new layout first opens, but we expect journey times to improve on the A417 during this traffic switch.

Single-lane traffic management will remain in place on the A417 until additional capacity is available.

This will be a significant change for road users. To help make things clearer, please visit the [A417 project webpage](#), which includes easy-to-follow diagrams and guidance on how to use the new road layout.

There will be road closures before the traffic switch. The A417 will be closed in both directions between the A46 Brockworth junction and Air Balloon and Ullenwood roundabout:

Weekend closure:

- 11pm on Friday 11 September to 6am Monday 14 September

Overnight closures:

- 9pm on Monday 14 September to 6am Wednesday 16 September
- 9pm on Thursday 17 September to 6am Friday 18 September

The new A436 and A417 will be closed in both directions between the Air Balloon and Ullenwood roundabout and A429 Burford Road overnight:

- 9pm on Wednesday 16 September to 6am Thursday 17 September

Fully signposted diversion routes will be in place during the closure. Please follow the official, signed diversion route and not satnav.

These activities may generate noise, which we will monitor each night. Access for emergency services will be fully maintained during the closures.

Check the National Highways website for updates and other works in the region.

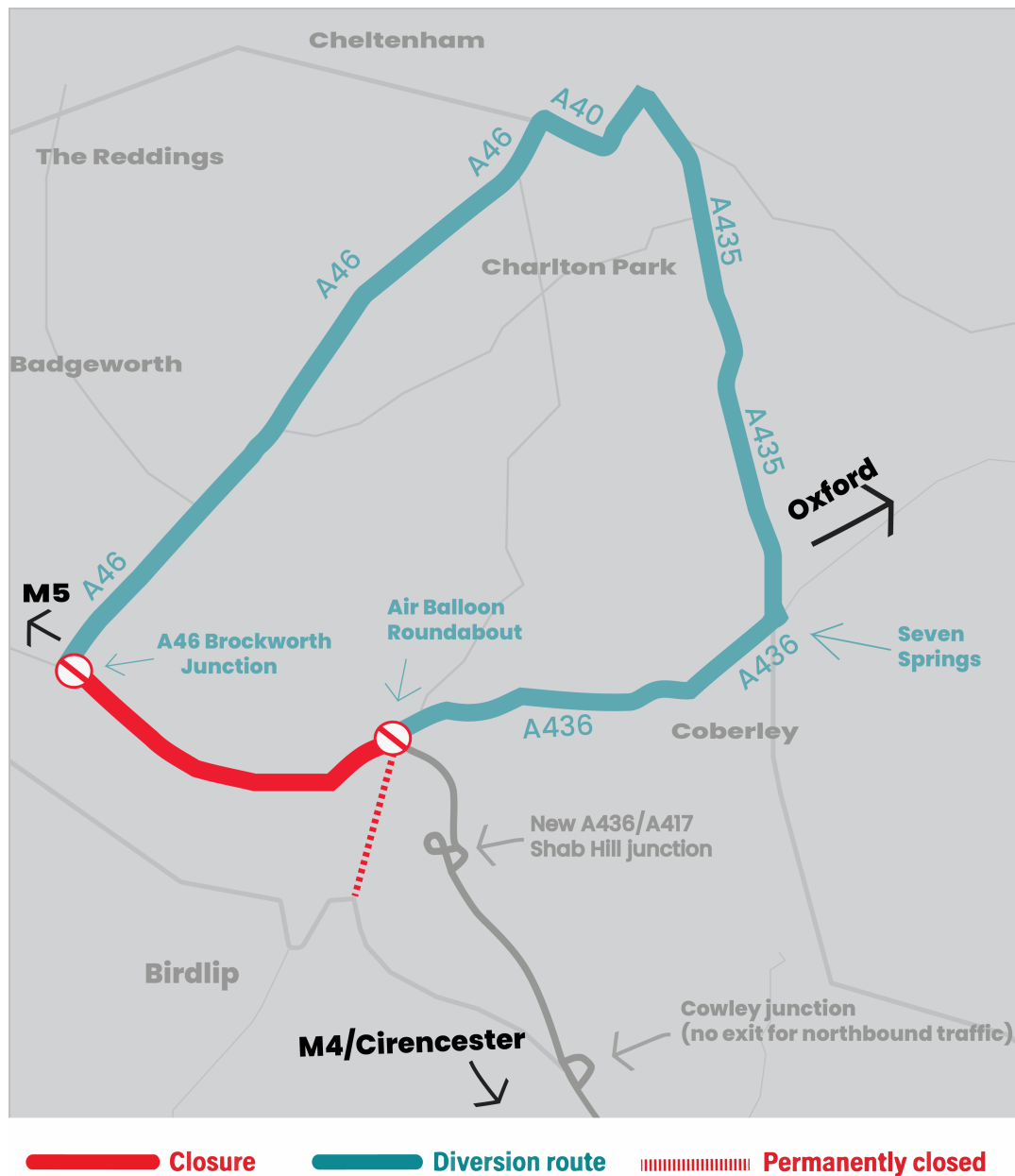
A46 Brockworth junction to Air Balloon and Ullenwood roundabout diversion

A46 Brockworth junction to Air Balloon and Ullenwood roundabout southbound diversion:

- turn left towards Cheltenham onto the A46 Shurdington Road
- turn right towards Oxford onto the A40 Thirlestaine Road
- turn right towards Cirencester onto London Road
- continue towards Cirencester on the A435
- turn right on the Seven Springs roundabout onto the A436 and continue towards the Air Balloon Roundabout

Air Balloon and Ullenwood roundabout to A46 Brockworth junction northbound diversion:

- turn right at the Air Balloon Roundabout, follow the A436 towards Seven Springs
- from Seven Springs roundabout, follow Cirencester road towards Cheltenham
- continue on the A435 and turn left towards Cheltenham onto the A40
- turn left onto the A40 Old Bath Road
- follow the road to the right and remain on the A40
- turn left onto the A46 Shurdington Road
- take the third turning at Brockworth junction to travel towards Gloucester



A46 Brockworth junction to Air Balloon and Ullenwood roundabout diversion

Air Balloon and Ullenwood roundabout to A429 Burford road diversion:

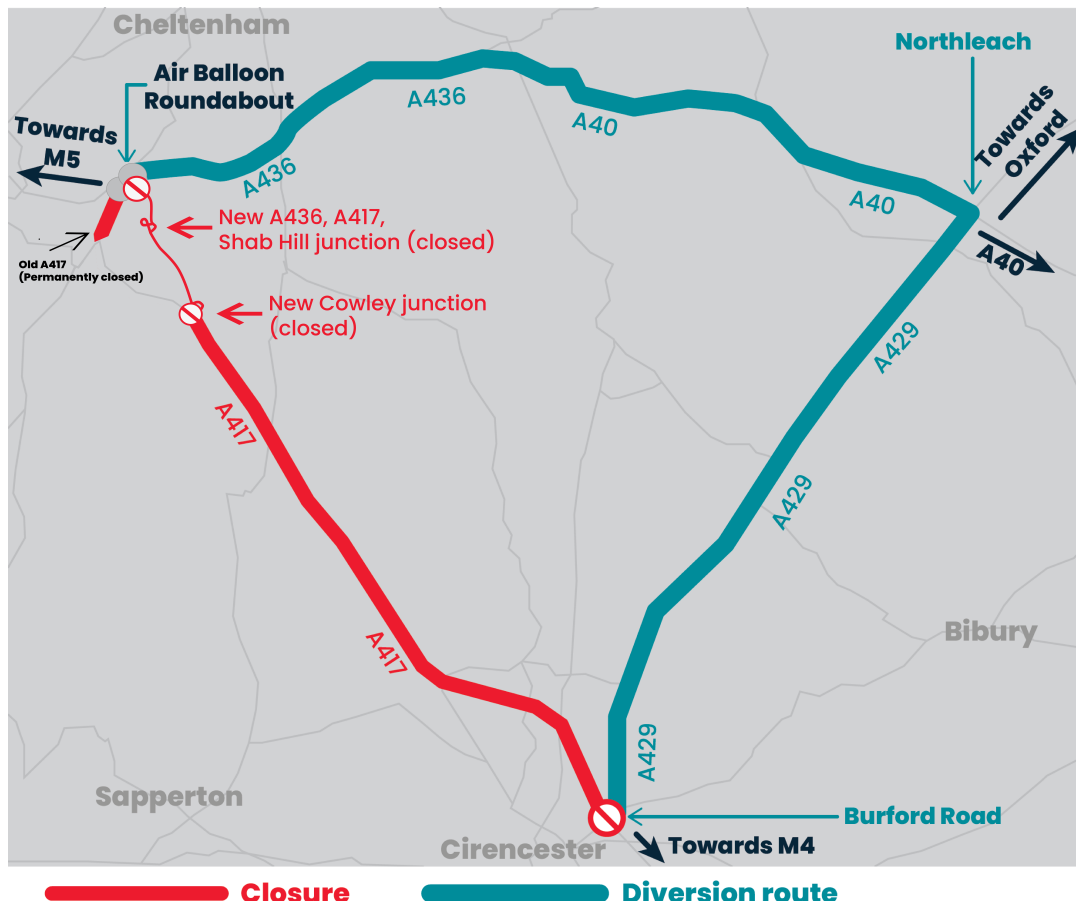
Air Balloon and Ullenwood roundabout to A429 Burford Road northbound diversion:

- turn right onto the A429 Burford Road
- turn left and follow the A429 towards Stow-on-the-Wold

- turn left and follow the A40 towards Cheltenham
- turn left and follow the A436 towards Gloucester
- head over the roundabout towards Gloucester

Air Balloon and Ullenwood roundabout to A429 Burford Road southbound diversion:

- follow A436 towards Stow-on-the-Wold
- turn left at the Severn Springs roundabout
- then turn right onto the A436 Oxford Road
- turn right towards Oxford and follow the A40
- turn right towards Cirencester onto the A429



Air Balloon and Ullenwood roundabout to A429 Burford Road diversion

Where to find more information:

You can find more information about the scheme, along with the diversion information on our project webpage: nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link. If you have any questions, or you would like to speak to someone about this work, you can call our contact centre on 0300 123 5000, who will pass your details to the team, or email a417missinglinkatairballoon@nationalhighways.co.uk.

Thank you for your patience as we work to improve the A417.

Yours sincerely

A417 Communications Team