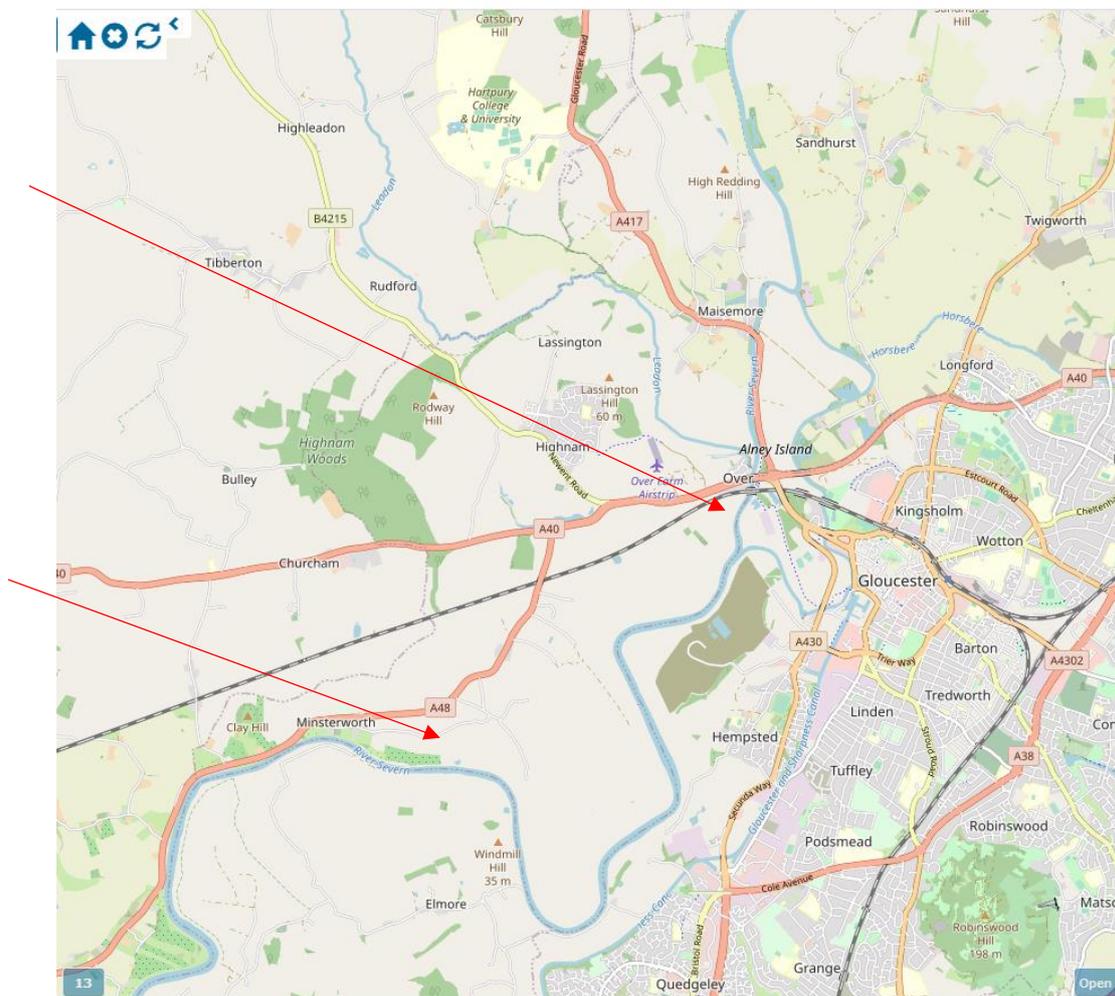


A417 Maismore – raising the road

Minsterworth parish council have concerns about the potential knock on effects of raising the A417 and allowing improved access of water into the Severn.

1. For most areas adjacent to the Severn, flooding is associated with excess rain and the inability of the Severn to take that water. Tributaries are unable to drain into the overfull river and flooding occurs.
2. The more that river banks are raised as flood protection measures up stream, eg Bewdley, Worcester, and Upton, the faster water gets down to Gloucester, and this increases the risk of flooding in our area.
3. Minsterworth has an additional factor to contend with – the tide. This affects Minsterworth and parts of Gloucester especially up to Maismore weir. Tide does have an effect further upstream, eg Ashleworth, but less dramatically so.
4. Much of the flooding from Tewkesbury southwards occurs on the eastern side of the river – Deerhurst, Norton, Sandhurst, Twigworth, Longford etc, and the building of houses on potential flood plains in those areas will further increase the risk of flooding, pushing more water into the Severn.



5. Developments on the east of the river within the Gloucester city area (the Gloucester tip especially) means that the original eastern flood plains in this area are no longer available, and this pushes all of the water to the west of the river, i.e., towards Over and Minsterworth. Comparatively there is relatively little flooding that occurs on the eastern side of the river, Elmore, Longney etc.
6. At the moment the common meeting point of the fluvial flow (= the water in the Severn) and the high tide of the bore is somewhere between High Cross and Over, shown by the two red arrows on the map in paragraph 4 above. There is a large expanse of flat land in this area, which is why flooding commonly occurs, although flooding has become increasingly common in recent years.
7. Raising of the A417 from Maismore to Over, and providing drainage channels beneath the road would result in
 - a. A faster flow of water from the flood plains on the eastern bank of the Severn into the river
 - b. An increased risk of flooding of the A40 dual carriageway and associated properties at Over.
8. In addition, more flood water on the Cornham loop of the river could well move meeting point of the tide vs fluvial flow further downstream, leading to extensive 'overtopping' of the river, and an increased risk of flooding of the properties in the area. This could result in significant flooding west of Highcross, for example Calcotts Green, Minsterworth Church and properties along church lane, as well as an increased risk of flooding along the A48 in the Dinney and Oakle Street area. It is our concern that more extensive flooding of the Cornham loop will lead to overtopping extending over a larger length of bank.
9. We are also aware of changing weather patterns associated with climate change. If this trend continues, there will be a greater frequency of higher tides, increasing the risk below Gloucester and other communities downstream towards the Estuary, in addition to the effects on Minsterworth.
10. We accept that there is significant disruption to traffic flow when the A417 Maismore to Over is flooded, but care needs to be taken that correction at one point does not make the situation worse elsewhere. Regular flooding and road closures of the A40 at Over and the A48 at The Dinney would result in more serious traffic disruption than periodic closure of the Maismore road. This is especially the case during freak weather of high wind, high tide and high rainfall, because high winds also lead to closure of the Severn Crossings increasing traffic flow on the A48 and A40 at Over
11. we would like to suggest the following possible alternative solutions
 - a. Raise the A417 but leave the existing road in situ so that it maintains an effective flood barrier, reducing the rate of flow into the Severn, and protecting the A48, the A40 dual carriageway and properties further downstream

- b. Build an alternative road from Maismore Bridge to the Longford area. This would have the advantage of reducing pressure and congestion on the Over roundabout during 'normal' times, and it would provide an easy alternative route for traffic when the existing A417 does flood
- c. Improve the existing minor roads used to bypass the A417 when it is closed and flooded, for example along the back of Hartpury and along Two Mile Lane. This could be done at lower cost, and would provide an alternative traffic route for other road closures.

Minsterworth Parish Council