

M27 junction 4 to 11

Smart motorway scheme



Welcome to the first newsletter for the M27 junction 4 to 11 smart motorway scheme

About the scheme

The M27 junction 4 to 11 smart motorway scheme will upgrade this 15-mile stretch of the M27 into an all-lane running smart motorway. This means the existing hard shoulder would be converted into a traffic lane providing 4 lanes for traffic.

Carrying up to 140,000 vehicles a day, the route provides a vital transport link between Southampton and Portsmouth. It also often faces congestion during peak travel hours caused by the volume of traffic using this stretch of road.

Smart motorways are a technology driven approach to tackling the most congested parts of the road network. They increase capacity and improve journey reliability, by controlling the flow and speed of traffic, and providing driver information displayed on signs.

We'll install new CCTV cameras, electronic information signs, and signals on gantries which will show variable mandatory speed limits and manage traffic flow and incidents. There will also be 13 new emergency areas throughout the length of the scheme.

Progress so far

We've been busy getting everything ready ahead of our start of works.

Activity has included:

- surveys of the drainage, ducting, and ecology along the route
- strengthening the hard shoulder, in preparation for our traffic management
- vegetation clearance
- installation of CCTV and average speed cameras along the route
- carriageway repairs.

Improved electronic signs

New gantries and electronic road signs will give information about road conditions, lane changing information and speed limits to help smooth the flow of traffic



Driving through our roadworks

We'll be using a contraflow system and narrow lanes to maintain three lanes running in each direction throughout the roadworks. There will also be a 50mph speed restriction within the roadworks until the scheme is fully operational and open to the public.



This traffic management is in place to allow road users to travel through our roadworks without compromising their safety, or that of our workforce. It also gives us a larger working area which means we can be more productive.

To improve the customer experience, we've designed our narrow lanes to be wider than traditional narrow lanes so there is a greater distance between cars and HGVs in neighbouring lanes.

We'll also operate a 24/7 free recovery service throughout our roadworks, to help any stranded vehicles that have broken down within our work area.

Plan your journey

Our traffic model suggests that the average journey time will increase by a maximum of 13 minutes during our roadworks. We encourage you to use your usual daily route on the M27 during our roadworks but to allow slightly more time for your journey.

You can help keep traffic moving through our roadworks by:

- driving safely through roadworks
- keeping to the speed limit, it is there for everyone's safety
- getting into the correct lane in good time
- not switching lanes
- concentrating on the road ahead, not the roadworks
- keeping a safe distance.

What happens next?

January - June 2019

We'll commence our main works in January 2019, with traffic management being in place between junctions 4 and 8. Construction activity along this section of the motorway will include:

- strengthening the hard shoulder
- vegetation clearance and installation of noise barriers
- installation of smart motorway technology
- widening the carriageway into the central reserve
- installation of the concrete barrier
- removal of existing gantries.

The concrete section between junctions 5 and 7

During summer 2018, we met with the local communities who live in close proximity to the M27 between junctions 5 and 7, and discussed our ongoing investigation into the concrete section.

That investigation is now complete, our recent surveys have revealed that the concrete here is still fit for purpose which means we can upgrade this section of the M27 to a smart motorway first, without needing to replace the concrete.

However, Highways England recognise there are some benefits to resurfacing the concrete section with a low noise surface and we commit to doing this after we have completed the smart motorway works. We are working to find the best way to deliver this and before making a final decision, we need to consider how to get the best value for money, whilst minimising the impact on road users and others affected by our works.

In the meantime, as part of the smart motorway scheme, we are planning to extend and enhance the noise barriers along the westbound section of the M27 near Allington Lane, and Quob Lane, which will reduce the impact from motorway noise.



How to drive on a smart motorway

We understand that many customers have questions regarding smart motorways. So, we've produced a number of videos and leaflets to help explain how they work, how to drive safely on a smart motorway, and what to do in an emergency. Please go to:

www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-drive-on-a-smart-motorway for more information.

Other schemes in the area

The Solent region will be experiencing a lot of investment to improve key roads and junctions over the next few years. We're working alongside our neighbouring schemes, to help manage the impact on road users.

For more information about these schemes, please visit their website:

- M27 junction 9 roundabout improvements
www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transport schemes/m27junction9
- M27 junction 10 improvements
www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transport schemes/m27junction10
- M3 junction 9 to 14 smart motorway scheme
www.highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m3-junctions-9-to-14-smart-motorway

- M27 Southampton Junctions Scheme (junction 8)

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m27-southampton-junctions

- M27 Romsey Road Bridge Replacement Scheme

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m27-romsey-road-bridge-replacement-scheme

Keep in contact

We're committed to keeping local communities, road users, and businesses fully informed during construction, so please go to:

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m27-junctions-4-to-11-smart-motorway>

and sign up to receive our email bulletin service, which will also alert you when our next newsletter is published.

We also advise road users to plan their journeys in advance by visiting our Traffic England website:

www.trafficengland.com

or by following our Twitter feed:

[@HighwaysSEAST](https://twitter.com/HighwaysSEAST)



M27 junction 9
Botley Road Bridge

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