Introduction

Welcome to the third issue of the M20 junction 10a newsletter which includes details of what we have been doing over the winter period. We hope you find it an informative and enjoyable read.

Just in case you didn’t receive our last newsletter here is some background information on our scheme:

The M20 is an international route used by large volumes of long-distance freight and holiday vehicles as well as local traffic. As a main arterial road, it currently suffers from significant levels of congestion, which will only increase over the coming years due to planned growth from new housing, educational, leisure, retail and commercial developments.

Junction 10 currently suffers from congestion and associated delays. A new junction and link road scheme are therefore being constructed to help reduce congestion and accommodate the planned growth.

Scheme description

The features of the scheme include:

- A new interchange junction 700 metres east of junction 10 over the M20.
- A new dual carriage way link road to the existing A2070 Southern Orbital Road.
- A connection to the A20 Hythe Road from junction 10a.
- An upgrade of ageing structures.
- Improvements to the A2070 Southern Orbital Road providing new dual carriageway link road with a 40mph speed limit located between the proposed new junction 10a and the A2070.
- A new three-armed roundabout joining the new link road to the existing A2070.
- The realignment of the existing A2070 where it joins the link road.
- A new Church Road footbridge/cycleway, replacing the old bridge.
- Enhancements to the Barrey Road junction.
- Enhancements to the existing signals and connections at junction 10.
- The new junction and slip roads will be open for traffic towards the end of 2019.

Up to date information on the scheme can be found at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/M20J10a
Current construction works - winter 2018 to spring 2019

On occasions, temporary traffic arrangements, including traffic lights, will appear to enable work on bridge support foundations on the south side of Swatfield Culvert and the earthworks for the permanent route of the A20.

Temporary diversion of the A20 to allow construction of the new junction 10a.

Two lanes of traffic in both directions on the M20. Lane 1 closed on each carriageway to allow for construction work.

Installation of East and West Interchange bridges.

Installation of permanent signals at Barrey Road junction.

Installation of East and West Interchange bridges.

Church Road Footbridge to be installed 2019.

Excavation for balancing ponds.

Bridge support foundations to be undertaken on the west side of the A2070.

Construction of ramps and footpaths in preparation for the opening of Kingsford Street Bridge.

Finishing the construction of the new Southern Water Pumping Station.

Earthworks for the construction of new junction 10a slip roads.

Construction of the new A2070 link road.

Boundary for proposed scheme
Existing retained groups of trees
Proposed tree
Proposed wildflower grassland
Redundant existing on/off slip road
Proposed restricted Access road
Proposed carriage way
Proposed Footway
Commercial/Industrial area and building
Residential area and building
Proposed Stour Park Development

Our delivery partners:
Construction progress

Over the winter we have achieved several key construction milestones, these are as follows:

- Installation of East Interchange Bridge.
- Installation of West Interchange Bridge.
- Installation of edge beams onto both interchange bridges.
- Concrete pours onto the interchange bridge decks.
- Switch over of the A2070 onto the new alignment with traffic now flowing in both directions past new roundabout.
- Piling and foundations in progress for new Church Road Footbridge
- Soil nailing completed to embankment of junction 10a London bound exit slip road.

The West Interchange Bridge was installed during a full weekend closure between 25 – 28 January 2019. This bridge was also successfully installed, and the carriageway reopened 27 hours ahead of schedule following lessons learnt on the initial weekend closure. We also maximized our efficiency by achieving a concrete deck pour on the East Interchange Bridge during this closure.

Additionally, we achieved the completion of the concrete deck pours on the bridges during the day time, without the need to close the M20, limiting further disruption to the travelling public. This was achieved through exploring and delivering alternative engineering solutions compared to the original design.

During successive Saturday night closures in February and March we also successfully installed the edge beams that will hold the safety railings onto the new bridge decks. All of these works now mean that we do not require any further full closures of the M20 for the Interchange Bridges. This is one of the most significant milestones in the construction of the new junction 10a.

Installation of East and West Interchange Bridges

During this period, we completed two major milestones for the project with the installation of the East and West Interchange Bridges.

The East Interchange Bridge was installed during a full weekend closure of the M20 between junctions 9 – 11 coast bound and 10 – 9 London bound from the 11 – 14 January 2019. The bridge was successfully installed and the M20 reopened 9 hours ahead of schedule. During the closure we also shared the road space with our maintenance provider, A-One+ to allow them to carry out several repairs.
Utility Diversion Works

During this period a number of utility diversions have been successfully completed and there has been ongoing progress with others:

- UKPN have successfully diverted a cable on Highfield Lane with the connection to the new feeder pillars due to be carried out in due course.
- South-East Water have successfully installed connection points and are in the process of completing the diversion.
- A BT cable has been lowered into the new road alignment in the A20. This avoided a diversion having to occur.
- Southern Water are due to commence with the extension of a water main through the current site compound car park at the end of April 2019.
- Southern Gas Network are due to commence with the diversion of a medium pressure gas main on the A2070.

Earthworks

Earthworks are ongoing for the construction of the new balancing ponds (for water storage), with the excavation of the first pond now complete and works underway on the second pond. Additionally, earthworks on the A2070 link road (which links the junction 10a with the A2070) and the new junction 10a slip roads are also ongoing. The traffic on the existing A2070 has been realigned and diverted onto the new roundabout.

Environment

Over the winter we have undertaken work to the drainage on site, with the support of an ecologist this involved the relocation of a school of tadpoles and frogs into the old retention pond and a lizard, two bank voles, a toad and an unexpected eel were also spotted and protected from harm.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Health and Safety is at the heart of everything we do and as such we are always looking for ways to improve how we work on site.

On the last Thursday of every month we stand down all work on site and hold a health and safety breakfast for all members of staff. During these stand downs we discuss all relevant health, safety, wellbeing and environmental matters and engage the workforce in everything that has happened over the month in relation to these topics.

Furthermore, we are continuously offering further training to our workforce including the new Think Again training, which focusses on eliminating health and safety incidents by changing behaviours and attitude towards how we safely conduct work on site.

Communications and Engagement

In January 2019 we utilised the Highways England Mobile Engagement Van and took it on a seven-day tour of Ashford. We spent two days at Tesco Extra, Willesborough, a day at the William Harvey Hospital and two days on Ashford High Street before taking it to a local school to engage with pupils about the importance of safety in the workplace.

During this tour we held conversations with 200-250 Ashford residents and presented to 250-300 school children and had local press in attendance.

We held numerous conversations about the upcoming closures as well as about the scheme as a whole. We found it an extremely successful means of reaching out to customers who otherwise we would have not had the chance to engage with.

How can I find out more information?

You can find out more by going to our web page or by emailing us.

Our webpage details:
www.highwaysengland.co.uk/M20J10a

Our email details:
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Highways England Contact Centre:
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