Introduction

Welcome to the 2nd issue of the M20 junction 10a newsletter which includes details of what we have been doing in the last few months. We hope you find it an informative and enjoyable read.

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.

Please be aware that as part of our commitment to improving the Kent Corridor, working with Kent Corridor Coordination Group, there is other work in progress on other stretches of the M20.

Scheme description

The features of the scheme include:

- A new interchange junction 700 metres east of junction 10 over the M20.
- A new dual carriageway 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.
On occasions, temporary traffic arrangements, including traffic lights, will appear for piling works on Swatfield Culvert.

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

Foundation construction for new junction 10a bridges.

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

Bridge supports prepared for the new Kingsford Street footbridge, which is to be installed during winter 2018.

Starting the construction of a new Southern Water pumping station.

Earthworks underway for the construction of the new A2070 link road.

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

Southern Gas Networks diverting high pressure gas main under the M20.

Contraflow on the A2070 to allow construction of the new roundabout.

Excavation for balancing ponds.

Existing Church Road footbridge demolished and to be replaced in 2019.

Our delivery partners:

- Taylors
- Vinci
- Corderoy
- Jacobs
- Mott MacDonald
Construction progress

Since the last newsletter we have achieved a number of construction milestones, these are as follows:

- Demolition of Church Road footbridge.
- Utility diversion works.
- Foundation construction for the new bridges.
- Temporary diversion of the A20.
- Construction of the roundabout for the link road.

Demolition of Church Road footbridge

Church Road footbridge was demolished during an overnight closure of the A2070, between the 16th and 17th June. The demolition was successful, and the road was opened earlier than planned. Construction of the foundations for the replacement bridge are underway and the bridge will be installed spring 2019.

Utility diversion works

A number of diversion works are required for the construction of junction 10a. SGN have successfully diverted a gas main under the M20 and Southern Water have commenced construction of a new pumping station.

Foundation construction for the new bridges

Foundation construction has been completed for Kingsford Street Bridge and the bridge is due to be installed during an overnight road closure on the 24th November 2018, further details are provided below.

The foundation construction has also been completed for the East and West Bridge that will form the gyratory over the motorway for the new junction 10a. These are due to be installed during weekend closures in January and February 2019. Further details will be provided nearer the time.
Temporary diversion of the A20

In preparation for construction of junction 10a and the associate slip roads, the A20 had to be temporarily diverted to the north of the existing A20. The diversion is due to be opened before Christmas.

Earthworks

Earthworks have commenced for the construction of the new balancing ponds (for water storage), the A2070 link road and the roundabout (which links junction 10a with the A2070). The traffic on the A2070 is due to be diverted onto the new roundabout before Christmas 2018.

Installation of Kingsford Street footbridge

This will require an overnight M20 closure between junctions because the central span of Kingsford Street Bridge is due for installation between 8pm on Saturday 24th November 2018 and 10am on Sunday 25th November 2018. The new bridge will be located to the east of the new junction 10a and is designed for non-motorised users, such as cyclists, walkers and horse riders.

The installation will require an overnight closure of the M20 between junction 9 and 11 coast bound and junction 11 and 10 London bound. A back up overnight closure is booked for the 8th December, if the original timing is unachievable, due to high winds.

Signposted diversion routes will be in place from junction 9 to 11 coast bound and from junction 11 to junction 10 London bound. Road closure signage will be provided on the M25, M26 & M20, to encourage through traffic to be diverted well away from the Ashford region.
Environment

The translocation of reptiles has successfully continued. Since the third week of April 2018, 517 slow worms, 205 common lizards and 21 grass snakes have been relocated to translocation areas nearby to the project.

In addition, on 11th July, a young Kestrel was found on the motorway by a temporary traffic barrier. We arranged for a local bird of prey specialist to review the health of the Kestrel in the site First Aid Room. After an inspection, it was considered that the Kestrel had been suffering from shock and the bird was released back into the wild again.

Volunteering

For Pilgrims Hospice Summer Garden Party, the project provided a site car park and volunteers to help run the car parking for the event.

A spokesperson from Pilgrims Hospice said that 'It was so kind of you to support our charity in this way and was a huge help with volunteer parking. We literally couldn’t have put this event on without you, so we’re all immensely grateful. Thank you so much for being such incredible supporters and friendly neighbours.'

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:

M20J10aimprovements@highwaysengland.co.uk

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