October 2019 news bulletin

The main news this month is the successful demolition of Recreation Ground overbridge (work in progress pictured right), during the planned full closure of the M4 between junctions 5 and 6 over the weekend of 27-30 September 2019.

The team worked steadily from the evening of Friday 27 September, getting underway with demolition work just after midnight. They worked all night and all day until completion of the work - over 24 hours early. The motorway was fully reopened in both directions before 4am on Sunday 29 September.

Installation of narrow lanes and a 50mph speed limit between Junctions 3 and 4b was slightly delayed and will begin this month with several overnight closures over the next few weeks. Access to the hard shoulder will also be removed during the construction phase.

What's next for the M4 project for the rest of the year?

More bridge work and weekend motorway closures

There are two more full weekend closures ahead this year for three more bridge demolitions and two bridge lifts.

The M4 will be closed over the weekend of **15-18 November between junctions 6 to 8/9** for the demolition of Marsh Lane overbridge and the lifting of the new bridge beams at Monkey Island Lane overbridge. A temporary Huntercombe Spur overbridge will also be lifted into place at junction 7.

The M4 will again be closed over the weekend of **29 November-2 December between junctions 6 to 8/9** for the demolition of Huntercombe Spur overbridge at junction 7. To make best use of the weekend closure, Oldway Lane overbridge just to the east of junction 7 will also be demolished during this weekend.
Diversion route for closure between junctions 6 to 8/9

During the full closure of the motorway in both directions over the weekends of 15-18 November and 29 November-2 December, traffic will be diverted along a route previously agreed with the local authorities. This route will use the A308M, A308 and A332. Diversions will begin 8pm Friday evening, until 6am Monday morning. Please, if possible, avoid driving in the area during this weekend and use alternative routes or transport.

Your online comments

Commonplace

There is information and regular news, including a weekly update on forthcoming road closures, available on our engagement website:

https://m4j3to12smartmotorway.commonplace.is/

Please remember: the site is not designed for a response to every comment. We use it to inform our work and investigate when issues are reported. If you have a specific question or concern, please contact us using the email, phone number or postal address below.

Work continues in 2020

Recreation Ground overbridge was just the first of 11 bridges we need to demolish as part of the smart motorway upgrade project. By the end of 2019 we will have demolished three more of these bridges and preparation work is underway at all 11, plus the New Thames Bridge at Bray is being widened.

However, that still leaves 7 more to be demolished and replaced during 2020 and 2021 as we progress this very complex scheme. This involves several more full weekend closures of the motorway over the course of our work. We will continue to communicate with local communities, businesses, and road users in advance of these closures.

Find out more

You can find out more by visiting our websites at: https://m4j3to12smartmotorway.commonplace.is/ or www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m4j3to12. You can keep up to date with live traffic information by following the regional twitter feeds @highwaysEAST and @highwaysSEAST or by visiting Traffic England.

If you have a question that you would like a response to please continue to email us at: M4J3to12smartmotorways@highwaysengland.co.uk, call 0300 123 5000 or write to: M4 J3-12 Smart Motorway, Highways England, 2 Colmore Square, Birmingham B4 6BN.