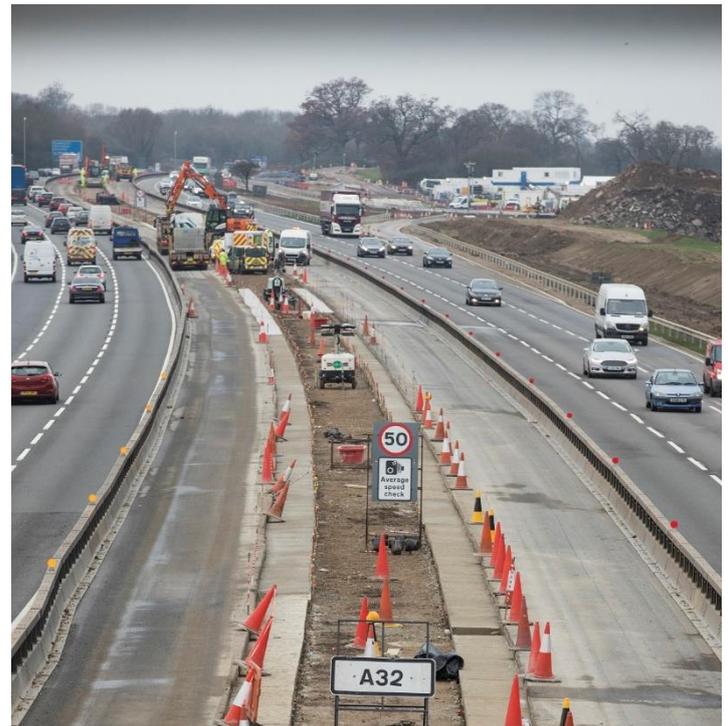


February 2019 news bulletin

Welcome to the latest monthly information bulletin about the smart motorway upgrade works between junction 3 and junction 12 of the M4.

Despite the winter weather, work continues apace with activity underway on the carriageway, motorway land, plus on and around bridges. You may not always see our workforce but they are up and down the route every day and every night working to deliver the project.

In March and April 2019 we will be holding the next set of Public Information Exhibitions for areas between junctions 3 and 7 ahead of the next phase of the works. Full details of these events will be in the next bulletin.



What's happening on the M4 project during February?

M4 smart motorway education outreach

This month we are beginning our programme of engaging students along the route between Junctions 3 and 12. The team will be getting in touch with schools and colleges to offer information about the project for lesson planning or arrange visits to schools.



We can help local children and young people learn about civil engineering, construction, road safety, design plus more subjects that fit into the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum. We have a team of STEM ambassadors, recent graduates and apprentices who can help students explore educational and career opportunities.

If you would like to talk to us about this programme or to arrange a visit, please contact us via email:

M4J3to12smartmotorways@highwaysengland.co.uk

M4 overnight closures during February

There are several overnight full closures (usually 22:00 to 05:00) currently planned in February. These closures take place overnight in order for the team to carry out essential works on the carriageway while keeping the M4 open during the day.

The best way to keep up to date with the various closures, including slip road closures, is the Traffic England website at: www.trafficengland.com.

Please check your car and your route before you travel.



NB: In the event of poor weather conditions or other issues out of our control, planned works may be postponed at short notice. If works complete ahead of schedule the motorway may reopen early. Signage will be in place to notify of any changes.

Our new works unit near Junction 10 is officially open



You may have noticed something appearing north of the motorway recently, just past J10. In case you were wondering, it is our new project works unit 3C where several hundred Highways England, Balfour Beatty Vinci, Arcadis Jacobs project staff and sub-contractors will be based from now until the completion of works.

The site contains offices, car parking, construction compounds, space for plant and materials and even a café for staff.

There is also space for the Highways England Traffic Officers and the site will soon host our new recovery facility for drivers who break down in the roadworks.

The slip road into the site is for project staff, contractors, visitors, recovery vehicles and deliveries only, so please take care – it's not a new motorway junction!

Driving safely through our roadworks

We understand that roadworks can be frustrating, but they are an essential element of any road upgrade project. We are committed to minimising disruption during construction as much as possible. The traffic management we have installed on the M4 to allow works to take place comprises three narrow lanes plus signs and signals to keep you informed of future plans.

To ensure the safety of road users and our workforce, there is currently a speed limit of **50mph** through the works. We use linked Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to monitor the average speed of traffic over a section of road, or network of roads. It is used in the UK, including on the M4 to control speeds and to safely manage vehicle traffic speeds through roadworks where narrow lanes are installed. The **50mph** speed limit through our roadworks is legally enforceable so please do not exceed this as you may receive a penalty notice.

What if I break down in the roadworks?

If you can't reach a motorway service area or leave the motorway at the next junction:

1. Put your hazard warning lights on to help other drivers see you and help our control room staff spot you on CCTV. Traffic passing through road works is monitored 24/7.
2. If you are in the left-hand lane and it is safe to do so, exit the vehicle via the left-hand door. Wait behind the barrier if possible. If you cannot exit the vehicle, do not feel it is safe to do so or there is no other place of relative safety, remain in the vehicle. Keep your seat belt on and dial '999'.
3. We offer free recovery in the roadworks area so you will be picked up by our recovery team and your car will be taken to a suitable safe place to be attended to.

Find out more

You can find out more about the plans by visiting our website at: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m4j3to12. Live traffic information is available at the South East regional twitter feed [@highwaysSEAST](https://twitter.com/highwaysSEAST)

You can also email us at: M4J3to12smartmotorways@highwaysengland.co.uk, call on 0300 123 5000 or write to: M4 J3-12 Smart Motorway, Highways England, 2 Colmore Square, Birmingham B4 6BN.