

## April 2020 news bulletin

**The next full closure of the motorway will be between Junctions 6 and 8/9 over the weekend of 24-27 April 2020.**

Motorway traffic will be diverted to the A308M, A308, A332 and A355 for the weekend while we install beams for the new Marsh Lane bridge near Dorney.

This new bridge, which will be complete and opened later this year, will replace the old structure that was demolished in November 2019.



## COVID-19: project update

Highways England's priority at the moment is to play its part in keeping the country safe and supporting the movement of essential supplies, services and people who cannot work from home. We are following Government policy which is that construction activity should continue where it can be done safely. All our sites have strict safeguarding measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and none of our sites are open to the public.

With traffic volumes on our roads much lower at present, we are continuing work to improve them ahead of traffic flows eventually returning to normal. We have planned this carefully so that we do not increase travel disruption for those who cannot work from home and who need to continue to use our roads.

The M4 project has implemented new site operating procedures, including social distancing in order to protect our workforce and their families, and we will continue to follow Government advice throughout this period.

## Smart motorway safety

**In 2019, the Secretary of State for Transport asked the Department for Transport and Highways England to carry out an evidence stocktake to gather the facts on the safety of smart motorways and make recommendations.**

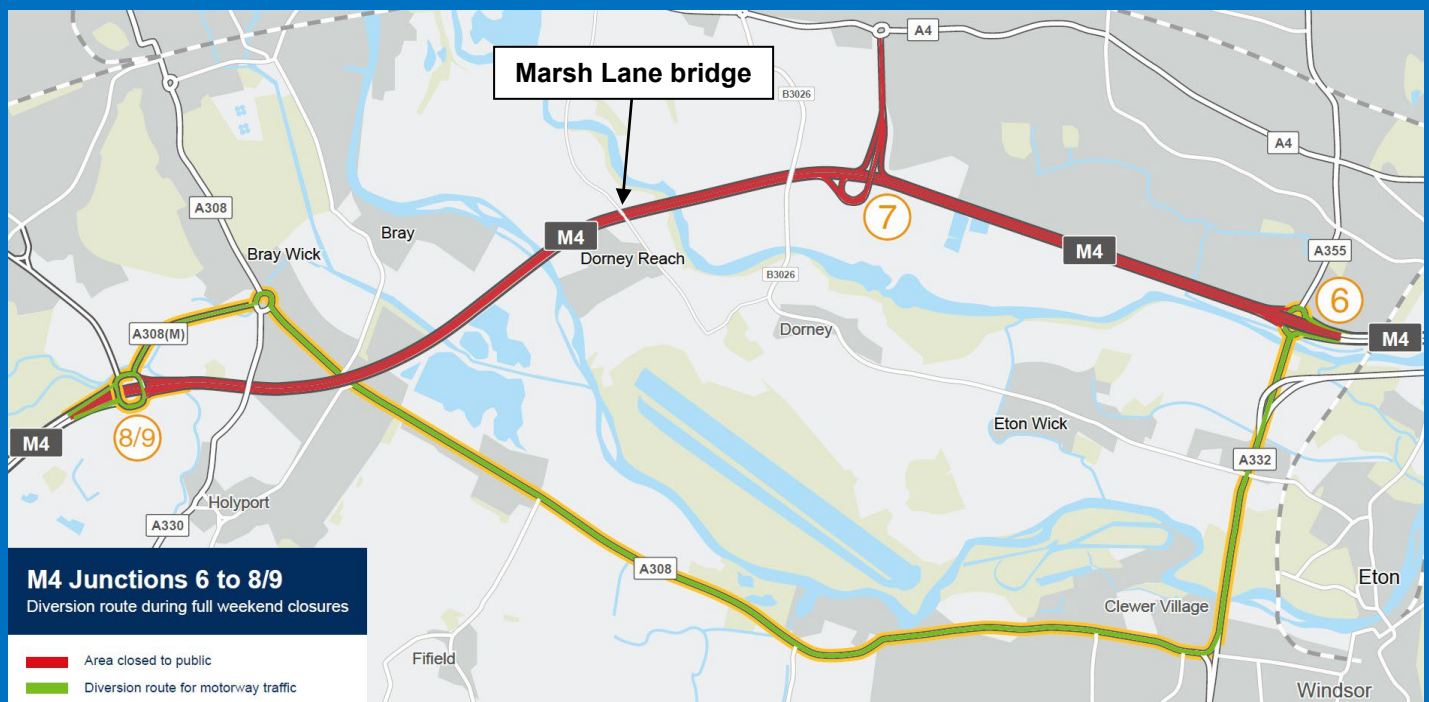
The evidence showed that in most ways smart motorways are as safe as, or safer than, conventional ones. However, some risks are higher than on conventional motorways and the Secretary of State has unveiled a package of 18 measures to address these risks.

There will also be more communication with drivers to ensure motorists feel as safe as possible on smart motorways. An additional £5 million is being committed on national, targeted communications campaigns to further increase drivers' awareness and understanding of smart motorways.

Full details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/strategic-roads-update-smart-motorways-evidence-stocktake>

# Marsh Lane bridge beam lift: diversion details for 24-27 April



## Weekend closures of the M4 in 2020

We have so far completed six full weekend closures of the M4 since September 2019, but we have many more to do by the end of 2020.

Our last news bulletin showed a full list of the weekend closures planned for the year, but we are currently reviewing this in light of the COVID-19 situation as we may need to move or delay weekends in order to address staffing, resource and materials availability.

We are also working with the local authorities to ensure they can carry out important local highway maintenance during 2020 and we will be co-ordinating our revised programme with them.

2020 remains the biggest year for the project in terms of making progress with the bridges ahead of completion of the smart motorway in Spring 2022. We have listed the next few weekend closures that we expect to take place. Details of any changes will be in the in the next few bulletins.

Junctions 6 to 8/9

24-27 April

Junctions 5 to 6

1-4 May

Junctions 6 to 8/9

15-18 May

Junctions 6 to 8/9

29 May-1 June

Junctions 6 to 8/9

5-8 June



## Find out more

You can find out more about the project by visiting our websites at: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m4j3to12](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m4j3to12). You can keep up to date with live traffic information by following the regional twitter feeds [@highwaysEAST](https://twitter.com/highwaysEAST) and [@highwaysSEAST](https://twitter.com/highwaysSEAST) or by visiting [Traffic England](https://www.trafficengland.co.uk). If you have a question that you would like a response to please continue to email us at: [M4J3to12smartmotorways@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:M4J3to12smartmotorways@highwaysengland.co.uk), call 0300 123 5000 or write to: M4 J3-12 Smart Motorway, Highways England, 2 Colmore Square, Birmingham B4 6BN.