

July 2018 news bulletin

Welcome to the first of our monthly information bulletins which we will use to keep the local community informed of forthcoming works taking place between junctions 3 and 12 of the M4 as we upgrade to a smart motorway.

If you attended one of the recent public information exhibitions or have seen the project in the local news you will be aware that main construction work starts between junctions 8/9 and 12 in September 2018, with preparatory activity taking place over the summer. We are committed to keeping you informed as much as possible, so we welcome your feedback on our communications as the works get underway.



Visualisations of M4 J8/9 once works are complete

What's happening during July and August?

Traffic management installation between junctions 8/9 to 10 during night closures

The first works you will see on the motorway itself will be the installation of traffic management (TM) on sections of the M4 between junctions 8/9 – 10. This will involve night closures of the motorway between junctions 8/9 to 10 starting on the evenings of:

- **Monday 30th July: 22:00 – 05:00 hrs**
- **Tuesday 31st July: 22:00 – 05:00 hrs**
- **Wednesday 1st August: 22:00 – 05:00 hrs**
- **Thursday 2nd August: 22:00 – 05:00 hrs**

NB: In the event of poor weather conditions or other issues out of our control, works may be postponed at short notice. If works complete ahead of schedule the motorway may reopen early.

The TM installed will comprise of three narrowed lanes, a 50 mph speed restriction, removal of the hard shoulder and new signage in the area. A map of the diversion route during the closures is on the next page.

Mobile Variable Message Signs (VMS) will be used to display information at different locations on and near the motorway to provide prior warning of works.

Construction of project compounds

We are setting up several construction compounds along the M4 for storing materials, equipment, vehicles and to provide welfare facilities for our workforce.

Our main construction compound and site office will be located at a purpose-built site east of junction 10, on the north side of the motorway close to the A321.

Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) will only be able to access and exit the main compound from new dedicated slip roads directly onto the eastbound carriageway.

Once complete, our main compound will also provide rescue and recovery facilities to assist users of the M4. Meanwhile, we will use existing local facilities in the interim to help motorists in difficulty.

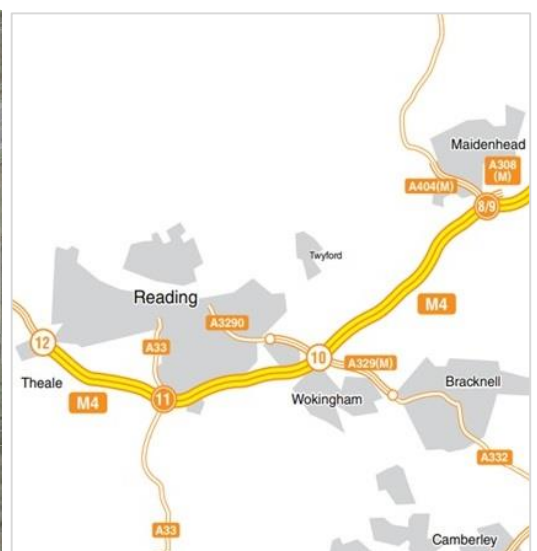
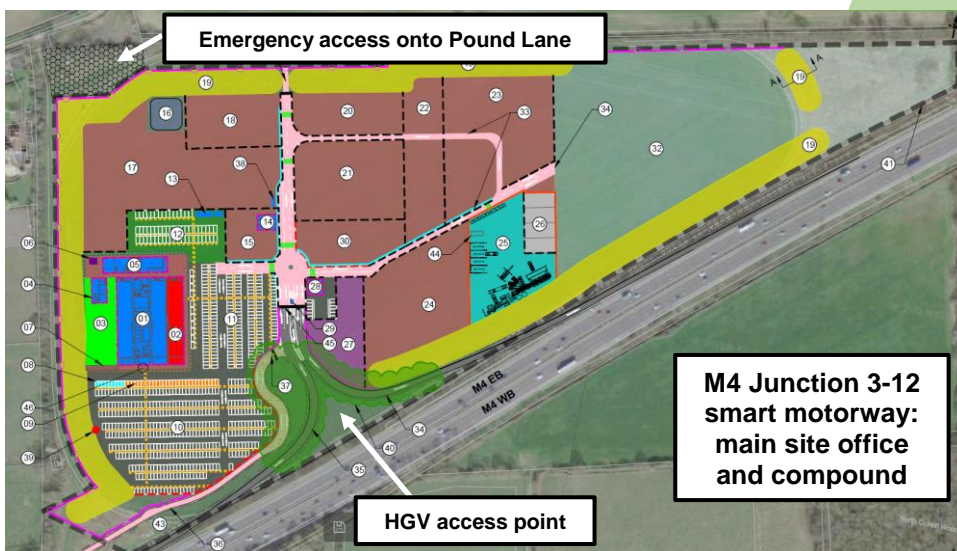
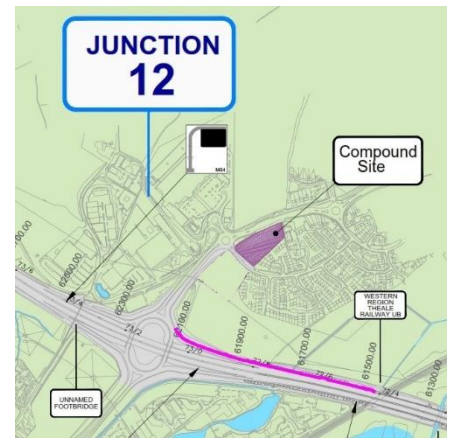
We will also have smaller compounds on land within junction 10 itself, and adjacent to junction 12 (see maps on the following page).

Diversion route for night closures between junctions 8/9-10



Route for eastbound traffic during night time closures. NB: westbound traffic will use the reversed route.

Key construction compound locations for junctions 8/9-12



Smart motorways

Smart motorways are a technology-driven approach to tackling the most congested parts of the network. They increase capacity and improve journey reliability, by controlling the flow and speed of traffic and providing driver information displayed on signs.

A smart motorway is an upgraded section of motorway that has technology installed to monitor and manage traffic flow as well as the hard shoulder used for traffic (permanently for this project). As well as the additional capacity from the extra lane, the technology manages traffic using variable speed limits which smooths traffic, reducing frustrating stop-start flow, and improves journey reliability. The technology is used to support the response to incidents, using the signs and signals to close any lane in advance of the incident scene.

Smart motorways are part of the Government's investment in motorways and major A-roads, which will see up to £3 billion a year invested into delivering a safe and serviceable network by 2021. This investment underpins economic growth and employment at national and regional levels.

Who's who in the project?



Highways England is the wholly government owned company that operates, maintains and improves England's strategic road network, including the M4.



The Balfour Beatty Vinci Joint Venture is the lead construction supplier for the project. The two companies are global leaders in infrastructure delivery.



The Arcadis Jacobs Joint Venture is the design consultant for the project. The firms are specialists in engineering design for built & natural assets.

In addition to the three main project delivery partners, there are many more companies and contractors (including small and medium sized enterprises) involved in the project. The project will employ its workforce from all over the UK and will support apprenticeships and work experience. It will also engage with the local community to share knowledge and encourage careers in engineering.

Construction timescales for the M4 smart motorway project

Motorway Link	J12 - 11	J11 - 10	J10 - 8/9	J8/9 - 6	J6 - 5	J5 - 4b	J4b - 3
Start	May 20	May 20	Sept 18	May 19 ¹	Dec 19	Oct 19	Jan 20
Finish	Feb 22	Jan 22	May 20	Dec 21	Mar 22	Mar 22	Mar 22

1. Mobilisation work to 4 structures between junction 7 and junctions 8/9 will also start in autumn 2018

To minimise disruption to our customers we will need to work on different sections of the motorway at different times. Our current intention for the phasing of construction is to start at junctions 8/9 and progress west towards junction 10. In tandem, we will start work on four bridges between junctions 8/9 and junction 7. The more complex section of the scheme, progressing east from junction 8 to junction 3, will be started in May 2019.

During construction, narrow lanes and reduced speed restrictions will be put in place to create a smooth and safe flow of traffic through the works and to protect workers. Additionally, traffic management barriers will be needed. Three narrow lanes will be available for road users during peak hours. Wherever possible, noisier works will be undertaken during daytime hours to reduce disturbance. Core working hours will be from 08:00 to 19:00 on weekdays (excluding bank holidays) and from 07:00 to 16:00 on Saturdays. There will be temporary closures of the carriageway and slip roads at night on some occasions. In these instances the closure will be advertised in these bulletins and online, and advance warning signs and clearly signed diversions will be put in place.

Find out more

You can find out more about the plans by visiting our website at: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m4j3to12

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.