

National Highways

M1 junction 10 to junction 13

Stakeholder newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for the M1 junction 10 to junction 13 safety enhancements scheme.

In this issue we provide an update on the work we've recently completed, what we're doing next and how our team have been helping deliver activities at a local school and helping the local community.

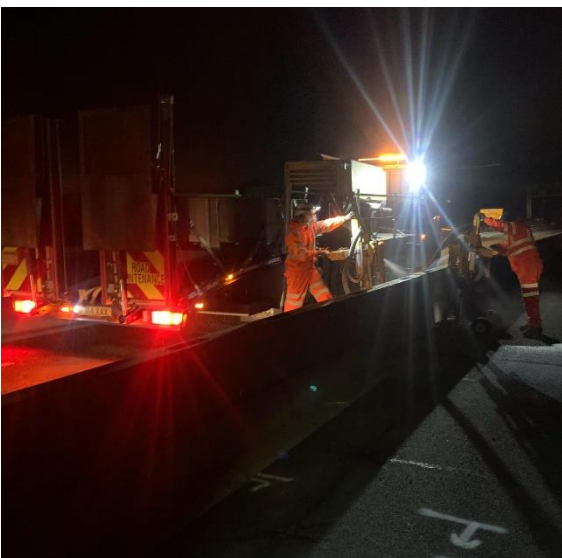
What have we been doing?

Despite some challenging weather conditions at the end of January, we've completed our work to create temporary narrow lanes along the M1 between junction 10 and junction 13, as well as temporary road signage.

Traffic can now use the hard shoulder, lane 1 and lane 2.



Installing temporary road studs (cat's eyes)



Installing the temporary metal barrier

Work is progressing well, and we've removed all 11.2 miles (18km) of the existing old steel central reservation barrier between junctions 10 and 13.



Removing the existing steel central reservation barrier

We've completed 90% of our earthworks and filling any ditches in the existing concrete hard standing areas between junction 10 to 11. These need to be filled with concrete to prepare the area on which the new barriers are to be built. We've also removed old street light bases between junctions 10 to 12.



Concrete infilling

Preparation work to fill any ditches on the existing concrete hard standing has started between junction 11 and 11a. This involves removing drainage covers, cleaning and removing ironwork in the central reservation where necessary.

We've started removing the old steel barrier foundations between junctions 11a and 12.

Before we can begin drainage work between junction 11a and 13, we need to carry out investigation and prepare the area. This involves digging trial holes to check where any pipes or cables are, saw cutting (see picture below), clearing the drains, and opening existing drainage chambers.



Saw cutting

Whilst investigation and preparation work is being done between junction 11 to 12, you may not see an active workforce in these locations.

Next steps

Over the coming weeks, we'll be installing drainage and continuing to break and remove the old concrete foundations between junctions 10 and 12.

Once these are out, we'll then construct a new foundation for the concrete barrier. This involves removing the topsoil and then further digging to remove and replace the existing drainage.

Other work in the area

There is currently other work taking place in the area, as our maintenance team are repairing the carriageway between junction 14 and 13.

On the [A421 between Wootton and Marston Moretaine](#) we're replacing 1,500 metres (1 mile) of noise barrier. This will reduce road noise and glare from local roads. We're also replacing the existing lights with energy-efficient LED lighting to reduce our carbon emissions and save the taxpayer money by lowering electricity costs. This work is taking place between 8pm and 6am on weeknights only, weather permitting.

The [A428 between the Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet](#) is also being upgraded, with a new piece of road being built and changes made to the roundabouts at these locations. There are currently narrow lanes in place on the A421 in both directions between the Black Cat roundabout and the Renhold junction.

Please visit the A421 and A428 scheme websites to find out more about their projects and upcoming road closures.

Little changes, change everything



By making little changes when you drive, you can make a big difference to reducing congestion, avoiding collisions, and making journeys safer.

Keep Left - When traffic conditions allow, drive in the left-hand lane. The middle lanes are for overtaking. It's essential to follow the Highway Code (Rule 264).

Staying in a middle lane disrupts traffic flow and can be dangerous, causing congestion and increasing the risk of a collision.

Tailgating - Driving too close to the car in front or tailgating can be dangerous. It reduced your reaction time and increases the risk of a collision. It's essential to keep a safe distance behind the car in front, to protect yourself and other road users.

To keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front, use the **two-second rule**. This means leaving a gap of at least two seconds between your vehicle and the one in front. In **bad weather** or when towing a trailer, the gap should be **four seconds**.

[Read more about our driving campaign.](#)

Breaking down in roadworks

We operate a 24/7 free recovery service to remove any stranded vehicles that have broken down in a live lane within our work area. All existing Emergency Areas will remain open for use between junctions 10 to 13.

If possible, use emergency areas, motorway service areas or leave at the next junction. If you cannot leave the motorway or get to an emergency area:

- 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 by CCTV 24/7.
- 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, don't 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'.
- Tell the operator if you are disabled and/or a vulnerable motorist such as an older person or travelling alone.

Once our free recovery service or the regional traffic control centre is aware of your situation, via the police or CCTV, they will send a recovery vehicle to your location to remove your vehicle from the carriageway and take you to a place of relative safety.

You may also be assisted by our Traffic Officers or the police.

Always carry any medication you need with you and prepare for your journey in advance.

People who are unable to use the emergency roadside phones due to a hearing, speech or physical impairment can contact us via text on 0738 028 3600 for roadside assistance.



M1 Junction 10 to 13 scheme and carbon



National Highways is committed to playing our part in the government's committed to the UK to being a net zero economy by 2050. Road travel provides a convenient, low cost and practical way to travel to see family, to work and to deliver goods around the UK. With almost nine out of ten passenger miles travelled by road and 79% of freight goods moved by road, Britain's roads are an integral part of our economy and wider transport system.

For Britain to be a net zero greenhouse gas economy, our roads have to be net zero too. In our net zero plan we set out how we will take fast action across our own operations, we will lead decarbonisation of England's highways construction and we will support making every journey on our network emission free. And because our leadership will help avoid dangerous climate change and support Britain's growth

You can read more about our commitments in our [Net Zero Highways report](#).

As a project, we recognise the importance of acting now to reduce our carbon footprint and look at what we can do to lessen our operational impacts on the environment. We've been rolling out carbon training to those working on the M1 junction 10 to 13 safety enhancement scheme to help embed carbon practices across the business.

What are we doing to help reduce carbon usage?

On this specific scheme, we're successfully using two electric cement pokers. Using electric equipment significantly reduces fuel consumption, costs, and has the added benefit of producing zero emissions and noise.

This carbon reducing idea was identified through the development of a specific project called The Project Construction Decarbonisation Plan. The plan aims to embed a culture of carbon reduction and efficiency.

Local Foodbank

Our principal contractor, Balfour Beatty, have been on hand to provide much needed support to the local foodbank.

The site team have committed to providing a regular donation to the foodbank.



Donation basket

A local foodbank representative said *"Thank you so much for the generous donations delivered to our warehouse. It was great to meet two of your colleagues and hear about the M1 project taking place over 2024. The weight of your food donation came to just under 67kg. This is a wonderful amount of food and is equivalent to the provision of around 60 meals which will make a big difference to our clients.!"*

We've also been volunteering by helping organising donations, so they are ready to give out to clients at the local distribution centres.



Volunteering

There are so many people in the local community struggling and no one should have to face going hungry. That's why it's so important to help where we can, to provide food donations and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis.



Easter egg donation

We are really looking forward to helping the foodbank team with donations and volunteering whilst we're delivering the M1 safety enhancement scheme.

If you're a member of a local community group that needs support with work, you do in the local community, please contact Vanessa via email at: M1J10-J13CCC@balfourbeatty.com

Customer Survey

We'd like to hear what you think about the information we send to you.

Please spend a few minutes completing our online questionnaire by scanning the QR code:



Or visit: <https://forms.office.com/e/50cUBfxLtF>

Chestnut Primary School visit

Members of the project team volunteered to deliver careers talks to 180 key stage 1 and 2 pupils as part of an aspiration's day at Chestnut Primary School in West Bletchley.

The school aims to create opportunities to enrich children with key skills, with a purpose to inspire the futures of their children through learning.

The Aspirations Day highlighted careers and job roles that the students could work towards in the construction and infrastructure industry. We also sponsored Spot the robotic dog to attend the event.



Project team delivering their careers talk.

Spot's robotic 'dog's eye view' is being used to capture data remotely in difficult-to-reach locations and terrains alongside motorways and busy A-roads, such as steep-sided embankments and natural slopes, beneath tree canopies or under bridges.

Spot provides a safer and cost-effective option for geotechnical surveying and inspecting inaccessible areas compared to a human.



Spot with police dogs

Abigail Cole, Upper Key Stage 2 Leader, and Teacher said *"Lots of the children who I spoke to at the end of the day said that seeing Spot was their favourite part of the day. This was also a definite highlight for many of the members of staff who were also fascinated by him!"*

Bedford College Careers Fair

On Tuesday 19 March, members of the M1 Enhancement Scheme project team supported a careers fair at Bedford College.

With 1000 students at the event, we aimed to increase awareness, inform, and inspire young people on their potential future career in construction! We promoted live apprenticeship opportunities and offered application guidance. A £100 voucher was also donated to support Bedford College careers month.

We've built a good rapport with Bedford College and are excited to see how we can further support them in the future.



Graduates at careers fair

Contact us

You can visit our webpage and sign up for updates about the scheme at:

www.nationalhighways.co.uk/M1junction10-13

If you'd like more information about our work, then please call the 24/7 National Highways Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 or email:

info@nationalhighways.co.uk