

A14 Junctions 52 to 55 Concrete road improvements completion newsletter

Highways England has now successfully completed repairing the concrete road surface on the A14 between junction 52 (Claydon) and junction 55 (Copdock Interchange). The work started on 14 January 2021 and was completed ahead of schedule.

Since the introduction of the latest national lockdown restrictions, which were announced on Monday 4 January, less daytime traffic has been using the A14. This meant that the road repairs could be done in longer shifts and during the daytime as well as nights. We also placed electronic signs in various locations, displaying messages well ahead of our roadworks to encourage long-distance traffic to take alternative routes.

To keep traffic flowing on the A14 whilst we carried out the work, a temporary contraflow system was used. This is where traffic is transferred from its usual side to share the opposite half of the carriageway, with traffic moving in both directions. As a result, our workers could safely make repairs to the closed section of the road. During our work we suffered a week of some of the coldest temperatures that East Anglia had experienced over the last ten years, including snow. Although work was delayed, it did not have a great impact on the overall completion of the road repairs.

The damage to the road surface on this section of the A14 was quite extensive, as you can see in the example pictures below:





What we've been doing

We closed off the A14 road overnight from Friday 22 January until Sunday 24 January 2021 to install a contraflow with a steel barrier to keep traffic safely separated on the eastbound carriageway. This allowed us to close the westbound carriageway to safely carry out the resurfacing work. We were also able to repair sections of the road's concrete surface on the opposite carriageway that were safely away from moving traffic.

We also closed the road overnight from Sunday 31 January until Tuesday 2 February so that we could switch the contraflow over to the westbound carriageway so that we could safely carry out the resurfacing on the eastbound stretch.

We had further overnight closures from Wednesday 17 February until Wednesday 24 February to remove the contraflow and to carry out our remaining work. This included new road markings, replacing cat's eyes and repairing areas of the A14 that could not be done whilst the contraflow was in place.

Some of the repairs we made to the road are shown in the pictures below:

Removing damaged studs (cat's eyes)



Removing existing road markings



Road ready for concrete pouring



Completing new concrete road section



The finished road surface with new white lines



The finished road surface with new white lines



During this project, we have done the following:

- Put in the contraflow on the westbound carriageway and then the eastbound carriageways to ensure that the repair work could be done safely for our workers and motorists.
- Removed approximately 50 damaged sections of concrete and replaced them with concrete that sets quickly.
- Carried out around 50 partial depth road surface repairs and replaced them with concrete that sets quickly.
- Repaired around 450 meters of cracks with a flexible bituminous material.
- Finished 13km of centre line joint sealing.
- Completed 4 flexible bridge joint repairs.
- Refreshed around 30km of white lines.
- Renewed and replaced approximately 5,000 new cat's eyes.

We thank residents and motorists for their patience whilst we carried out these important road repairs.

Keep in touch

You can keep up to date with our other concrete surface repair projects on the A14 by visiting: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A14concrete. The Customer Contact Centre is available 24/7 on 0300 123 5000 or email info@highwaysengland.co.uk. Regular updates on traffic and road closures are available by following @HighwaysEAST on Twitter.