

# M56 motorway upgrade junctions 6 to 8 newsletter

spring 2021



## Progress update

Welcome to the second edition of the M56 junctions 6 to 8 newsletter. Since our last issue we've opened our site compound which is located on the A56 just off Lymm Road. We're now well into construction work on the M56 junctions 6 to 8 scheme. We're currently progressing work to install two new Emergency Areas between junctions 8 and 6.

Other work we've been carrying out includes:

- removing existing motorway traffic signs, technology equipment and vehicle barriers
- repairing kerbs and pavement
- installing ducting and cables in the ground which will power the new signs and technology
- installing cross carriageway ducts to carry the technology cables under the motorway
- earthworks including re-grading the existing slopes, constructing a piling platform, excavation for structures and drainage work and gully repairs

Site clearance works completed on the eastbound carriageway:

- safety barrier 100%
- bases for new structures 90%
- signage removal 77%
- paving 75%
- earthwork: topsoil removal 85%
- pavement planing 80%



**Motorway upgrade**  
Preparing for digital roads

**M56 junction 6 to 8**

**Complete spring 2022**

**NORTHERN POWERHOUSE**

Department for Transport

highways england

## Upcoming works

As we move further into spring, you'll see increased construction activity throughout our roadworks. Some of the work we'll be carrying out over the coming months include:

- ground excavation, installing foundations and building bases for the new overhead signage and structures
- continuing to install new ducting and drainage
- combined kerb and drainage installation for effective water management
- installing retaining walls for the new Emergency Areas and technology sites
- installing the new permanent safety barrier

In early summer, we'll switch our traffic management and contraflow so we can start work on the opposite carriageway. To switch the contraflow, we'll need to have full overnight closures of the motorway in both directions.

All diversion routes will be clearly signed. For the most up to date traffic information please visit Traffic England at: [www.TrafficEngland.com](http://www.TrafficEngland.com)

Alternatively, if you would like to be added to our weekly traffic management bulletin please get in touch with us on the contact details at the bottom of the newsletter.

## 50mph - Driving safely through our roadworks



We know that roadworks can be frustrating, however they're an essential part of any motorway upgrade project. We're planning our work to take place in the safest way, with minimal disruption on road users.

We've installed a contraflow on the M56 which allows us to keep three narrow lanes flowing in each direction, plus a wide working area. We've also installed signs and signals to keep you informed of what we're doing and upcoming planned work. We've carried out a risk assessment which considered the road layout and the type of work we're carrying out. This has shown us that the highest safe speed we can operate the road at while we work is 50mph.

The speed limit through our roadworks is enforced by the Police, so please don't exceed this or you may receive a penalty notice. Just because workers are not visible, it does not mean they are not present. This is especially true when we're working at night, but this also applies when visibility is restricted by work vehicles and equipment. During the current roadworks, there is no place for motorists to stop or leave the motorway other than the exit slip roads. We're operating a free vehicle recovery service for anybody who breaks down in our work area.

## What if I break down in the roadworks?

In the event where your vehicle breaks down and you can't reach the next motorway junction:

- Put your hazard warning lights on
- If you're in the left-hand lane and it's safe to do so, leave your vehicle through the left-hand door and wait behind the barrier or away from the road.
- If you can't get out, stay inside your vehicle, and wait for help. Keep your seat belt on and dial '999' if there is an emergency.

Our CCTV control room team monitor our work area 24 hours a day, every day of the week. This allows us to react quickly to breakdowns and any obstructions in the road.

## We want your feedback!

### Have you recently driven through our roadworks or do you live nearby?

We've launched a new feedback tool as we want to hear about your experiences of driving through or living near our work.

Where possible, we'll use this feedback to identify areas where we can improve how we deliver this scheme.

Head to our webpage and click on the map to add your comments.

[highwaysengland.co.uk/M56-J6-8](https://highwaysengland.co.uk/M56-J6-8)

## Meet the team

**Project Director,  
Kevin MacLeod**

Kevin has extensive experience of working on major civil engineering projects throughout the UK. Projects he's been involved in include The Queensferry Crossing, Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, and the M74 motorway. Kevin's been working on the project for two and a half years. He's extremely competitive and always willing to go the extra mile to achieve success.

When not at work you'll find Kevin on a golf course or training in the gym.



## Community

### Charity donations

#### The Children's Adventure Farm Trust

At Christmas we held a raffle and raised £100. We donated the money to The Children's Adventure Farm Trust. It's a special place where terminally ill, disabled and socially disadvantaged children can have a break away from their circumstances. The charity is located in Millington, near Altrincham.



Ian Eccles, CEO of the trust said "We are very proud and pleased to have provided opportunities for over 5,000 children and their families to visit the farm since lockdown one ended in May 2020. The feedback on what these visits mean to the children and their families during this strangest of times has been truly heart-warming.

Your kind donation will help make more fantastic memories for the most deserving children, so from all of us here, and the children and their families we support, a huge thank you!"  
So far we've donated £345 in total to charities.

## Virtual sessions with the project team

Due to current coronavirus and social distancing measures, it's not possible to invite you to our site offices or meet with you face-to-face.

We're offering appointments on Microsoft Teams for anyone who has questions relating to our scheme. You can join a Teams call, from any mobile device or computer even if you don't have a Teams account.

To book a virtual meeting please email us [M56Junctions6-8@Gallifordtry.co.uk](mailto:M56Junctions6-8@Gallifordtry.co.uk)

## Lost and found

When working on a nightshift in February, site operatives Ben Dixon and John Gillett saw a lost dog wandering around the access to the site compound. John quickly made a lead from rope, and they went to locate the dog as they were concerned for its welfare.



After searching the site compound, they looked along the nearby busy road and found the dog at the Bowdon Roundabout near the motorway. Having taken the dog back to the safety of the compound, John made lots of phone calls to try and locate the owner of the dog so she could be returned home. Posts were put out on social media by colleagues to find the dog's owner and let them know she was being looked after in our site offices. Our team took turns to sit with the dog through the night, and the following day they took her to the local vet who was able to locate the owner and reunite them.

## New link bridge starts to take shape at M6 junction 19

In January, we installed 36 steel beams across the carriageway as part of our ongoing M6 junction 19 improvement scheme. Since then, we've been busy preparing the beams ready to pour the foundations for the two new link roads. In mid-April, we'll need to close the M6 motorway within the junction for around 36 hours to pour and set 700m<sup>3</sup> of concrete. That's almost three-tenths the size of an Olympic swimming pool! This is our next key milestone on the project and one that will see us on track for completion in summer 2021. For more information, please visit our webpage: [highwaysengland.co.uk/m6-junction-19](https://highwaysengland.co.uk/m6-junction-19)



## Contact us:

If you'd like any more information about the project, please visit our project webpage at: [highwaysengland.co.uk/M56-J6-8](https://highwaysengland.co.uk/M56-J6-8)

If you have any questions, you can contact us on the details below:

Email: [M56Junctions6-8@Gallifordtry.co.uk](mailto:M56Junctions6-8@Gallifordtry.co.uk)

Phone: 0300 123 500 (Customer Contact Centre)

Post: **M56 junctions 6 to 8 Project Team, Highways England,  
2 Colmore Square, Birmingham, B4 6BN**

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Highways England creative job number MCR21\_0038

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Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ  
Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363