

M20 J10a junction improvement scheme

Newsletter May 2018

Introduction

Welcome to the first of our **Highways England M20 J10a newsletters**, to keep you updated on the construction works for the M20 J10a scheme we are undertaking to improve the M20.

At Highways England we have been working closely with Ashford Borough Council and the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), both part funders of this £104.4m scheme, to deliver a new M20 junction 10a and link road. SELEP and partners, including Kent County Council and Ashford Borough Council (ABC), have agreed to invest £35.7 million in this major Highway England project from pre-committed Local Growth Fund allocations and local developer contributions. This scheme will unlock the economic growth in the Ashford area and continue to develop the region.

The M20 is an international route used by large volumes of long distance freight and holiday vehicles as well as local traffic. As a main arterial road it currently suffers from significant levels of congestion which will only increase over the coming years due to planned growth from new housing, educational, leisure, retail and commercial developments.

The M20's junction 10, which is already over stretched at times, will therefore suffer from increased congestion and delays if additional capacity is not created. This new junction M20 Junction 10a and link road scheme will accommodate this planned growth.

We have appointed contractors VINCI Joint Venture (VINCI JV) and together developed a construction programme. The scheme, programme of works and proposed closures are outlined in this first newsletter. We will be sending you further newsletters to keep you updated on our progress until scheme completion.

Scheme benefits

This scheme will provide the following benefits:

- Provide infrastructure to support development in the Ashford area
- Help separate long distance traffic from local traffic
- Reduce congestion and improve journey time reliability
- Improve road safety
- Improve noise and air quality for properties to the west of A2070 in Sevington

Scheme description

Features of the scheme include a new interchange junction 700 metres east of junction 10 over the M20, a new dual carriage way link road to the existing A2070 Southern Orbital Road, a connection to the A20 Hythe Road from Junction 10a plus the replacement and upgrade of ageing structures.

Improvements to the A2070 Southern Orbital Road will provide a new dual carriageway link road with a 40mph speed limit located between the proposed new junction 10a and the A2070, a new three-armed roundabout joining the new link road to the existing A2070, the existing A2070 realigned where it joins the link road, a new Church Road footbridge/cycleway replacing the old bridge and enhancements to Barrey Road junction.

Key Plan M20 Junction 10a



Current programme of works

May 2018

- A temporary pedestrian footbridge is due to be erected near Pilgrims Hospice over the stream adjacent to the A20.
- On the M20, in the region of the new Junction, preparation works involving night closures and associated diversions.
- Traffic management on the M20 starts in May 2018 with a temporary speed restriction and two lanes running in each direction. This will result in temporary road closures to install.

Summer 2018

- Earthworks for the new Junction 10a commence.
- The existing Church Road footbridge over A2070 will be demolished with the provision of a temporary pedestrian crossing beforehand.

In response to recent feedback from local residents, the VINCI JV programme has been altered to temporarily remove the southbound lane closure of the A2070. The lane closure is planned to be reinstated in June 2018 with improved traffic management arrangements.

What is happening?

Site clearance

Site clearance is being undertaken, avoiding potential disturbance to nesting birds. Fingertip searches are conducted prior to scrub clearance to ensure that wildlife is not harmed. Vegetation clearance is carried out methodically and slowly with a licenced Ecologist present to advise on local wildlife. This encourages the animals to safely move away from the work areas. During the winter months hibernating animals were protected by slowly removing vegetation with a specialist present when animals were due to emerge.

In addition, environmental personnel have worked carefully to consider the number of trees and foliage that need to be removed.



Site Clearance on embankment looking London bound on the M20

Ecology

The project region contains water voles, badgers, bats, dormouse, great crested and smooth newts as well as kingfishers. We have been working with Natural England and Ecologists to minimise disturbance to wildlife. So far we have translocated over 70 newts and 20 fish into a new permanent pond.



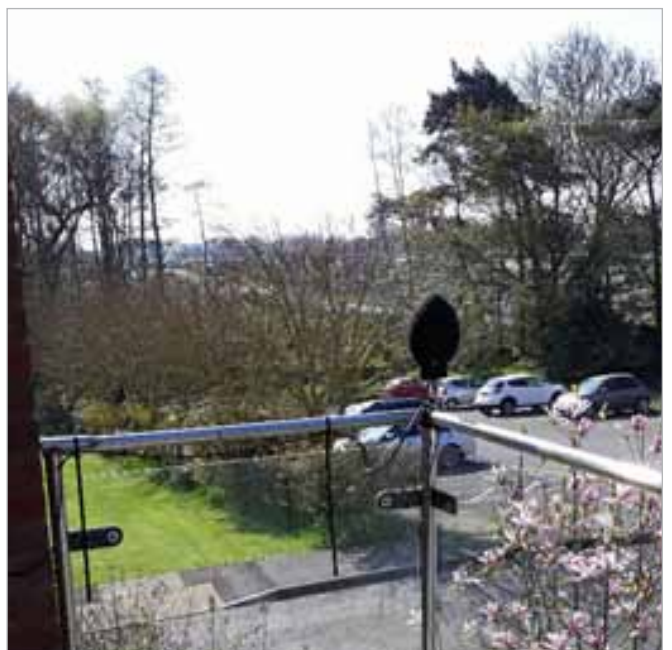
Great crested newts are present in the works region

Community considerations

Pilgrims Hospice is an important community operation and is located immediately adjacent to our works areas. We are committed to ensuring our construction activities provide little disruption to the Hospice operation during construction.

VINCI JV are providing a monitor on the corner of a balcony hand railing to ensure their operations are carried out within noise limits which comply with the local authority regulations.

We have also placed a noise meter along Kingsford Street to ensure noise levels are monitored and recorded throughout the duration of the project.



Pilgrims Hospice noise monitor on balcony

Public information exhibition

On Tuesday 24 April we held a well-publicised exhibition so that our team could explain the scheme construction details to members of the general public and answer questions. The event was held at the Amos Hall in Ashford and was well attended, attracting over 160 people. Feedback to the event was extremely positive. 77% of respondents found the event useful and 79% of respondents found the staff helpful. You will be able to view our banners on the project page website very shortly.

Investing in your roads

At Highways England, we believe in a connected country and our network makes these connections happen. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways - engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and, most importantly, safe. That's why we're delivering £15 billion of investment on our network - the largest investment in a generation.

Growth Deal (Local Growth Fund)

Growth Deals are a £12 billion national long-term programme to revitalise local economies.

The Local Growth Fund is the Government's funding pot of at least £2bn a year from 2015/16 to 2020/21. Most of the funding is allocated through a competitive process, and there have been three rounds of Local Growth Funds so far. Projects funded will be delivered by 2021.

In total the SELEP Growth Deal with Government has brought almost £590.8m of investment to around 100 projects in East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock.

Over the lifetime of the deal (2015-2021) SELEP aims to deliver 78,000 jobs and 29,000 homes. It is set to attract a further £960 million investment into the South East over the next five years.

How can I find out more information?

You can find out more by going to our web page or by emailing us.

Our webpage details:

At Highways England we are in the process of changing our web domain and so the link to our M20j10a web page will change as follows:

Until May 15 it will remain as
www.highways.gov.uk/M20J10a

From May 16 it will change to
www.highwaysengland.co.uk/M20J10a

Our email details:

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Part funded by:



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