Update of works

Woodlands Lane Bridge, which stretches across the M3 motorway between junctions 2 and 3 near Windlesham village, has significantly deteriorated since the bridge was first constructed leading to the bridge having a weight and width restriction imposed upon it.

The restrictions are in place in order to reduce the size of vehicles that can cross the bridge; it is currently limited to vehicles less than 2m wide with a 3 tonne weight limit.

Many aspects of strengthening the structure have been considered and after extensive investigation and testing, it has been concluded that the bridge requires complete demolition and a full reconstruction.

From the evening of Friday 28 October 2016 Woodlands Lane Bridge was closed to vehicles and pedestrians, and will remain closed for approximately twelve months whilst the Smart Motorway works continue and reconstruction of the bridge is completed.

Preparation works to demolish the bridge have now begun, including planing off the surface from the bridge deck and diverting vital utilities such as gas, electric and water under the motorway ahead of the demolition.

Safeguarding the utility services that currently run through Woodlands Lane Bridge and serve the village of Windlesham is a priority.

We expect to re-open Woodlands Lane Bridge following the construction of the new bridge by winter 2017/18.
**Full weekend motorway closure**
A full weekend closure of the M3 motorway between junctions 2 and 3 will be required in order for the demolition works to take place safely.

This closure is subject to safety reviews and is weather dependant. In the event that the demolition is cancelled over this weekend, there are also two consecutive contingency weekend dates in place for **25-27 November and 2-5 December 2016**.

**What we are planning to do**
Following the closure of the motorway, we will begin preparing the existing bridge and laying out material to protect the carriageway below the bridge from being damaged during the controlled demolition.

Once the demolition has been carried out machinery will begin dismantling the larger parts of the bridge and all debris will be cleared from the carriageway in preparation for reopening.

**Additional works**
All possible options are considered before deciding to close a motorway and this is only if absolutely necessary for the safety of the road users.

Highways England recognises the impact on the local community and travelling public by closing the motorway for a full weekend.

We will therefore also be using the opportunity presented by the motorway closure to progress work on the Smart Motorway project and complete additional work; such as resurfacing, ducting and drainage works, completing gantry works and the installation of approximately 1000m of permanent safety barrier within the closed section of the motorway.

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**Siren and exclusion zone**
Please be aware that during the early hours of the morning of the demolition a loud siren will sound alerting our workforce to clear the demolition area; residents should not be alarmed by this siren.

The demolition will take place within a restricted area and an exclusion zone will be in place. Please note there will be no public viewing area. We ask that the local community do not try to approach the exclusion zone in order to view the demolition.

Security will be present around the area to ensure the safety of the public.

**Diversion routes**

During the M3 closure there will be four clearly signed alternative diversion routes (two south and two northbound) in place throughout the closure. These diversion routes have been agreed as the most appropriate routes with local authorities and emergency services.

Similar to the Smart Motorway roadworks, free recovery support will be in operation along the diversion routes to provide any broken down vehicles with assistance and where possible relocation to a designated safe area.

Along the diversion routes we will also have temporary signs displaying journey time reliability indicating the amount of time until the end of the diversion. Diversion route information will also be made available on our website at:

www.highways.gov.uk/m3j2-4asm
Journey planning
The M3 between junctions 2 and 3 will be closed for the full weekend in both directions during the work. Drivers are advised to **allow extra time** for their journeys. **Delays are expected** and drivers are advised to consider alternative routes if possible. There will be four clearly signed alternative diversion routes (two south and two northbound) in place throughout the closure as follows:

**Northbound M3 traffic (Blue)**

**Towards Gatwick, Dartford and the ferry ports (Dover and Folkestone):** Leave the M3 at junction 4. Diverted traffic will follow the A331/A31/A3 to re-join the M25 at junction 10.

**Towards Heathrow, Central London or clockwise on the M25:** Leave the M3 at junction 3 and follow the A322 and A329(M) to join the M4 at junction 10. Diverted traffic will follow the M4 to access Central London or re-join the M25 at M4 junction 4B for Heathrow or to re-join the M3 at junction 2.

**Southbound M3 traffic (Red)**

**From Central London:** Leave the M3 at junction 2. Diverted traffic will follow the M25 to Junction 15 and join the M4 to travel west. Diverted traffic will have the option of using the A329(M) (J10) to access the Bagshot area, the A33 (J11) to access the Basingstoke area or the A34 (J13) to access the Winchester / Southampton areas.

**From M25 intending to travel south on the M3:**

**Anticlockwise on the M25:** join the M4 at M25 junction 15 and follow the one of routes - A329(M) (J10) / A33 (J11) / A34 (J13).

**Clockwise on the M25:** join the A3 at M25 junction 10 and follow the A3, A31 and A331 to re-join the M3 at junction 4.
Additional signage will be in place on the network across a wide area surrounding the M3, to encourage traffic to seek alternative routes. These signs will be strategically positioned before junctions to provide road users with advance information and greater opportunity to find an alternative route.

**Timeline of planned events**

- **28/10/2016**
  - **Pre-demolition work starts**
    - At 10pm on 28 October Woodlands Lane Bridge was closed to traffic and pedestrians
    - Vital utilities such as gas, electric and water have been diverted under the motorway ahead of the demolition
    - Preparation works began ahead of the demolition of the bridge

- **18/11/2016**
  - **Motorway closed from 9pm**
    - At 9pm the M3 will close in both directions between junctions 2 and 3 and final preparations will begin on the bridge and carriageway
    - In the early hours of the morning the bridge will be demolished and works will begin to remove all debris from the carriageway
    - Whilst debris is removed, additional Smart Motorway works will continue such as drainage installation and resurfacing

- **21/11/2016**
  - **5:30am M3 motorway reopens**

To find out more about the M3 junctions 2 to 4a Smart Motorway, contact the community relations team on 01252 555700 or 0300 123 5000, alternatively visit our website: www.highways.gov.uk/m3j2-4asm