

M5 junctions 4a to 6 smart motorway

Newsletter issue 9, September 2016



Update of works

Welcome to the 9th edition of your smart motorway newsletter.

Another busy month on the project sees work continue to install overhead gantries which will carry the signs and signals for the smart motorway scheme. We also continue to top soil the verges as ducting, drainage and safety fencing works are completed.

Motorway closures will be required for safety when working above the carriageway.

Details of any future closures and diversion routes that will take place to complete works can be found on the Highways England website: www.highways.gov.uk/m5-junctions-4a-to-6

How far have we come?

Earthworks

Piling Platforms	97% complete
Embankment Regrade	97% complete
Gabions*	100% complete
Gabions at chambers	100 % complete
Verge Trim and topsoil	30% complete

Drainage

Outfalls	96% complete
ERA Drainage	100% complete
Surface water channel	95% complete
Refurbish filter drains	90% complete

Structures

Gantry Demolition	100% complete
Sheet Piling	100% complete
Traffic Sign Base	90% complete
Gantry Bases	100% complete
Installation of New Gantries	94% complete
Foundations	100% complete

Ducting

Cross Carriageway Ducting	100% complete
Longitudinal Ducting	76% complete

Surfacing

Resurfacing of Lane 4	100% complete
Resurfacing of Lane 3	100% complete

*A retaining wall: metal cages which are filled with large stones.

MP Visit to Site

Last month a Member of Parliament for Mid-Worcestershire; Nigel Huddleston visited our site offices to see the works we are undertaking. The day included an updated of the scheme's progress and a tour of the site to show first-hand the works that are being carried out.



MP Nigel Huddleston with project team members

"It was very kind of you to give up so much of your time last week to show me and Julia all the works on the M5 smart motorway section. It was really useful to be able to discuss some of the finer detail and to be given such a thorough update by you."

Nigel Huddleston MP

We look forward to working closely with Mr Huddleston MP to benefit the local community affected by the scheme.

Safety First

During the last few weeks we have been developing a moveable barrier system that can be used to temporarily close our access points to the works.



New temporary moveable barrier system

Using this system we are able to close access points quickly and safely when carrying out work in that area. This allows us to carry out works more quickly while giving improved safety for road workers and road users.

What will we see over the next month?

- Installation vehicle restraint system (safety barriers)
- Installation of remaining new gantries between junctions 4a and 6
- Further drainage repairs and upgrades, including outfalls
- Continuation of ducting for the new communications systems
- Installation of new motorway signs and signals

Community Engagement

We have recently carried out a stakeholder survey to understand how well we communicate with our customers.

We are currently considering the 17 responses received and what future actions we need to put in place to improve our engagement. More about this will be included in our next newsletter.

Environmental Update

Hibernacula Update

Last month we began constructing five winter dens (known as hibernacula) where great crested newts could hibernate during winter .

A photo of one of the new hibernacula can be found below.



Hibernacula built for the project

To find out [more information about smart motorways](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-drive-on-a-smart-motorway) and how to drive on a smart motorway visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-drive-on-a-smart-motorway>

To find out more about the M5 junctions 4a to 6 smart motorway

Contact: Nick Cuming - Stakeholder manager on 07826 868 990

or call: 0300 123 5000

Visit our website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/m5-junctions-4a-to-6>.

Email: M5J4a-6SmartMotorway@highwaysengland.co.uk

