

# A533 (M56)

## Expressway bridge replacement

Spring 2023

**W**elcome to the A533 (M56) Expressway bridge replacement scheme newsletter. We'd like to update you on the work that we've been doing and share information about the opening of the new bridge in April. As well as the demolition of the original structure, which is planned for May 2023.



*An overhead shot of the site shows the new bridge in place*





*The new bridge deck is 67-metres long and weighs over 1,000 tonnes*

### Installing your new bridge

In October last year, we installed the new A533 Expressway bridge over the M56 motorway. We constructed the bridge on a specially built platform within our site compound, which took around five months to complete.

Working in this way meant the bridge deck could be built at the same time as the bridge walls. This

reduced the length of the programme by three months compared to the more traditional method of building from the ground up. It also meant fewer bridge and motorway closures and less disruption to road users.

Installing the bridge was a significant milestone as we moved 1,184 tonnes of steel down onto the

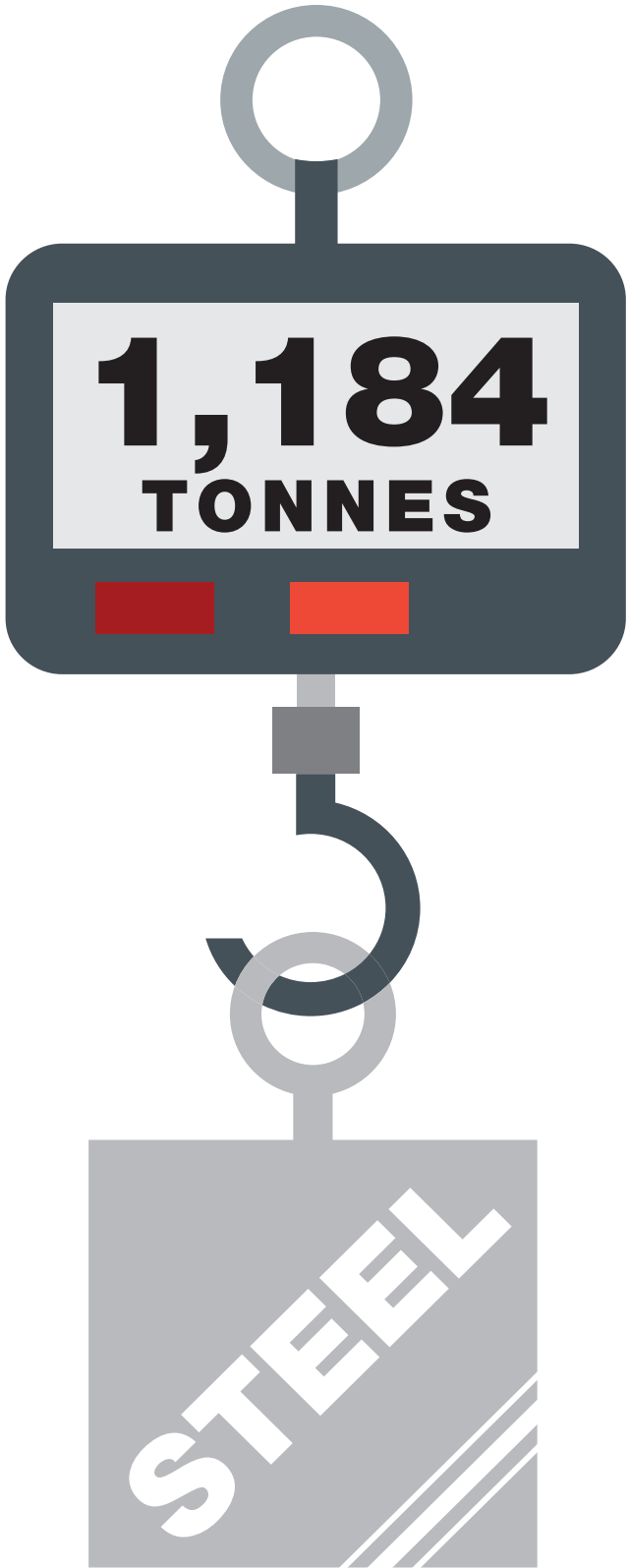
carriageway and into its final position. The operation was also challenging due to the local area, so a ramp was built and the bridge manoeuvred using special machinery.

During these closures we carried out as much other work as possible, reducing the need for more closures in the future. This included barrier and bridge

joint repairs, drainage work, maintenance, surveying and bridge monitoring by Network Rail.

### Opening the new bridge for traffic

In mid-April we completed road surfacing, white lining and installed new kerbing on the new bridge. We opened the new bridge to traffic on the morning of Monday 17 April.





## What's coming up?

Our last major milestone is the demolition of the old bridge. This is planned to take place over two weekends in May.

We will need to close the M56 in both directions between junction 11 and 12 on the following:

- 9pm Friday 12 May to 6am Monday 15 May
- 9pm Friday 19 May to 6am Monday 22 May

The new A533 Expressway bridge will also be closed to traffic. Access via the bridge will be retained for walkers and cyclists, who'll be assisted through the closure. It will not be possible to view the bridge demolition from this location.

In addition, the A56 will be closed from the rail bridge to the A533. This is so we can carry out surfacing and white lining work.

These closures will be taking place from:

- 7pm Friday 12 May to 6am Monday 15 May
- 7pm Friday 19 May to 6am Monday 22 May

We are planning to reinstate the M56 to its original condition once the old bridge is demolished. We will be resurfacing sections of the carriageway during the second weekend closure. To reduce disruption to road users, we'll be undertaking further finishing work overnight when traffic levels are lower.

We'd like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but also reassure you that we're working as quickly and as safely as possible to complete our work on this much-needed upgrade.

## Summary of weekend closures

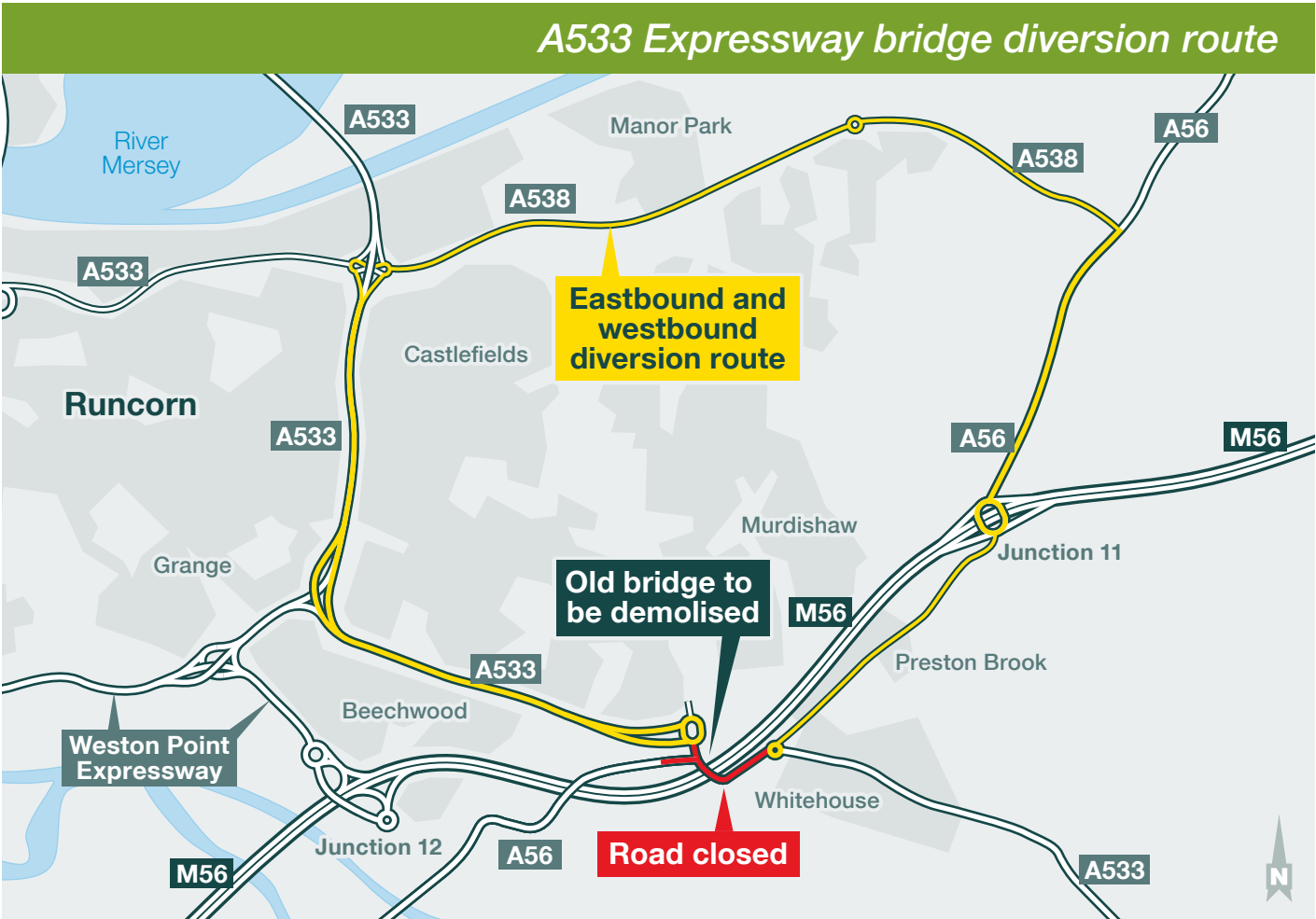
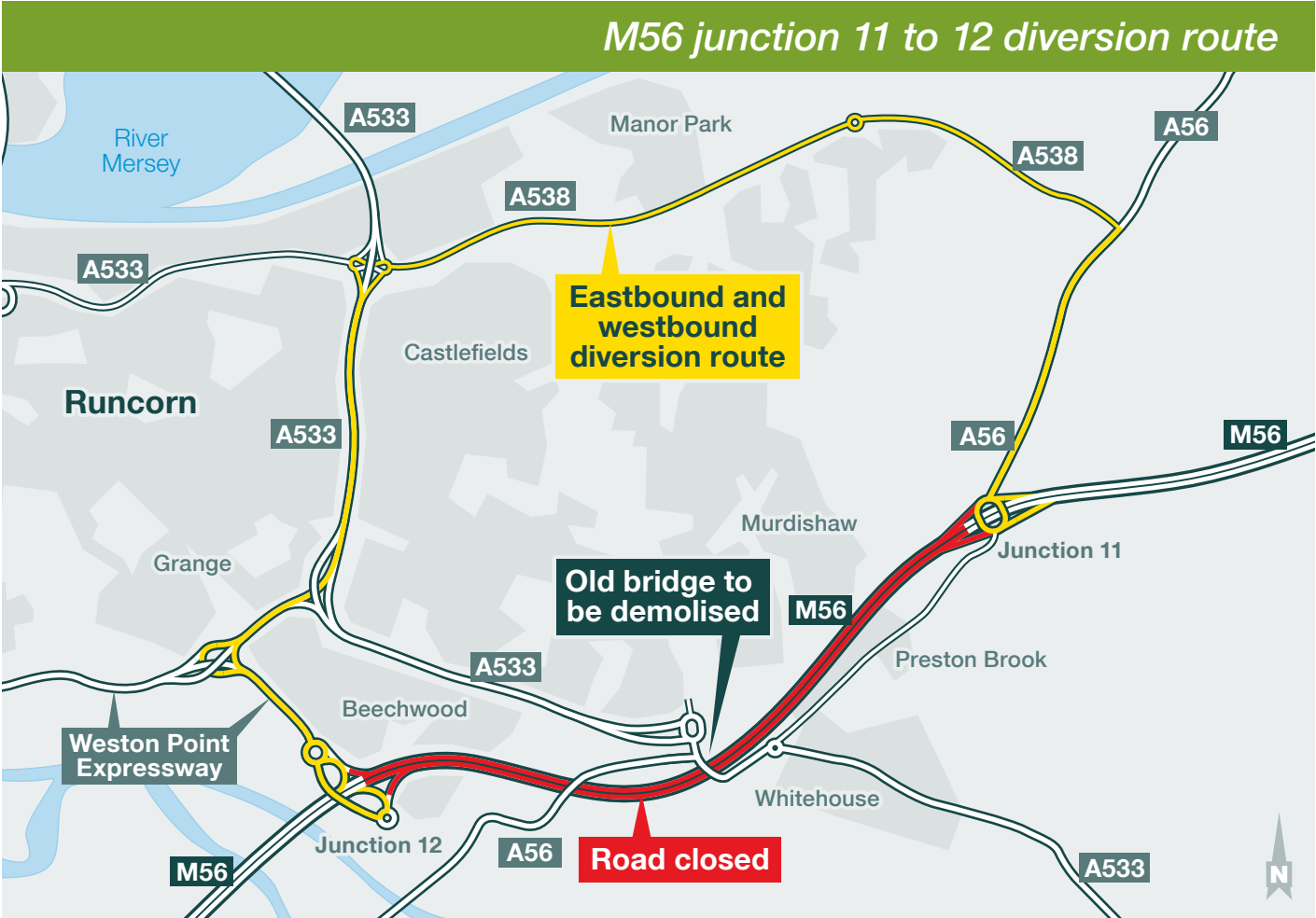
### Friday 12 to Monday 15 May

- M56 closed in both directions between junction 11 and 12
- A533 Expressway bridge closed to traffic but remains open to walkers and cyclists
- A56 closed between rail bridge and A533

### Friday 19 to Monday 22 May

- M56 closed in both directions between junction 11 and 12
- A533 Expressway bridge closed to traffic but remains open to walkers and cyclists
- A56 closed between rail bridge and A533

For the most up-to-date information about planned closures, please check the scheme webpage: [nationalhighways.co.uk/A533BridgeReplacement](https://nationalhighways.co.uk/A533BridgeReplacement)





# Supporting the community

## Aston by Sutton Primary School

Aston by Sutton Primary School helped us celebrate the bridge installation by taking part in a colouring competition to show what the new bridge might look like.

The winning artists aged 5 to 11 cast their handprints into concrete on the bridge walls. They were also invited to visit the A533 project site and attend our topping out ceremony with their headteacher Anna Plant. Ms Plant said: “It’s been very exciting for the school to get involved with such a significant construction project.

“The bridge helps keep our community connected and when the children use it in years to come, they’ll know they were part of its history.”



Image: One of the winning entries

## World Book Day

In March, we celebrated World Book Day with children from Aston by Sutton Primary School. We joined their assembly to talk about careers in construction and to read the book ‘When I Grow Up’, which is a story about how children can find a career pathway to suit them.

We gifted all the children at the school with a copy of the book to take home and read with their families. We hope they were inspired to think about a career in construction and hopefully be involved in building new bridges for generations to come.



The children enjoyed reading When I Grow Up on World Book Day

## Knutsford Scout Hut

The A533 Expressway bridge project team donated time and money to help build new headquarters for the 1st Knutsford Scout Group. In total, £6,000 was donated by the Sir Robert McAlpine Strong Foundations grant and groundworks were completed by Huyton Asphalt.



Knutsford Scout Hut opens its doors for the first time with help from the project team

## Opening our doors to the next generation of talent

In March, we invited students from The Bridge School in Runcorn for a behind-the-scenes look at our construction site. All the students were considering careers in construction and were keen to learn more about how the bridge was built and installed.



Students from The Bridge School joined us for Open Doors Week 2023

## The royal treatment for Preston Brook Pre-School

Children and their families celebrated the Platinum Jubilee in style thanks to a little help from the A533 project team.

As well as building a new play area, we teamed up with other colleagues in the region to clear vegetation, paint railings and donate a tree for the children to plant to mark the Queen’s 70 years on the throne.

Pre-school manager Sarah Williams said: ‘The pre-school looks fantastic, and the children are thrilled to have a new construction play area to enjoy.’



The children from Preston Brook Pre-School say thanks for their new play area



Competition winners join us for the bridge topping out ceremony



# Thank you and farewell

We would like to say a big thank you to all of the residents, road users and the nearby communities for your patience while the new bridge was being installed.

If you can spare a couple of minutes, please take our short survey to tell us how we did.



## Contact Us

For the latest information about the scheme visit our webpage

[www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A533BridgeReplacement](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A533BridgeReplacement)

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about the scheme, you can contact us on the following details:

- **Email:** [A533expresswaybridge@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:A533expresswaybridge@nationalhighways.co.uk)
- **Phone:** **0300 123 5000** (Customer Contact Centre)

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