

M2 junction 5 improvements Site diary – May 2023

It's been a busy few months on the scheme.

For drivers, you will have noticed a few changes to how you approach and leave the Stockbury roundabout.

On the south side of the roundabout, traffic heading away from Stockbury on the A249 is temporarily using the new carriageway that will form the Oad Street link. A key part in our finished scheme, this link will allow vehicles from Oad Street and South Green to join the A249 at the Stockbury roundabout in the future, rather than into moving traffic. Northbound traffic has been moved to the unused southbound lanes.

These changes have allowed us to work safely on the southside flyover. You may have seen the amazing progress we've on the flyover already, from the large support structure to the eye-pleasing retaining walls. Once complete, these walls will hide the flyover supports to create a nicer looking structure.



In mid-June, we're due to complete the next switch that will enable us to start work on the flyover structures to the north of the roundabout. Southbound traffic travelling towards the Stockbury roundabout on the A249 will be moved onto our new slip road that has been freshly tarmacked. Traffic using this new slip road will travel over our constructed 'flexi-arch' bridge – the largest in England – underneath the M2 flyover. To speed up the construction, the sections that make up the bridge were cast away from the site and brought in to be put together like a giant jigsaw.



The new Maidstone Road link has made quick progress and we are pleased to say it will open on Monday 12 June, ahead of schedule. The new link road will join Maidstone Road to Oad Street, and once the scheme is complete, it will give access to the Stockbury Roundabout via Oad Street. Before the link opens, we'll be surfacing Oad Street at its new junction with Maidstone Road.



Considerate Constructors Scheme

We were delighted to have recently been rated as excellent by the Considerate Constructors Scheme – an independent organisation that promotes and supports construction sites in their efforts to care for the environment, local community, and their workforce.

The complexities of the building a project of this size cannot be underestimated, and I am delighted that we have been able to achieve a score of 45 out of 45 whilst doing so. It is a reflection of all the hard work the project team have been doing.

Community Projects

Over the past few weeks, we've also been busy helping the local community. Working with Hartlip Parish Council, we helped to improve the footpaths at the

village allotment and transform an unused area into a new plot for fruit, vegetables and a pollinator garden full of bug friendly wildflowers.

Over the course of April, we also donated five bags of food and hygiene products to the Trussell Trust foodbank in Sittingbourne.

Making the most of the recent Maidstone Road closure, we took to the streets to clean up Maidstone Road and Chestnut Street. Armed with our extendable grabbers and blue sacks, we picked up litter from Key Street roundabout, down to our site compound at the end of Maidstone Road. A car wheel, a pair of shoes, e cigarettes and an old kettle were among the more memorable findings on the day.



You can find more information on our project website: nationalhighways.co.uk/M2-j5, by emailing the team on m2j5@nationalhighways.co.uk or calling our contact centre: 0300 123 5000, who will pass your details to the team.

We also run a monthly drop-in clinic on the second Wednesday of each month at Oad Street Food & Crafts centre, so come along and meet the team.