

## M2 junction 5 improvements

### Site diary – July 2023

It's been a busy month on the scheme.

We've made great progress, even with the less favourable weather, and continue to be on track for completion in Winter 2024.

Over the last few months, we've been working on the south side of the Stockbury roundabout flyover and in mid-July, we finished installing the flint and cobble clad panels on the retaining walls. If you use the interchange, you'll find it hard to miss this impressive structure.



In mid-July, we also switched the traffic on the A249 northbound, north of the roundabout, onto new lanes to the west of the carriageway, giving us space to work on the northern bridge. Now that the traffic has moved, our excavators are demolishing the old A249, and at the end of July, piling works begin. Piling is a technique used in the construction industry that involves drilling large vertical, concrete foundations into the

ground to create supports for new structures.

Back on the south side of the flyover, we recently finished the new bridge abutment – these are the large concrete blocks that will support the bridge. A large crane will be arriving on site soon to help us lift the first concrete bridge beams into place. The beams will join the two abutments and form the base of the new road.

We're pleased to say that we can carry out the beam lift without closing any roads. Keep an eye on the project website for further updates.

You may have also noticed a lane of freshly laid tarmac to the west of the southern flyover structure, this road will eventually form the new M2 coastbound entry slip from the A249 northbound.



We've also started removing the section of Maidstone Road that has been closed to motorists. This marks the start of the slip road from the A249 southbound to

the M2 London-bound. Please keep an eye on our project website over the next few months for more information about this work.

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### **Out and about in the community**

We were delighted to be invited back to give an update on the scheme to members of the Kent Active Retirement Fellowship at Tunstall Memorial Hall. Forty-seven members were in attendance for the presentation showcasing the excellent progress that has been made across the project since our last visit in April last year.



We recently enjoyed an evening at Stockbury Cricket Ground playing against the National Highways Guildford office cricket team – The Highways Hedgehogs.

Our team, made up of National Highways and GRAHAM construction staff, put in an honourable effort against the Hedgehogs, but unfortunately couldn't grasp the win.



At the end of the month, we held a 'safety stand down' for all our site staff to celebrate the project reaching 355,000 working hours without an injury.

The session included training and safety presentations, as well as recognition of everyone who have contributed towards the site's fantastic safety record. We were also treated to a visit from a local Sittingbourne ice cream van.

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You can find more information on our project website: [nationalhighways.co.uk/M2-j5](https://nationalhighways.co.uk/M2-j5), by emailing the team on [m2j5@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto: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.