

M6

Junction 16 to 19

Newsletter

May 2018

Welcome to the May edition of the M6 junction 16 to 19 smart motorway newsletter.

Progress

Since our last update in January, we have reached a key milestone by installing a number of new gantry posts. These will be home to the variable messaging signs as part of the smart motorway.

Driving between junctions 17 and 19, motorists will now see the gantries, often referred to as 'hockey stick' gantries, within the verge. New CCTV bases and the ducting required to power and operate them have also started to be put in place.

Towards the south of the scheme, between junctions 16 and 17, we are preparing to install barriers to reduce the impacts of increased noise and vibration generated by an additional lane of traffic. These barriers, which are on average two metres high, will be installed in key areas where an additional running lane would have an impact on residential areas nearest the M6 corridor.



In addition to the environmental barrier, our traffic modelling also identified properties that would be eligible for secondary glazing to reduce negative impacts. This is in keeping with Highways England's initiative to provide more than 3,000 homes across the country with free noise insulation by spring 2020.

We have made progress on the scheme despite the wintery weather conditions in early March and Carillion Plc going into liquidation in January. The latter meant that the scheme, being delivered by our contractor Carillion Kier joint venture (CKJV), is now a sole Kier project.

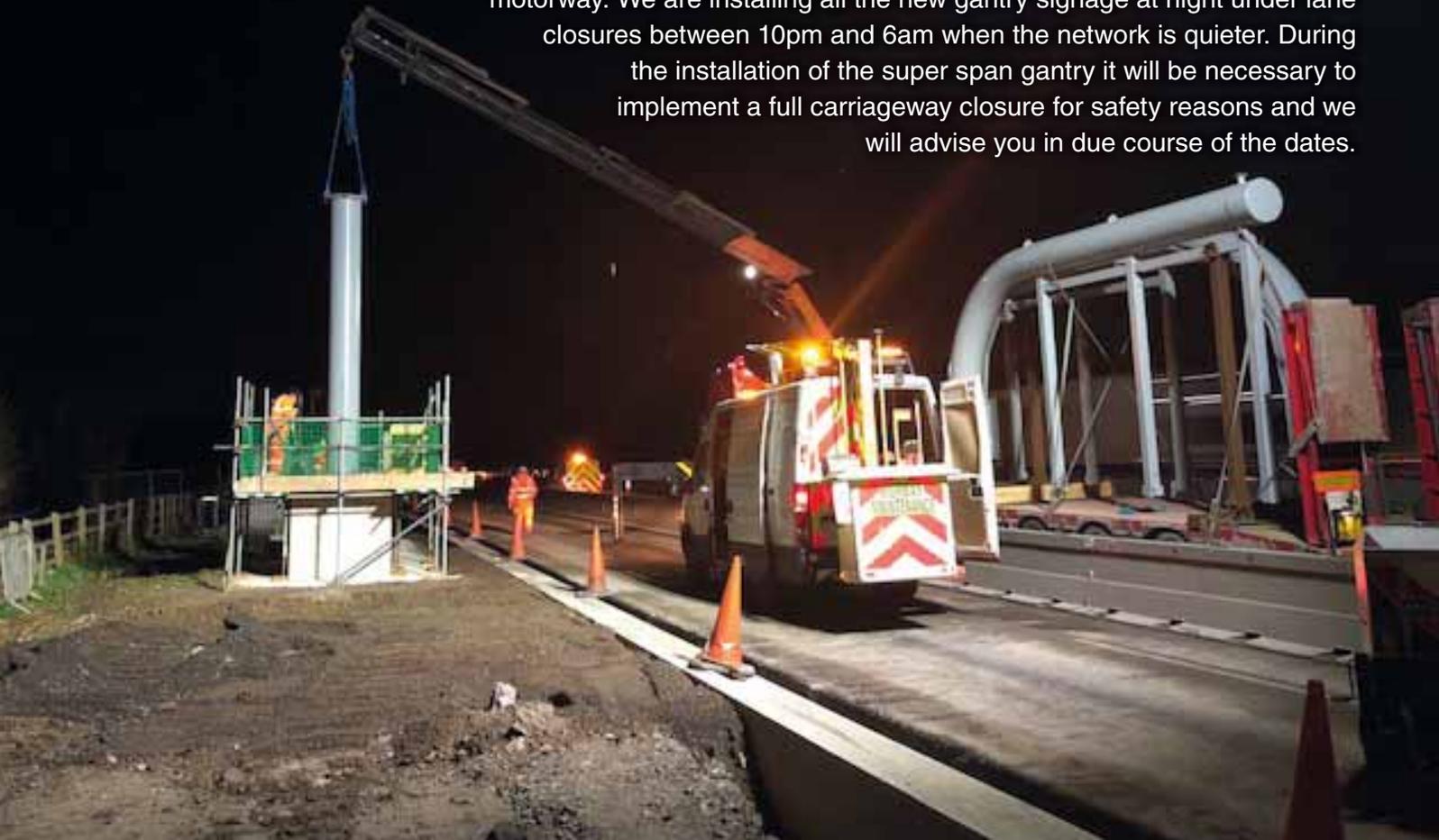
Our contingency plan ensured continuity of services and, to ensure that key knowledge and experience was not lost, all Carillion employees on this and other joint ventures were offered the opportunity to join Kier. This swift mitigation action meant the M6 junction 16 to 19 team has kept focussed on delivering the project so that it will be ready to open in March 2019.



More on our new gantries

This new signage will inform drivers about the road conditions ahead and enforce mandatory speed limits.

Across the whole scheme we will install a total of 258 new electronic signs and 21 new gantries including 1 super span gantry that, in addition to the new hockey stick gantries, will cover the extent of the smart motorway. We are installing all the new gantry signage at night under lane closures between 10pm and 6am when the network is quieter. During the installation of the super span gantry it will be necessary to implement a full carriageway closure for safety reasons and we will advise you in due course of the dates.



Carriageway conditions

We are aware that our customers are not happy with the state of the carriageway. The recent spell of adverse weather has led to many areas of the carriageway deteriorating at an accelerated rate.

Our project team carry out regular inspections to identify and classify problems and then implement the necessary repair works. However, this section of the carriageway is susceptible to quick deterioration due to traffic running along narrow lanes, which are essential to provide the necessary space for our teams to work safely whilst maintaining three lanes of traffic in each direction.

To address the carriageway defects, in addition to the weekly inspections and regular repair works, we have brought forward elements of permanent carriageway resurfacing. This work, to remove and replace full lanes, was brought forward in the programme for the worst-affected sections. Full carriageway closures implemented overnight in April permanently resurfaced lane two between junction 16 and 19. Lane one and the existing hard shoulder, which will become lane one once the scheme opens, will be permanently resurfaced towards the end of the summer when the temporary barrier has been removed.

M6 junction 16 to 19 support Keep Britain Tidy campaign out on the network

In between the snowy days in March we supported the 'Great British Spring Clean' by organising a litter pick out on the road network.

Two teams went out to the junction 17 and 18 slip roads with bin bags, litter grabbers and the motivation to try and make a difference to the network appearance.

The aim of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign was to try and get as many people throughout the UK to be a #litterhero and remove some of the accumulated rubbish from our towns, beaches, roads and motorways. Highways England wanted to get involved to show the travelling public that we care about the appearance of the network and want to keep it litter free. This will hopefully make drivers think twice before they throw their rubbish away.

The two teams worked hard to collect a total of 10 full bin bags and all those involved agreed that it was satisfying to know they had made a small difference. With the current wider emphasis on reducing plastic waste they felt they did their own bit to reduce some of the non-biodegradable plastic that builds up in and around the motorway verges.

We are planning to make this a regular volunteering event with another 'pick' scheduled in the next month, concentrating on a different location between junctions 16 and 19.





Never drive in a red X lane

Driving under a red X sign could endanger your life and the lives of others, and you could face a penalty.

Search online for **smart motorways**



Never drive in a red X lane campaign

In March, Highways England ran a public awareness campaign to promote the importance of the red 'X' on smart motorways.

The campaign was run across sites around the UK network, on regional radio stations, in motorway service areas, as well as in the print media and social media sites.

We are committed to making sure that the signage used to inform motorists of the temporary closure of lanes on smart motorway networks, known as red X's, are fully understood by road users. Research has shown that those more likely to ignore red X signals are drivers under time pressure, drivers who tend to speed, high-mileage and/or long distance drivers and commuters (rather than leisure drivers). Education is key and the more the message can be reiterated and shared, the more people will learn. The M6 junction 16 to 19 project targets new drivers via local driving schools so that they know what a smart motorway is and what to look out for and we share the 'how to drive on a smart motorway' leaflet at all our public engagement events.

There has been a rising compliance with red X's since they were introduced more than two decades ago. They are there to save lives and we will not be satisfied until 100% compliance is achieved. The M6 junction 16 to 19 project supported the campaign by issuing posters to Sandbach and Knutsford motorway service areas and the local libraries in Sandbach and Holmes Chapel where they already have customer information stations.

Considerate Constructor's Scheme silver award winners

The M6 junction 16 to 19 project is the proud winner of a Silver Considerate Constructors Award which was handed over at a recent ceremony held at the Lowry Hotel, Salford.

The Considerate Constructor's Scheme (CCS) is a non-profit-making, independent organisation founded in 1997 by the construction industry to improve its image and encourage best practice beyond statutory requirements.

Our project and other construction sites, companies and suppliers voluntarily register with the CCS and agree to abide by the Code of Considerate Practice. Due to the project's continual efforts in areas such as health and safety, environment, workforce and customer care we are honoured to be silver award winners.

Get in touch if you would like to receive project updates. We can send you traffic management updates to keep you informed of our full closures or lane closures or you can be added to our update list for copies of the latest newsletter. Contact us at: M6J16-19SmartMotorway@highwaysengland.co.uk or call 07970 740840.



Neighbouring Highways England projects



M6 junction 19 improvement scheme

This month, we are inviting people to find out more about our plans to improve junction 19 – separate to our smart motorway scheme from junction 16 up to 19.

Our plans for junction 19 include:

- the construction of a new bridge across the centre of the junction, providing two new dedicated links, one from the M6 northbound to the A556 northbound and the other from the M6 southbound to the A556 southbound
- alterations to the existing roundabout and slip roads
- new signs and traffic signals
- improvements to the provision for walkers and cyclists at the junction

In addition, we will make some improvements to the junction immediately south of junction 19 in

agreement with Cheshire East Council, the local authority that owns that part of the highway network.

We're holding an event where you can find out more and ask questions of our project team. This will take place on:

- Wednesday 16 May 2018 between 10am and 6pm

It is being held at Mere & Tabley Community Club, Chester Road, Mere, Knutsford WA16 0PU.

If you cannot attend this event, you are welcome to send us your comments or thoughts, through our web page at: <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m6-junction-19/>



M6 junction 20 structure maintenance work

Work has begun to ensure a bridge at junction 20 of the M6 remains fit for purpose for years to come.

Repairs are required to the supporting over-bridge structure which carries Swineyard Lane. In order to facilitate and carry out the works safely, temporary narrow lanes and a reduced speed limit of 50mph are required on the M6 at junction 20, as well as closure of the hard shoulder. This will be in place on both sides of the carriageway throughout the works. Work began in early April 2018 and will continue for approximately nine months.

If you wish to discuss this project further or have any questions, please contact our 24-hour Highways England Customer Care team by phone on 0300 123 5000 or email: info@highwaysengland.co.uk

M6 junction 13 to 15 smart motorway

In the meantime, main work is due to begin next month (June 2018) on the M6 junction 13-15 smart motorway project to upgrade the section of the network to an all-lane running, four-lane smart motorway. This project will deliver the same key benefits as the M6 junction 16-19 project, easing congestion and delays, improving journey planning and increasing capacity to ease traffic flow.

You can find out more detailed information here: <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m6-junction-13-to-junction-15-smart-motorway/> or please contact our Customer Care team by phone on 0300 123 5000 or email: info@highwaysengland.co.uk

Collaborative working

Teams on all schemes work closely together so that overnight closures are co-ordinated to avoid clashes, where possible. The progressive start to the junction 13 to 15 scheme allows motorists to acclimatise to the work and keeps the traffic management on junction 13 to 15 to the minimum as the junction 16 to 19 scheme further north progresses to completion in 2019. The gap between junctions 19 and 20 is just under four miles, where there will be no speed restrictions in place.

Holmes Chapel Cubs think the M6 is smart

Highways England is fully committed to supporting local schools and groups with maths, science, technology or engineering activities – as well as health and safety.

Our M6 junction 19 team was visited by a group of 14 Cubs from the Holmes Chapel Scouts group who were curious about what we did, and how these subjects were involved in a project of this size.

They had a tour around the site compound and met some of the team including the Project Director and they got the chance to ask questions to some of the main departments and learn about what their roles entail.

They listened to a talk from the safety team about the hazards of working on the M6 and got the chance to try on some personal protective equipment (PPE) before they were asked to draw a picture of what they had learned from their day. One of the cubs enjoyed himself so much, he was inspired to write a poem.

“ Our visit to the M6

The busy M6 motorway, where people work every day.

Building, building another lane. Working in the sun, working in the rain.

The diggers rush here and there, so do the people everywhere.

Fifty slows the traffic down, to keep the workers safe and sound.

Dad works in the office, making plans for his business.

Here's a little bit of advice;

Be Kind, Be Thoughtful, Be Very Nice. ”



Highways England offers ‘smart’ safety advice to commercial drivers

Hauliers up and down the country are being urged to get ‘smart’ with Highways England’s specialist motorway training.

In a pioneering move, we have joined forces with the Freight Transport Association (FTA) to offer bespoke safety training for drivers who travel on smart motorways.

Aimed at commercial and haulage drivers, the course has been designed to provide practical, relevant training.

The eight hour, single day course covers the past, present and future of smart motorways, the different signals on the network, driver behaviour and the role of traffic officers.

A key aspect of the course is that it now integrates into the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC), the standard qualification for which all professional bus, coach and lorry drivers must complete 35 hours of training every five years.

Senior Partnership Manager at Highways England, Wayne Carey said:

“Hauliers are among the most frequent users of smart motorways so we want to ensure we are providing as much support as we can to ensure those journeys are as safe as possible.”

“Smart motorways reduce congestion, improve journey time reliability and add much needed capacity to some of the most congested sections of

motorway and we are delighted with the take up to date of this course.

“We urge any haulier who wants to sharpen up their skills to sign up.”

Pertemps, one of the leading training providers, has agreed to offer the training and Müller is one of the first organisations to take it on.

Jen Cowie, Logistic Support and Development Manager at Müller said:

“It’s essential that our drivers are fully equipped to deal with their surroundings. We are delighted to be working with Highways England on this training, from concept to delivery, and we continue to work together closely, which not only benefits the business, but the overall road network.”

National Trainer Manager at Pertemps Driver Training, Andy Smart said:

“It is clear to us that smart motorways are the future in the UK and their use has undoubtedly reduced congestion and improved safety on some of the busiest roads.”

“As an employer of over 7,000 drivers nationwide we are actively working with and supporting Highways England to promote the benefits of smart motorways within the haulage industry.”

Any company which wishes to enrol their drivers on the training should email: SPTC_Driver_Education_Course@highwaysengland.co.uk



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Please quote the Highways England publications code **PR15/18**.

Highways England creative job number MCR18_0101

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Printed on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources.

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ
Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363