

M6

Junctions 16 to 19 smart motorway project

Spring newsletter



Project update

Welcome to the spring edition of the M6 junctions 16 to 19 smart motorway newsletter.

We have now completed the majority of our central reserve construction works between junctions 19 and 18 and our traffic management has been switched from the central reserve to the motorway verges to begin the next phase of construction.

The work in the motorway verges will include the installation of gantry posts which will support the new electronic overhead signage. These signs will be positioned along the north and southbound carriageways to inform drivers about incidents ahead, closed lanes indicated by a red X and to display mandatory speed limits. The gantries need a solid foundation and therefore we will be

installing piles along the motorway verges. We will be working on improving the drainage in the hard shoulder and will be resurfacing this section once we have installed the new ducting and cabling that will power the electronic gantry signs.

Between junctions 18 and 17 we are continuing to work in the central reserve on the southbound carriageway. We are currently progressing with the installation of the new concrete barrier, drainage upgrades and ducting installation, prior to backfilling and resurfacing. Once complete we will again switch our traffic management to begin the verge construction works. The majority of the excavated material is crushed back at our site compound off junction 17 and is reused as backfill material.

Keeping you informed

We are increasing the length of traffic management on the M6 junctions 16 to 19 scheme from 15 to 20 miles to deliver the scheme by March 2019, as published in the Government Roads Investment Strategy.

The programme to complete this scheme has been extended. This is because following site surveys and investigation we have identified significant additional maintenance work, beyond that originally envisaged, that needs to be undertaken, particularly in relation to structures and the drainage system. We also experienced a delay to the start of the scheme due to essential maintenance works.

We have reviewed the programme rigorously and have determined that we can alleviate the impact of these challenges by increasing the length of traffic management by 5 miles.

Increasing the current length of traffic management by 5 miles enables work to commence between junctions 17 and 16 much earlier than currently planned, allowing us to complete the scheme as soon as possible and reducing time related costs and delivery by around £22m.

We are still committed to delivering the scheme within the delivery plan target of no later than March 2019, as set out in the Roads Investment Strategy, and are actively seeking ways to accelerate delivery in order to complete the scheme sooner.

To do this work safely, full overnight closures are required to install narrow lanes between junctions 16 and 17. You can find further information about the closures by visiting our website.

Please check your vehicle is motorway safe

Recent figures from the project's recovery service indicate that an average of 77 vehicles per month require our free recovery service in the narrow lanes section between junction 19 and 17. A total of 623 vehicles broke down in the road works between March and October 2016 with over a third (244) being caused by mechanical or electrical faults and nearly a third (173) by tyre punctures.

Our recovery vehicles are in operation 24 hours a day to assist with any vehicles in need of aid to

help drivers continue their journeys. Our temporary CCTV control room on site monitors images 24/7 so that traffic officers and recovery teams can respond quickly to incidents and keep the motorway moving.

Drivers are encouraged to reduce the risk of getting a puncture by checking that their tyres are in a good condition and inflated to the correct pressures before they set off on their journey and to ensure that fuel levels are adequate for the journey and that vehicles have been serviced regularly.

Website update

The project website has recently been updated to a more user friendly version. The site has a modern layout designed to work across all devices, from desktop to mobile. The new site offers clear routes through to live traffic information services, where customers can check the latest closure dates. You can view the scheme website at <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m6-junctions-16-19-smart-motorway/>



Community news – looking after our neighbours

Highways England and Carillion Kier joint venture (CKJV) are always keen to support the local community, by offering time and materials where possible, to help local causes. We are pleased to announce that we are assisting three separate groups with their community projects:

Brereton parish council commemorative bench:

We are providing our neighbouring parish council with a standing area and pathway for their commemorative World War I bench which they had commissioned as part of the centenary celebrations. The bench is sited on the grassed area just outside the community play area, off Newcastle Road South, Brereton. We will provide further updates and a photo of the finished work which we are hoping to complete by spring 2017.

St Oswald's Church, Brereton: The M6 junctions 16 to 19 project team brought some festive cheer to St Oswald's Church in Brereton in December 2016, by creating some much needed disabled parking bays for their visitors and parishioners.

The Methodist church had no allocated disabled parking spaces within their grounds and asked if we could help. We agreed to provide all the required materials for the work, plus the manpower for their neighbouring church.

Over two weekends we worked at clearing an overgrown area of the church grounds close to the graveyard. We laid the foundations for the bays and tarmacked the area creating an ample sized car parking space for up to 3 disabled visitors.

The spaces will provide much needed access for those in wheelchairs or the less mobile.



St Oswald's rector Robin Mosley was delighted with the new creation and commented "It is a wonderful Christmas present and will enable disabled and frail people to gain easier access to the church and also to visit family graves in the churchyard, many, many, thanks".

Christmas lights display at Carters Green Farm, Weston:

We are pleased to have provided two lighting towers for Graham Witters Christmas lights display at his farm on Jack Lane in Weston. The lighting towers were used in his car park area for visitors to his lights display in December.

We loaned 100 traffic cones for the event. The festive display was organised to raise funds for the Donna Louise Children's Hospice, in memory of his sister who sadly died there last year.

Holmes Chapel Christmas Lights: We assisted Sandbach Town Council with their Christmas lights switch on last year on 26 November. We supplied crowd barriers for their traffic management and some of our project team staff who live locally went along to show their support on the night.

If you are a member of a local group or charity, or know someone that is, please send your proposal into us if you would like our support with events or charities. Please send an email to Sam Maidment at M6J16-19@ckjv.co.uk and we will be in contact with you once we have reviewed your proposal.

Travelling through roadworks safety campaign

At Easter the project team will be taking to the motorway service areas within close proximity to the scheme to promote key messages to the public on how to stay safe whilst driving through the road works. During April they will be spending time at Lymm Truckstop, Keele northbound

services, Sandbach north and south bound forecourts and Knutsford north and southbound service areas; armed with banners, posters and leaflets. We are hoping the awareness will keep the public and the workforce safe, making them more aware of what to watch out for and help to reduce delays within the working area.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

Considerate Constructors Scheme – improving public perception of construction work

Carillion Kier Joint Venture is registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme which is a non-profit-making, independent organisation founded in 1997 by the construction industry, to improve its image. It was designed to encourage best practice beyond statutory requirements and is concerned about any area of construction activity that may have a direct or indirect impact on the image of the industry as a whole.

The project was recognised at a recent site visit for its efforts to make the project one which goes above what is expected.



National Skills Academy – inspiring and supporting tomorrow's workforce

The NSAfC (National Skills Academy for Construction) is a framework supported by the CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) and driven by employers to help raise industry standards. It focuses on upskilling the workforce, supporting early career opportunities, working with programmes such as the Princes Trust, YMCA and recruiting via ex-armed forces and ex-offender programmes.



The academy encourages community engagement and promotes the construction industry as an attractive

employer. We have become an accredited skills academy and offer apprenticeships and graduate placements on the project. We have 14 apprentices on site. They are training in various construction disciplines including planning, quantity surveying, construction management and administration. We also have five graduates on site who rotate in our main departments, spending time with the team leads to learn about the importance of each area and how they support the delivery of a major project.

Contact us

If you have any questions relating to the M6 Junctions 16-19 smart motorway project, please get in touch. You can contact Sam Maidment, the Highways England stakeholder engagement manager at M6J16-19@ckjv.co.uk or 07792 021 657 (office hours) .

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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