

May 2022 News Bulletin

M4 project will be completed in summer 2022

Since the 17-mile section between junctions 8/9 at Maidenhead and 12, for Theale, was opened in December 2021, we've been continuing with our work on the 15-mile eastern section, between junctions 3 at Hayes and 8/9.

Construction on this stretch will be largely complete by the end of spring, and we're aiming to begin the phased opening in summer 2022, with all lanes open at 60mph. During the next phase, the technology will be calibrated. This means it will be finely adjusted, to suit the particular environment of the road where it has been installed.

This can only happen when there are no roadworks and when drivers are able to use all lanes of the

upgraded carriageway. Dedicated monitoring of temporary CCTV in the roadworks and free recovery will be in place.

Once the system is performing to an acceptable level at 60mph, the maximum speed will be increased to the national speed limit. It is important to note that from this point onwards further calibration continues as we go through a process of continual improvement.

This will be the final section of this major motorway upgrade to open, and we are looking forward to real improvements it will bring to more than 130,000 journeys every day.

Social value - leaving a positive legacy for the community

During our upgrade, we have supported the local community and wider economy. So far, we have:

- Spent **£141m** with local large suppliers
- Spent **£45m** with local small & medium sized suppliers
- Engaged **83** local small & medium sized enterprises
- Employed **758** local people, who have now worked almost **100,000** days to deliver the M4 project
- Employed **62** graduates & **28** apprentices
- Raised **£157,000** for charities
- Planted almost **130,000** new trees
- Saved **36** tonnes of CO₂ by investing in renewables
- Diverted **266,000** tonnes of material from landfill - that's equivalent to the weight of over 21,000 London buses.



Above: visiting schools to tell the children about health and safety



Above: installing custom built setts as habitat for local badgers

Weekend closures

Forthcoming weekend closures planned are listed here. There will continue to be regular overnight closures on the M4 as the project finishes. There are no weekend closures scheduled in June 2022 and these July closures are for work on the bridge carrying the River Kennet over the M4.

Weekend closures are used to complete work that can only be done safely when the whole carriageway or motorway is closed. Closures keep drivers and our workers safe while upgrades take place. These are subject to change so please always check before you travel at:

www.nationalhighways.co.uk/m4j3to12

Junctions 12 to 11 EASTBOUND

1-4 July

Junctions 11 to 12 WESTBOUND

15-18 July



Books for schools - inspiring careers in the construction and infrastructure industry



Last year, Balfour Beatty (part of the joint venture delivering the project working in partnership with National Highways) launched an educational book for children aged between six and eight years old, entitled "CONES and Building Bridges". The book aims to inspire children to consider a career in the construction and infrastructure industry from a young age by demonstrating the exciting opportunities that the industry has to offer.

The M4 project team has been visiting schools up and down the route and giving presentations on roads and construction. We are also giving out books to each school that we visit. If your school would like a visit or books and haven't heard from us, please email us at: M4J3to12smartmotorways@nationalhighways.co.uk



Find out more

You can find out more about the project by visiting our website at: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/m4j3to12. You can keep up to date with live traffic information by following the regional twitter feeds [@highwaysEAST](https://twitter.com/highwaysEAST) and [@highwaysSEAST](https://twitter.com/highwaysSEAST) or by visiting [Traffic England](https://www.trafficengland.co.uk). If you have a question that you would like a response to please continue to email us at: M4J3to12smartmotorways@nationalhighways.co.uk, call 0300 123 5000 or write to: M4 J3-12 Motorway Upgrade, National Highways, 2 Colmore Square, Birmingham B4 6BN.