

August 2021 News Bulletin



Changes to Junctions 8/9 to 12

Earlier this year we raised the speed limit to 60mph between junction 8/9 to 12. We've kept lane one behind cones and the speed limit at 60mph whilst we install some additional technology called 'stopped vehicle technology'. From late September into early October the cones will begin to be removed and four full width lanes will be available between junctions 8/9 to 12 at a temporary speed limit of 60mph. The temporary speed limit will remain in place until later this year whilst the new technology is monitored as it comes into use. During this time, whilst the technology is monitored, the construction CCTV and free recovery will remain in place and enhanced traffic officer patrols will be present.

Towards the end of the year, the upgraded motorway will be fully opened at 70mph and all the new gantries and signs will be permanently on. We are pleased to be opening extra lanes on this motorway, providing much needed extra capacity for drivers. On motorways where the hard shoulder has been converted to a traffic lane, there is a whole system of inter-related features, both technological and human, working together to help keep you moving safely.

We'll explain some of these features in September's newsletter, these include:

- Variable speed limits
- Emergency areas and telephones
- Detections systems
- CCTV systems
- Signs and Signals
- Enforcement Cameras
- Stopped Vehicle Detection

Weekend Closures

On the right are the weekend closures planned up to the start of October 2021. Weekend closures are used to complete work that can only be done safely when the whole carriageway or motorway is closed e.g. extensive surfacing, complex work across multiple lanes and switching traffic management layouts. Closures keep drivers and our workers safe while upgrades take place. These closures are subject to change so please always check before you travel.

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m4j3to12

Junctions 3-4b

3-6 September

Junctions 3-4b

10-13 September

Junctions 5-6

17-20 September

Junctions 6-8/9

24-27 September*

Junctions 6-8/9

1-4 October

Junctions 3-4b

8-11 October

**Overnight only (9pm - 6am)*

National Highways

Highways England has changed its name to 'National Highways', heralding a new era for strategic roads. This reflects the new focus the company has on delivering the government's £27bn strategic roads investment programme, while also continuing to set highways standards for the whole UK. This news came alongside the announcement that Nick Harris has been confirmed as the new Chief Executive of National Highways which builds and operates the country's motorways and major A-roads.

The name change has taken immediate effect and digital channels are being updated as soon as feasible e.g. website and social media. Road users will continue to see signs and vehicles with Highways England branding for some time to come whilst we transition over to National Highways across the strategic road network.

Read more about this change here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nick-harris-appointed-chief-executive-at-new-look-national-highways>



Find out more

You can find out more about the project by visiting our website at: www.highwaysengland.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](http://TrafficEngland.co.uk). If you have a question that you would like a response to please continue to email us at: M4J3to12smartmotorways@highwaysengland.co.uk, call 0300 123 5000 or write to: M4 J3-12 Motorway Upgrade, Highways England, 2 Colmore Square, Birmingham B4 6BN.