

May 2020 news bulletin

The next full closure of the motorway will be between Junctions 6 and 8/9 over the weekend of 15-18 May 2020.

Motorway traffic will be diverted to the A308M, A308, A332 and A355 for the weekend while we install beams for new bridges at Ascot Road and Huntercombe Spur (Junction 7).

These new bridges will be complete and open for public use later in 2020.

Later this month we will also start installing the extension to the motorway bridge over the River Thames near Bray, starting with another closure between Junctions 6 and 8/9 over the weekend of 29 May-1 June 2020.



COVID-19: latest update

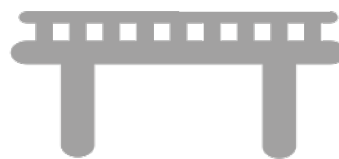
Highways England's priority at the moment is to play its part in keeping the country safe and supporting the movement of essential supplies, services and people who cannot work from home. We are following Government policy which is that construction activity should continue where it can be done safely. All our sites have strict safeguarding measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and none of our sites are open to the public.

Traffic volumes on our roads remain much lower at present, and we are continuing work to improve them ahead of traffic eventually returning to normal. We have planned this carefully so that we do not increase travel disruption for those who cannot work from home who need to continue to use our roads.

The M4 project has implemented new site operating procedures, including working from home where possible, and social distancing in order to protect our workforce and their families, and will continue to follow the most up to date Government advice throughout this period.

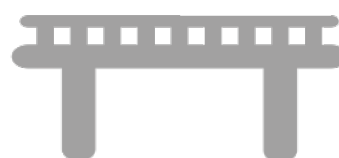
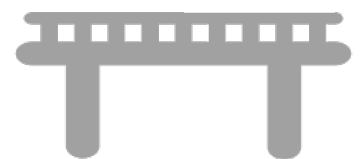
M4 J3-12 progress so far

Since the first weekend closure in September 2019, we have made good progress on the bridges that need replacing to accommodate the smart motorway upgrade:



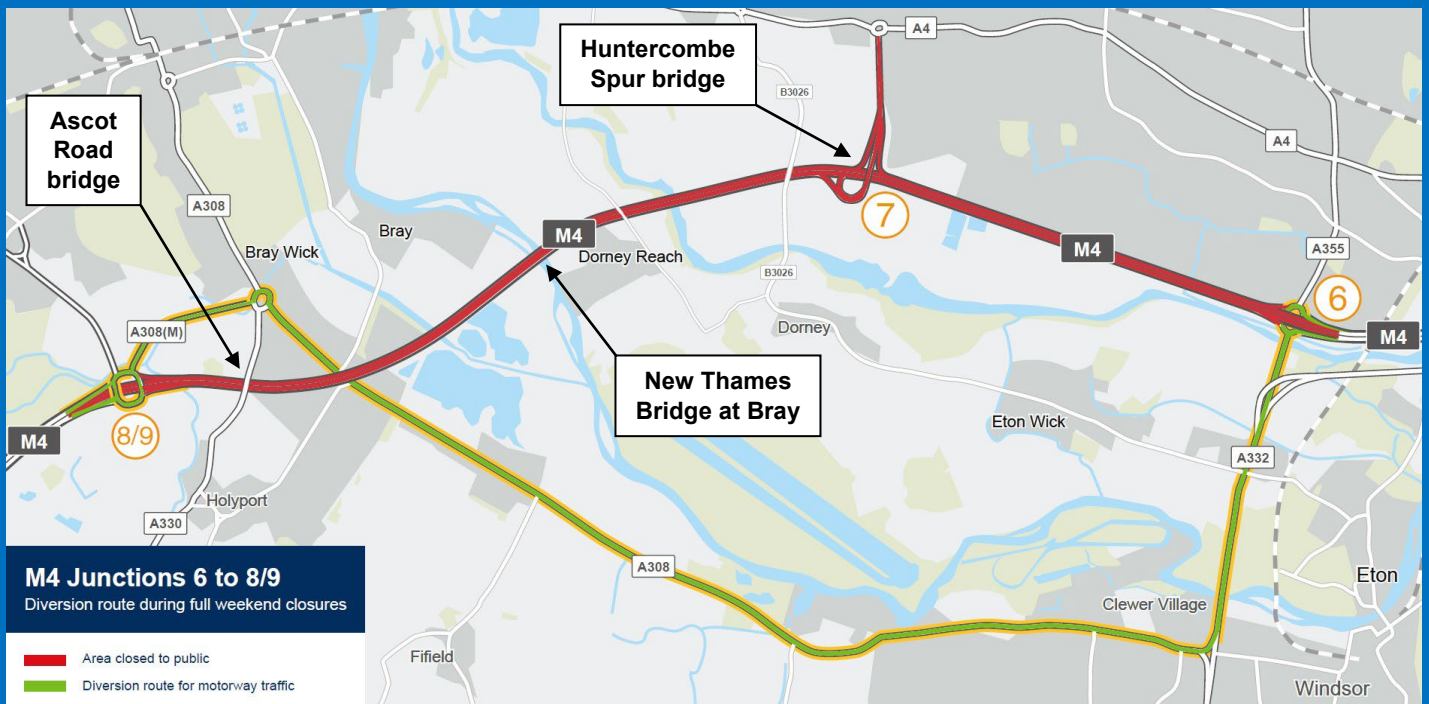
**We have
demolished
5 bridges**

**We have installed
a temporary
bridge at
Junction 7**



**We have installed
new bridge deck
beams at 4 bridges,
with 2 more planned
over 15-18 May.**

Bridge work closure weekends: diversion details for J6 to 8/9



Weekend closures of the M4 in 2020

We have so far completed 9 full weekend closures of the M4 since September 2019, but we have many more to do by the end of 2020.

We are reviewing our full list of the weekend closures planned for the year in light of the COVID-19 situation – the next few are listed here.

One of the most complex bridges we are working on is not a replacement but an extension. The New Thames Bridge at Bray opened in 1961 and carries the M4 over the River Thames between junctions 7 and 8/9. To accommodate the new 4-lane smart motorway, we are building an 8-metre extension on the north side of the bridge. This will be in the same style as the existing structure and will be complete and open for use in 2021.

This work will require closures of not just the M4 but also local footpaths during the weekends when work is taking place, currently scheduled for 29 May-1 June and 5-8 June 2020.

Junctions 6 to 8/9 15-18 May

Junctions 6 to 8/9 29 May-1 June

Junctions 6 to 8/9 5-8 June

Junctions 6 to 8/9 12-15 June

Junctions 4b to 5 26-29 June



Find out more

You can find out more about the project by visiting our websites at: <https://m4j3to12smartmotorway.commonplace.is/> or 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](https://www.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 Smart Motorway, Highways England, 2 Colmore Square, Birmingham B4 6BN.