

# Junctions 16 to 23 | M25

M 25 (S) (M3, M23, M20)  
Staines  
Gatwick  Dartford

(M4, M40, M1)  
London (W & C) M25 (N)  
Watford

Project Progress Spring 2012

## See inside for:

- Environmental update
- Charity donations
- South Mimms bund update
- Works update
- Winter driving

## Welcome

to this report on progress on the M25 Widening Junctions 16 to 23.

Work in the final phase of the widening project is well under way. The widening of the clockwise verge between junctions 21a-23 was complete in October 2011. We completed the widening of the anti-clockwise verge at the end of January. The final part of the widening project involves upgrading the central reservation.

The project is scheduled for completion in July this year before the London Olympics and we are on track to finish on time.

We have completed all 81 gantry installations for the project. This work has involved night-time carriageway closures, but usually, the gantries are installed using a 15-minute rolling road-block with the help of the Highways Agency Traffic Officers. The gantries will be fully operational when all signs have been erected and the lights have been connected. This is one of the last elements of the work before the motorway is re-opened to the national speed limit.



From junction 21a bridge looking towards junction 22 – the widened motorway with dedicated slip road lanes



From above the slip roads at junction 23 towards junction 22 – South Mimms bund earthworks on the right

# Construction Update

## South Mimms Bund Update

South Mimms bund is currently well under way. We are depositing the soils, clay and chalk excavated from the motorway embankments. Similar material from the central reservation is to be deposited also. These deposits are being incorporated to form an 8m high embankment alongside the M25.

Ultimately, by the end of the autumn 2012, the new landscape will help to screen many properties in South Mimms from the motorway. Subsoil and topsoil at present stored around the edge of the field will be returned to reinstate the field, ready for continued agricultural use in the future.



## Be prepared for Winter Driving

Putting together a severe weather emergency kit for your car can reduce the risk of being caught out by the weather. Not every journey is essential in severe weather, but if you really must travel in the worst conditions, check your vehicle before you set out; take a severe weather emergency kit; check traffic and weather conditions and always plan your journey. For more information and advice visit the Highways Agency's website.

Just gather together the items below and pack in the car at the start of the winter season. You never know when you might need them.

Your emergency kit should include:

- Ice scraper and de-icer
- Torch and spare batteries – or a wind-up torch

- Warm clothes and blankets – for you and all passengers

- Boots
- First Aid kit
- Jump leads
- A shovel
- Road atlas

- Sunglasses (the glare off snow can be dazzling)



**Before each journey in severe weather:**

- Clear any snow and ice from all windows, lights and number plates. Make sure you can see clearly and be seen
- Make sure your mobile phone is fully charged – but don't use while driving
- Take some food and a warm drink in a flask in case you get stuck. Don't forget to take any personal medication too.

## Project Successes

Considerate Constructors Scheme – 2011 Bronze Award

Brownfield Briefing Award 2011 – Best re-use of materials - Winner

Green Apple Award 2011 - Bronze

BIM Experience Award 2011

CEEQUAL – Excellent

Considerate Constructors Scheme 2010 – Performance beyond compliance

Hertfordshire Green Awards 2011 – Finalist

Best Environmental Project of the Year

Highways Agency Supply Chain Recognition Scheme, Delivering sustainable solutions category – Highly Commended

ICE London Civil Engineering Awards – Shortlist

National Recycling Stars 2011 – Gold Award

National recycling Awards, Waste Minimisation Award – Finalist

Construction News, Environmental Project of the Year – Finalist

WRAP Halving Waste to Landfill – Signatory

# Environmental Update

## Pond at Smug Oak presents challenges

A new balancing pond (pond 21) at Smug Oak presented a range of environmental challenges because of its position within an historic landfill area.

Between junctions 16 and 23 we have built more than 30 ponds to improve the management and control of highway drainage. Of these, pond 21 is an interesting example.

### Planning & design took 18 months before construction could begin:

- Design a pond of adequate volume, to fit between Smug Oak landfill, protected Oak trees and a watercourse (Hanstead's ditch)
- Newt licence & surveys required
- Archaeological design required
- Bat licence & surveys required
- Negotiations with land owner
- Land Drainage consent for pond outfalls

### Construction took 12 weeks which also involved:

- Watching brief for Archaeology, Newts and Bats
- Dredging & ecological enhancement of watercourse
- Construction of silt prevention systems
- Planting of ponds & ditch
- Environment Agency liaison



*Pond 21 area before construction*



*Use of gabion walls protects oak trees and retains the pond's volume*



*Tree felled under bat licence - supervision required, plus installation of 10 bat boxes on adjacent trees*



*Pond 21 after construction*

## Construction through Historic Landfill Sites

The M25 borders 6 historic landfill sites for approximately 90% of the 4.5 mile stretch between junctions 21a and 22. Some of these sites extend directly beneath the motorway. Two rivers cross the motorway here and a primary aquifer is present in this section. Construction through this phase of the widening therefore required extra planning, control and care to prevent damage to this vulnerable environment. These measures included:

- Site investigation prior to construction including 57 boreholes, 166 window samples and 32 trial holes
- Agreement of design with Environment Agency

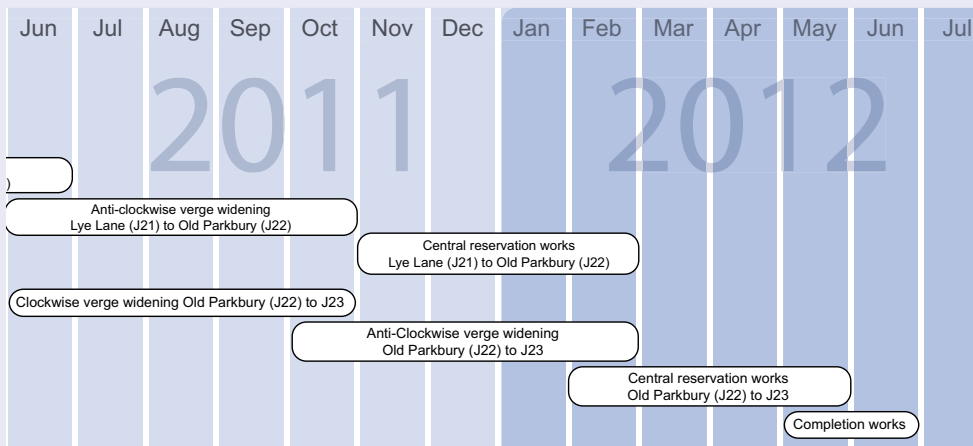
- Classification of material for reuse onsite using simple colour coded system
- Use of barcode scanning systems to track lorries and materials
- Minimal removal of historic landfill, while ensuring no landfill material is reused; supervision by materials engineers and checkers at the points of excavation and deposition throughout the works
- Procedures developed and used for emergency control and removal of landfill leachate



*Colour coding, supervision on site and a barcode tracking system led to the project winning the Brownfield Briefing award for Best Re-Use of Materials*

# M25 Junctions 16 to 23

## Construction Programme



## Contact us



Andie Taylor

Community Relations Manager

We make every effort to keep you informed about the forthcoming construction and traffic management activities. We welcome your feedback on our performance and newsletters.

Our Community Relations team is available throughout the construction phase to answer any queries you may have about the project. Please contact them on the phone numbers below.

### Call the Community Relations Team on:

01727 744936 (during office hours)

Out of hours telephone number: 07736 056825

Email: [communityrelations16-23.m25@sbbjv.co.uk](mailto:communityrelations16-23.m25@sbbjv.co.uk)

### POST:

Community Relations

SBBJV M25 Widening Project Site Office

London Colney, St Albans

Hertfordshire, AL2 1FF

or call the  
Highways Agency Information Line

**0300 123 5000**

or online

[www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/5747.aspx](http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/5747.aspx)

### Safety at roadworks



The Highways Agency is working with the industry and road users to reduce the risks of working on the roads.

For the safety of roadworkers and all road users, when you are approaching roadworks:

- Keep within the speed limit – it is there for your safety.
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching.
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks.
- Be alert for works traffic leaving or entering roadworks.
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front.
- Observe all signs – they are there to help you.

Construction Joint Venture

**SKANSKA Balfour Beatty**

Working on behalf of



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