

M1 Junctions 6A-10 Widening News

KEEPING LOCAL RESIDENTS INFORMED ABOUT THE SCHEME ISSUE 2 September 2006

Welcome to the M1 Junctions 6A to 10 Widening Project Newsletter

Welcome to the second newsletter for the M1 Junction 6A – 10 Widening Scheme. Since the first Newsletter in February the site office compounds at junctions 8 and 9 have been set up and are operational. On site the first phase works in the central reserve have been completed together with the construction of the central piers for the new over-bridges. Construction of support structures for the new bridges and earthworks and drainage for the widened carriageway have now started. This includes the major reconstruction of the junction 10 slip roads and roundabouts



Next key stages of work

During the autumn of 2006 and the spring of 2007 the new bridge support beams will be lifted into place and demolition of six of the existing bridges will be carried out.

Beam Erection for new bridges

Beams for the new bridges will be lifted into position across the motorway, during night time periods of single lane traffic on the motorway. This work is scheduled for October and November 2006 at Norrington Lane End, Flamsteadbury Lane and Nicholls Farm.

Demolition of old bridges

During the autumn we will begin to demolish the old bridges. The first of these is the old bridge at Slip End which we are proposing to demolish in late autumn 2006. The motorway will be closed overnight to facilitate these works. Notification of the details of this demolition work will be given to local residents and the travelling public in the form of press releases, announcements, leaflets, posters etc. nearer the time.

The approximate dates for the demolition of the remaining bridges are as follows:

Flamsteadbury Lane, Nicholls Farm, Norrington Lane End/Redding Lane	spring of 2007
Junction 10 overbridges	spring 2007
Junction 8 overbridge	autumn 2007

Specific leaflets for each of these bridge demolitions will be produced and circulated nearer the time. These will contain details of motorway closure timings and the diversion routes that will be in operation.

This is our timetable for the main works

Southbound	Section 1	north of junction 10 to north of junction 8 spring 2006 to
Northbound		north of junction 10 to north of junction 8 autumn 2007
Southbound	Section 2	north of junction 8 to junction 6A summer 2007 to
Northbound		north of junction 8 to junction 6A winter 2008

M1 Junctions 6A-10 Widening News

Environment

Dust Suppression

The M1 6A–10 project runs north through the chalk hills of West Hertfordshire into South Bedfordshire. The whole area is classed as a Water Source Protection Zone, the chalk acting as a major aquifer and the groundwater being used for public water supplies. The whole area requires lots of water for dust suppression. It was proposed to abstract groundwater for this purpose. However, due to the current “drought” conditions in the south-east and groundwater levels being very low this has not been possible.

New Solutions

As a result other solutions have been sought, and now, water from the site compound which has been treated at the Junction 8 treatment facility, will be re-used for dust suppression.



Application has been made

To allow us to operate and discharge treated water legally, an application has been made to the Environment Agency, under Schedule 10 of the Water Resources Act 1991.

Re-cycling materials

Material from the site will be re-cycled and used as hardcore throughout the scheme. We intend to re-cycle a minimum of 90% of our material. A re-cycling plant is in operation already at Junction 10.

Archaeology

Archaeology survey work is continuing along the route ahead of the actual widening works. Shards of pottery, flints and jewellery have been found in various areas along the route. We are planning to produce an archaeological newsletter and possibly hold an exhibition to explain in more detail what we have found.

Temporary closure of roads

Church Road has been closed since March 2006. This allowed services to be diverted so that the piling for the new and widened structures could commence.

At Slip End piling works are complete on the east side and construction of the new east abutment will commence after installation of sheet piles. We originally planned to re-open Church Road in August/September 2006 and then have a number of further short term closures to allow particular works to be completed.

We have now decided that it would be better to keep Church Road closed until the end of November so that all the works can be completed in one go. The total period of closure of Church Road will be no longer than originally intended but now it will happen in one continuous period.

At the end of November 2006 we will reopen Church Road but we will then need to close Slip End Lane to allow the demolition of the old bridge and completion of the replacement structure.

We envisage that Slip End Lane will need to be closed for a period of about ten months.

Coles Lane and **Lybury Lane** were closed on 7 August to allow the widening of the bridges which carry the motorway over these lanes. These lanes will need to be closed for about nine months because of the nature of the works to be carried out which will include excavation of the road to allow the bridge foundations to be extended.

M1 Junctions 6A-10 Widening News

Traffic Management

Remember – please drive safely through the roadworks, 40mph is in place for everyone's safety.



Keeping a watchful eye on the travelling public

The M1 is one of the busiest stretches of motorway in the country. In the CCTV Control Room we have installed a total of 36 monitors which are operated by staff who are monitoring the roadworks 24 hours a day. At any sign of an incident within the roadworks they move into action, alerting the recovery service so that drivers and passengers are brought to the Recovery unit as soon as possible, to await the arrival of their own recovery service.

We have been recovering up to 149 vehicles per week, and in one weekend we reached a total of 79 in just one day. The average time taken to recover stranded vehicles is 26 minutes.

Facilities provided for people awaiting recovery from their own emergency service

When Saunders Recovery recovers members of the travelling public from within the motorway works they are brought to the junction 8 compound.

Upon arrival the recovered motorists are directed to the dedicated recovery unit situated just inside the security gate. Facilities in the unit include, tea and coffee, cold drinks and snacks vending machines, baby changing area, playpen and toys, tv, dvd's, cooled water and a public pay phone.



Community Liaison

We are working with local organisations and schools

We have started to build close relationships with the staff of local organisations and schools. Following our initial discussions we have put together a plan of events and exhibitions, which will be taking place during the autumn. The opportunity to share this information with

students as well as the public is as exciting for those of us working on the scheme, as we hope it will be for members of the community living around the area of M1 Widening scheme

M1 Junctions 6A-10 Widening News

Please contact us with your comments and queries

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

Our Community Relations Team will be available throughout the construction phase to answer any queries you may have about the project. They can be contacted as follows:

By post

Community Relations Team
Balfour Beatty Skanska Joint Venture
Site Office
Green Lane
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP2 4UE



By e-mail

community.relations@bbsjv.co.uk



By phone

M1 Project Community Helpline
Tel: 07815 882591



Online

[http:// www.highways.gov.uk/m1j6a-10](http://www.highways.gov.uk/m1j6a-10)



Contacting the Highways Agency

The Highways Agency Information Line (HAIL) is **08457 50 40 30**. This number is for motorists who require information.

For real time traffic information, call the Traffic England helpline on **08700 660 115**

(Calls from BT landlines to 0845 numbers will cost no more than 4p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

This will be posted on the Highways Agency website:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4478.aspx>

Publication code: HA 10/06A Further copies of this newsletter can be obtained free of charge by telephoning 01442 847 050.