

A2/A282 Dartford Improvement M25 1b-3 Widening • Newsletter 7

Keeping traffic moving in time for Christmas

A2/A282 Dartford Improvement

We will be finishing the last part of our major works to improve the A2 and help keep traffic moving in time for Christmas.



On the afternoon of Tuesday 18 December we will open the final new road to directly link the A2 London bound with the A282 going north. This link road includes the new flyover over junction 2. At the same time we will open the London bound carriageway to four lanes.

That will mean drivers using these routes will benefit from more reliable journeys on the A2 and through the M25 junction 2.

A 50 mph speed limit will remain in force on the new road over junction 2 as it links to the temporary speed limit for the M25 works.

Finishing works around the junction will continue into the New Year, this will require some overnight closures of the new roads. Details of the closures will be published on our website.

Works on planting 175,000 new trees and shrubs will start in mid December with ground preparation work and continue with planting from the New Year running to the end of March 2008.



M25 J1b to 3 Widening

Work on widening the M25 between junction 1b and 3 is progressing well. In December, work will start on constructing a concrete barrier in the central reservation.

Similar to our work on widening the A2 we are using the Quick Moveable Barrier machine to place temporary concrete safety barriers where we need to close off traffic lanes. With the use of this machine we plan to complete the widening by early summer 2008 which would be earlier than originally programmed.

A2/A282 Dartford Improvement.. progress through the seasons

September 2006 - December 2007

The project has come a long way since July 2006. The Darenth interchange has been improved to allow the free flow of traffic between the Dartford Crossing and the A2 coast bound in both directions.

This will reduce traffic using the junction roundabout by about one third.

The scheme involves the construction of four new link roads and bridges, along with widening the A2 from junction 2 of the M25 to the Bean interchange.

Weathering steel has been used for all major structural elements which eliminates the need for initial painting or future maintenance. This has significant safety and environmental benefits compared to the traditional painted beams.

Summer 2006



Main site works began in August 2006 with general site clearance and archaeological digs. The first civils work started in September 2006 with commencement of construction on the new Littledale viaduct columns.

Autumn/Winter 2006

All bridges on the scheme have steel beams and reinforced concrete decks. The foundations of each bridge are constructed from reinforced concrete supported by bored concrete piles.

There were particular challenges as construction of the piers and columns took place between lanes of flowing traffic on the A2.

The movement of earth commenced in earnest. Predominately the site material is chalk, which can only be worked in favourable weather conditions.

A2 Central reserve works commenced, traffic moved onto the verge to provide a safe working width.

Spring/Summer 2007

All structural steel was lifted into place which required overnight closures of the main carriageways. The final lifts for the flyover were completed using a 1,200 Tonne crane, the largest in Europe.

Meanwhile the A2 central reserve works were being completed, aided by the use of Quick Movable Barriers, these allowed additional access to the works area during off peak hours of traffic flow.

Earthworks re-commenced after a weather enforced winter break. Wherever possible site material was recycled to reduce the amount of imported material.

Widening the A2 within the highway boundary required verges to be steepened or filled. The embankments are either regraded to an acceptable angle by removing material, or where regrading the angle would be unsuitable they are reinforced by driving steel rods into the slope. This allows a much steeper face.



Autumn 2007

In Autumn the A2 was resurfaced with low noise surfacing.

The 12 November saw the opening of both the link road from A282 to A2 coast bound and the widening of A2 between M25 junction 2 and Bean.

On the 18 December the final new link road will directly connect the A2 London bound to the A282 north. The flyover over junction 2 rises to 13 metres above the ground creating a fourth road layer at the Darenth interchange.



Community Relations

The Visitor Centre at the Costain Site Office off Green Street Green Road is open during weekday office hours. Please call in and see us. To be sure that there is someone available to meet you it is best to make an appointment by calling the number below. You will be most welcome.

If you have any queries or wish to bring any problems to our attention, please contact:

Martin Griffiths

Community Relations Manager
Costain Ltd, Site Offices
Green Street Green Road,
Darenth, Dartford DA2 7HU
Email: martin.griffiths@costain.com

Public Helpline: 0845 603 6374

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/a2a282>
<http://www.highways.gov.uk/M251B-3>

We have held a number of public meetings throughout the construction period to give the public the opportunity to discuss the works.

The next meeting will start promptly at the time stated below. Costain staff will give a brief description of forthcoming works followed by a Question and Answer session.

Public Meeting Dates

Sutton at Hone Village Hall **Monday 4 February, 7.30pm**

For real time traffic information:

08700 660 115

www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(Calls from BT landlines to 0870 numbers will cost no more than 8p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

For general Highways Agency information:

08457 50 40 30

email: ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

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

Safe driving at roadworks

Remember that tiredness can kill. Take regular breaks from driving.



During 2006 two workers were killed and 19 seriously injured in the course of their work on Highways Agency roads.

For the safety of all road users and roadworkers, 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.