

# M25 Junctions 12-15 Widening News and M25 Spur Stage 2

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT PROGRESS ON THE M25 WIDENING SCHEME ISSUE 2 Summer 2004

## Welcome to our second M25 Widening and Spur Road newsletter

**Welcome Note from Terry Williams, the Highways Agency's Project Sponsor and Peter Anderson, Balfour Beatty's Project Director:**

This is the second newsletter from the project team widening the M25 and building the new Spur Road into Terminal 5. The first explained the key challenges we faced, this issue brings you up to date with how we're progressing with the widening scheme.

### Excellent progress, and set fair for the next stage

The M25 widening project has made an excellent start.



- We've made good progress southbound between junctions 12 and 14, including:
  - new retaining walls;
  - carriageway surfacing; and
  - new environmental barriers.
- Plus a considerable amount has been achieved below ground, e.g. installing drainage pipes and communication ducting.
- And we're starting on the northbound carriageway as this newsletter goes to print.

Management of traffic flow has been extremely successful, enabling safe, efficient progress on our works, whilst minimising disruption for drivers. We aim to maintain this high standard of traffic management for the rest of the project.

we continue to minimise disruption to local communities from the construction works.

Also, we are committed to maintaining good liaison with our neighbours. It is most important

We think you'll find the newsletter interesting and informative. We welcome your feedback, comments and queries to help us improve – contact details are shown on the back page.

**Terry Williams**  
Project Sponsor  
Highways Agency



the Government body  
responsible for motorways

**Peter Anderson,**  
Project Director  
Balfour Beatty

**Balfour Beatty**  
Civil Engineering

the Principal Contractor  
responsible for the  
construction works

**BAA Heathrow**  
funding the M25 Terminal  
Spur Road to Heathrow



Agents to the HA and BAA  
responsible for monitoring  
the construction works



the Designer of the scheme,  
appointed by Balfour Beatty

# “Sincere thanks to every single person on the project”

says David Ward – Chairman of the M25 Project Management Board

## Commitment to timely delivery

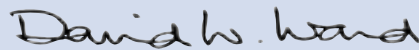
Hitting the 5th January 2004 start date showed we are committed to delivering this project on time.

Everyone, including government ministers, sees work continuing at an excellent pace, managed by a highly skilled and professional team.

## Very few complaints

Traffic management has been exemplary, including night-time lane closures. Members of the public have been surprised at the minimal disruption to their journey times. That’s clear from the low level of complaints received by the Highways Agency, and the lack of media interest.

The Project Board extends sincere thanks to every single person on the project.



## David Ward

Director, Major Projects National  
Highways Agency



Timetable to completion of M25 widening	Dates
Junctions 14 to 12, southbound	January to July 2004
Junctions 12 to 14, northbound	July this year to early 2005
Junction 15 to 14 southbound	Early 2005 to mid 2005
Junction 14 to 15 northbound	Mid 2005 to December 2005
Stage 2 of the M25 Spur Road	Works started in May and will continue through to completion during autumn 2005

## Safety during our work is paramount

Safety for the public and our workforce is paramount, with great care taken over changing traffic flows and avoiding construction accidents.

The M25 project now has some 300 people working on site and we have clocked up over 650,000 man-hours worked.

In May, we worked a total of 267,898 man-hours without a single reportable accident.

### Safety for wildlife

We're working closely with the Environment Agency to ensure no harm comes to protected species.

Environmental works were done early, so we could safely start the widening works without causing harm to wildlife:

- clearance of vegetation was completed during winter, before birds started nesting;
- special protection measures allow construction works near badger setts and water courses beside the motorway; and
- two ponds have been extended to compensate for open water that will be lost when the M25 is widened.

Where possible, we are improving habitats, as well as just preserving them.

*We are working closely with the Environment Agency to ensure no harm comes to protected species*



Transferring fish into new environmental ponds

*We're erecting new noise barriers, to reduce noise levels even further*

## Long term environmental benefits

### Permanent noise reduction

A low-noise surface on the carriageway between junctions 12 and 15 is being provided as part of this scheme. We're also erecting new noise barriers, to reduce noise levels even further.

Existing barriers are left in place as long as possible until works start, and new replacements erected quickly after widening. This minimises the time nearby properties suffer noise from motorway traffic and our works. The lowered speed limit during construction further reduces traffic noise.



New environmental barrier

### Drainage and lighting also improved

Extra environmental benefits include replacing the existing motorway drainage, and installing pollution control devices. Balancing areas along each drainage outfall ensures that flow into the local drainage network is not increased.

The existing motorway lighting is being replaced by cut-off lanterns, which reduce glare.

### Minimising construction noise and vibration

We have agreed controls for noise and vibration which can occur during our construction activities with the local authorities along the M25.

These agreements support our commitment to minimising the impact of construction noise and vibration on local communities.

The local authority Environmental Health Officers have agreed:

- controls to minimise noise and vibration; and
- normal hours of work (7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 4pm on Saturdays).

Some works have to be undertaken outside these hours, due to restrictions on our works that are necessary to protect road and rail users.

If you would like further information or have any concerns about the work we're doing, please contact our Community Relations Helpline – see back cover.



Ground improvements for the new M25 spur road junction

# Traffic flowing well

The initial contra-flow in January proved successful and our subsequent works have made good progress. As this newsletter goes to print, we start the next phase of road-widening.

Traffic is being switched to run mainly on the southbound carriageway. This leaves space on the northbound carriageway to build wider embankments.

## Vehicle recovery praised

Traffic has flowed well through the roadworks during the first six months of the works. Although our dedicated vehicle recovery service has been kept busy with over 2,000 vehicles safely recovered from the roadworks during this time.

Over 100 cameras monitor the roadworks area for incidents. Any vehicles that break down are taken to our compound, where passengers can wait in comfort before continuing their journey.

## Changing contra-flows at night to save disruption

Changing the contra-flows has to be done at night, when there's less traffic. These changes inevitably cause some short-term disruption. Once they're done, we can get on with most of the major construction during daytime.



Over 100 cameras continuously monitor the roadworks

## Main traffic changes from now until early 2005, junctions 12 to 14

Phase	Date	Traffic layout	Construction works
1 and 2	Complete	Contraflow with two lanes running south on northbound carriageway	Widening southbound verge
3	July to autumn 2004	Contraflow with two lanes running north on newly widened southbound carriageway	Widening northbound verge
4	Autumn to winter 2004	Traffic flow in newly widened southbound and northbound lanes	Works to central reservation
5	Early 2005	Traffic running on new carriageway	Finishing works to central reservation and hard shoulders

The process is then repeated during 2005 between junctions 14 and 15. The duration of each phase will be less, as the junction 14-15 section is shorter than the junction 12-14 section.



## Keeping you informed

### Local exhibitions draw big audiences

The project team hosted five exhibitions in November 2003 to explain the M25 widening and Heathrow Spur. These informed local people and motorway users about the project and how we would minimise any disturbance to them.

The many positive comments from visitors included:

- 'Very informative and well presented'
- 'Thank you, everyone was very helpful'
- 'A complex project very clearly explained. Excellent exhibition'
- 'Very good display of everything!! Well Done!!'



The exhibitions were well received. In all, over 500 people attended.

### Advising The Local Community

Since construction commenced, we have visited over 30 community and local interest groups giving up to date information about the progress of the widening works.

### Warning motorway users of impending changes

We distributed video and 'infomercials' to airports, ferry ports, motorway service areas, authorities and councils before we started work. Up-to-date information is issued via local and national media throughout the construction works to warn people about:

- major traffic switches; and
- night-time lane and slip-road closures.

## Contacting us

Our Community Relations Helpline deals with enquiries from the public, motorway users, local organisations and businesses. **Anyone** with concerns or queries about the project, please contact us.

We try to respond within 24 hours of your enquiry being logged. You can contact us by using any of the following means:

#### By post



Peter Anderson – Project Director  
Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering Limited  
M25 Project Offices  
Wraysbury Road  
Staines TW19 6HA

#### By phone



01784 488 217

#### By e-mail



M25CommunityRelations@bbcel.co.uk

#### By fax



01784 489 440

### Contacting the Highways Agency

The Highways Agency Information Line (HAIL) is 08457 50 40 30.



Or visit the Highways Agency website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk> and follow the links to the M25 scheme.