

April 2019 news bulletin

The second phase of the project starts next month and comprises Junctions 8/9 at Maidenhead eastwards into London and Junction 3 at Hayes. This will be a very complex part of the project due to the number of structures where work is required.

We have just finished public information exhibitions along the eastern section, which started in mid-March. We will be holding more events throughout the project so watch this space for further details.

We have also extended our traffic management further west to begin work between Junctions 10 to 12. This is part of our aim to get the smart motorway completed and roadworks out of the way as soon as possible. The narrow lanes and 50 mph speed limits are in place for the safety of road users and our workforce so please drive carefully.



What's happening on the M4 project during April?

Our response to your online comments



There has been quite a bit of activity on our new engagement website, hosted by Commonplace.

<https://m4j3to12smartmotorway.commonplace.is/>

We have responded to some of the comments local residents have raised with us in the [news](#) section of the Commonplace site.

The issues you have asked about include:

- **Roadworks** – the design and extent of the traffic management layout, including speed limits.
- **Timetable of the project** – the overall end date for the whole scheme is Spring 2022, however we will be updating the website soon.
- **Noise from works at night** – this is unavoidable but we do our best to minimise disruption and disturbance.
- **Safety of smart motorways** – this is a common issue, more detail on this can be found online.
- **Activity at our compounds** – we have made some changes based on your feedback.

M4 overnight closures planned in April

There are several overnight full closures (usually 22:00 to 05:00) currently booked during April including the following for the next week:

- 09/04/2019 Junctions 12 to 11 Eastbound
- 10/04/2019 Junctions 12 to 11 Eastbound
- 11/04/2019 Junctions 12 to 11 Eastbound
(contingency booking if previous nights delayed)
- 16/04/2019 Junctions 6 to 8/9 Eastbound
- 17/04/2019 Junctions 6 to 8/9 Eastbound
(contingency booking if previous night delayed)

Weekly updates on the latest closures, including slip road closures will be available in the news section of our Commonplace [site](#), usually every Friday. You can keep up to date with other local road closures and live traffic information at the [Traffic England](#) website.

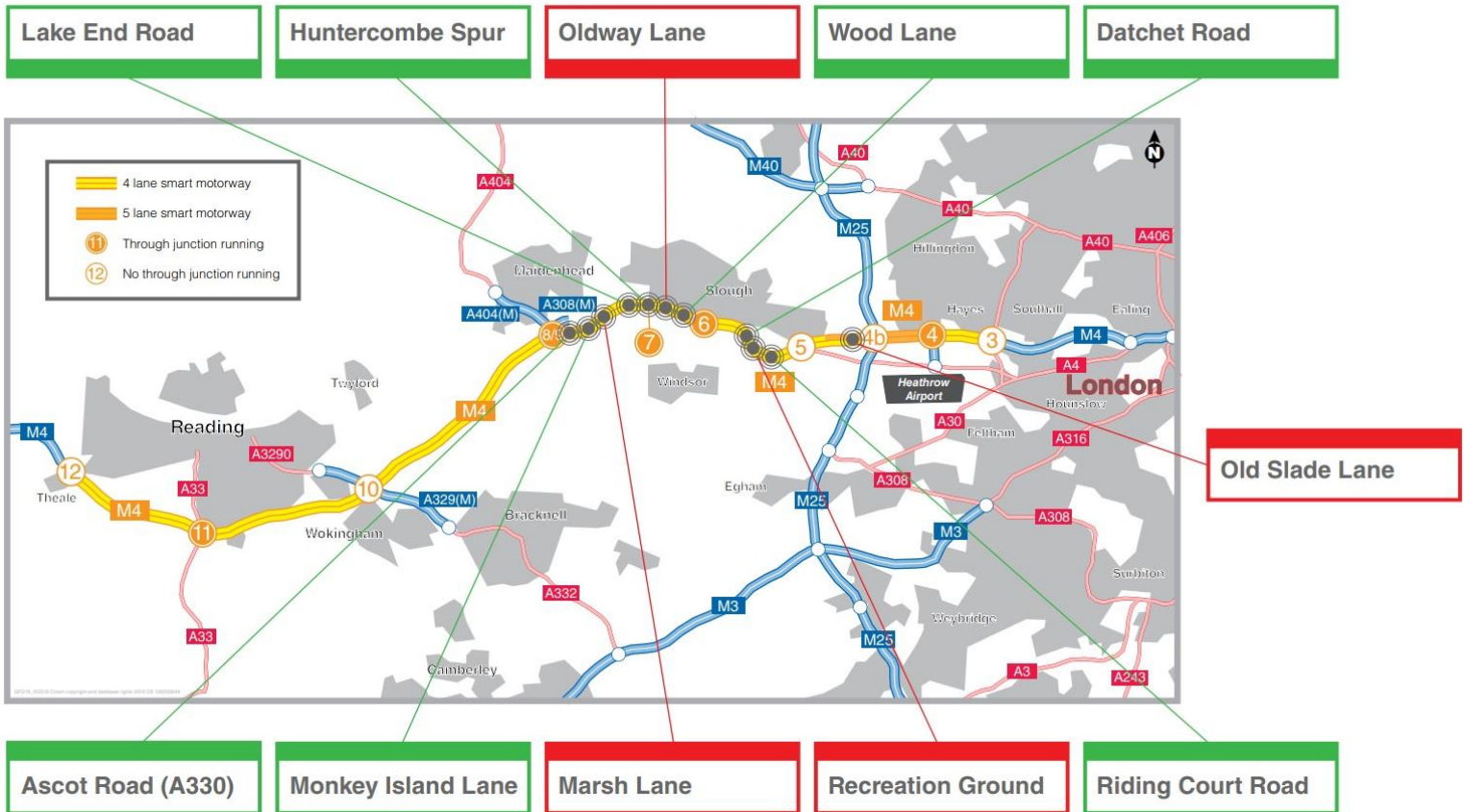
NB: In the event of poor weather conditions or other issues out of our control, planned works may be postponed at short notice. If works complete ahead of schedule the motorway may reopen early. Signage will be in place to notify of any changes.

Preparing for bridge demolition and replacement

Between junctions 4b to 8/9 there are 11 eleven bridges over the motorway (see below) that need to be replaced to make room for a new lane where there is no existing hard shoulder.

Where the motorway passes over, for example, the River Thames at Bray and the railway line to Windsor, we will need to widen bridges to support the new smart motorway. Two subways, including at Sipson, and several culverts that run under the motorway will also need work in order to accommodate the upgrade.

Some weekend closures will be required for bridge works. Road diversions for all of these works have been agreed with the local and statutory authorities. Full details will be communicated and posted on our webpages in advance.



Online construction (new bridge built after existing bridge is demolished)

Offline construction (new bridge built before existing bridge is demolished)

The first bridge to be demolished will be **Recreation Ground overbridge**, which is a few hundred metres east of Datchet Road overbridge and leads from the B376 to Upton Court Park. The construction will be “online” meaning that the old bridge will be removed at the end of September 2019 and there will be no replacement for several months until the new structure is built and reopened in July 2020. This is a pedestrian and cycle only access bridge and we have begun discussions with the local authorities on how to minimise disruption during these works. The diversion route will take people north on Datchet Road to access Upton Court Park.

Marsh Lane overbridge is next for demolition (November 2019, also “online”) - to be reopened in November 2020.

Find out more

You can find out more 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 South East regional twitter feed [@highwaysSEAST](https://twitter.com/highwaysSEAST) or by visiting the [Traffic England](http://www.trafficengland.co.uk) website.

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.