

M20 Junction 4

Eastern Bridge Widening

Off to a good start

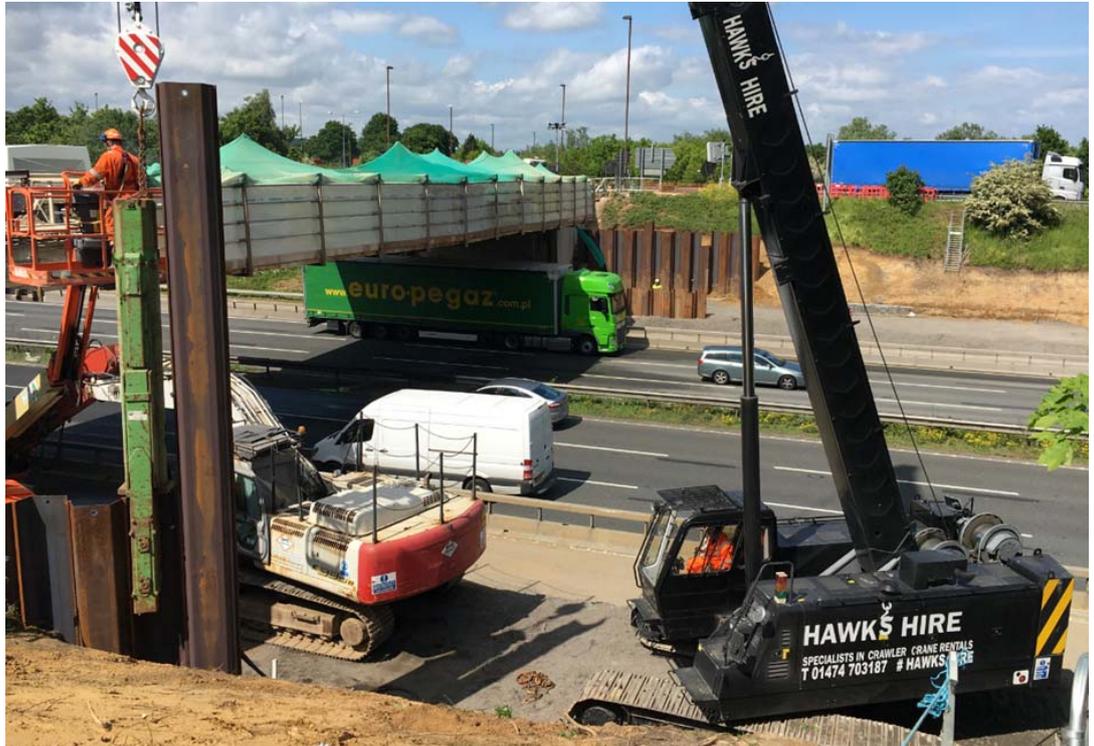
Newsletter 3
June 2016

Introduction

Our last Newsletter was distributed in March just as we were about to start work.

The scheme is to widen the eastern bridge to gain an additional lane to give more capacity to help deal with the extra traffic from the big developments along the Medway Valley.

The work is being carried out by John Sisk & Son Ltd. and is being managed by our consultants Amey all under the direction of the County Council's Major Projects Team.



Installation of sheet piled cofferdams to support excavations for the new bridge abutments

A good start has been made and it is now time for a further update.

What we have done so far

Traffic management was set up over the weekend of 2 & 3 April on both the M20 and A228 through the area of the works.

Site clearance including the removal of two tall street lights located behind the motorway hard shoulder.

Temporarily diverted the motorway communications cables that serve the emergency telephones, matrix signs and traffic monitoring cameras, clear of the works.

Demolished the existing cantilevered concrete margin to the bridge. High pressure water was used to remove concrete without damaging steel reinforcement that we need to keep to connect to the new bridge.

Piling at the back edge of the hard shoulders to provide foundations for the new bridge supports.

Ordered the manufacture and fabrication of the new 39m long and 1.1m deep steel beams that will support the new bridge deck.

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What happens next

Everything depends on continued good progress, no unforeseen problems and reasonable weather but the programme is to complete:

New bridge supports	end of July
Lift in bridge beams	mid August
Construct new parapet	mid September
Bridge wing walls	late September
Reinstate motorway communications	late September
Construct concrete deck on top of the beams	end of September
New carriageway surfacing	end of October
Install new traffic signals and finishing works	early November
Scheme complete	mid November

While we are here

When the bridge widening is completed we will take advantage of our presence to resurface the other bridge (western) which is deteriorating so we can avoid future inconvenience to users of the junction.

The temporary closure of the right turn out of Castle Way continues to be monitored with the possibility, following engagement with the local community and consideration as part of the democratic process, for this to be made permanent.

Keeping the local community and drivers informed

Our public liaison officer, James Deekes, will deal with any queries or provide information. He can be contacted on tel: 07899 050803, by email jamesdeekes@sisk.co.uk or please just come to the site offices located on the east side of Castle Way (north) just north of Junction 4.

Information will also continue to be made available by a variety of means as follows:

Signs on site in advance of key activities

KCC Website - link is www.kent.gov.uk/junction4

Further Newsletters

e mail to those who responded to previous Newsletters who asked to be kept updated in that way

Information to Parish Councils and the Borough Council

We are also planning a small manned exhibition at the end of July before the bridge beams are lifted in for those who would like to know more about the scheme and how it is being constructed.

Finally...

We know the traffic management is inconvenient and particularly difficult for drivers coming from the Snodland direction in the morning peak period.

We remain grateful for your understanding and tolerance and we will continue to do our best to keep you informed so that you can plan your journeys.