

## M5 junctions 4a to 6 smart motorway Newsletter issue 16, April 2017



### Update of works

Welcome to your latest smart motorway newsletter.

We have now completed the smart motorway works between junctions 4a and 5, introducing an extra lane in both directions. The first phase of the scheme was opened to traffic, at speeds up to 70 mph, on 13 April.

We are currently testing the technology between junctions 5 (Droitwich Spa) and 6 (Worcester), which is due open in late May.

The cones will be removed from lane 1 in this section, forming the new 4 lane smart motorway, whilst we complete testing and ensure that the systems are fully functional and operating safely. During this time speed limits will remain at 50 mph for safety.



Signs and signals being tested on the M5 between junctions 4a and 5

Occasional lane closures may take place during the final stages, whilst we complete this work and prepare for the opening of the smart motorway. We will aim to keep these closures to a minimum.



Details of the remaining works can be found below.

## Timeline of Planned Events

May 2017

### Junction 5 to junction 6

Complete surfacing at bridges and install final white lines (lane 1 remains coned off)

Complete installation of new technology

Testing and commissioning of new technology

Subject to successful testing, traffic speed restrictions will be removed and the smart motorway will be fully opened to traffic

## Other works in your area

### M5 junctions 1 to 2 Oldbury Viaduct

The essential repair work and waterproofing required on the M5, between junctions 1 and 2 Oldbury Viaduct, has now started, and traffic management including a 40mph speed limit is currently in place.

For the next phase of these works we will need to close one carriageway at a time to enable safe access. We will use a contraflow system between junctions 1 and 2, whereby both the northbound and southbound traffic runs on one side of the carriageway. This will allow us to keep two narrow lanes running in each direction to keep this vital route open.

We will do everything possible to plan and manage these roadworks to keep traffic moving. However there will still be some disruption to the M5 and routes leading into or out of these junctions.

We recommend that you plan ahead and allow extra time for your journeys. You may wish to consider using alternative routes and modes of transport. For more information visit

[www.highways.gov.uk/oldburyviaduct](http://www.highways.gov.uk/oldburyviaduct).

### M5 junctions 6 improvement works

The work to improve junction 6 of the M5 is still in development. We will provide more details of these works when available.

## Journey Planning

For real time updates on closures, roadworks and traffic levels on England's motorway and major roads network you can visit our website [www.highways.gov.uk/m5-junctions-4a-to-6](http://www.highways.gov.uk/m5-junctions-4a-to-6) where you can find updated details of forthcoming closures on our new 'roadworks' tab.

The roadworks tab shows any planned roadworks for the next 7 days, within a 2 mile radius of the project. You can also use the roadworks search page to create your own specified search. In addition, you can find live traffic information services via Traffic England.

## How to drive on a smart motorway

As we approach completion of the smart motorway between junctions 4a and 6 of the M5, we are turning attention towards driver education. A national Highways England campaign is currently ongoing focusing on driver education of smart motorways and more information about how to drive on a smart motorway can be found on the below website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-drive-on-a-smart-motorway>

To find out more about the M5 junctions 4a to 6 smart motorway

Contact: Nick Cuming - Stakeholder manager on 07826 868 990  
or call: 0300 123 5000

Visit our website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/m5-junctions-4a-to-6>.

Email: [M5J4a-6SmartMotorway@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:M5J4a-6SmartMotorway@highwaysengland.co.uk)

