

M1 junction 19

Improvement scheme

Newsletter issue 1 – Winter 2015

Welcome

This is the first edition of our M1 Junction 19 Improvement scheme newsletter, to keep you informed of our progress.

Background

In 2005, Skanska was appointed as the principal contractor by the Highways Agency to lead the design and construction of the junction.

In 2010, Skanska was contracted to re-build the Catthorpe Viaduct for maintenance reasons, which completed in 2012.

Construction of the improvements began in January 2014, and the scheme is due for completion in autumn 2016.

Highways England

From April 2015, Highways Agency became Highways England. Highways England is the new Government-owned company responsible for modernising, maintaining and operating England's motorways and major A-roads. This change in status does not affect continuing progress on the M1 Junction 19 Improvement Scheme.



Aerial photograph taken on 15 October 2015 looking west towards the M6.

The Catthorpe Interchange

Why the improvement project is needed

- Congestion, delays and long queues
- Accidents, sometimes resulting in serious injuries and fatalities
- Conflicts between local and long-distance traffic
- Barrier to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders



In summary, we will be delivering the following improvements in order to reduce congestion, improve safety and provide economic benefits:

- New link connecting the M6 directly to the A14, beneath the M1
- Realigned free-flowing link connecting the M6 to the M1 southbound, incorporating the Catthorpe Viaduct
- New free-flowing link connecting the A14 with the M1 northbound
- New free-flowing link road connecting the M1 southbound with the A14 eastbound
- Improved local road network including a connection between Swinford and the A5
- Maintain the existing M1 northbound to M6 free-flow link with minor amendments
- Retain the M1 in its current position

Approximately 150,000 vehicles per day use this critical location on the network. The works have been planned to keep all lanes open during the day, only closing lanes or sections of the junction overnight when traffic flows are lighter.

Diversion routes follow the major A-roads in order to avoid putting additional traffic onto less suitable routes. In order to achieve this, we have constructed eight temporary roads to keep traffic on the move whilst we are delivering these improvements.

The project is meeting significant milestones as 2015 draws to a close including opening the M6 to M1 southbound link to traffic on 23 September, opening the A14 to M6 westbound link on 17 October to traffic on a temporary alignment (pictured below), and opening the A14 to M1 northbound link on 13 December under traffic management.

The project includes provision of six new bridges:

- M1 over M6 to A14 link
- A14-M1 northbound link flyover
- M6-M1 southbound link over the M6 to A14 Link
- M1 southbound-A14 link over the local road network
- M6-A14 link over Swinford Road
- M1 northbound-M6 link over Swinford Road



Highlights 2014



Vegetation clearance adjacent to the M1, M6 and A14 in January 2014 creates the space to build the eight temporary roads required to keep the junction 'open for business'.

January – March 2014

The first of eight temporary roads was opened to traffic in March 2014 to enable bridge foundations for the A14-M1 northbound flyover to be installed in the middle of the M1, whilst traffic flows continue on both carriageways either side of the works.

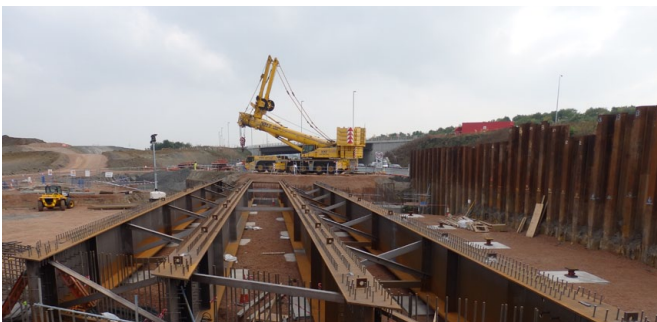
April 2014 – June 2014



May 2014.

Construction of temporary slip roads linking the M1 and M6 to the dumbbell roundabouts enabled works on three of the new bridges to proceed.

July – September 2014



Five of the eleven new bridge beams required to carry M1 traffic over the new M6-A14 link were installed.

The project featured in the BBC TV documentary *The Motorway: Life in the Fast Lane* on 30 September.

October - December 2014



The Prime Minister, David Cameron visits.

The first half of the bridge which will carry M1 traffic over the new M6-A14 link was opened to traffic at the start of November. Part of the new local link road between Shawell Lane and the A5 was re-opened to traffic at the beginning of December. Bridge support for the new M6-M1 southbound viaduct was installed just before Christmas.

Highlights 2015



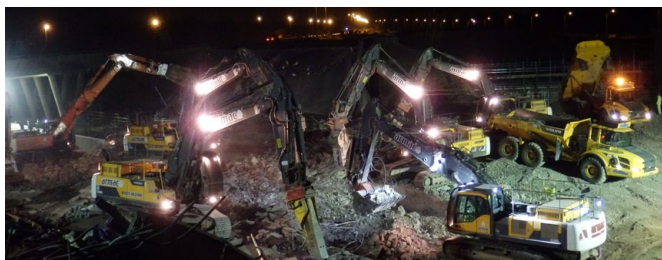
M6 to M1 bridge deck beams installed, and bridge deck works well under way. A 660 tonne crawler crane was used to lift the beams, with the heaviest lift weighing up to 200 tonnes.



Both A14 eastbound and westbound traffic switched onto a temporary alignment to facilitate construction of the new A14-M6 westbound and A14-M1 northbound links.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

January – March 2015



The redundant original M6-M1 southbound bridge was demolished in March to make space for the new A14-M6 link.

Disruption was minimised using rolling traffic blocks instead of road closures where possible. All of the demolished bridge has been recycled on site.

April – June 2015

We excavated under the new M1 bridge to accommodate new A14-M6 links in both directions underneath the M1 motorway.

July – October 2015



The bridge which will carry the new A14-M6 link over the new local link road was completed in September.

M1-M6 northbound traffic was switched onto a temporary alignment in October. This allowed the final redundant bridge to be demolished to create space to build the new bridge which will carry M1-M6 northbound traffic over the new local link road.

Community involvement



We have visitors to the project by arrangement and took part in the construction industry's annual Open Doors weekend in March with 90 visitors.

- We meet local residents at public exhibitions, parish meetings, with interest groups and individually both on a regular and ad-hoc basis
- We issue monthly bulletins through the 5 Parishes magazine on project progress and forthcoming works
- We issue regular updates about overnight road closures via email and the project website
- The project has raised more than £4000 for the East Midlands Air Ambulance Service
- All Saints Parish Church in Swinford received the support of a number of volunteers from the construction team to help improve the churchyard
- Two local students have taken up work placements to gain practical engineering experience

Next newsletter

Our next issue in March 2016 will report progress on:

- Opening a free-flow link between the M6 southbound and A14 eastbound
- The M1 to M6 link on its permanent alignment over a new bridge which will cross the local road
- Progress on the M1 to A14 eastbound bridge link

Contact us

For enquiries about the scheme contact us via email: **m1junction19@highwaysengland.co.uk**

For information about the project and to register for email alerts when changes are made visit: **<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/m1-junction-19-improvement-scheme/>** or Facebook **www.facebook.com/m1j19** or Twitter **@HighwaysEMIDS**