

M27 Junction 4 -11 Smart Motorway Programme e-Bulletin – 29 October 2019

Smart Motorways Programme M27 Junctions 4 to 11: Junction 8 Piling Works Update

I am writing to provide an update regarding the M27 junction 4 to 11 smart motorway sheet piling works at junction 8, following our previous letter dated 28 August 2019.

Programme update

Despite the recent wet weather that we have experienced since the start of our piling activity, we have managed to re-organise our programme so that the time lost due to rain will not affect our planned programme completion date. We still intend to complete our current piling works at junction 8 on Friday 8 November, although this may be subject to change due to operational requirements or continued adverse weather conditions.

Why this is taking place

Our targeted works around junction 8 are being undertaken to increase the safety of drivers while travelling within the new lane one, previously the hard shoulder. We need to ensure the safety barrier will be compatible with its requirements once the hard shoulder becomes a new live running lane.

A large piling rig is used to vibrate interlocking sheets into soil at depth to create a stable wall in the embankment, and this is known as 'sheet piling'. This will result in a large safety barrier being installed that provides a greater level of protection for the travelling public, in case of an incident.

Why the sheet piling method is necessary

Before progressing with our works, we investigated several alternative options for the completion of work in this area. However, due to the geographical layout and soil conditions of junction 8, piling rigs are required to complete the work.

As mentioned in our previous letter, we have added a number of modifications to our piling activity in order to help mitigate the disturbance as much as possible. This has included reducing the sheet pile lengths from 24m to 15m, which removes the need for loud impact driving, and also loosening the soil prior to sheet pile installation.

We also investigated the option of undertaking the work during full weekend closures of the M27, but this would cause significant disruption over 10 weekends and involve noise disruption to local residents during both the day and nights.

Noise mitigation

As stated in our previous letter, the works are noisy, and we apologise for the disturbance caused. To help reduce the noise disturbance, we have invested in some temporary, portable noise barriers. We will monitor their impact, in helping to mitigate the noise as our work continues.

What time the work will be taking place, and why does it take place at night?

The sheet piling works will be undertaken between 9.00pm and 6.00am the following day. In order for the rigs to be in place to undertake the work safely, we need to close the entire carriageway which we must do when the traffic counts are lower from 10.00pm onwards. Once the carriageway is closed, we then set-up the piling rigs, and strive to get as much

done as possible during the time available before the carriageway re-opens the next morning.

The diversion routes to be used during the closure, can be found at the end of this ebulletin.

As mentioned before, the dates of our activity may be subject to change due to operational requirements or adverse weather conditions, therefore we advise road users to plan their journeys in advance. Road users can keep up to date by visiting our Traffic England website: www.trafficengland.com or by following our Twitter feed: @HighwaysSEAST

For more information on the M27 Junction 4 to 11 Smart Motorway scheme, please visit the scheme webpage at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m27-j4-11-smart-motorway

How you can contact us

If you have any queries about our work or want to know more, then please email M27J4-11SmartMotorway@highwaysengland.co.uk or call us on 0300 123 5000

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Yours faithfully,



Victor Johnson, Project Manager

M27 Sheet Piling Works - Diversion Routes

Location	Diversion
M27 junction 8 eastbound carriageway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- When travelling eastbound take the junction 8 exit slip road- Follow the roundabout straight ahead before using the entry slip road to re-join the carriageway.
M27 junction 8 westbound carriageway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- When travelling westbound take the junction 8 exit slip road- Follow the roundabout straight ahead before using the entry slip road to re-join the carriageway.

M27 Works – Sheet Piling Locations

Towards Southampton



Towards Portsmouth