THE OCCUPIER

National Highways
Calder Park
Wakefield
WF2 7UA

31 July 2023

Dear customer,

A1 Wentbridge Viaduct & Wentedge Bridge works – six-month update.

We're getting back in touch with an update about our work on the A1 in advance of our next set of closures, which will allow work to progress on Wentbridge Viaduct and Wentedge Road Bridge.

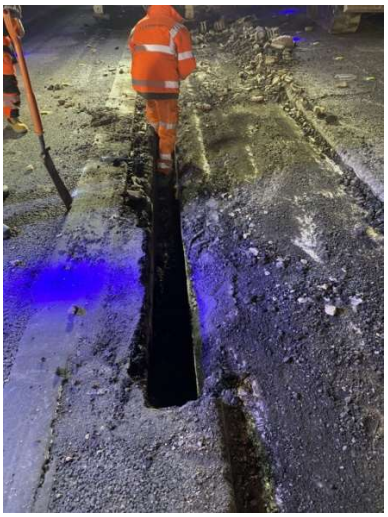
During the first six months, our efforts have focussed on Wentbridge Viaduct.

- We completed the installation of the contraflow and all the work needed to get the central reservation surface ready for vehicles.
- Created a new access route and maintained access for some properties directly on the A1.
- Removed all the southbound bridge surface materials bridge joints and the existing waterproofing layer.
- Started to remove the central reservation platform.
- Completed the in-depth investigation, inspecting and testing of the deck (bridge sections).
- Drainage investigations across the bridge have taken place.

Over the last few weeks, our work has concentrated on investigating and testing of the concrete structure. We now have a greater understanding of the scale of work that needs to be done to maintain the lifespan of the bridge, which opened to traffic in 1961, while reducing the need for repairs in the future. As a result, we need to revise our original completion estimate for Wentbridge Viaduct from August 2023 to April 2024, in line with the finish date for work on Wentedge Bridge, close by.

A number of unforeseen issues were uncovered on removal of the road surface and waterproofing layer. These have included a loss of concrete on the concrete deck ends, exposed areas of reinforcement, damage to the maintenance walkway anchor points (under the bridge) and defects to the safety barrier foundations. Whilst these issues have not caused a safety risk to the public, we must address them now to ensure they do not worsen and cause future closures for emergency repairs. Unfortunately, the design and approval of these repairs must be completed before the work can be undertaken, which is why you may have noticed periods of inactivity on the bridge itself. We can assure you we are working as hard as possible to rectify these issues and have the bridge open to traffic as normal.

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National Highways Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363


Images – 1) depth of road surface and waterproofing removal 2) bridge joint area and exposed bridge deck ends 3) exposed reinforcement

We understand that this revised completion date is disappointing, and that work is causing disruption. This part of the A1 has evolved over many years as opposed to being a purposely built motorway, this means diversion options and alternative routes for drivers are limited.

We are doing all we can to reduce the impact on drivers and residents. This includes extensive signage from the M25 to Scotch Corner, a considerable number of fixed signs along the A1, B6474, Westfield Lane and village locations including Wentbridge and East Hardwick. We continue to share extensive press, web, and social media updates to ask drivers to use alternative motorway routes.

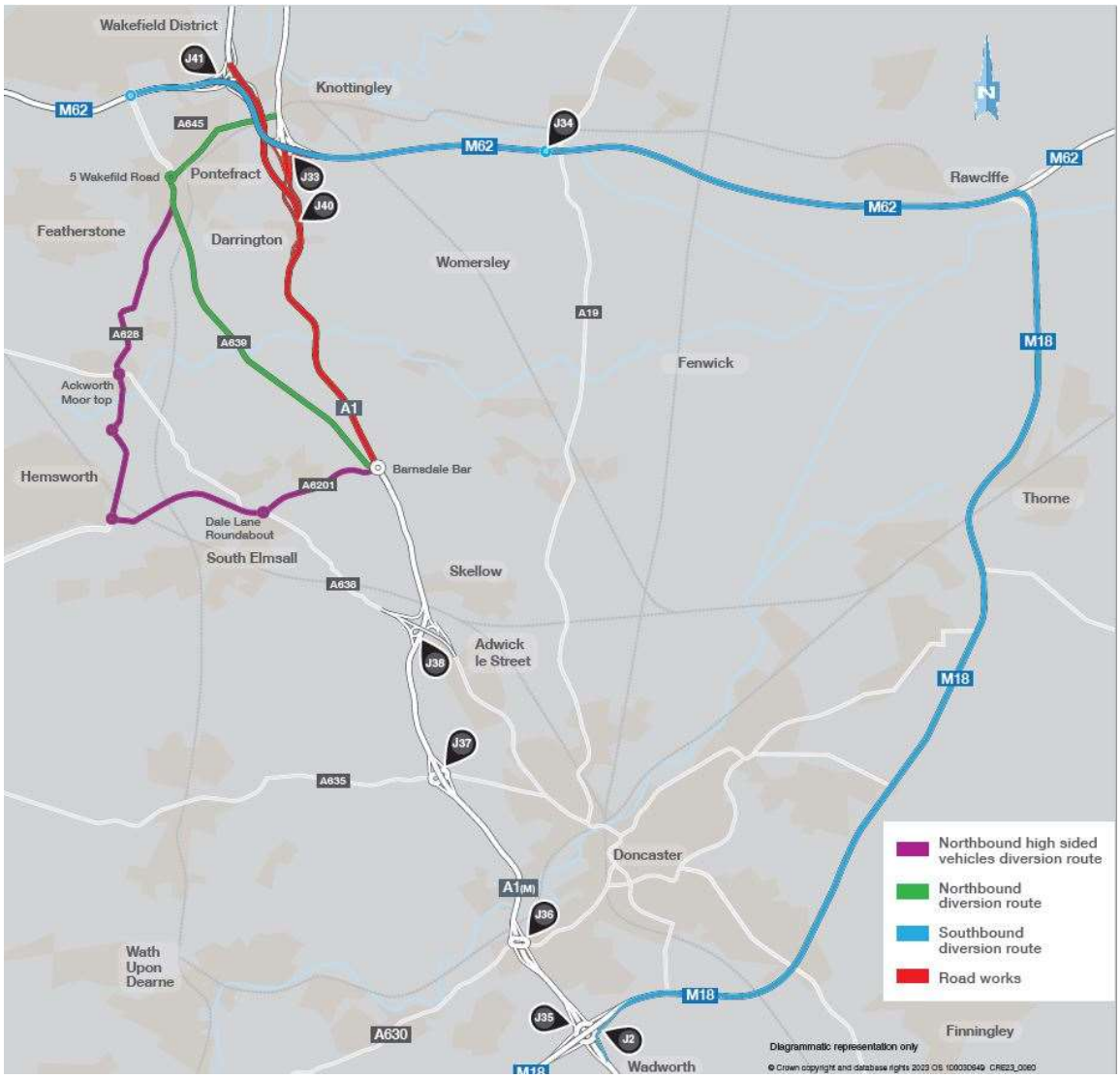
We continue to liaise closely with West Yorkshire Police who, when resources allow, are checking traffic on village routes carrying out enforcement on weight restrictions, unsuitable routes for HGVs and speed limits.

What happens next

We are now replacing the bridge joints across the viaduct structure and this work started week beginning 24 July under existing traffic management. We will also need three **northbound** overnight closures so we can carry out some of this work safely on:

- Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 14, 15 & 16 August 8pm – 6am.

Existing escort arrangements for residents and diversion routes for vehicles will be in place; we encourage drivers to use the M18 and M62 wherever possible. Vehicles north of Wadworth/Doncaster will use the A628 or A629 – please refer to our website for more information on why these routes are in use.



We apologise for any inconvenience this essential maintenance causes and appreciate your continued patience while we progress the work.

Get in touch.

You can find out further details on the National Highways website here https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/yorkshire-and-north-east/a1-wentbridge-viaduct-and-wentedge-road-bridge/ or you can find us on Facebook – National Highways Yorkshire. If you would like to discuss this scheme, or need further information, please contact National Highways on **0300 123 5000** or email ODYNECustomerSupport@nationalhighways.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

John Stebbing

Project Manager – National Highways Yorkshire and North-East Region