

Improving the M25

Junctions 5 to 7 and 23 to 25

Get smart, know your motorways



Junctions 5 to 7 and 23 to 25

- The M25 is a major strategic route connecting people, communities and businesses, carrying over 116,000 vehicles per day on these sections.
- Over the past year the Highways Agency has been working to deliver smart motorway improvements on two sections, between junctions 5 and 7 and junctions 23 and 25.
- This means there is an additional lane for traffic, increasing capacity to reduce congestion, without reducing safety, and more technology on the road to manage traffic and make journey times more reliable.



What the system includes – what you will see

All lane running

The hard shoulder has been permanently converted into a traffic lane on these sections of the motorway. Drivers must follow the speed limits displayed and should not stop on the motorway except in an emergency

- We are using technology to detect and monitor congestion on the motorways and will set appropriate speed limits to manage traffic and smooth the flow, making journey times more reliable.



Emergency Refuge Areas

- These are provided at regular intervals, typically every 2.5 km (1.5 miles).
- Provide an area of relative safety for those working on vehicles following a breakdown.

Emergency Telephones

- There is an emergency telephone in each emergency refuge area.
- This will connect you to the Highways Agency's regional control centres and will pinpoint your location.



There is no hard shoulder on All Lane Running sections of motorway. Obey variable speed limits and do not stop on the motorway. If you need to stop in an emergency, use an emergency refuge area (shown in the picture above), motorway service area or leave at the next junction.



What to do if you breakdown

If you need to stop in an emergency on a smart motorway;

- Use an emergency refuge area, motorway service area or leave at the next junction. If that is not possible try and get your vehicle off the carriageway, if it is safe to do so.

If you have no choice but to stop in a live lane;

- Put your hazard warning lights on to help other drivers see you and help Highways Agency control room staff to spot you on CCTV.
- If you are in the left hand lane and it is safe to do so, exit the vehicle via the left hand door. Wait behind the barrier if possible.
- If you cannot exit the vehicle, do not feel it is safe to do so or there is no other place of relative safety, remain in the vehicle. Keep your seat belt on and dial '999'.

As soon as the Highways Agency is alerted, our regional control centre will use the signs and signals to close lanes in order to protect your vehicle until help arrives. We may also close lanes to allow access for emergency vehicles.

Incident Management

- Incidents will be detected by traffic sensors, CCTV or calls from the public
- The control centre will set signs to protect incidents and clear an access route for emergency vehicles.
- Typically a red **X** will be used to close a lane to traffic.
- Control centre staff will monitor traffic conditions throughout each incident, ensure signs are set to manage traffic, and will reopen lanes as soon as it is safe to do so.

Variable Mandatory Speed Limits

- Speed limits will be set when necessary to ensure the smooth flow of traffic.
- The limits will be clearly displayed on overhead gantries and roadside signs.
- Signs will be used to inform drivers of conditions on the network and when variable speed limits are in place.

Red X

A red **X** symbol on a gantry sign over the motorway

A red **X** sign on an gantry sign at the side of the motorway



- We use a red **X** symbol to show that a lane is closed because of an incident or people working on the road.
- Red X's also provide access for emergency services.
- Driving in a lane with a red **X** symbol is dangerous and drivers must **NOT** use it.

About smart motorways

- Smart motorways are a new, technology driven approach to the use of our motorways; they increase capacity and relieve congestion without reducing safety.
- The Highways Agency is urging drivers to find out more about the different types of technology and features used on smart motorways.
- The 'get smart' motorway campaign has been created to help road users understand the different driving environments, types of signs and signals they will see and what to do in the event of a breakdown when travelling on a smart motorway.
- Smart motorways will help make journey times more reliable.

England's motorways are getting smart.
Get smart, know your motorways



www.highways.gov.uk/smartmotorways

You can find more information on the following:-**On the web:****www.highways.gov.uk/smartmotorways**

Here you can find latest news, scheme maps and publications about the scheme.

**On Facebook:** search for:**www.facebook.com/pages/Smart-Motorways-M25/1398442173726130****By phone:**

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