

## Spooner Row to Tuttles Interchange reconstruction scheme



The A11 Spooner Row to Tuttles Interchange reconstruction scheme is currently in stage 2, and we'll be moving over into stage 3 in late 2022. This means that our work on the northbound carriageway is almost complete, allowing us to then start working on the southbound carriageway. Of course, this also means that the layout of our roadworks and traffic management will change, and we'll provide more information about that on our website and in a series of public information exhibitions that will take place ahead of Stage 3.

If you've driven past the roadworks recently, you'll have seen that we've started laying a black asphalt surface along sections of the northbound carriageway. It's great to see that so much of the previous concrete carriageway has been safely removed, allowing us to build a modern, smoother

road surface that will provide a quieter journey for road users on the A11. The new road will also extend the life of the road by up to 50 more years and make it easier and quicker for us to repair in the future, reducing the disruption to customer journeys.

I do hope the information in this newsletter is helpful. Thank you for your patience while we reconstruct this section of the A11.

Yours

Andy Dyer

Project Manager, A11 Spooner Row to Tuttles Interchange reconstruction scheme



## Removing the Concrete

As we're reconstructing 16km of the A11 carriageway between Spooner Row and the Tuttlles Interchange, we need to find the safest and most efficient way for us to remove the old concrete surface. This is being done via a series of activities, which includes use of a machine called an 'Antigo Breaker'.

The Antigo Breaker is a vehicle that has 1,200 to 1,750 pound hammers mounted in pairs at the back of it, with six pairs in total. Each pair of hammers is attached to a hydraulic lift cylinder which develops between 1,000 and 8,000 foot-pounds of breaking energy (depending upon the lift height selected), and it hits the old road surface at a rate of 30 to 35 impacts per minute.

The breaker is specifically designed to break the concrete pavement into rubble that's a manageable size. As it goes along the old carriageway, it shatters the concrete to the base layer, which allows our excavators to easily remove the old road. Then the old road is taken to our site compound to be crushed and recycled back into the construction of the new carriageway, where it's used as a base layer.

Using this equipment means we can work much faster, and it's also a much safer method of breaking up the old road surface.



## Emergency service access and breakdowns

Safety is one of our organisation's key imperatives, and something that is of the utmost importance to us. This includes not only the teams who construct our roads, but also the safety of our customers who travel through our roadworks.

We are using a contraflow system to keep the A11 open whilst we reconstruct the road. A contraflow is when the road is shut in one direction and traffic is then moved over to drive on the other side of the road to share the remaining carriageway. This provides us with a clear working area that means we can work more quickly and safely.

Although the A11 between Spooner Row and the Tuttlles Interchange has currently been reduced to a single lane in both directions, this does not mean that the police, fire and ambulance services are not able to use this section of the A11 when needing to get to an emergency. We've collaborated with the emergency services since our early planning so that we could understand and reduce any concerns they might have about our roadworks. We continue to meet with them on a regular basis, and they are always notified in advance of any proposed road closures.

If an emergency service vehicle needs to travel through our 40mph working area, then our teams are informed and quickly clear a route through. This allows the emergency service vehicle to bypass any traffic within the contraflow, so that they can get to their destination quickly and safely.

Our working area is also used to help vehicles that breakdown within the contraflow. We provide a 24/7 free recovery service within the scheme, using 23 cameras placed along the length of our roadworks to allow us to quickly identify vehicles that do breakdown. When a breakdown is spotted, our CCTV camera team alerts our recovery team, who then travel to the stranded vehicle and move them to a place of safety.

In both cases, if an emergency vehicle or our recovery vehicle needs to get through our safety barrier, they can go through one of our six access gates that are spread throughout the site at 1km intervals. The gates can be safely opened and closed as needed.



## Customer SMS text alert service

Another way we aim to help customers when there is a breakdown within our roadworks is our SMS service. This sends out a text message to customers if there has been any incident that will impact on this stretch of the A11 during morning or evening peak-time travel.

We also send a message to the emergency services, but rather than doing this at key times, this message is issued out every time there is an incident for them.

If you'd like to sign up for this service, then please send your mobile number to [ConcreteRoadsEastA11@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:ConcreteRoadsEastA11@nationalhighways.co.uk)

## Next 6 months

We're going to be moving all traffic onto the northbound side of the A11 in late 2022, allowing us to start reconstructing the road on the southbound side. We'll ensure that everyone is informed in advance of this change by hosting a second series of public information exhibitions. This will be a great opportunity for us to meet with you, explain the changes, and listen to any comments you might have. We'll announce our public information exhibition plans in the near future on our website.

## Before you set out, remember to check your tyre pressure

We want you to get to your destination safely, and without any delays at the roadside. One in five motorway breakdowns are caused by tyre problems, so don't let vehicle trouble spoil your adventure – go to [www.nationalhighways.co.uk/road-safety/tyre-checks](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/road-safety/tyre-checks) for more information about giving your vehicle some TLC before heading off. You'll also find tips about other simple checks including checking your vehicle lights, oil, and screen wash.





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

## Keep in contact

If you haven't yet done so, please go to our project webpage at:

**[www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A11concrete](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A11concrete)**

to sign up for our email registration system so that we can notify you as our work progresses. You'll also find more information and photos of our A11 road reconstruction work, as well as details of any road closures.

If you'd like to find out more about our work, then please feel free to contact us by calling the 24/7 National Highways Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000, email [info@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:info@nationalhighways.co.uk) or visit our website at:

**[www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A11concrete](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A11concrete)**



Road users can also find up to date road closure information by visiting our Traffic England website at **[www.trafficengland.com](http://www.trafficengland.com)** or by following our Twitter feed: [@HighwaysEAST](https://twitter.com/HighwaysEAST).

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