

## A12 junction 22 to 24 Concrete road improvements December newsletter

The A12 between junction 22 and 24 northbound and southbound was the first road to be repaired as part of a long-term programme to renew or repair our concrete surface roads. Many of these roads are based in the east region, and have a lifespan of 50 years. However, they are now showing signs of wear, so the time has come to repair or replace them. The work we're doing will also help to make them less noisy and better to drive on.

### **What we've been doing**

Since November, we have worked along the northbound and southbound lanes of the A12 between junction 22 and 24 in order to repair and maintain the life of the carriageways. After the initial work was done, it became apparent that extra road repairs were needed. More than 2,500 road defects were found. Now that the replacements and repairs are complete, we aim to have extended the lifespan of the road by around 10 years, and made it easier to maintain in future.

Over the course of the project, we have carried out the following:

- planed more than 2700m<sup>2</sup> of road carriageway
- resurfaced more than 24,750m<sup>2</sup> of road carriageway, including laying over 1700m<sup>2</sup> of high-friction road surface
- repaired more than 2,100m<sup>2</sup> of concrete carriageway, and filled and repaired over 7,900 linear metres of cracks
- refreshed over 30,500 linear metres of road lines
- installed 2,185 cat's eyes and repaired over 800
- replaced over 152m<sup>2</sup> of full concrete slabs.

Carrying out the work over extended weekends helped us to save over 65 weekday night-time shifts. This also allowed us to finish ahead of the original scheduled date of 20 December, in time to allow customers to carry out their Christmas shopping.

We'd like to thank motorists, businesses and residents for their patience during the road closures.

### **Our recent work on the A12**

The following photographs show some of the work we've done on the A12 in the last few weeks:

Expansion joint cutting



Drying expansion joints before sealing



New concrete slab



Freshly-poured concrete slab



New lines and road surface



New-high friction road surface



Fresh road markings



New road lines



New road surface and road markings



New road surface and road markings



Newly laid solar cat's eyes



Freshly laid asphalt surface and lines



New asphalt surface



New road surface and road markings



## **Next steps**

Although our repairs to the concrete road surface on this stretch of the A12 are finished, there are now ground investigations and surveys taking place in preparation for the A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening project.

The investigations will give engineers a clearer picture of the type of soils, rock and groundwater beneath the broad area of the proposed new road. You can expect to see survey vehicles and equipment in operation on and close to the A12, but this is not the start of any construction work to widen the A12.

The first phase of surveys has already begun along the southbound carriageway between junction 25 and 19, and is taking place between 21:00 and 05:00 each night until Friday 18 December.

A clearly signed diversion route will be in place via A120, A131 and A130. Northbound traffic will remain unaffected.

The second phase of surveys are due to start next year on the A12 northbound carriageway between junction 19 and 25 on Monday 4 January until Friday 15 January, taking place between 21:00 and 05:00 each night.

A clearly signed diversion route will be in place via A130, A131 and A120. Southbound traffic will remain unaffected.

The next phase of surveys will be to carry out archaeology trial trenching, which is planned for March 2021. We will contact affected landowners in early 2021.

For more information on the ground investigations and surveys, and to stay up to date with the A12 widening project, please visit: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A12](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A12)

## **Future work**

From February 2021, we will be repairing the concrete surface on the A12 at junction 27 Spring Lane (formerly the A12 Eight Ash Green J26 Interchange). We'll be doing repairs and maintenance of the concrete road surface on the slip roads at junction 27 in both directions. The work will take around 3-weeks, and we'll also be clearing drains, repainting road markings, and inserting new reflective road studs (cat's eyes). There will be diversions in place using junction 26 (Eight Ash Green) and the A1124 and A133 Cymbelline Way to Spring Lane Roundabout.

## **Keep in touch**

You can find out more about our project on the A12 slip roads at junction 27 and our other concrete surface repair projects by visiting: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A12-concrete](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A12-concrete) or follow @HighwaysEAST on Twitter for regular updates.