

M3 Junction 9 Improvements - Frequently Asked Questions: Weekend Closures and Demolition of the Old M3 Bridges and Supports

These FAQs are designed to address the most common questions from residents, businesses, road users and local stakeholders about the M3 northbound exit slip road closure and the bridge demolition phase of the project.

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Why are the old bridges being demolished?

The old bridges and their supports are no longer required now that traffic has been moved onto the new junction layout and bridge structures. Removing the old infrastructure is a key part of completing the M3 Junction 9 improvements project.

When will the weekend closures take place?

Three weekend closures are planned at M3 Junction 9:

- **9pm Friday 9 October to 6am Monday 12 October 2026** - M3 northbound exit slip road at junction 9 closed for widening works. Please note overnight closures of the M3 northbound between junctions 10 and 8 will be required on Friday 9 October and Sunday 11 October 2026 to safely install and remove barriers for the slip road closure.
- **9pm Friday 23 October to 6am Monday 26 October 2026** - M3 closed in both directions between junctions 8 and 9 for northern bridge demolition.
- **9pm Friday 6 November to 6am Monday 9 November 2026** - M3 closed in both directions between junctions 8 and 9 for southern bridge demolition.

These dates remain subject to change if circumstances require.

Which roads will be closed?

During the 9 to 12 October weekend, only the M3 northbound exit slip road at junction 9 will be closed for widening works; the M3 northbound main carriageway will remain open.

During the two bridge demolition weekends, the M3 will be closed in both directions between junctions 8 and 9. These full closures provide a safe working area for demolition teams and road users because large machinery will be used above the carriageway.

Signed local diversions will be in place, long-distance traffic will be encouraged to use strategic diversion routes, and drivers should allow extra time for journeys.

Will the M3 northbound main carriageway remain open during the slip road widening works?

The M3 northbound main carriageway will remain open for the majority of the weekend. However, it will be closed between junctions 10 and 8 overnight (9pm and 6am) on Friday 9 October and again on Sunday 11 October. These overnight closures are needed to safely install and remove barriers for the slip road closure.

How will the bridges be demolished?

Specialist demolition equipment will be positioned on the closed motorway. The machinery will break up the bridge decks and supports into manageable sections. The material will then be removed from site and processed for recycling where possible.

Will the work take place during the day or at night?

The demolition will take place continuously throughout each closure period, including both daytime and overnight working, to complete the work efficiently and reopen the motorway as soon as possible.

Will the demolition be noisy?

Some noise is unavoidable when breaking up concrete and removing bridge structures. The project team will seek to minimise disruption wherever possible, but nearby residents may notice increased noise levels during parts of the demolition work.

What measures are in place to protect the public?

For the widening works, the M3 northbound exit slip road at junction 9 will be closed and traffic management and a signed diversion route will be in place.

For the bridge demolition weekends, the M3 will be fully closed between junctions 8 and 9, with signed diversion routes and exclusion zones in place to protect road users, local communities and the workforce.

What will happen to the demolition materials?

The old bridge materials will be removed from site and processed. Where possible, materials will be recycled and reused in accordance with project sustainability objectives.

Why are the closures taking place over weekends?

Weekend closures reduce the impact on weekday commuter traffic while giving the project team uninterrupted time to complete the widening and demolition activities safely. This approach also reduces the number of separate closures required.

Will emergency services still have access?

The project team works closely with emergency services and relevant authorities to support operational planning and maintain appropriate access arrangements throughout the closure periods.

What happens if bad weather affects the work?

The programme may be adjusted if severe weather or other unforeseen circumstances affect the safe delivery of the demolition works. Any changes will be communicated through the project's usual communication channels.

What happens after the bridges are demolished?

Once the old bridges and supports have been removed, the project team will continue with the remaining elements of the M3 junction 9 improvements.

How can I stay informed?

To subscribe to National Highways updates please use this [link](#) and select the M3 junction 9 project.

If you have any questions, please email:

m3junction9improvements@nationalhighways.co.uk or call our Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000.

You may want to use our one-way feedback tool here: [M3 J9 Improvement Scheme](#) and leave any observations you may have.

Find out about National Highways closures [here](#).

You can also tell us about something wrong on any of our roads by using the 'Report an Issue' page on our National Highways website: [Help centre - National Highways](#).