

Our ref: M20 Moveable Barrier

Highways England
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
GU1 4LZ

18 December 2020

Dear Stakeholder

Information on the Operation Brock Contraflow on the M20

Following my last letter to you, I'm writing to give you more news about the contraflow on the M20.

The live test we ran last weekend was successful and now we plan to put the contraflow on the M20 between junctions 8 (Maidstone) and 9 (Ashford) from 27 December. This is in anticipation of the end of the EU transition period and any potential disruption between Christmas and New Year.

It will mean port-bound freight can be queued safely while the M20 remains open to all other traffic in both directions, unlike during Operation Stack. The contraflow is one element of a wider Kent plan – Operation Brock - to manage disruption and help ensure Kent's roads remain open.

To deploy the contraflow safely, the M20 will be closed overnight in both directions between junctions 8 and 9 on the nights of 27 and 28 December. When the road reopens in its new configuration HGVs travelling to Europe will use the coastbound "Freight Zone" of the M20, with all other traffic using the contraflow on the M20 London bound carriageway. I have attached a brochure with this letter which shows the new configuration of the M20. Please note we have booked contingency shifts to deploy the contraflow on 29 and 30 December should there be any problems with the earlier dates mentioned such as severe weather.

Traffic volumes permitting, the closures on both nights are due to start at 10pm with both carriageways due to be reopened by 10am the next day, or earlier if possible. These times have been chosen to minimise disruption to road users and avoid the key Christmas travel period.

When the motorway is closed, signed diversion routes will be in place:

- M20 London bound closure between junction 9 and junction 8 - Traffic will be diverted from junction 9 via the A20 to re-join the M20 at junction 8.
- M20 coastbound closure between junction 7 and junction 9 - Traffic will be diverted from junction 7 onto the A20 to re-join the M20 at junction 9.

- Additional traffic management will be installed at Roundwell Junction and Bearsted Road-New Cut Road roundabout to encourage traffic to remain on the signed diversion route and not cut through Bearsted village.
- Vehicles over 4.7m high need to follow a different route, which is to turn around at junction 9 to re-join the M20 towards Dover, then the A20, the A2, then the M2. Drivers should then leave the M2 for the A249, to re-join the M20 at junction 7 and head back towards junction 8.

This work has been planned with Kent Resilience Forum partners, including Kent Police and Kent County Council.

Get in touch

Please contact us on 0300 123 5000 if you have any questions or visit our webpage: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/south-east/m20-junction-8-to-9-moveablebarrier/>. Please also check this web page frequently as we will announce any date or time changes here.

Please check our roadworks page before you plan any journeys: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/travel-updates/daily-closure-report/>

You can also follow us on twitter [@HighwaysSEAST](https://twitter.com/HighwaysSEAST)

Yours faithfully



Manish Somrah
Highways England Project Manager