

M4 Brynglas Tunnels Refurbishment

Q1 - Why is the work required?

This essential refurbishment of the tunnels is required in order to upgrade the Mechanical and Electrical (M&E) systems, as well as the carriageways, drainage and tunnel linings in order to safely operate the tunnels for the foreseeable future. Whilst this work is undertaken additional and necessary refurbishment work will be undertaken to the River Usk Bridge and Malpas Viaduct structures, with work generally being undertaken from underneath the structures allowing normal trafficking.

Q2 - What benefits will the work bring?

Effective transport links and a more resilient network is essential in daily life to the Welsh and wider UK economy.

The project will bring the tunnels up to current European safety standards and deliver the Welsh Government's interventions in the National Transport Plan, the Welsh Infrastructure Investment Plan and the Route Management Plan for the M4.

Q3 - When is the work starting and how long will the contract last?

Maintenance work at the Brynglas Tunnels is expected to commence on Monday 20 June, with the work continuing overnight until February 2018 alternating between east and westbound.

Q4 - Why will it take two years to complete the work?

Night working minimize the impact on businesses and commuters. To reduce impact upon traffic flows at weekends, only a limited number of extended Sunday closures will be allowed. All traffic updates will be given via Traffic Wales.

Q5 - What sections of the M4 will be closed?

The diversion of the M4 will be put in place along the A48 (Southern Distributor Road). The diversion will be in place between junctions 24 and 28 of the M4, however local traffic will be allowed to travel up to junctions 25a and 26 in order to access local routes. Closure of both tunnels may only be needed to be put in place for a short period of time for safety reasons.

Q6 - What hours will the tunnel be closed?

The eastbound and westbound tunnels will be closed in turn unless a double tunnel closure is required for safety reasons. During the weekdays closures will commence at 8pm with the motorway being re-opened by 6am the following morning. Extended Sunday closures will also be limited between the hours of 8pm Saturday night to 6am Monday morning.

Q7 - I heard that there will be weekend closures when will these be held?

Overnight week day tunnel closures are currently planned for the following dates as below, but will be subject to review and change:

Tunnel	Closure Date	Re-opening Date
Westbound	02.05.2017	19.07.2017
Eastbound	20.07.2017	21.07.2017
Westbound	24.07.2017	18.08.2017
Eastbound	21.08.2017	10.01.2018
Westbound	11.01.2018	14.03.2018

We intend to undertake a number of weekend closures, limited to one direction only and will commence on a Saturday evening with the motorway reopening to traffic on the following Monday morning (06:00hrs)

Tunnel	Closure Date	Re-opening Date
Westbound	01.07.2017	03.07.2017
Westbound	15.07.2017	17.06.2017
Eastbound	16.09.2017	18.09.2017
Eastbound	23.09.2017	25.09.2017
Eastbound	07.10.2017	09.10.2017

We will be carrying out a series of slip road closures at Junction 26 as part of the refurbishment works. They are:

Westbound Off Slip	26 th – 30 th June	5x days and 5x nights Monday – Friday (24 hours)
	Diversion Route: Days Nights	M4 W/B to Junction 27 onto M4 E/B - Junction 26 M4 W/B Junction 24 A48 / SDR under full closure of M4 W/B / Brynglas Tunnel Junction 25a – 26
Eastbound Off Slip	26 th June – 7 th July	10x nights Monday – Friday (20:00 – 06:00hrs)
	Diversion Route:	M4 W/B to Junction 27 onto

		M4 E/B Pontypool / Cwbran Eastbound traffic to follow - A4042 S/B to Junction 25a E/B
Eastbound On Slip	10 th to 14 th July	5x Days & 5x nights Monday – Friday (24 Hours)
	Diversion Route	M4 W/B to Junction 27 onto M4 E/B Pontypool / Cwbran Eastbound traffic to follow - A4042 S/B to Junction 25a E/B

All traffic updates will be available via [Traffic Wales website](#) or [Twitter account](#).

Q8 - Have major events planned in the vicinity been taken into account in the programming of the work?

Any impact from major events or busy periods, such as Summer and Easter, will be reviewed and closures will be planned around these accordingly.

Q9 - Will a closure be put into place even when the motorway is busy?

A traffic count will be undertaken by the contractor before any planned closure on the M4. Should the traffic count be greater than the pre-determined level, the closure will not proceed.

Q10 - Who is carrying out the work and can I contact them if I have a concern?

The principal contractor for the design and construction phases is Costain Ltd.
Costain has a manned 24 hour helpline - 0845 6002664.

Q11 - Have environmental considerations been taken into account in planning the works?

All applicable environmental licences have been obtained for working in close proximity to the River Usk. The area is noted as environmentally sensitive and all applicable surveys have been undertaken and considered.

Q12 - Will I be able to continue to cycle along the cycle track underneath the River Usk Bridge during the works?

Yes, the cycleway located beneath the River Usk Bridge structure will not be closed during the works.

Q13 - Will the Works be noisy?

The Contractor's method of working will include measures to minimise the impact of noise, vibration and dust.

Q14 - Will advanced signage on the motorway be provided in order to warn of upcoming closures?

The travelling public will be warned in advance of the planned closures via advanced signage placed along the M4 in the vicinity of Newport for the direction of traffic affected.

Q15 - Where can I find more information about the project?

The project website is www.gov.wales/brynglas-tunnels. You can also keep up to date with progress by registering to receive the project's Information Notices by email. Register your interest by contacting hannah.lewis@costain.com.