

Driving Through Roadworks

Caution: Roadworks ahead

The Highways Agency looks after England's motorways and major trunk roads. With more cars and heavy goods vehicles using our roads, it's no surprise that they wear out. We work hard to make sure your journey is as safe and as reliable as possible, but to do this we need to keep the roads in tip-top condition. This is why you will sometimes encounter roadworks on your journey.

Expect the Unexpected

When driving through roadworks, you may encounter a range of unexpected conditions:

- New traffic patterns
- Contraflows
- Narrow lanes
- Workers in the road
- Lane closures
- Reduced sight distance
- Temporary speed limits
- Detours
- Slow moving equipment
- Concrete barriers

Did you know?

Motorway road surfaces last between 10 and 15 years.

Sign language

Our roadworkers are out in busy motorways in all sorts of conditions and often at night. To protect them and keep you safe we have high-visibility signs to let you know what to expect, how far until the roadworks and what you have to do when you get there.

If you see any of these signs, stay alert and be prepared for different driving conditions ahead.

Everyone is entitled to a safe workplace. Our men and women work next to fast moving traffic and every day risk death and injury. Respect their space!

Did you know?

When travelling at 70mph, you will enter roadworks only 51 seconds after seeing this sign.



Seeing cones and no-one there?

1. For quick overnight works you may not see anyone working within the cones. There may be a few reasons for this. It can take up to a couple of hours to position cones before it is safe for our workers to start their job.
2. For longer-term roadworks, activities may be going on out of sight, working underneath the road or on bridge supports; concrete could be setting; workers may be in a different section.

Did you know?

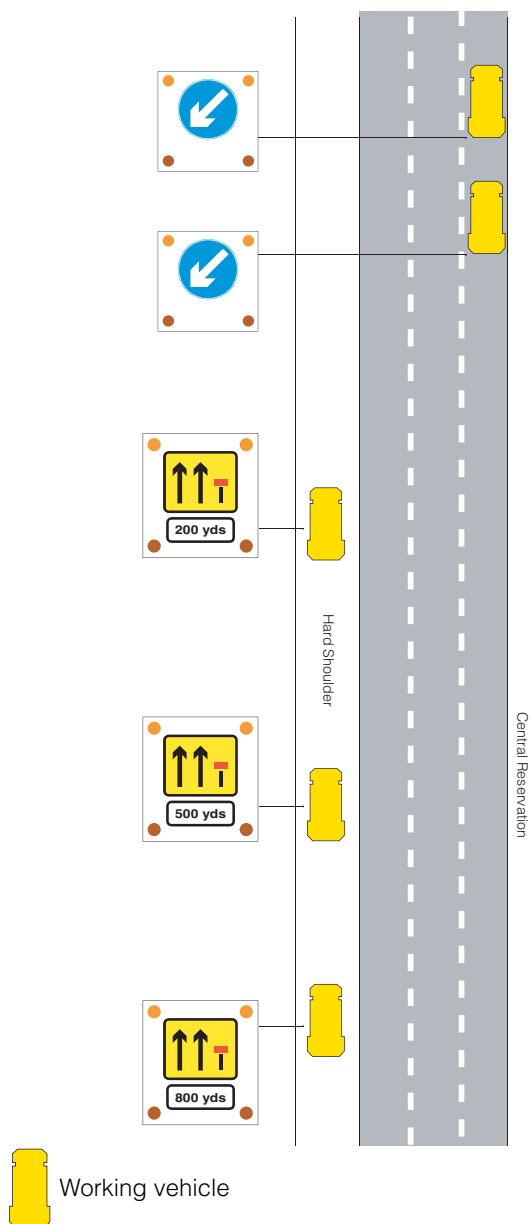
If you see this sign on an overhead gantry, the lane is closed.



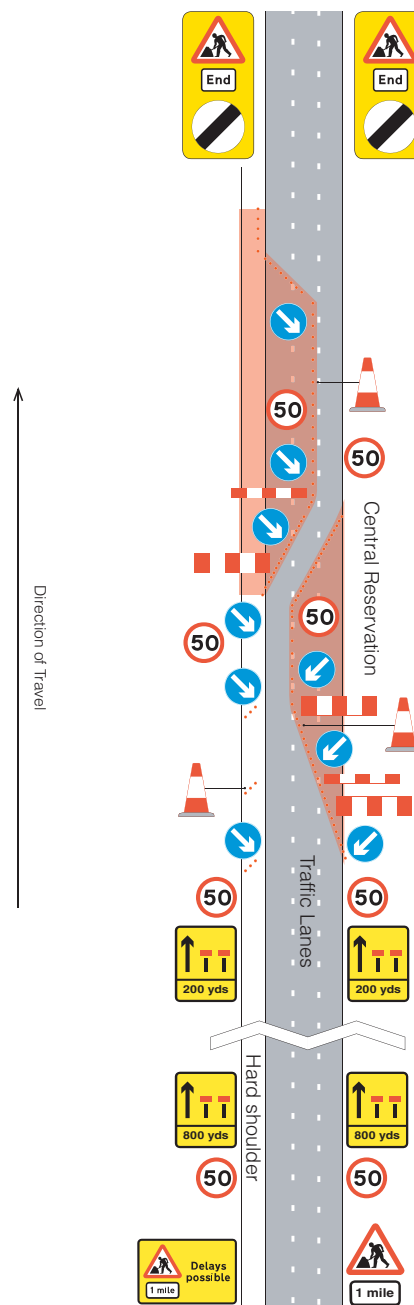
Typical Roadworks layouts:

Rolling Roadworks

For quick roadworks you will see signs below mounted on the back of working vehicles.



Temporary Roadworks



These graphics have been simplified for presentation and some roadworks will vary in layout and signage.

Did you know?

Feedback from our workers shows that too many drivers leave it to the last moment to change lane when lanes ahead are closed. This causes other drivers to brake which causes congestion as well as risking injuring our workers.

Did you know?

Most motorway work is carried out at night when traffic is lowest and most people are asleep. Despite lanes being closed, traffic should not be delayed.

Did you know?

65% of congestion is caused by sheer volume of traffic and 25% is caused by crashes. Only 10% is caused by roadworks and we are working to reduce this further.

Crashes: The grim facts

Across England latest figures show that in one year, 5 roadworkers have been killed and 29 seriously injured in roadworks on our roads as a result of motor vehicle crashes. All these deaths and injuries are avoidable.

Speeding, lack of attention, falling asleep at the wheel and aggressive driving have all contributed to crashes in roadworks. Roadworkers are just trying to do their job to keep roads in top condition for you.

Consider the consequences...

Crashing in roadworks can result in increased delays, damage to your vehicle, increased insurance costs, points on your licence, disqualification, jail sentences, trauma for your family and roadworkers' families and injury or even death.

Did you know?

Have a look at a shocking video of the effects of an accident at roadworks. Visit: www.highways.gov.uk and click on 'Safety through roadworks'.

Travel Information

Better information will help you plan your travel and make decisions both before you set off and when you're on your way. Check these sources for real-time information which will help you locate where travel delays will be:

Online: www.highways.gov.uk

- Information about roadworks and traffic conditions
- Real-time information about traffic conditions along your route

Telephone: 08457 50 40 30

- Details of our major schemes and road improvements
- Available weekdays 8am to 8pm. Weekends 9am to 5pm
- Automated service outside of those times

Variable Message Signs

- There are more than 1750 signs on our network giving you information about the section of road on which you are travelling and the option to change your route.

Traffic and travel news broadcasts

- Tune in to local radio stations.
- Ceefax Page 431
- Teletext Page 160

You can reach your destination on time by leaving early or taking alternative routes.

How Can I Find Out More Information?

The Highways Agency Information Line (HAIL) and Web Site will provide up to date information during the works.

Contact Details

For real time traffic information:

08700 660 115

www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(Calls from BT landlines to 0870 numbers will cost no more than 8p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

For general Highways Agency information:

08457 50 40 30

email: **ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk**

8am-8pm weekdays, 9am-5pm weekends

(Calls from BT landlines to 0845 numbers will cost no more than 4p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

If you would like to request a copy of the leaflet then please contact: Highways Agency Publications on 0870 1226 236. Please quote reference number: HA113/04

Driving through roadworks



If you do have to drive through roadworks, please take extra care.

- Keep to the speed limit – it's there for your safety
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not on the roadworks
- Be alert for works traffic leaving or entering roadworks
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front
- Observe all signs – they're there to help you

Remember that tiredness can kill. Take regular breaks from driving.