



M42 junction 6 Improvement Scheme - Bridge Works Communications Toolkit

September 2025 – January 2026

August 2025

Background

In summer 2024, an issue in the quality of steel used on some recently-built structures across the UK was identified. This impacts two bridges on the M42 junction 6 improvements scheme:

- B4102 Solihull Road bridge
- B4438 Catherine de Barnes Lane South bridge

Since the issue was identified, there have been surveys conducted, analysis and design solutions prepared. These works will allow us to remove the restrictions currently in place and fully open both bridges.

A programme of works has now been agreed and is scheduled to begin September 2025 and complete January 2026.



How to use this toolkit

Please share this toolkit with your marketing and communications departments to help us inform people of the bridge repairs programme and associated closures.

If you don't have a specific department, consider what information you will need to use from this pack, to communicate with your staff, customers, communities, networks and students.

Included in this toolkit are key messages that can be copied and shared via email, social media channels and websites. These include:

- Suggested copy suitable for digital channels
- Graphics for digital channels
- Useful links for further information

If you have any questions regarding the opening, please contact us by:

- calling the 24/7 National Highways Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000
- emailing M42Junction6@NationalHighways.co.uk

How are we helping?

National Highways are working with key stakeholders to ensure their customers and people traveling through the area are aware of the bridge repair programme and closures and have the necessary information to plan their routes in advance.

Our main aim is to provide a consistent and joined up message for all those people travelling in and around the area and to encourage them to plan their journeys and help reduce congestion.

This toolkit contains some useful information which will help you communicate the closures with your colleagues, customers and clients and complements a social media marketing campaign.

You can also visit our dedicated webpage at: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/west-midlands/m42-junction-6/>

Impacted bridges

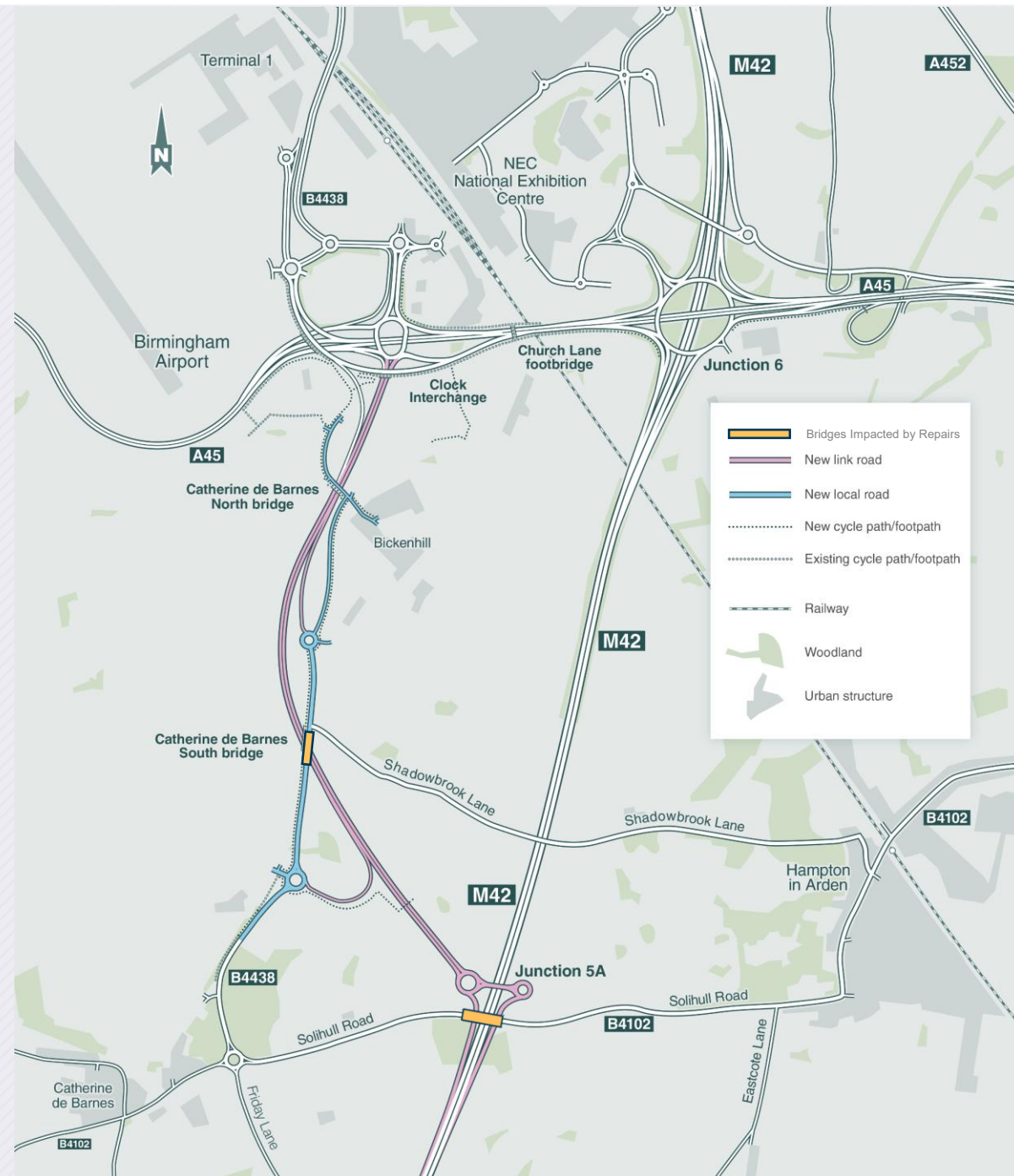
From 22 September 2025 the B4438 Catherine de Barnes Lane south bridge will be closed in both directions to motorised vehicles until November 2025.

From 22 September 2025 the B4102 Solihull Road bridge will be closed in both directions to motorised vehicles until January 2026. We plan to have Solihull Road bridge open during the Christmas festive period.

We'll be using a combination of daytime, overnight and some weekend working on both bridges. We'll also need northbound lane closures of the A4545, as well as some closures of the M42 between junctions 5 and 6, to complete works safely.

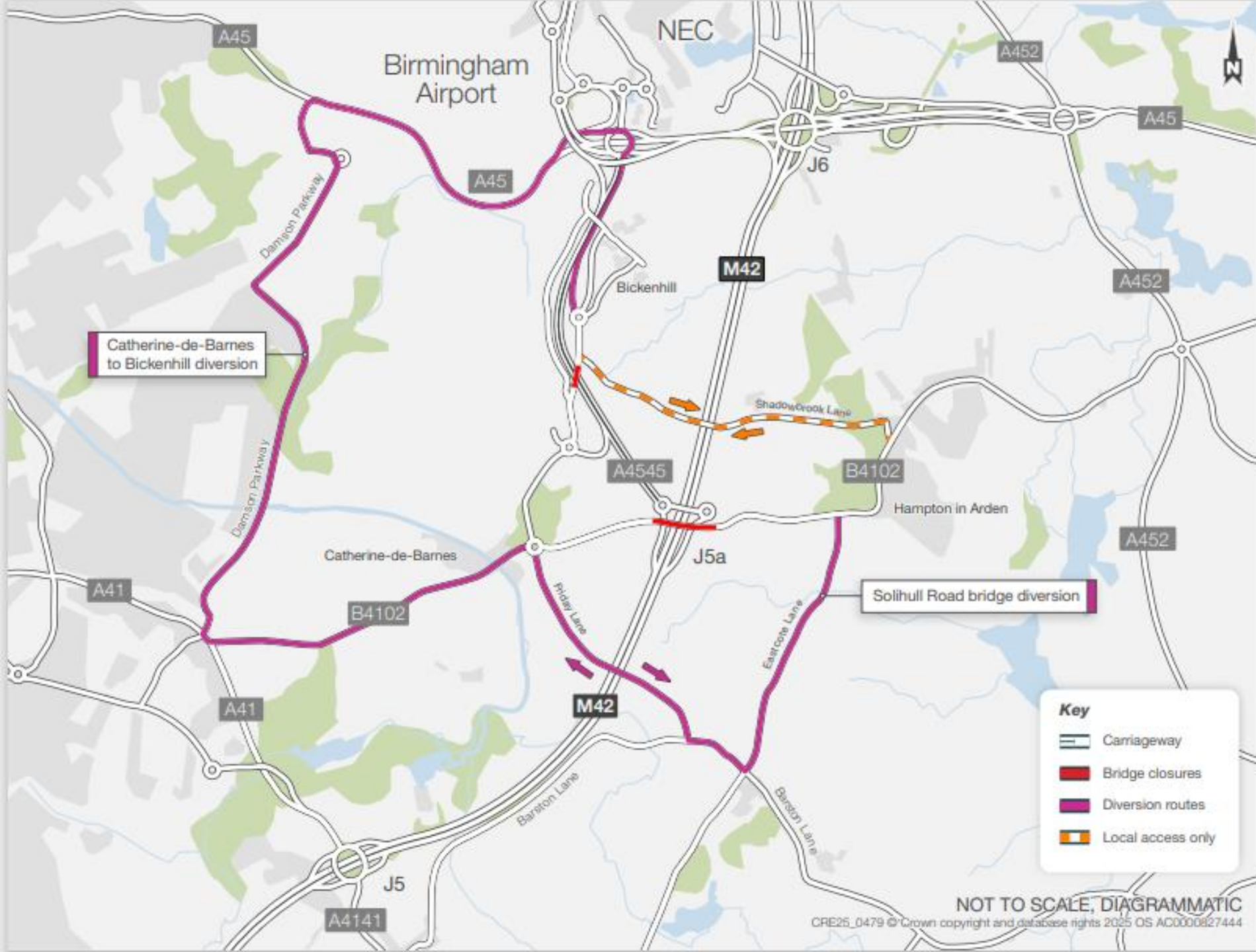
We understand the disturbance works can cause and we are committed to engaging with local communities and stakeholders to do all we can to minimise impacts.

We'll continue to keep our scheme [webpage](#) updated with a full schedule of closures once they're confirmed.

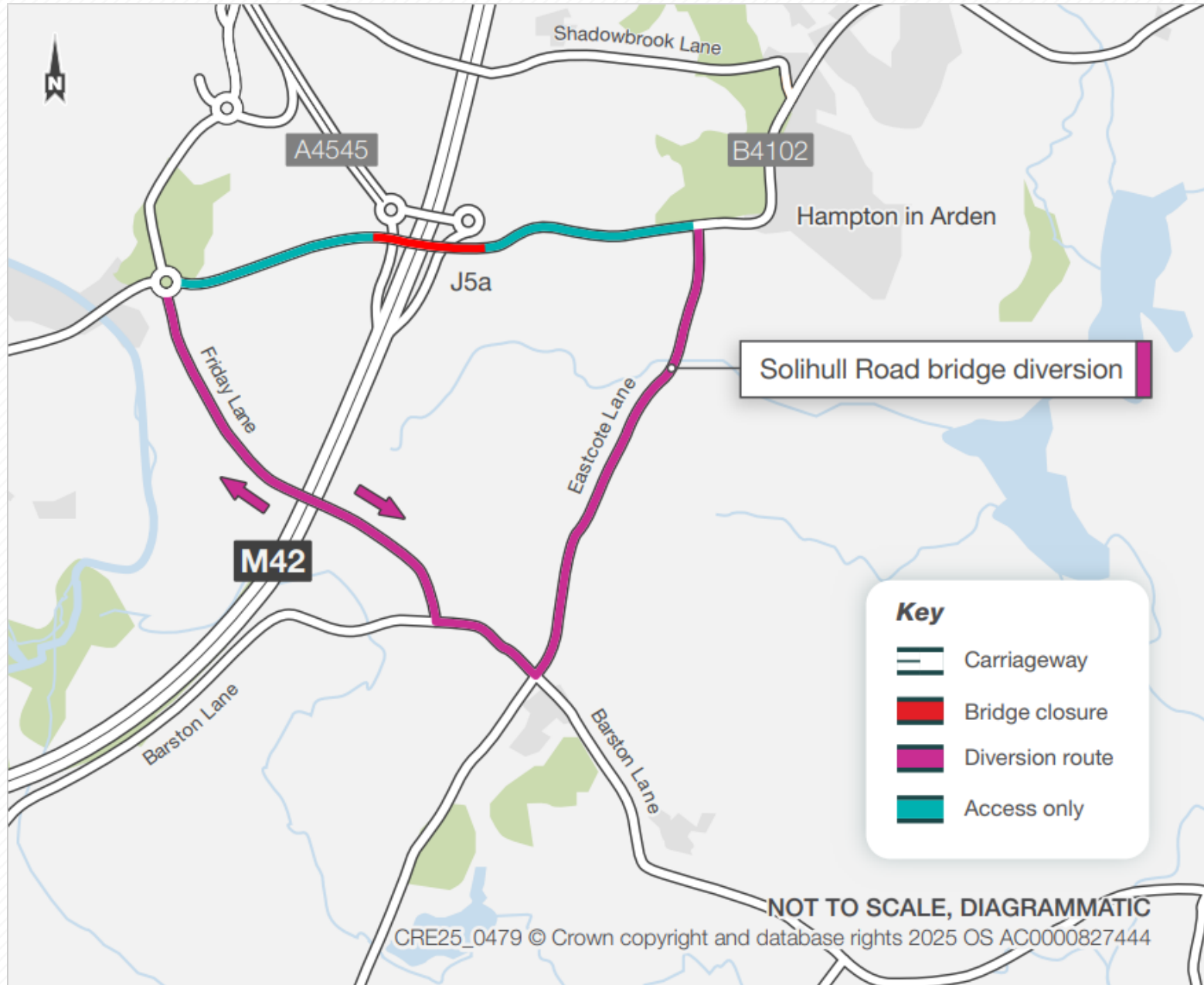


Start of works **22 September 2025**

- Catherine de Barnes lane south bridge (reopen **14 November 2025**)
 - Approximate 8 weeks work
 - 24/7 single lane closure on A4545 northbound
 - Airport Link Road Slip unaffected
 - Series of night full closures of A4545 northbound
 - Bridge deck closed to traffic (remains open for cyclists and pedestrians)
 - Local road diversions required
- Solihull Road bridge (reopen late **January 2026**)
 - Approximate 17 weeks work
 - Plan for bridge to open for festive period in December for 2 weeks
 - Series of night full closures of M42 mainline, junction 5A on and off slip roads
 - Bridge deck closed to traffic (remains open for cyclists)
 - Local road diversions



Diversion Routes



Diversion Routes



Key Messages

The following key messages can be shared on your channels to alert customers to the upcoming closures and diversions.

Work will be taking place on the B4102 Solihull Road bridge and B4438 Catherine de Barnes Lane south bridge from 22 September 2025:



Check National Highways M42 J6 website for full road closure details



See diversion maps and plan your journey in advance [here](#)



We're working with local communities, business and partners to minimise disruption.

To stay update to date with all the latest information, sign up for National Highways updates [here](#).

Be prepared and plan your journey ahead!

Details of upcoming works on Catherine de Barnes Lane south bridge and Solihull Road bridge and associated M42 and A4545 closures can be found on the M42 junction 6 [scheme webpage](#).

Whether you're commuting to work, heading to Birmingham Airport, Resorts World or the NEC, check before you travel and use the M42 J6 website to plan your route.

Key Messages

From 22 September 2025 works will be carried out on B4102 Solihull Road bridge and B4438 Catherine de Barnes Lane south bridge.

These works will involve the full closure of both bridges to motorists and some overnight and weekend closures of the A4545 and the M42.



Check the M42 J6 website for the latest closure information and diversion maps before you travel.



Leave extra time for your journey.

Whether you're visiting family or travelling for work, check the closures before you travel. Encourage your team, customers, and partners to check before they travel to ensure a smooth journey .



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why do the Catherine de Barnes Lane South bridge and Solihull Road bridge need repairs already?

A: An issue in the quality of steel used on some recently-built structures across the UK was identified in summer 2024. This impacts a small number of bridges on our network including the B4102 Solihull Road bridge and B4438 Catherine de Barnes Lane south bridge.

Q: How long will the bridges be closed?

A: Both bridges will close to motorists on 22 September 2025. We expect to complete work on Catherine de Barnes Lane south bridge in November 2025, and Solihull Road bridge in January 2026. Solihull Road bridge will be temporarily reopened over the Christmas festive period. We'll be using a combination of daytime, overnight and some weekend working on both bridges. We'll also need northbound lane closures of the A4545, as well as some closures of the M42 between junctions 5 and 6, to complete works safely.

Q: Where can I find information regarding the closures and diversions?

A: All the details of our upcoming closures and diversion routes can be found on the M42 junction 6 scheme webpage at: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/west-midlands/m42-junction-6/>

Q: Who can I contact for more detail?

A: You can reach the M42 junction 6 team at M42Junction6@Nationalhighways.co.uk or call our customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000 (Number available 24/7).

For help planning your journey

For up-to-the-minute travel information and help planning your journey, please see below:

Plan a journey	Transport for West Midlands	tfwm.org.uk	@TransportForWM
Plan a journey	Traveline	traveline.info	@travelineEM
Plan a journey	Solihull Council	www.solihull.gov.uk/Roads-pavements-and-streetcare/Public-transport	@SolihullCouncil
By bus	National Express West Midlands	nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands	@nxwestmidlands
By train	National Rail	nationalrail.co.uk	@nationalrailenq
	National Highways	https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/west-midlands/	@HighwaysWMids