

John Whyld  
Senior Project Manager – M42  
junction 6 Improvement Scheme

National Highways  
Three Snowhill  
Snow Hill Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6GA

[www.nationalhighways.co.uk](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk)

11 August 2025

Dear Stakeholder,

**M42 junction 6 Improvement Scheme – B4102 Solihull Road bridge and B4438 Catherine de Barnes Lane bridge**

In summer 2024 an issue in the quality of steel used in some recently built structures across the UK identified. After investigation we found that a small number of bridges on our network, including the B4102 Solihull Road Bridge, and the B4438 Catherine de Barnes Lane bridge have been impacted.

Since the issue was identified, we've carried out extensive surveys and monitoring of the bridges. Our inspections are now complete, and we have now developed a programme to deliver the necessary works in the most effective and efficient way possible.

From 22 September 2025 the B4438 Catherine de Barnes Lane bridge and the B4102 Solihull Road bridge will be closed in both directions to motorists. We aim to complete work on the Catherine de Barnes bridge in November 2025, and on the Solihull Road bridge in January 2026. Solihull Road bridge will be temporarily reopened during the Christmas festive period. Both bridges will remain open to non-motorised users throughout and access will be maintained for residents and businesses.

During this period there'll also be some overnight closures of the M42 between junctions 5 and 6, and lane closures of the A4545, to allow our teams to complete these repairs safely. A full schedule of upcoming closures and the planned diversion routes will be available on our scheme webpage at: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/west-midlands/m42-junction-6/>. We'll ensure this page is kept up to date as our repair work progresses.


We understand that these closures will be disruptive to local businesses and residents. Our teams are committed to engaging with local communities and businesses to provide support and keep disruption to a minimum during these works. To minimise the impacts, we've developed a toolkit shared with this letter which includes further information on the

reasons for the closures, diversion maps, and suggested social media copy which can be shared on your social media channels to inform customers and colleagues.

We'll also be holding an in-person meeting on 19 August at Bickenhill Village Hall at 7pm to share details of the closures and diversions with local businesses and residents, allowing you the opportunity to share any concerns with our team.

We understand the frustrations these works may cause and appreciate your patience while we work to deliver the required repairs. If you have any questions, you can contact the project team via [M42Junction6@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:M42Junction6@nationalhighways.co.uk) or call our 24/7 customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Yours sincerely



**John Whyld**  
**Senior Project Manager – M42 junction 6**