



M42 junction 6 Improvement Scheme - Bridge Works Communications Toolkit

September 2025 – January 2026

September 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/>

Strategic Road Network Closures

To carry out the works required, our workforce will require access to the undersides of both bridges. To allow these works to be undertaken safely, there'll be a series of overnight closures of the A4545 northbound and the M42 between junctions 5 and 6. One lane of the A4545 northbound will remain closed until 14 November. All night-time closures will be between 9pm to 5am unless stated otherwise.

The following pages detail the closure dates and diversions in place between 22 September 2025 and 14 November 2025.

On 14 November we'll reopen the B4438 Catherine de Barnes Lane bridge. Work will then continue on the B4102 Solihull Road bridge. We'll provide further information on the closures taking place between 15 November and January 2026 in early November.

Please remember that closures can change at short notice. You can check the latest information on our daily closures page or find live travel information on our Traffic England site. Our travel alerts give details of live incidents on our network.



Traffic management closures between 22 September – 14 November

22 September to 14 November

- Lane one of A4545 northbound – 24/7 Closure.

22 September to 30 September

- M42 southbound between junctions 6 and 5a

Diversion Map - <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1-DefrI44HHwCp0ODihFD76V3qeUN5kg&usp=sharing>

- A4545 northbound full closure

Diversion Map – https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=12sE3zd1GbvMsS-LRxrn_57Hz9RECVkM&usp=sharing

1 October to 16 October

- M42 southbound between junctions 6 and 5a

Diversion Map - <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1D7FK11soo3g8ft5YH4EOBbbhk1WWGIg&usp=sharing>

17 October

- M42 southbound between junctions 6 to 5
- M42 northbound between junction 5a to 6

Diversion Map - <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1Oko88E7oQiWTaywg3ArdeSAzkmSW6QE&usp=sharing>

Traffic management closures between 22 September – 14 November

20 October to 27 October

- M42 southbound between junctions 6 to 5
- M42 northbound between junction 5a to 6

Diversion Map - <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1Oko88E7oQiWTaywg3ArdeSAzkmSW6QE&usp=sharing>

28 to 31 October

- M42 northbound between junctions 5 and 6
- A4545 northbound full closure

Diversion Map - https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=15Sx3p0illmNUVw_wNBR-Q6p-8l4bhQA&usp=sharing

3 to 11 November

- M42 northbound between junctions 5 and 6
- A4545 northbound full closure

Diversion Map - https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=15Sx3p0illmNUVw_wNBR-Q6p-8l4bhQA&usp=sharing

12 to 14 November

- M42 junction 5a northbound exit slip road
- A4545 northbound full closure

Diversion Map - <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1sOyWucg-2HjXu7GPxNzA-8FFQPZkSjA&usp=sharing>

Impacted bridges

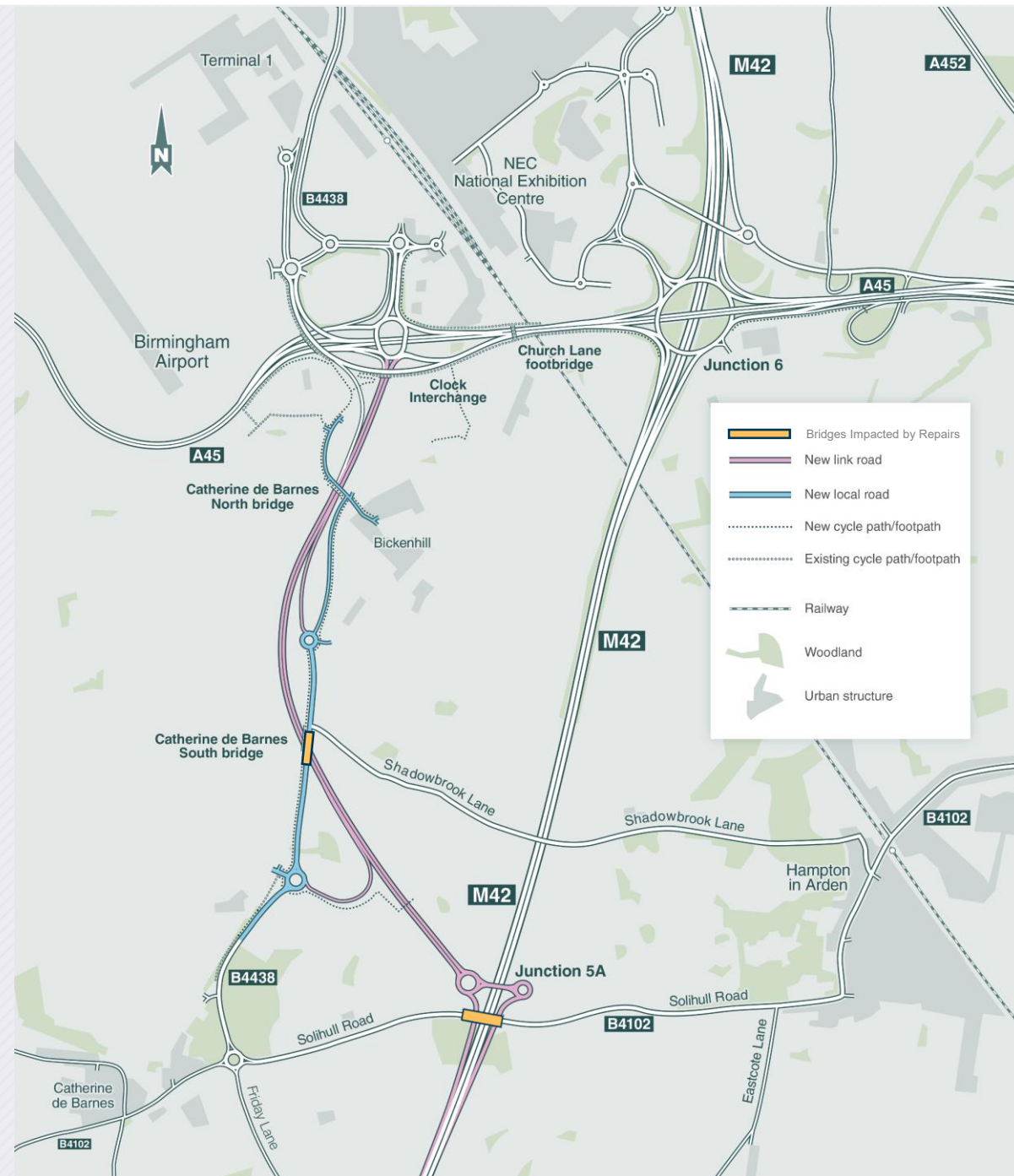
From 22 September 2025 the B4438 Catherine de Barnes Lane south bridge will be closed in both directions to motorised vehicles until 14 November 2025.

From 22 September 2025 the B4102 Solihull Road bridge will be closed in both directions to motorised vehicles until the end of 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.

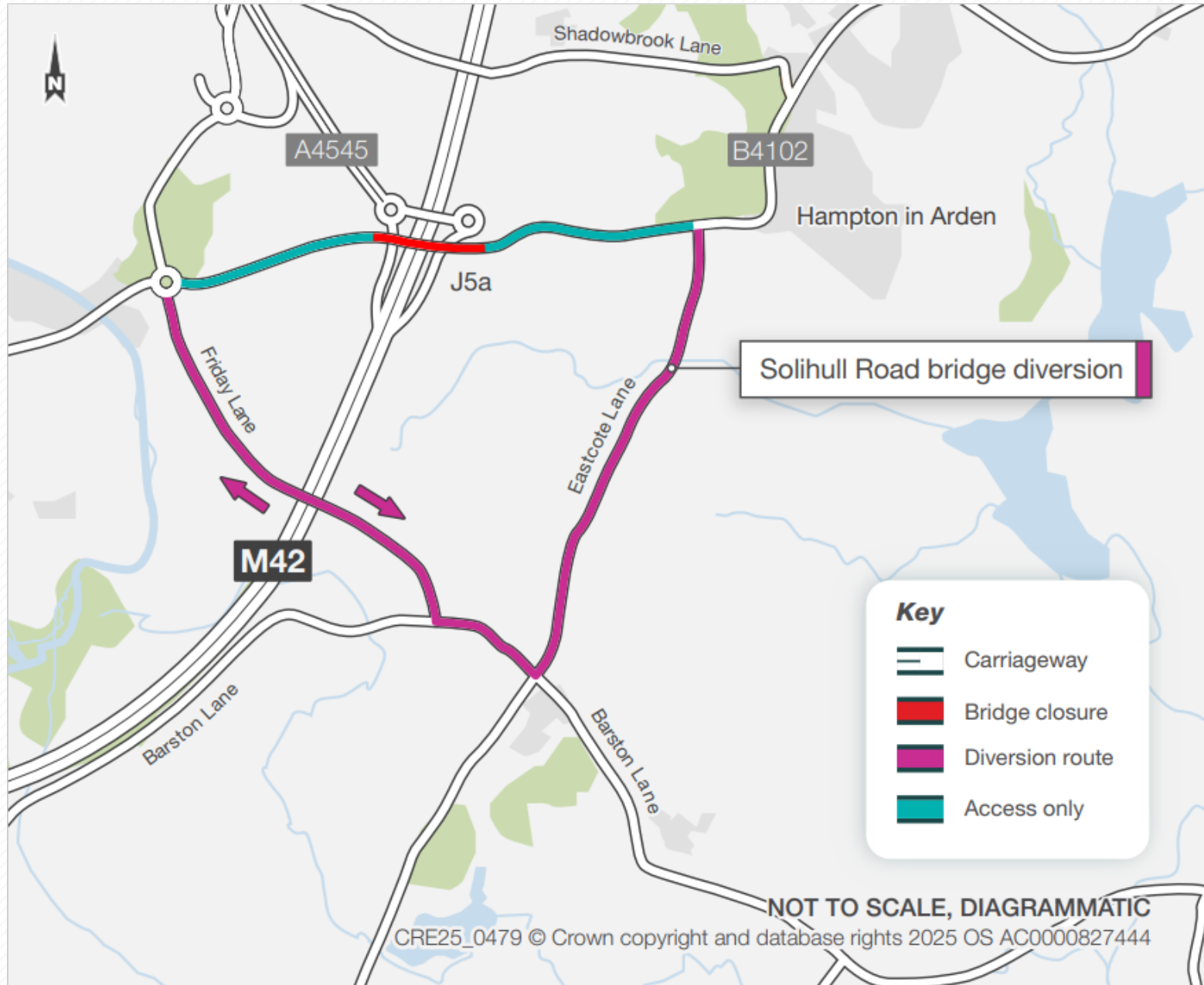
We understand the disturbance works can cause and we are committed to engaging with local communities and stakeholders to do all we can to minimise impacts.

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

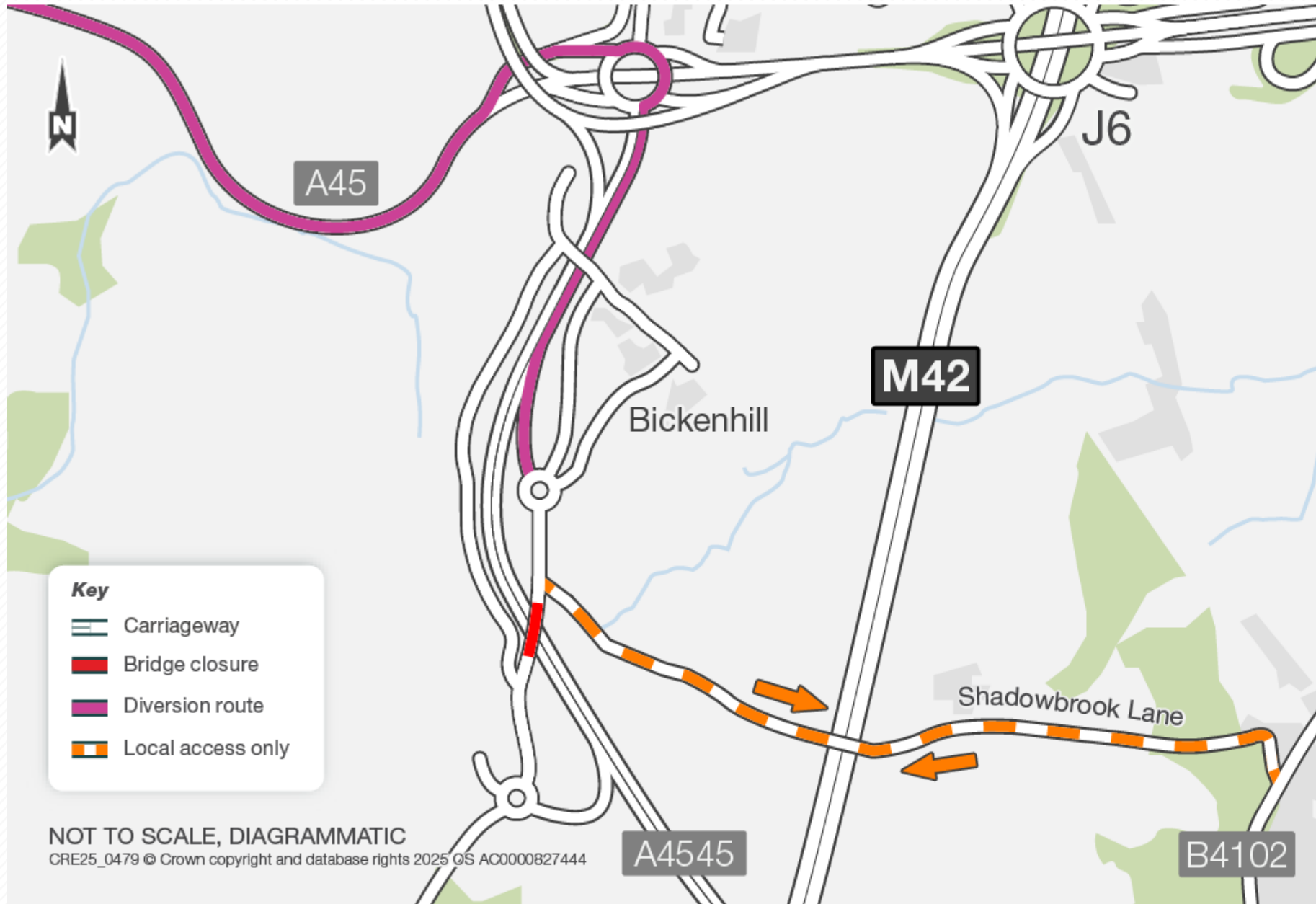


- Catherine de Barnes lane south bridge (reopen **14 November 2025**)
 - Approximate 8 weeks work
 - 24/7 single lane closure on A4545 northbound
 - Airport Link Road Slip unaffected
 - Series of night full closures of A4545 northbound
 - Bridge deck closed to traffic (remains open for cyclists and pedestrians)
 - 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



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 on the 14 November 2025, and Solihull Road bridge by the end of 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 closures of the A4545, as well as some closures of the M42 between junctions 5 and 6, to complete works safely.

Q: Why are there overnight closures of the M42 between Junction 5 and 6 and the A4545

A: To carry out the required works safely our workers require access to the undersides of Catherine de Barnes Lane south bridge and Solihull Road bridge. To ensure the safety of our customers and workers there will be a series of overnight closures on the A4545 and M42 between junctions 5 and 6. These works are being carried out at night to minimise the impact on our customers and their journeys.

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