



# M48 Severn Bridge March Newsletter

## Upcoming Closures

There are planned closures of both Severn Bridges throughout March for essential maintenance and repairs, see info below:

Road	Direction	Dates	Times
M48 Severn Bridge	Westbound	6th - 9th March	20:00 - 06:00 (continuous)
M48 Severn Bridge	Westbound	9th - 10th March	20:00 - 06:00 (2 nights)
M4 Prince of Wales Bridge	Eastbound	11th March	21:00 - 06:00
M4 Prince of Wales Bridge	Westbound	12th March	21:00 - 06:00
M48 Severn Bridge	Eastbound	13th & 14th March	20:00 - 06:00 (2 nights)
M4 Prince of Wales Bridge	Eastbound	16th & 17th March	21:00 - 06:00 (2 nights)
M4 Prince of Wales Bridge	Eastbound	18th & 19th March	21:00 - 05:00 (2 nights)
M48 Severn Bridge	Eastbound	20th - 23rd March	20:00 - 06:00 (continuous)
M4 Prince of Wales Bridge	Westbound	23rd - 25th March	21:00 - 06:00 (3 nights)
M4 Prince of Wales Bridge	Eastbound	30th - 31st March	21:00 - 06:00 (2 nights)

Further dates will be shared on the Severn Bridges webpage when confirmed. Go to [www.nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/the-severn-bridges](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/the-severn-bridges)

# Bridge Weight Limit Update

## Where are we now?

We continue to monitor the compliance with the 7.5t weight limit, and HGV volumes crossing the bridge remain consistently low. This has been vital in keeping safety risks to a minimum. We greatly appreciate the continued cooperation of businesses and the haulage industry in complying with the limit.

## Where do we want to be?

We want to get HGVs back on to the bridge as fast as we can. We are confident we can do this by managing HGV flows onto the bridge in a way that ensures the bridge doesn't get overloaded. We also want to understand more about how the bridge will perform in the long term and what might be needed to keep it safe for future generations.

## How do we get there?

We have developed a technology solution that will enable us to manage HGV access across the bridge with minimal delays and little to no impact on general traffic flows. We are finalising the detailed design work for this to be implemented in the summer and open by the Autumn of 2026. We are also concluding traffic modelling work to ensure we minimise AM peak hour congestion on the Wye Valley Link Road.

# Progress

The scheme is now in Detailed Design and is still on track to achieve our target of reopening the bridge to HGVs by October 2026. We are in the process of developing the construction programme with works expected to start in June 2026.

Medium Term Solution																				
	2025										2026									
	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
Project Initiation	✓																			
Team Mobilisation	✓	✓																		
Scoping & Procurement	✓	✓																		
Feasibility 1: Sifting		✓	✓	✓																
Feasibility 2: Development					✓	✓														
Options Selection						✓	✓													
Communications							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Detailed Design							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Procure & Mobilise												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Physical Works																				
Testing & Enforcement																				
Bridge Re-Opens to HGVs																				

KEY	
✓	Completed
✓	Underway / On-Track
✓	Not Started Yet

## What Happens Next?

- We are continuing to monitor the weight limits on the bridge and take necessary action to keep the bridge safe for our road users.
- Traffic modelling will shortly conclude, and we will then share the traffic and environmental impacts to show the benefits of the schemes to stakeholders.
- We are finalising our assessment of the need for an eastbound AM peak hours HGV restriction to avoid further congestion on the Wye Valley Link Road.
- Traffic Regulation Orders are being progressed to provide the legal powers to enforce the new arrangements when they are implemented and to provide a formal mechanism for people to have their say on how these are used.
- Construction of the new scheme will commence this summer.

## Long Term Study

The feasibility study for the long-term solution is currently ongoing and there are no further updates to the programme. There are no anticipated delays.

Low-cost trials relating to cable capacity strengthening are being undertaken on the Forth Bridge in Scotland, some will also be carried out on the Severn Bridge. This will include clamping cables and measuring the strength retained or transferred with these solutions. An external workshop will be held in October 2026 to present options for a technical solution.

The study is examining a wide range of issues, many of which have never been considered before and these will include:

- What experience can we draw from similar structures and colleagues around the world?
- What are the options for strengthening these types of structures?
- How long will it take to design and deliver these solutions?
- How will the traffic levels be managed as the works are undertaken?
- How much will it cost and what are the benefits?

## Meet the Team

**Gabriel (Gabe) Matthews** | Role: Project Support Officer

Hi! I'm Gabe and I am a Project Support Officer for the M48 Severn Bridge Medium and Long-Term solutions.

I joined National Highways in 2022 as a Level 3 Project Controls apprentice and was based in the Programme Management Office for Southwest Operations. When I completed my programme, I was moved to the Southwest Enquiries team responding to customer enquiries and complaints. I joined the M48 team on the 16<sup>th</sup> February.

Outside of work, I like to DJ, play video games, go on walks and travel with my partner. I am also a proud cat dad to my 3-year-old Luna, who is my absolute world.

I am the youngest of 6 children, my mum and sister also work for National Highways.

I'm looking forward to supporting both the medium and long-term solutions for the M48 bridge and being a part of a wonderful team!



*The NH Matthews family*



*Me and Luna*