



# M48 Severn Bridge April Newsletter

## Upcoming Closures

Please see below the planned closures of the M4 PoW Bridge and M48 Severn Bridge throughout April-May for essential maintenance and repairs:

Road	Direction	Dates	Times
M4 Prince of Wales Bridge	Westbound	28th, 29th & 30th April	21:00 - 06:00 (3 nights)
M48 Severn Bridge	Westbound	11th & 12th May	20:00 - 06:00 (2 nights)
M48 Severn Bridge	Eastbound	26th & 27th May	20 :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 engaging with key stakeholders, including the South Wales Trunk Road Agent, to ensure a collaborative approach and alignment between our delivery plans and the wider network's needs.

## 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.
- We'll be attending the Logistics Community on 20 May 2026 to provide a briefing on progress and to answer questions.

# 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																				
<b>KEY</b>																				
✓	Completed																			
	Underway / On-Track																			
	Not Started Yet																			

## 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

# Alan Feist – Programme Manager

As a Programme Manager in National Highways, I am hugely privileged to be responsible for overseeing some of our biggest enhancement schemes and most challenging renewals projects including the M48 Severn Bridge Medium and Long-Term Solutions.

I joined National Highways in 2017 and have previously delivered major enhancements at A31 Ringwood, A27 Eastbourne, M3 Junction 9 and led studies at A27 Arundel, A27 Worthing & Lancing, M27 Junction 3, and M27 Junction 8. I get a real buzz from building teams to find innovative solutions for our customers where we have challenges on the network.

I originally graduated as a Town Planner before working in local government as a Transport Planner for many years. I further developed my skills in the private sector, working with consultancies on active travel, city centre transport projects, new developments, and major road schemes. I returned to local government as Director of Planning & Development where I managed a broad portfolio of services before setting up on my own and spending many years supporting clients in business improvement, restructuring and project/programme management.

Working at National Highways is incredibly rewarding as you can make a real difference to the lives of people every day. Connecting people, communities and businesses whilst doing all we can to reduce our environmental and social impacts.

When I am not at work, I love to explore the coast and countryside by boat, bike and with my dogs as well as spending as much time as I can with family and friends.

