

M4 to Dorset Coast Connectivity study



The A34

Main phase of study underway

National Highways is delivering a strategic study named in the government's second Roads Investment Strategy, to consider strategic road connectivity from the M4 (between the M5 and the A34) and the Dorset Coast including the economic centres of Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole, Weymouth and Portland.

In 2021 we commissioned a Scoping Study Report which defined the area for this connectivity study. It set out the study objectives, the locational area and the seven key routes to be included.

During 2022 we will assess key connectivity and wider transport challenges on seven corridors, to consider which routes are best suited to provide strategic connectivity linking the M4 and Dorset Coast. The study will identify where investment is required and consider high level costs, benefits and impacts. This includes an assessment of how the recommendations could improve congestion, road safety and support wider regional development and business growth.

The study is due to complete in late 2022.

M4 to Dorset Coast



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Key study objectives

- Provide a quick, direct route linking the M4 with the Dorset Coast.
- Reduce delays and improve journey time variability caused by congestion.
- Help ensure convenient access from ports on the Dorset Coast to the M4 for freight traffic.
- Provide opportunities for travel by sustainable and low carbon modes.
- Identify opportunities to improve the natural environment and green infrastructure.
- Be a good neighbour and improve access and environments for communities.
- Provide opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding to enable healthier lifestyles.
- Provide a route that appropriately separates strategic and local traffic.
- Provide a route that supports tourism, economic growth and jobs.
- Provide a safe route linking the M4 to the Dorset Coast.

Key milestones and future engagement

We are writing to you to let you know that the main phase of study work has commenced, and we will provide further updates throughout 2022.

We anticipate the following study milestones:

- Initial evidence on existing and future route performance – late spring 2022.
- Preferred strategic route(s) identified – summer 2022.
- High level consideration of interventions – autumn 2022.
- Final report – late 2022.

We will continue to work closely and engage with key partners and stakeholders to take forward this important study, and we are planning a series of stakeholder engagement and communication activities to keep you aware of our progress.

**M4toDorsetCoastConnectivityStudy@
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