

Clonee - North of Kells Motorway **News**

Traffic Management & Temporary Diversions

Unfortunately, there has been some disruption to the local road network. To minimise any disruption, road closures are notified and planned in advance and to date there have been no overruns outside the agreed contractual dates. A 2.5 km diversion opened successfully from Pace to Blackbull on 19th April this year diverting traffic from the N3. This diversion included the realignment of 3No. regional roads and 4No. local roads. Phase 2 of the Blundelstown diversion was also opened in the period with a contra flow now operating on the roundabout.

Other diversions are planned in the coming months, details of which are attached. Please also be advised that these details are updated regularly on the M3 web site www.eurolink-m3.ie for those of you that are planning to travel in the area in the coming months.

The construction team appreciates that these diversions can be inconvenient to road users but are essential in constructing the works. Every effort is being made to minimize these disruptions.

Name of Road	Type of Traffic Management	Time Period
Pace to Blackbull	Diversion of N3 traffic	Commenced 14/02/08
N3 Road closure at Roestown, just north of Dunshaughlin	Existing N3 to be closed to facilitate a beam lift. Road to be closed at Night only.	3rd, 4th & 5th October 2008
Blundelstown	Traffic to diverted onto permanent alignment over Blundelstown Bridge	None
Ballybatter Road, Navan	Road Closure	25/06/08 – 25/03/09
Trim Road (R161), Navan	Traffic to diverted onto permanent alignment over Bridge	None
Phoenixstown Road	Road Closure	07/07/08 – 07/01/09
Robinstown Road	Road Closure	One month commencing in Mid-October approximately
Castlekeeran Rd	Road Closure	29/09/08 – 13/10/08
Oldcastle Road (R163), Kells	Traffic lights in operation	6 weeks commencing mid-October

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24 Hour Emergency Phone

Emergencies related to the works can be reported to 086 256 4919



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Quarterly news on the Clonee-North of Kells M3 Motorway



MILESTONES FOR THE PPP SCHEME

Contract Award 27th April 2007
Design and Construction Period 39 Months
Completion Date July 2010



Progress in the last months

In the last quarter bulk earthworks have recommenced in earnest with the target of completing mainline bulk operations this season. So far this season 3 million tonnes have been moved with a similar amount still to be completed for mainline works. Blacktop operations are underway with approximately 50,000 tonnes laid out of a total of 1,243,000 tonnes for the complete project. Construction of almost all of the structures has commenced and 36 structures have been completed.



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Environmental Works

Minimising the impact on the Environment is an important consideration when planning and programming the works on a project of this scale. Therefore, the following activities are being carried out on an ongoing basis throughout the project,

- ✓ Ground- and Surface-waters monitoring along the route.
- ✓ Dust Suppression and maintaining road surfaces through road sweepers.
- ✓ Noise and vibration monitoring.
- ✓ Intensive monitoring of hedgerows, trees, watercourses and ditches, along with continuing representations with the statutory Wildlife Authorities along the route in attempt to minimise the disturbance to wildlife.

Ecological mitigation measures continue through the seasons.

Birds

Intensive monitoring of hedgerows to ensure the preservation of all nesting birds during site clearance operations. All hedge and tree removal carried out outside the nesting season.

The plan includes measures to be adopted to protect the ecology of the surrounding area. At one location on the M3 six pairs of nesting sand Martins have found nesting sites within the site. This area was fenced off and an area of protection was designated around the Sand Martins which are protected under the Wildlife Act and under the Birds Directive.

Bats

- ✓ Felling of known roosts (under licence) undertaken by bat specialist.
- ✓ Erection of numerous bat boxes to provide alternative roosts.

Badgers

- ✓ Exclusion under licence of known setts impacted by the construction of the highway.
- ✓ Erection of badger-proof fencing to keep them from straying onto the finished motorway.



Sand Martin at Rathlugh



Badger Sett

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Maurice Sweeney, M3 JV Environmental Engineer, with mature spawning trout rescued on the River Tolka



Brown Trout from the Lismullin River

- ✓ Installation of underpasses so as to minimise fragmentation of current feeding corridors.

Otters

Underpasses and ledges have been incorporated into the design of the project to aid watercourses and wildlife cross under the motorway.

Watercourses

With the assistance of the Fisheries Board, the capture and translocation of salmonids, crayfish & lamprey prior to rediverting rivers through new culverts.

Eurolink M3, through the Construction joint venture, is committed to undertaking the works in an environmentally sustainable manner by putting in place a site Environmental Operating Plan and in particular by maintaining a sound environment for the fish within the rivers and streams that cross the motorway at numerous locations.

With the assistance of the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board, fourteen river diversions were undertaken in the new season and this involved fish rescue (destocking) on all. This was undertaken by means of electro fishing under licence from the Department of the Environment and the Marine Institute. The interesting element of this work was the health of the Lismullin River

(a small tributary of the Boyne). The numbers of fish found in the river shows that with good management, road construction work can be carried out with little negative environmental effects. In this situation seven culverts have been installed. In numerous areas M3 works have actually improved the channel with respect to salmonids.

The wetland area around the River Boyne at Kilcairn has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) by the The National Parks and Wildlife Service. This has led to special mitigation measures being implemented during the construction of the nearby Kilcairn Roundabout with a view to eliminating any potential negative impacts to the SAC.