

# M4 to Dorset Coast Connectivity study

Winter 2023



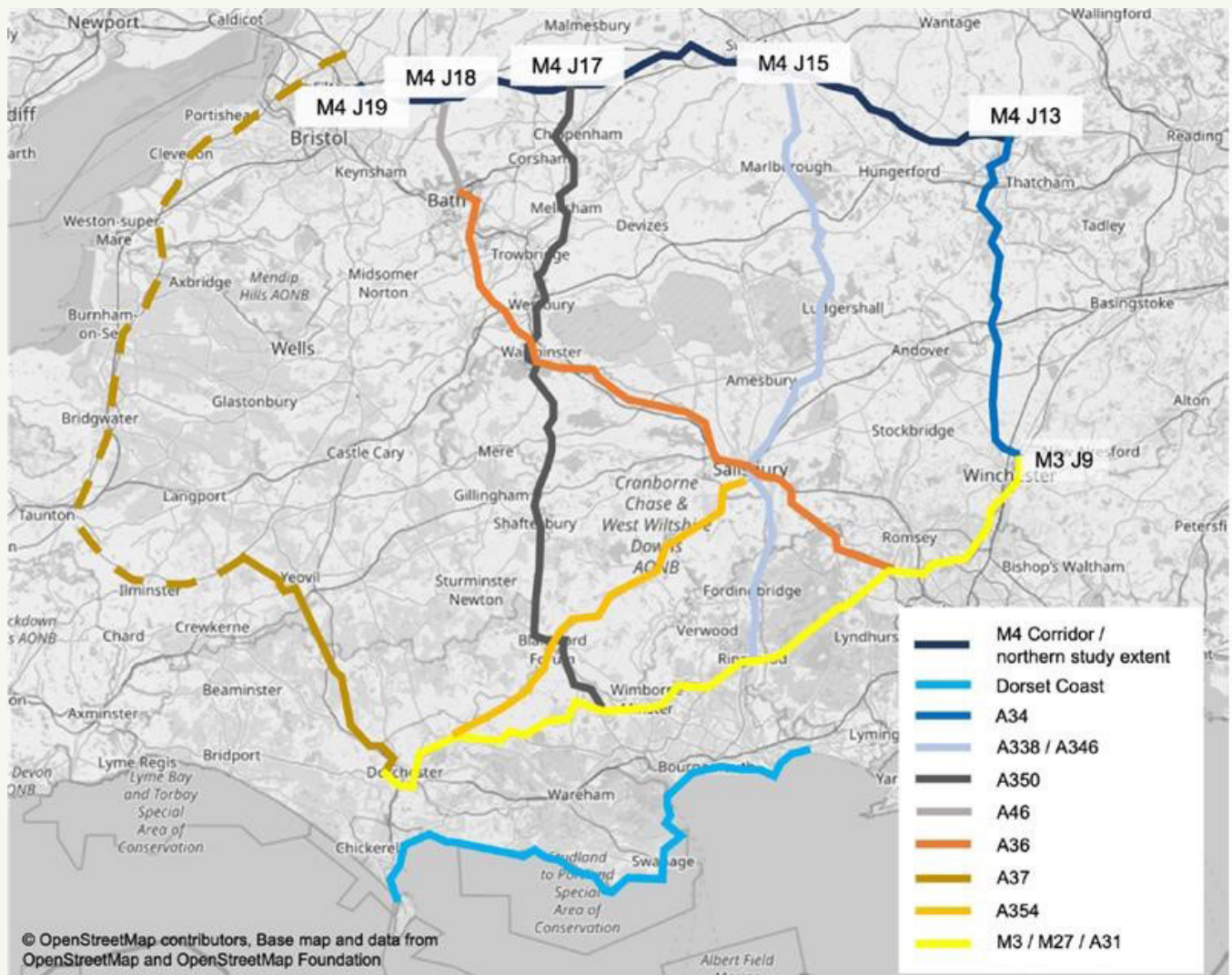
## What we've been doing in 2022

Since early 2022, National Highways has been undertaking a detailed strategic study to identify how we can improve connectivity between the M4 to Dorset Coast. Over this period we have engaged with key stakeholders and assessed various data, including journey time, delay, safety and environmental information across a number of different corridors in the study area. This work looks to:

- Identify which road corridor should form the main strategic north-south route
- Establish what improvements could be made to the road network to provide a high-quality link
- Understand what consideration may need to be given to trunking or detrunking
- Identify supporting measures (e.g. public transport, active travel) that should be considered

We will soon be finalising our technical work and developing our key study recommendations. Our expectation is that the strategic study will be completed by Spring 2023.

# Study Corridors



## What we've found

A number of key findings have emerged from our work to date, these include:

- The road network in the study area is underperforming and connectivity within this area is relatively poor
- Alongside any improvements to north-south connectivity there is a need to improve the east to west Dorset Coast Route
- Wider 'last mile' improvements are needed at the southern extent of the study area to enable access to key locations including ports and airports

The study has developed a long list of potential road improvements, building where appropriate, on previous work and known schemes. Active travel and multi-modal travel measures are also being developed to improve local and strategic connectivity.



## Engagement so far

Since our last update we have met with various stakeholders to brief them on our activity, to gather information and to understand their aspirations and concerns. This has included:

- Seven steering group meetings with local authorities and Sub-National Transport Bodies, as well as separate meetings with individual councils
- Meetings with representatives from local Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty boards and CPRE
- Briefings to the study area's MPs and the Roads Minister

## What happens next...

The key output from the study will be a report, which will contain our recommendations for a preferred corridor (or corridors) to deliver strategic north-south connectivity across the region, as well as a list of potential concept investments that could support these strategic movements.

We will continue to work closely and engage with key partners and stakeholders to take forward this important study, and further stakeholder engagement and communication activities will be carried out to keep you aware of our progress.

## More information

M4toDorsetCoastConnectivityStudy@nationalhighways.co.uk  
[www.nationalhighways.co.uk](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk)

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