

[Press release: UK Statement on an air link between South America and the Falkland Islands](#)



In the framework of the Joint Statement signed in London on 14 July 1999, the Joint Communiqué of 13 September 2016 and the letters presented by both Governments in February 2018, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is pleased to announce agreement with the Government of the Argentine Republic on an additional air link between South America and the Falkland Islands.

Following a detailed commercial process, agreement has been reached for a weekly LATAM flight from Sao Paulo to Falkland Islands (MPN), with a stopover in Cordoba, Argentina once a month in each direction.

It has also been agreed to hold annual bilateral air services discussions between the relevant authorities. This will include options to review further connectivity for passengers, cargo and mail services between the Falkland Islands, Argentina and continental South America, recognising that building closer links represents a shared goal.

The additional air link will greatly benefit the people of the Falkland Islands and support their economic development. It will also engender wider engagement and provide economic benefit for the region.

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Falkland Islands

UK statement following the conclusion of negotiations with the Government of Argentina on an additional air link between South America and the Falkland Islands.

Press release: Project 'setts' up new home for badgers near M6

For badgers living in undergrowth near the M6 in Coventry it was a case of location, location, location when we started work on a major motorway upgrade.

Press release: Project 'setts' up new home for badgers near M6

The species is protected by law, and the project team needed to ensure the animals could be relocated to new accommodation so that work could start on the vital upgrade, which will improve journeys for the 120,000 drivers who use this busy route every day.

So specialist teams set about designing and building a new badger sett from scratch. The result was a new home spanning 10 metres and comprising four nesting chambers and connecting pipes. The new sett is dug into the ground to replicate, as far as possible, typical excavations associated with badgers.

Smart motorway project sponsor Peter Smith said:

It's really important that as we work to improve people's journeys, we also protect the environment. We knew from our extensive surveys that we had a family of badgers living next to the motorway and, as a protected species, we needed to relocate the animals with as little distress as possible.

As with any scheme, we worked closely with specialist consultants to build the animals a new habitat that would replicate their former surroundings. We do everything we can to ensure the local

environment is protected throughout the programme of works. The badgers have settled in well to their new home and we're pleased to be able to play a part in protecting wildlife near the major road network of England.

The Road Investment Strategy (RIS) states that by 2020 Highways England must reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity, and by 2040 it must deliver a net gain in biodiversity.

The RIS also includes a ring-fenced environment fund of some £300 million to cover the period of 2015 to 2020, which includes funds for biodiversity projects.

Elsewhere, a new otter fence has been installed on the A64 in Yorkshire to prevent the animals crossing the road which could result in incidents and delays.

We've also joined forces with Stover Country Park and Devon County Council to deliver a giant reedbed filter system which will help to keep water clean at Stover Lake and provide valuable habitat for wildlife. The sustainable scheme, also supported by Natural England, is designed to capture and filter water run-off from the A38, nearby industrial sites and farmland before it enters the lake.

Work on the M6 motorway upgrade is set to be completed by March 2020.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[News story: T Level Funding Consultation Launched](#)

Colleges, schools and post-16 providers are being encouraged to have their say on how new T Levels will be funded