

[Press release: Traffic officers help to get four legged friends home safely](#)

Newly released footage shows how two New Forest ponies had gone the wrong way and ended up horsing around on the A31 eastbound in Hampshire at around 9.15am. Traffic officers worked with Hampshire Police as the two equines headed down the main road, before they turned onto the M27. A rolling road block was put out on the M27 by police and Highways England closed the A36 slip road before an agister helped to get the ponies through the road at 10.40am.

By then the ponies had travelled a furlong way down the three roads, and despite being saddled with the task of getting them off the road, it was a canter for Highways England traffic officer Michael Maidment who has been trained for situations like this.

Usually we're dealing with crashes or cars that have broken down, so it is different to be called out to deal with this type of horseplay.

When my partner and I got there we worked with our partners in the police to shoe them off the motorway, as the only studs we want on our roads are the ones between lanes.

There was quite a bit to do with closing the different roads and directing the ponies to safety, so our voices were a bit hoarse afterwards but fortunately the ponies were unhurt and were still stable to get home after we'd reined them in.

[New Forest ponies on the M27](#)

A spokesperson for Hampshire Police said:

We would like to thank the agister, Highways England's traffic officers and the members of the public for their assistance in dealing with this incident.

Highways England provides up-to-date traffic information via its [website](#), local and national radio travel bulletins, electronic road signs and mobile platforms.

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.