

[Press release: New M40 noise barriers: opportunity to find out more](#)

A £5 million plan to cut traffic noise for many people living along an 11.5 mile section of the M40 in Buckinghamshire and South Oxfordshire is now on show .

Highways England will install new noise reducing barriers at eight locations along the M40 between Loudwater (near junction 3 of the motorway) and Stokenchurch (near junction 5) in Buckinghamshire.

The plans are now available online, and a public event will be held on 30 June in High Wycombe. Construction is due to start in the autumn.

existing noise reduction barriers along the M40

Highways England project manager David Owen said:

These new barriers will help to cut traffic noise for many people living in these eight locations. Together with the resurfacing work that we have already completed, they should bring real improvements for communities along the M40.

We have been working hard with our partners to make sure that the plans will deliver the most benefit for the greatest number of people, and we're now able to share our plans with people locally and answer their questions. This is a great opportunity to find out more before we start work, both online and in person, so please visit our website and come and see us on 30 June.

The proposals have been developed by Highways England in partnership with the M40 Chiltern Environmental Group (M40 CEG), Wycombe District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council.

The noise reduction barriers will be installed at the following locations:

- Stokenchurch
- Wheeler End/Lane End
- Booker Cressex
- Daws Lea
- Flackwell Heath
- Loudwater
- Wooburn Moor (north)
- Wooburn Moor (south)

Information about the project including the proposed nature and exact location of the barriers is available online now, and a public information event where people will be able to talk to the project team, will take place

on 30 June between 1pm and 8pm at Wycombe Leisure Centre, Handy Cross, High Wycombe, HP11 1UP.

For further details and to keep up to date about the project, [visit the scheme website](#). If you have any further queries about the project, please email us at M40noise@highwaysengland.co.uk

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: Manchester Project Griffin Event](#)

On Friday 16 June 2017 around 750 people gathered at Manchester's One Central Convention Complex for a Project Griffin briefing. Attendees came from a range of industry sectors, including retail, hospitality, entertainment, and travel, to learn how they can protect against terrorist attacks, and what to do in the event of a major incident unfolding.

These briefings are typically given to groups of between 30 and 50 people, with the previous largest in Manchester consisting of around 140 attendees. With this event being delivered to more than five times that number, it demonstrates the desire of local businesses to keep their employees, and the wider public, safe from harm.

The briefing consisted of a package devised by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTS0) and delivered by [Counter Terrorism Security Advisors \(CTSA\)](#) from the North West Counter Terrorism Unit (NWCTU).

[Project Griffin](#) is a NaCTS0 initiative to help protect our workers, businesses and communities from the threat of terrorism. Launched in 2004, Project Griffin builds on existing partnerships between counter terrorism police, emergency services and local companies, helping businesses improve their security and preparedness plans in order to better protect their staff and customers.

Companies have to guard against a variety of potential threats, ranging from crude attacks by lone attackers inspired by terrorist or extremist political ideologies, to sophisticated directed plots requiring significant planning

and resources.

Detective Chief Superintendent Scott Wilson, the national police coordinator for Protect and Prepare, said:

Project Griffin has been a vitally important strand of our policing strategy for more than a decade, but recent atrocities in Manchester and London have brought into sharper focus the necessity for police and our partners in industry to work closely together.

I am delighted to see this partnership is flourishing in the North West, and I am sure this is typical of the close relationship police forces around the country share with their local businesses.

While there is no specific intelligence to say an attack is imminent, the threat from terrorism is Severe and that means an attack is highly likely. But it is important to keep a sense of perspective.

Our aim is to move public thinking from an irrational fear of terrorism to a rational concern, where the nature of the current threat is better understood, and staff members know what to do if they find themselves involved at the scene of a terrorist incident or if they should witness the preparations for a future attack.

This may include recognising and reporting suspicious behaviour, dealing with a suspect package, or how they react to a firearms or weapons attack, even though such events are thankfully rare.

We have recently renewed our crowded places guidance to ensure that both the public and industry have the most up-to-date information on how to mitigate the risk from terrorism, and that guidance can be found on the NaCTSO website.

Vaughan Allen, Chief Exec of CityCo, the city centre management company for Manchester and Salford, said:

Since the tragic night of the bomb, CityCo has been working with businesses to keep the city open and help ensure everyone working, living and visiting here feels safe.

It's a sign of how seriously businesses take the need for their staff to be as well informed as possible that this Project Griffin event will be one of the largest ever counter terrorism awareness events in the UK.

CityCo will continue to work with our partners at NWCTU and Greater Manchester Police in the months to come, rolling out further training and ensuring businesses have up-to-date and accurate advice.

[News story: Finsbury Park terrorist attack](#)

You can [apply](#) to the [Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority \(CICA\)](#), under the [Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2012](#), if you were injured or bereaved as a result of this incident. You can also call the CICA helpline on 0300 003 3601.

You do not need a paid representative, such as a solicitor or claims management company, to apply to CICA for compensation.

Our [Guide](#) provides information about free independent advice that may be available from local support services or other charitable organisations.

[News story: DIT DSO assists UK SMEs at Seawork 2017](#)

The annual Seawork exhibition and conference took place at the Mayflower Park, Southampton between Tuesday 13 and Thursday 15 June 2017.

Once again DIT DSO led on UK government help at the exhibition. They were able to offer UK companies a wide range of advice, information and support aimed at increasing overseas defence and security sales.

DIT DSO's principal customers were UK SMEs, who received informal advice or attended pre-booked appointments to meet DIT DSO experts to discuss more specific export opportunities.

HM government zone stand

The stand was manned throughout by the DSO Small Business Unit and the Military Export Support Team. They were joined at the show over the 3 days by a number of DIT DSO colleagues from the regional directorates and high growth team.

The stand also had a senior Royal Naval presence on all 3 days to engage with:

- visiting overseas naval officials
- colleagues from the Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- UK companies

Access to the stand was also extended to Department for International Trade (DIT) colleagues from the regional international trade and MoD business advisory teams.

Seawork

[Seawork International](#) is the largest and fastest growing commercial marine and workboat event to be held in a working port. This annual conference and exhibition is in its 20th year and is an important fixture on the [DIT DSO exhibition programme](#).

The show itself largely focuses upon civil and commercial maritime sales. This provided DIT DSO with an excellent opportunity to engage with new potential customers and to showcase the possibilities and benefits of diversifying into the overseas military market.

Examples of the range of kit that military colleagues have helped to sell in the past provided an attractive draw to the stand. This helped potential exporters understand just how wide and diverse the overseas defence and security markets can be.

DIT DSO hope to have started a good number of UK companies on a new journey into international trade.

[News story: CMA recommends release of BAES from long-standing undertakings](#)

The undertakings – put in place in 1999 – require BAES as the prime contractor to, where possible, allow other contractors in the defence industry access to its resources for the purposes of a Ministry of Defence (MoD) programme.

A group of independent panel members at the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has now [advised the Secretary of State](#) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) that changes of circumstances mean they are no longer appropriate. This follows a comprehensive review and consultation on the proposal they be removed.

The review looked at 4 defence sectors (warships, submarines, combat aircraft and munitions) and found that there have been relevant changes of circumstances. For example:

- the MoD has moved away from a competitive procurement process and made better use of long-term exclusive agreements and alliances;
- BAES has sold or closed its businesses in several sectors; and
- the capabilities of other defence contractors have developed such that any potential reliance on BAES has diminished.

This has meant a smaller role for the prime contractor model where competing suppliers might need to use the undertakings to facilitate access to BAES' resources. The group's view is that there is also little prospect of this situation changing in the foreseeable future.

The [CMA began reviewing these undertakings in July 2016](#) after a request by BAES. The undertakings were originally given by British Aerospace plc (now BAES), to the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, following its merger with the Marconi Electronic Systems business of General Electric Company plc, in 1999. Following Office of Fair Trading (OFT) reviews, the Secretary of State released BAES from most of the undertakings by 2007.

The remaining undertakings were designed to allow other actual or potential prime contractors to compete for contracts where they might need to sub-contract BAES' resources. BAES has also been obliged to appoint a compliance officer to ensure this requirement is met. The group has now advised that BAES should be released from these remaining undertakings.

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will now consider this advice and is expected to make a decision shortly.