



PROJECT CASE STUDY

Operation BROCK M20 Kent Junctions 8-9 *Balfour Beatty*

Published: August 2024

OVERVIEW

Operation BROCK is part of a series of measures implemented by National Highways to keep the M20 open in both directions between junctions 8 and 9 in the event of disruption to services across the English Channel, by using different holding areas.

Operation BROCK sees lorries heading to Dover queue on one side of the M20, with the other carriageway operating as a contraflow.

Highway Care has completed a two-year project, concluding in June 2024, working as subcontractors for Balfour Beatty PLC on Phase 2 of the project to install and relocate a Quickchange Moveable Barrier (QMB) system, including rental and relocation of temporary crash cushions.

SOLUTION

This solution was recommended to meet the unique requirements of this project, which required a convenient way to implement Operation BROCK without the need for costly traffic management or purchasing of additional land.

The scope of subcontract works comprised the provision of all necessary people, equipment, plant and materials for the delivery and installation of moveable barriers in connection with Phase 2 of the main contract. This included, where applicable, any temporary works design.

Throughout the project, Highway Care has moved more than 18km of QMB during each shift, using their innovative barrier transfer machine, the Road Zipper (pictured) which enables a vehicle to create contraflow lanes quickly and easily.

This is the first and only time this system has been used in the UK. It has been instrumental in keeping goods flowing to and from the port of Dover, which is vital for UK supply chains.

"Highway Care have been pivotal in the development of Operation BROCK, contributing their expertise and experience in the use of the movable barrier system. The introduction of the movable barrier is what made BROCK such a success, making it possible to implement and remove in a typical night shift."

On two occasions BROCK had to be deployed as an emergency, giving only a couple days notice to organise resources and have everything ready to go, and on both occasions Highway Care performed a critical role.

Throughout the project, Highway Care have always been a collaborative and supportive sub-contractor offering their expertise to help achieve solutions for a unique project."

IAIN HUTCHINGS
Senior Agent, Balfour Beatty

