



**For immediate release
12 March 2008**

High Winds Cause 56 Miles of Tailbacks around Thelwall Viaduct

Following two heavy goods vehicles blowing over around 4.00am this morning the M6 at the Thelwall Viaduct near Warrington has been closed. Due to high winds the motorway will be closed until further notice. This has caused havoc on the roads in the North West with around 56 miles of traffic tailbacks.

Traffic congestion hit its peak at around 10.00am this morning with commuters and transporters still trying to get around the road block.

The worst hit roads are:

- M56 westbound from Manchester to Altrincham – 11 miles of stationary traffic
- M56 from the A49 to the M6 – 5 miles of stationary traffic
- A49 northbound from Tarporley towards Warrington – 12 miles of very slow traffic
- M6 northbound from junction 19 – 5 miles of stationary traffic
- M6 southbound from junction 23 towards the M62 – 5 miles of very slow traffic
- A556 between M6 at junction 19 and M56 at junction 8 – 4 miles of very slow traffic
- A580 westbound towards M6 – 6 miles of very slow traffic
- A580 from Leigh into Manchester – 6 miles of very slow traffic

Trafficmaster spokesperson, Georgina Osborn, comments:

“This one single area in the country has come to a standstill due the weather conditions. This will undoubtedly not only frustrate drivers on the road, but will also cost businesses time and money as people will be in late for work and deliveries will be behind schedule.”

Traffic problems started to build up from 7.00am and Trafficmaster predicts that roads will not return to normal flow until late this afternoon, weather permitting.

For more information on roads in your region or pictorial depicting road speeds, please contact Georgina Osborn on tel: 01234 759 315 / email: georgina.osborn@trafficmaster.co.uk

ENDS

About Trafficmaster

Trafficmaster is an expert in intelligent driving. The Group comprises US-based Teletrac Inc. and Trafficmaster Plc in the UK. Both organisations focus on intelligent vehicle services which enhance the driving experience and improve business performance by saving companies and drivers time and money and reducing their environmental impact.

Teletrac Inc offers fleet tracking, management and navigation solutions under the Fleet Director brand across the US, serving 4,000 fleets and a total of 65,000 commercial vehicles, using wireless and GPS technology.

The group has also developed a suite of Trafficmaster services in the UK. Trafficmaster's key product is the award-winning Smartnav, an intelligent satellite navigation system, which uses live traffic information and real-time road speeds to calculate optimum routes and avoid traffic congestion on the way. Trafficmaster's comprehensive traffic data means Smartnav is continually updated with traffic information, road closures and speed camera locations, without the need for CDs or internet-sourced updates.

Trafficmaster also offers Trackstar stolen vehicle tracking, monitored 24 hours a day in the Trafficmaster Control Centre. Stolen vehicles can automatically inform Trafficmaster and are then monitored remotely and police informed of their whereabouts for fast and efficient recovery.

The company provides live traffic information direct via mobile phone services and Radio Data System -Traffic Message Channel (RDS TMC) to other aftermarket and factory-fit satellite navigation systems.

Trafficmaster also maintains a unique traffic monitoring network of 7,500 sensors, covering 8,000 miles of UK motorways and trunk roads.

Trafficmaster was founded in 1988 and floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1994. Teletrac Inc is a wholly owned US subsidiary company.

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