

A52

Nottingham junctions
improvement scheme



The A52 is the key east-west link across the East Midlands. Drivers on this road often experience congestion because of the volume of traffic, resulting in significant queuing and delays to journeys.

Over the last few years, we've been upgrading junctions along the A52 in Nottingham to ease traffic congestion, minimise queuing, improve safety, reduce delays, and make journey times more reliable for everyone.

We started our improvement work at Nottingham Road and Cropwell Road junctions, which we opened to traffic in 2017. Since 2020, we've been working with our delivery partner Griffiths Farrans Joint Venture, and have now completed our work on a further four junctions, which include:

- Bingham Road junction
- Stragglethorpe Road junction
- Silverdale roundabout
- Gamston roundabout

We'll start the final phase of our improvement work in autumn 2024, where we'll continue to work with Griffiths Farrans to upgrade Nottingham Knight and Wheatcroft junctions.

We've been delivering the full A52 Nottingham junctions improvement scheme over three phases, to reduce disruption to customers as much as possible. Our phased approach over a number of years has allowed us to keep as many of the junctions as possible open at any one time, making it more convenient for drivers and the local community to travel around Nottingham.



Our improvements

People who regularly use the A52 in Nottingham, or live close to the junctions that we've improved, may have noticed the benefits of our work at each location. The overall scheme has been designed so once we've completed all phases, you'll benefit from:

Eased congestion by reducing queuing and delays

The planned upgrades will improve journey time reliability for all drivers using the junctions by providing additional lanes and traffic signals to manage the flow of traffic.

Improved access for pedestrians and cyclists

To make it safer to cross, we've added new signalised crossings at the junctions for pedestrians and cyclists. All crossing points have been designed for users with disabilities.

Improved safety

To reduce the risk of accidents, changes to the layouts of the junctions have been designed to reduce congestion and turning conflicts.

Supported local growth

Improvements to the junctions along the A52 will encourage continued investment in the regional economy and support new corporate, commercial and residential opportunities.

Once all the work is completed, including the larger junctions of Nottingham Knight and Wheatcroft, we'll be analysing traffic flow data to evidence the impact our improvements have made.

Picture below: Bingham Road junction



What changes have we made during Phase 2 of the scheme?

At Bingham Road junction, we've:

- widened all approaches to increase capacity
- installed new traffic lights, streetlights and light-controlled crossings, to manage traffic flow and improve safety
- removed two left-turn movements which have allowed improvements to the timing of the traffic lights, improved safety and reduced congestion



Picture: Bingham Road junction

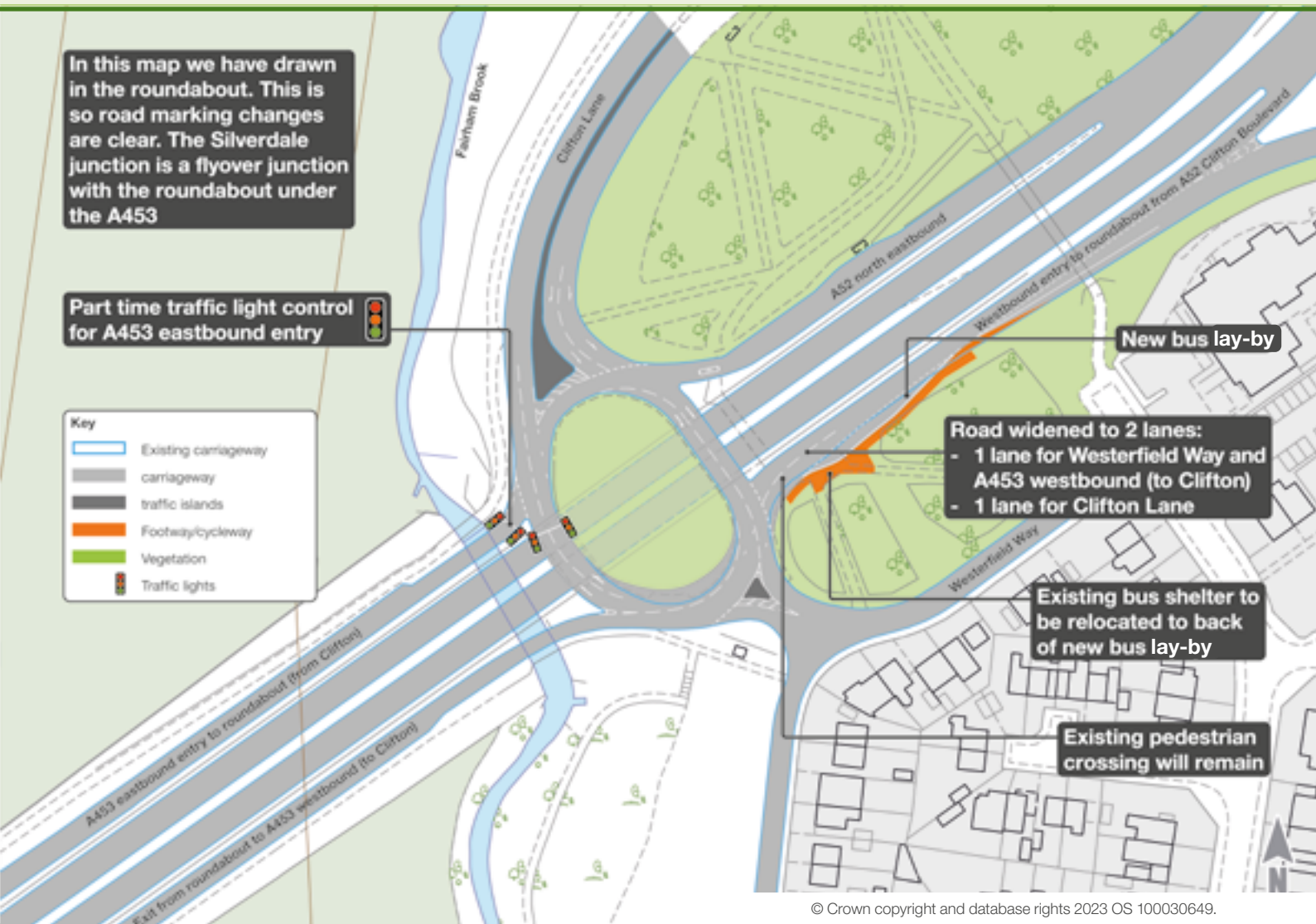


At Silverdale roundabout, we've:

- created a new bus lay-by which has allowed us to widen the westbound slip road to create two lanes at the junction, to improve traffic flow
- widened the roundabout to produce two lanes and installed part-time traffic lights on the eastbound entry, to improve traffic flow and ease congestion on the slip roads
- installed one maintenance lay-by to improve safety for maintenance workers



Picture: Silverdale roundabout



What changes have we made during Phase 2 of the scheme?

At Stragglethorpe Road junction, we've:

- improved traffic flow by removing the U-turn movement
- repositioned the speed cameras to deter drivers from speeding



Picture: Stragglethorpe Road

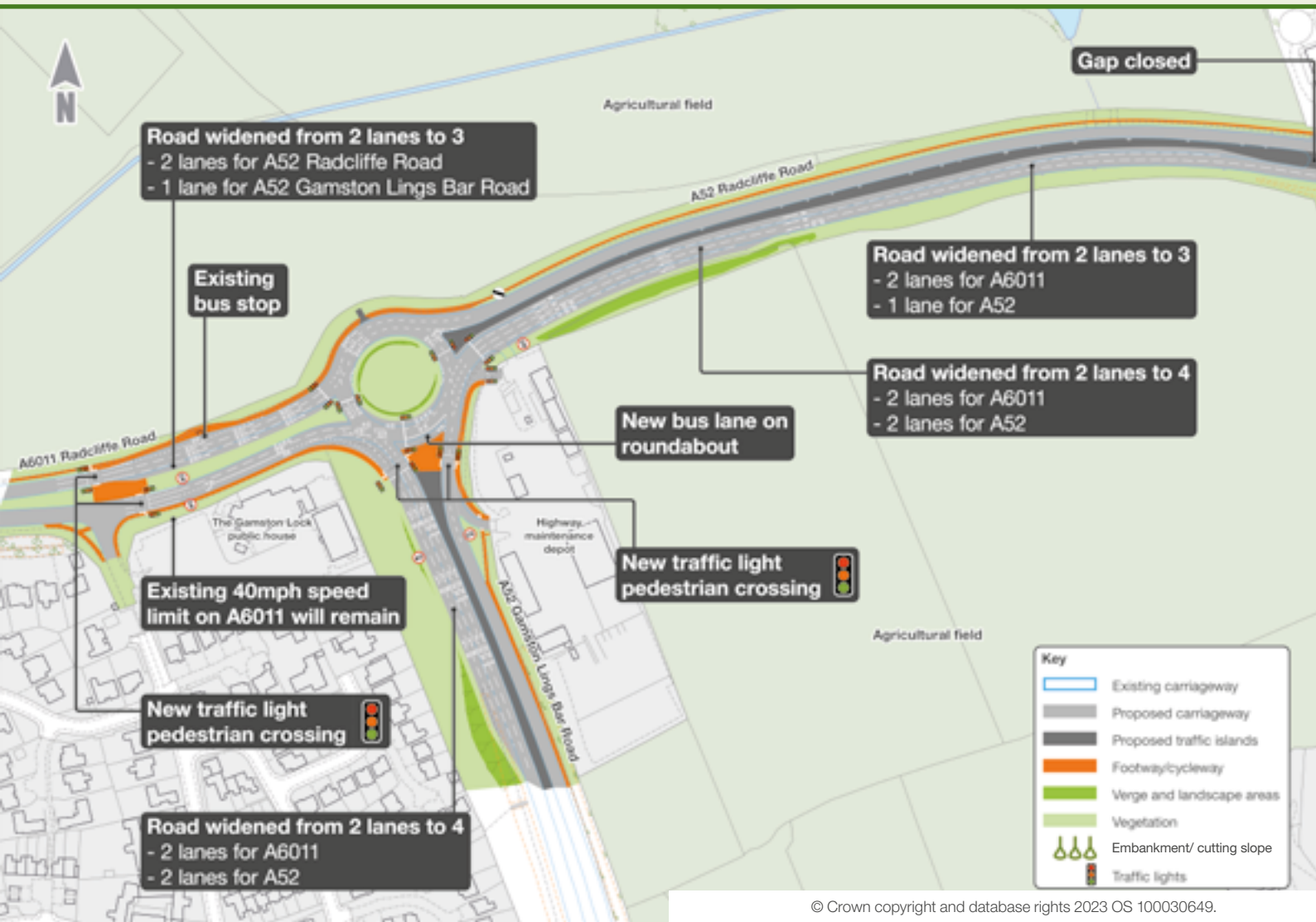


At Gamston roundabout, we've:

- created extra lanes on the approach roads and extended the bus lane around the roundabout, to reduce queuing and congestion
- reduced the speed limit to 40mph to improve safety
- installed new traffic lights to manage the traffic flow on the roundabout, and new traffic light-controlled crossings to help pedestrians and cyclists cross the junction safely
- added a new traffic light-controlled system to the Nottinghamshire County Council maintenance depot's exit, to allow safer movement of their vehicles
- installed four maintenance lay-bys to improve safety for maintenance workers

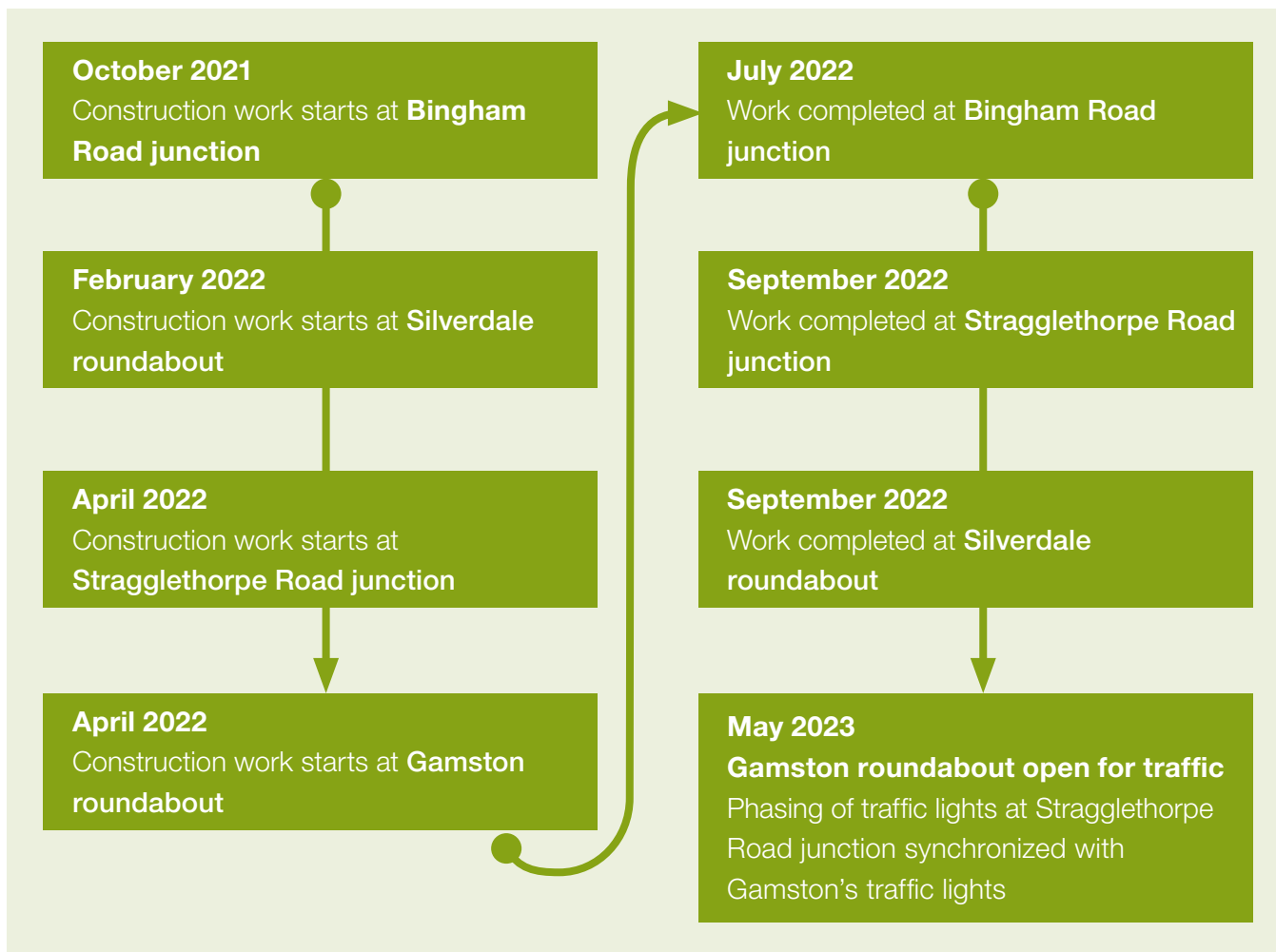


Picture: Gamston roundabout



Phase 2 timeline

In 2017 we completed Phase 1 of our improvement work at Nottingham Road and Cropwell Road junctions.



Through careful and considered traffic management, it's been possible for us to construct these four smaller junctions together in Phase 2, which has enabled us to deliver the improvements more efficiently. In autumn 2024 we'll start Phase 3 of this scheme at Nottingham Knight and Wheatcroft junctions.



"The end result is very good and it seems to be noticeably safer for pedestrians and motorists to navigate the junction."

Survey respondent, January 2023



“The work on the A52 scheme has been handled very well and with minimal disruption.”

Local resident, February 2023

Picture: Members of the A52 delivery team, together with representatives from the Silverdale Community Association.

At National Highways, alongside improving our roads, we also like to make a positive difference to the communities and the environment where we work. Since we started work on the smaller junctions, alongside our delivery partner Griffiths Farrans Joint Venture, we’ve:

- joined up with Keep Britain Tidy for a community event and collected 40 bags of litter from the carriageway next to Silverdale roundabout
- engaged with local primary and secondary schools, a college and a university, delivering careers sessions and environmental workshops, to encourage young people to consider a career in the industry
- donated food and clothing to local charities to help local people in need
- hosted work placements for undergraduates, including Nottingham Trent University, to support students’ career experience
- recycled our waste wood products through the social enterprise, Community Wood to reduce our environmental impact

Picture from top left - right and then bottom left - right:

Litter Pick in August 2022 at Silverdale junction. Nottingham Trent University student placement, Anthony Sealy. STEM event with the University of Nottingham. Waste wood removed from site and recycled by social enterprise, Community Wood.



Additional project work

As part of our main work, we also secured some additional funding to support communities near the A52. Following community feedback, we added safety enhancements at the Stragglethorpe Road junction.

We also used social value funding to pay for materials to refurbish a playground at the Silverdale Community Centre. Some of our project team members volunteered to carry out this work in spring 2023 to create a positive impact for the local community. As we continue our work at Nottingham Knight and Wheatcroft junctions, we'll be seeking to secure further funding so we can deliver improvements chosen by the community that will have lasting benefits.



Picture: GFJV team at the Silverdale Community Centre.

Partnerships

We understand that roadworks can be disruptive, that's why our project delivery team collaborated with several organisations to make the best use of our road closures. Examples include:

- Rushcliffe Borough Council carried out litter picking and general cleansing, using our overnight closures
- Virgin Media co-ordinated repairs to their telecoms systems, using our traffic management
- Severn Trent Water carried out repairs at Gamston after we identified and reported leaks following our drainage surveys

As well as external agencies, other teams within National Highways have maximised opportunities to use our traffic management. This includes carrying out vegetation clearance, traffic signal and streetlight maintenance using A52 lane closures to keep operatives safe. The A52 team has also incorporated work for National Highways Operations Directorate, including resurfacing at Silverdale, installation of speed cameras and ditch clearance.

These examples of collaboration and partnership working are estimated to have saved the public purse around £1 million.



Picture: Silverdale roundabout

Larger junctions

When planning roadworks, we do our best to minimise our impact while carrying out work safely. However, we understand it can still be disruptive. For this reason, to give the local community and road users a break from roadworks, we'll start the final phase of improvement work in autumn 2024. Until then, we'll continue to refine our plans and engage with the local community.

Our upgrades to Nottingham Knight and Wheatcroft junctions will ease congestion, improve journeys and support development around Nottinghamshire. Our work on the larger junctions is part funded by developers to support the increased vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist traffic that will be generated from local growth. To reduce the length of time it will take to complete the final phase, both junctions will be constructed together in Phase 3.

What changes will we make at each of the junctions?

At Wheatcroft junction:

- The roundabout will be enlarged to the south of the existing roundabout and redesigned as a through-about junction with a new link road from A52 eastbound to A606 Melton Road
- All approaches to the junction will be widened to provide extra lanes and increase capacity at the junction. This includes:
 - widening the A52 eastbound approach from 3 lanes to 6
 - widening the A52 westbound approach from 2 lanes to 4
 - widening the A606 Melton Road southbound approach from 3 lanes to 4
 - widening the A606 Melton Road westbound approach from 2 lanes to 4
 - all crossing points will be designed for users with disabilities
 - new signalised junctions and crossings

At Nottingham Knight junction:

- The roundabout will be enlarged to the east of the existing roundabout and redesigned as a through-about junction with a new link road from the A52 eastbound
- All approaches to the junction will be widened to provide extra lanes and increase capacity at the junction. This includes:
 - increasing the A52 eastbound approach from 3 lanes to 4
 - increasing the A52 westbound approach from 3 lanes to 4
 - closing the access from Landmere Lane to A52 eastbound
 - all crossing points will be designed for users with disabilities
 - new signalised junctions and crossings

Facts and figures



Number of people who worked on the construction - **728 people**



During the **160,648 hours** we've worked on this project, we've had no reportable accidents



Whenever possible, we've engaged with **local suppliers and subcontractors** to carry out this work



Number of hours of employee training undertaken - **1,433 hours**



3,800 tonnes of material removed for recycling

“Our experience as a business that was parallel to the A52 construction work has been nothing short of positive. From the contact we received from National Highways regarding the work, to the workers popping in to have a chat and a meal - as a business we can't fault anything. The Gamston Lock has a hotel and so this advance notice from the team at National Highways was invaluable to keeping our customers and guests happy, and workers were cooperative with access to the site, even when the roads had been closed.

So, from us at The Gamston Lock, we have to say a massive thank you to the National Highways team, including all the workers, for making it so the road closures have had such a minimal impact on business, and for always being so approachable and helpful with all the enquiries we've had. Thank you!”

**Terry Titley, Gamston Lock,
April 2023**



Contact details

To stay up to date with the latest traffic information in your area, we recommend motorists follow us on Twitter (@HighwaysEMIDs). If you'd like any further information about the A52 Nottingham junction improvement scheme, please:

- Email: **A52nottinghamjunctions@nationalhighways.co.uk**
- Telephone: **0300 123 5000**
- You can also register to receive regular scheme updates by email via the webpage, **www.nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/east-midlands/a52-nottingham-junctions/**



A52 improvement scheme visuals



Picture: Gamston roundabout



Picture: Silverdale roundabout



Picture: Bingham Road



Picture: Gamston roundabout



Picture: Silverdale roundabout

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