

Opening ceremony **A453**

20 July 2015



What is happening today?

Today we celebrate the completion of improvement to a 7 mile (11.5km) section of the A453 between M1 junction 24 and Farnborough Road junction in Clifton, on the outskirts of Nottingham.

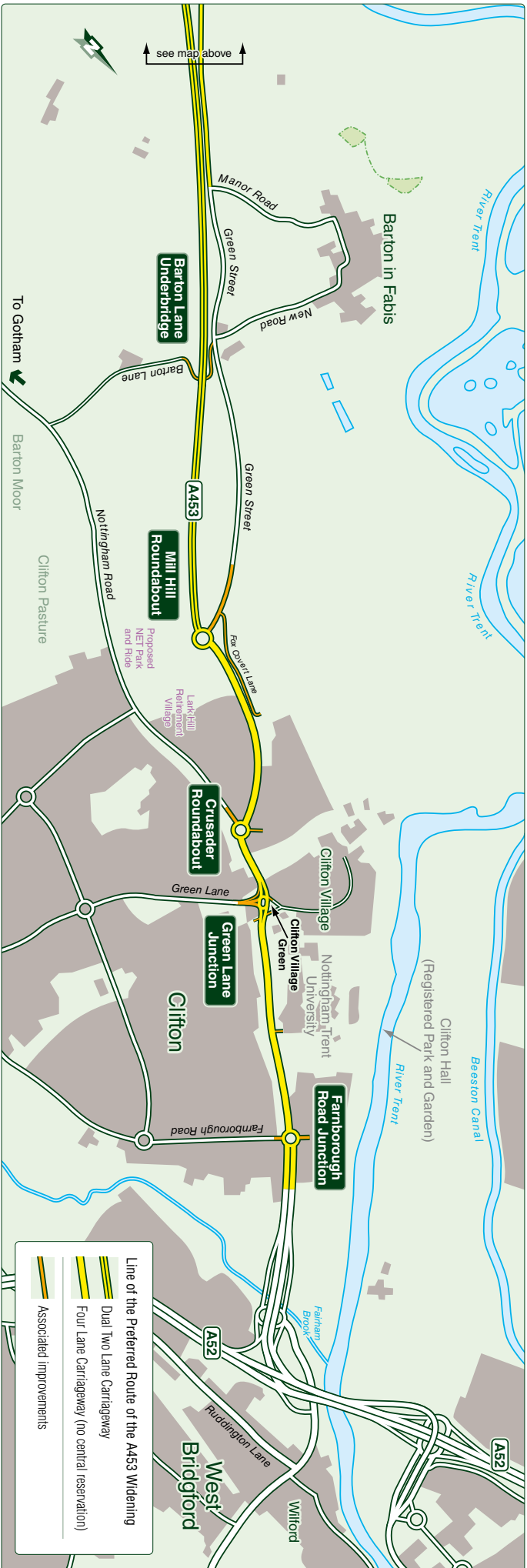
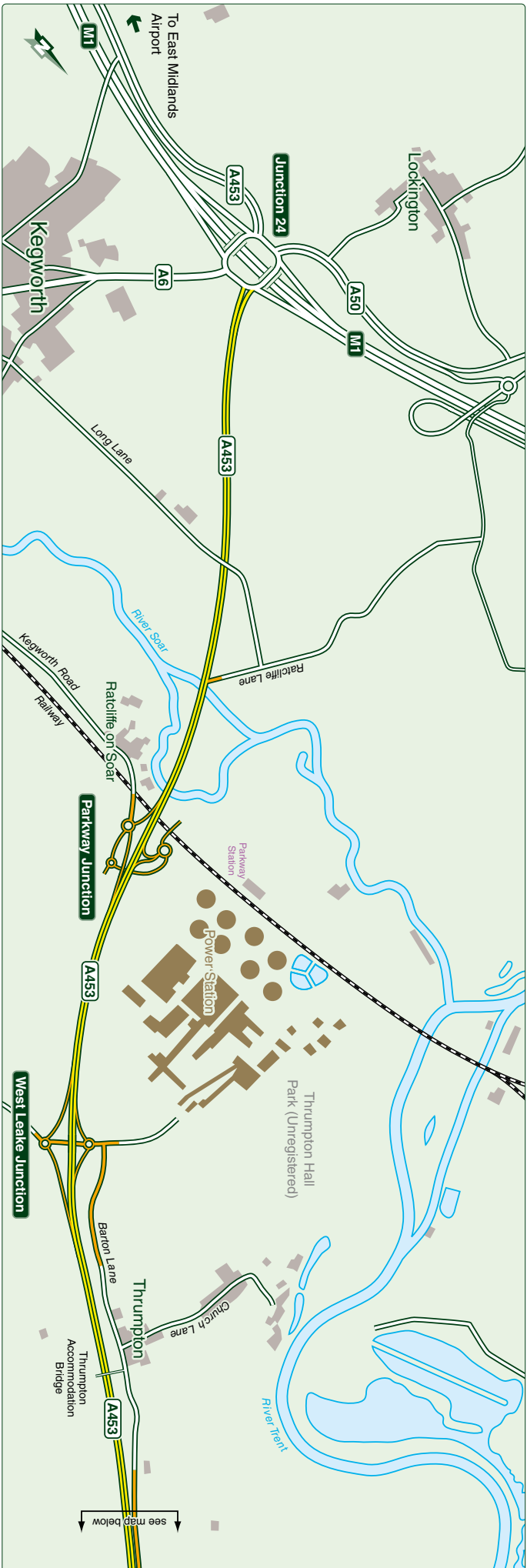
Over the last two and a half years, Highways England has worked in close partnership with Laing O'Rourke, WYG, and the supervision team to build this excellent scheme, which opened as planned. We have widened the 1.5 mile (2.5km) urban section between Farnborough Road junction in Clifton and Mill Hill to four lanes, with no central reservation and a speed limit of 40mph. The 5.5 mile (9 km) rural section between Mill Hill and M1 junction 24 has been widened to dual carriageway, with a 70mph speed limit.

The scheme has generated widespread support from the public, and has been a long term aspiration of local government and businesses. We are delighted to welcome all of our guests to the official opening ceremony today.

Remembrance Way

Following discussions with local councils and communities it has been agreed that this section of the road will be known as Remembrance Way in honour of the 453 members of the armed services who lost their lives while serving in Afghanistan.





Line of the Preferred Route of the A453 Widening

- Four Lane Carriageway (no central reservation)
- Dual Two Lane Carriageway
- Associated Improvements

see map below

see map above

How will the community benefit?

The A453 forms part of the national strategic road network, linking Nottingham with the south via the M1/M42, and is the principal route to East Midlands Airport. The improved section was previously single carriageway, difficult to maintain and had a poor safety record. It was one of the most heavily congested routes in the region at peak times.

The improved layout will increase safety, reduce congestion and improve journey-time reliability, benefiting road users and businesses. The junction improvements have also improved access to rail and tram facilities.

As part of the scheme works we have provided a more accessible pedestrian/cycle route away from the road. This provides non-motorised users, including horse-riders, with a safe route between Clifton and Kegworth and to link Barton in Fabis to Gotham and Kegworth.



UWessex
archaeology

Helping the environment

We have sought to minimise the scheme's impact on the surrounding area, especially in the newly built section of the route between Thrumpton and Clifton, and to contribute positively to the local environment. We have planted around 130,000 trees and 45,000 bulbs, using local native species wherever possible. We have protected wildlife habitats and the historical heritage.

Archaeologists have carried out extensive investigations and uncovered two Iron Age/Roman settlements at Mill Hill and east of Thrumpton.

Construction

New split-level junctions have been built at Parkway and West Leake and a new roundabout has been constructed at Mill Hill. These works will improve traffic flow and provide convenient access to East Midlands Parkway Station, Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station and the NET 2 tram Park and Ride site. Signal controls have been introduced at Crusader Roundabout, Green Lane, Nottingham Trent University and Farnborough Road.



In order to widen the rural section, new bridges have been built including Ratcliffe Cut (canal), the River Soar and the Midland Mainline railway.

During construction around 800,000 cubic metres of earth was moved and around 300,000 square metres of surfacing was laid.

We made every effort to keep local people informed of the construction works and how they might be affected by them, with individual notifications, newsletters and regular community clinics hosted by Laing O'Rourke.

A traffic management plan, developed in consultation with the police and local authorities, ensured that traffic was able to flow as much as possible during peak hours. Lower temporary speed limits during construction protected both road users and the workforce, with safety improving during the works. Residents were considered, particularly when overnight works were necessary, and safer, quieter white noise reversing alarms were used on construction vehicles. Noisier activities were carried out during early evening where possible.



Achievements

- The M1 junction 24 Pinch Point works were delivered successfully as part of the A453 Widening scheme
- The scheme has been awarded 'Excellent' in the CEEQUAL civil engineering sustainability assessment
- Two ICE East Midlands regional awards have been presented to the scheme:
 - Merit winner - Major Project award category
 - Commended - Team Achievement category
- Three Association for Project Safety awards:
 - Engineering Project of the Year
 - CDM Innovation award for DFMA
 - Regional Health and Safety award
- Bronze Considerate Constructors award

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Printed on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources.

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ
Highways England Company Limited
registered in England and Wales
number 09346363