

## Project update

## A47 Great Yarmouth Junctions improvements

### About us

National Highways is the Government company responsible for operating, maintaining and improving England's major A-roads and motorways which includes the A47 at Great Yarmouth in Norfolk.

### Investing in your roads

At National Highways, we believe in a connected country and our network makes these connections happen. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways - engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and, most importantly, safe. That's why we're delivering £15 billion of investment on our network – the largest investment in a generation. The A47 Great Yarmouth Junctions improvements scheme is a critical part of this investment and will improve journeys through Great Yarmouth, which is great news for the local and regional economy.

In this brochure we explain our improvements for the A47 Great Yarmouth Junctions.



## Project update

### Read about our latest design

#### Investing in the A47

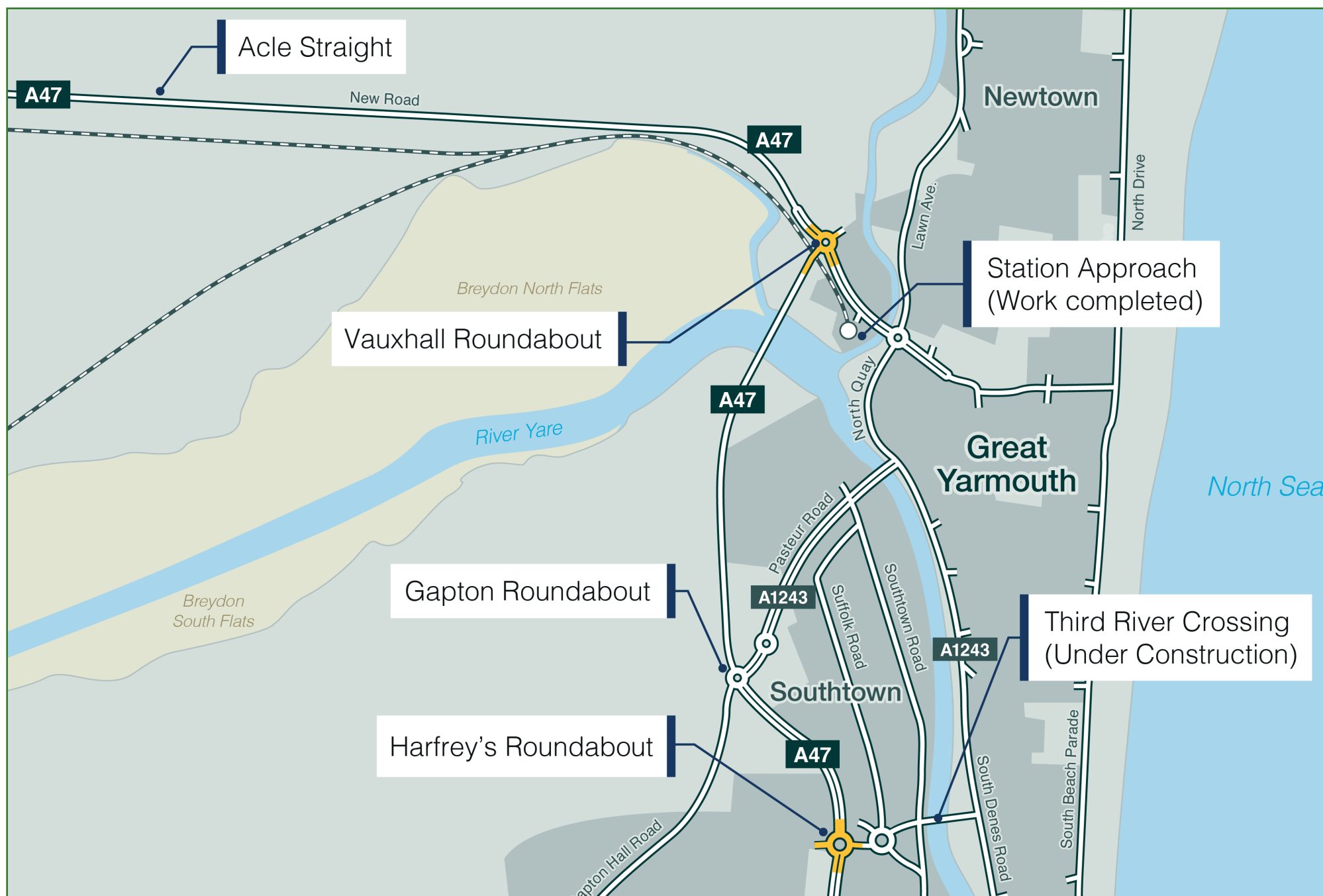
The A47 is an important connection linking the cities of Norwich and Peterborough, the towns of Wisbech, Kings Lynn, Dereham, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft and a succession of villages in what is largely a rural area.

As part of a multi-billion investment to improve journeys on England's major A-roads and motorways, the Government is funding a package of six projects on the 115-mile stretch of the A47 between Peterborough and Great Yarmouth. Together, the proposals will relieve congestion and improve the reliability of journey times for drivers.

The projects include converting almost eight miles of single carriageway to dual carriageway and improving key junctions along the A47 road.

The A47 road improvement projects are:

- A47/A141 Guyhirn junction (opened for traffic in March 2022)
- A47 Blofield to North Burlingham dualling (DCO granted June 2022)
- A47 North Tuddenham to Easton dualling (DCO granted August 2022)
- A47/A11 Thickthorn junction (DCO granted October 2022)
- A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling (DCO granted February 2023)
- A47 Great Yarmouth junction



## Improving the A47 Great Yarmouth junctions

The stretch of the A47 through northern Great Yarmouth experiences heavy congestion during peak times. The schemes will increase capacity of the existing junctions to relieve congestion, reduce journey times, encourage economic growth and improve the customer experience.

## Why are the Great Yarmouth Junctions improvements needed?

Improvements to these two roundabouts are needed because:

- There are high levels of congestion and delay at peak times, particularly along the A47 Acle New Road and on the approach to the Vauxhall Roundabout.
- The A47 Acle New Road on the approach to Vauxhall Roundabout is currently a single carriageway which means even minor accidents can lead to significant delays.
- The A47 Vauxhall Roundabout has a high concentration of personal injury incidents.
- The Third River Crossing will change the movement of traffic across town and provide better direct access to the port and seafront.

## Scheme objectives

**Improving journey times:** Congestion on the A47 means it takes much longer for people to get to and from the Vauxhall Roundabout than it should. Our improvement scheme will reduce congestion and improve journey time reliability.

Improvements to Harfrey's Roundabout are linked to the Third River Crossing and following the opening of the Third River Crossing, our traffic modelling suggests that the work will improve journey time reliability.

**Improving the environment:** By reducing congestion, air quality will be improved and the impact of noise on the surrounding area will be reduced. The scheme is also being designed to deliver biodiversity net zero effects.

**Helping cyclists and pedestrians:** Enhancements will be made to the active travel facilities at the Vauxhall and Harfrey's Roundabouts including amenities for cyclists and pedestrians.

**Making journeys safer:** By freeing up capacity and improving traffic flow along the route, safety will be improved for all road users and the number of accidents will be reduced.

**Supporting economic growth:** Our improvement scheme will be designed to cope with forecasted future increases in traffic along the route. This will help to support economic growth in the area.

## How you've been involved

In early 2017, we held a public consultation on the options for improvements to gain your feedback on our proposals and to help shape our plan to improve the Great Yarmouth junctions at an early stage. Over 20 people attended the three days of public events and we received 51 responses to the consultation.

Around 69% supported the need to improve the junctions through Great Yarmouth, with 74% supportive of the Vauxhall Roundabout option; 77% supportive of the Station Approach junction option; and 46% were supportive of the Gapton Roundabout option.

After considering the feedback, the options taken to consultation were selected as the preferred route with some modifications.

Following our preferred route announcement in August 2017, the original proposals were reviewed in light of the Third River Crossing, which was awarded government funding shortly after our original proposals were announced.

The modelling completed for the Third River Crossing project showed notable changes in the way traffic accessed Great Yarmouth town and port areas. We therefore worked collaboratively with Norfolk County Council to review the changes in traffic flows and how they impact traffic using the A47 and its junctions.

Originally, we proposed to improve the Vauxhall and Gapton Roundabouts. However, updated traffic modelling showed that these changes would no longer bring the intended benefits, once the Third River Crossing is open.

As a result, we are no longer making improvements to the Gapton Roundabout, and have instead designed improvements to the Harfrey's Roundabout. We are still changing Vauxhall Roundabout, but improvements to the junction with Station Road have been removed as this work has already been completed by Norfolk County Council.

Because we'd updated our proposals, in late 2021 we asked you to share your thoughts, concerns, ideas or local knowledge on our latest designs for the Harfrey's and Vauxhall roundabouts and invited feedback from the public and stakeholders. We held three in-person events and hosted a virtual exhibition room. All feedback received during the period was formally reviewed by the project team. The improvements to the junctions will be delivered once the Third River Crossing is in place.

## The Third River Crossing

In September 2020, the Government announced planning approval for a third bridge to span the River Yare. The Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing will link the A47 at Harfrey's industrial estate to the port and the enterprise zone via South Denes Road on the other side of the river. This scheme is being delivered by Norfolk County Council and construction started in January 2021. Norfolk County Council are aiming to have the bridge operational and open to traffic during 2023.

Norfolk County Council supports the A47 Great Yarmouth Junctions improvements scheme, stating "Norfolk County Council has worked collaboratively with National Highways throughout the lifespan of this project to ensure the proposals are appropriate and delivered at the earliest opportunity. The Vauxhall Roundabout is the principal access into the town from the west via the Acle Straight and Norfolk County Council is fully supportive of improvements to address current and future traffic issues. When the Third River Crossing is in place, Harfrey's Roundabout will become the principal access into the town from the south, so Norfolk County Council fully supports important modifications to reflect this change."

You can read more about it at  
**[www.norfolk.gov.uk/3rc](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/3rc)**

## Our design

As a result of the extra work that's been happening since 2017, we have refined our proposals to address the common themes and concerns raised, while ensuring that the project still solves the traffic problem, improves journey times and improves safety.

We'll be making the following changes:

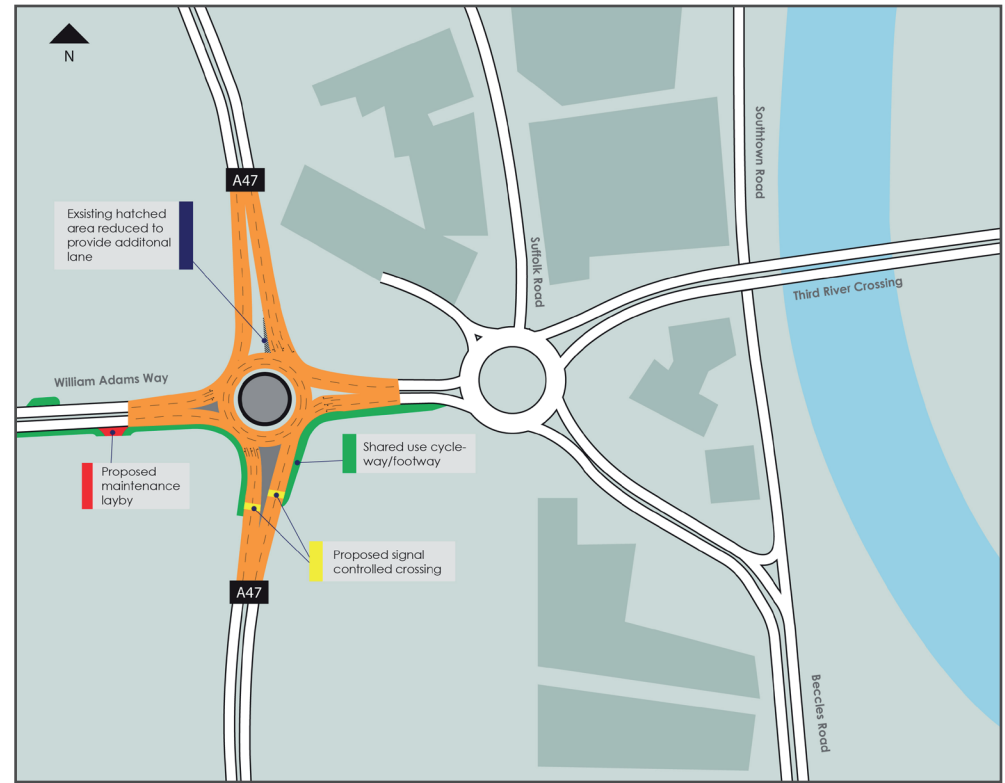
### Vauxhall Roundabout

- A larger roundabout to improve traffic flow
- A new bridge over the railway line with three lanes northbound
- Changes to the kerbs and road markings of the existing bridge over the railway line, with two lanes southbound
- Adjusting the roundabout to meet the latest highway standards to improve safety
- New pedestrian and cycle crossing points.



## Harfrey's Roundabout

- Changes to William Adams Way east of the roundabout to connect to the Third River Crossing
- New signal-controlled pedestrian and cycle crossing point on the A47 south exit
- Changes to the kerb for HGVs turning left onto the A47 southbound
- Repainting road markings to create three lanes for traffic coming from the north.



## Environmental and design considerations

### Local communities

The Public Rights of Way network will be kept or alternatives provided. Pedestrian/cycle routes and crossings will be improved.

We will use planting where possible to help screen the junctions from nearby properties. We will use modern road lighting to reduce any light pollution.

### Air quality

Air quality assessments will make sure that our improvements cause no significant changes in air quality for the residential properties in the area.

### Noise

Noise assessments will make sure that our improvements cause no significant changes in noise in the built-up areas near the junctions.

### Nature and conservation

The study area for the scheme includes a range of habitats that support different plant and wildlife species. Ecological surveys will look for protected species including bats, badgers, water voles, great crested newts, white-clawed crayfish, reptiles and birds.

If we find any evidence of protected species, we will include methods at the design stage to avoid any impacts to them. This work will be carried out in consultation with Natural England Local Authorities, the Broads Authority and Norfolk Wildlife Trust as well as local interest groups.

### Historic environment

The area contains a number of features of cultural heritage importance including a scheduled ancient monument, archaeological sites and listed buildings. We will include various measures in the scheme design to reduce the impacts on these.

### Water

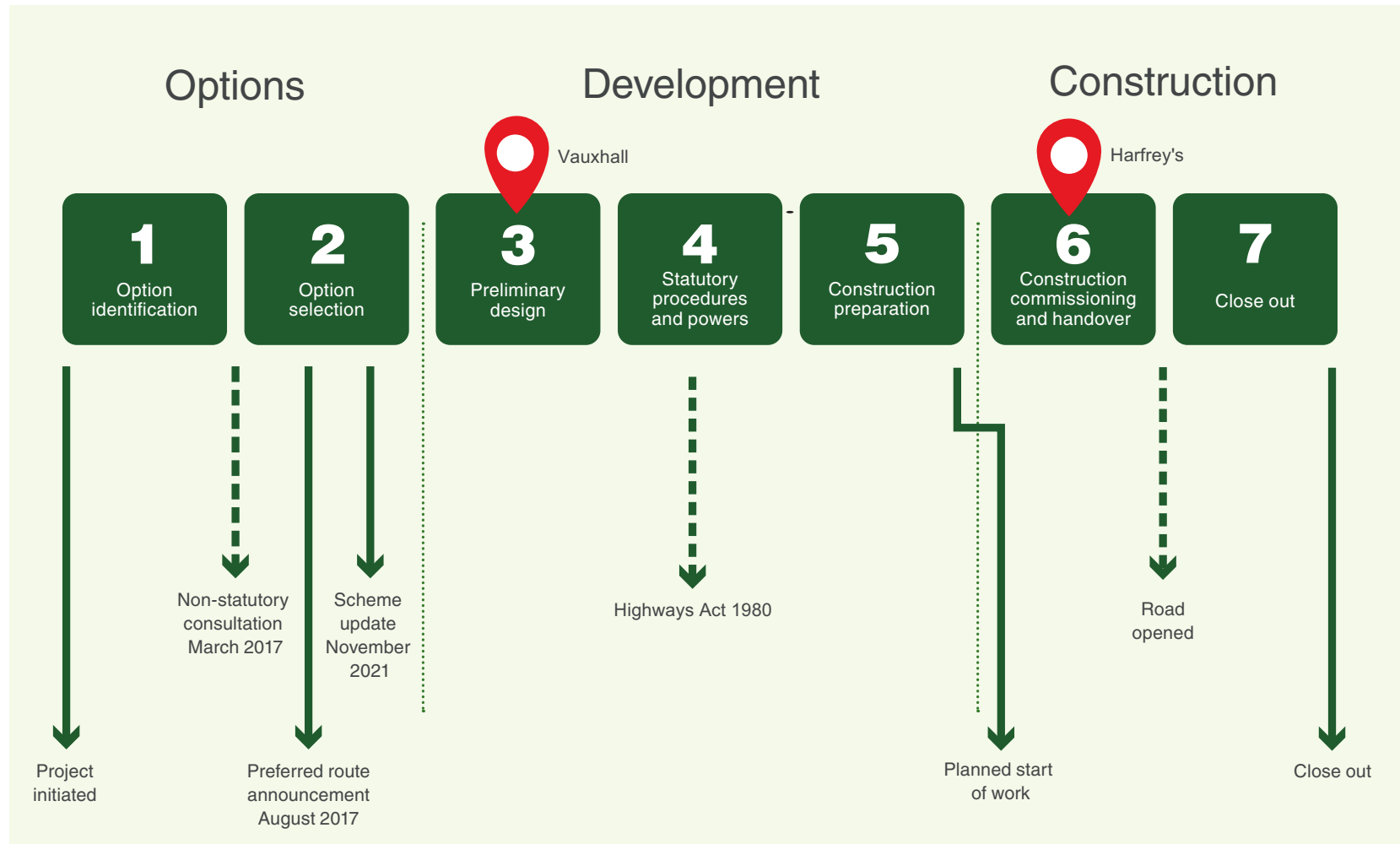
We will provide appropriate drainage to deal with the surface water from the road. Our designs will ensure existing flood mitigation measures are either maintained or improved.

### Landscape

To reduce the visual impact of the scheme, we will plant areas of trees, shrubs and grassland. Where possible, we will use native species that are local to the area.



## Timeline



## Next steps

Norfolk County Council's Third River Crossing project will link the A47 at Harfrey's industrial estate in Great Yarmouth to the port and the enterprise zone via South Denes Road on the other side of the river.

We have therefore agreed that it makes sense for the council to also make the changes to the Harfrey's roundabout on our behalf, whilst the bridge is being constructed. This will help to minimise any further disruption to the travelling public.

The council aims to have both the roundabout upgraded, together with the bridge operational and open to traffic, during 2023. The changes to Vauxhall roundabout will be done by us at a later point.

## Contact us

If you need help accessing this or any other National Highways information

 **0300 123 5000**

 **A47GreatYarmouthJunctionsRIS@nationalhighways.co.uk**

If you would like to contact us in respect of the Scheme comments should be sent to the following:

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Woodlands, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7LW**

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