

Quietway Feasibility Study

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Quietway Feasibility Study

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Introduction

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Capabilities on project:
Transportation

1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

AECOM have been commissioned by Dublin City Council to undertake a feasibility study of a pedestrian and cycle friendly corridor (Quietway) in the south east area of the city. The study area, displayed in Figure 1.1, runs in a west-east direction from Herbert Park in Donnybrook to Corrib Road in Kimmage. While this scheme is focused on the South East constituency of Dublin City, the scheme could potentially be extended in future to connect further into the south central area, linking up to facilities on the Grand Canal and beyond. The purpose of this report is to document the findings of the Study and to identify a feasible route to prioritise movement of cyclists and pedestrians through the area while avoiding commuting traffic.



Figure 1.1: Study Area for Quietway Route (Source: Google Maps)

This Feasibility Study Report has been prepared by addressing the route in Sections, beginning at the Herbert Road end of the scheme and travelling west. Included in the report is an assessment of options, the works required to implement the scheme and scheme cost estimates.

The feasibility study does not examine the potential impacts of the scheme in terms of traffic analysis. A unique selling point of the Quietway is the restriction of through traffic on the proposed route. This will require diversion of traffic to other parts of the network, which may have a significant impact on traffic movements.

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Quietways offer an alternative route to the busy commuter routes, offering a more local connection to amenities and key destination, as well as more strategic cycling infrastructure. The Quietway complements the primary and secondary cycle network and forms feeder routes to this system.

With a Quietway, cyclist generally shares the road carriageway with vehicles, as traffic volumes and speeds are low. Quietways also offer the opportunity to open routes currently restricted due to permeability issues, such as cul-de-sac streets and one-way streets. They offer the opportunity to open up communities and make streets and neighbourhoods more attractive, by reducing traffic volumes and speeds, as well as the dominance of the motor vehicle. These routes are generally aimed at local trips and also the less experienced cyclists.



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Background

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2 Background

2.1 Planning Context

In general, there have not been dedicated Quietways provided in Ireland to date. There have, however, been a number of trails identified on mainly rural roads; however the facilities (such as crossings) and/or signage on these routes are generally limited, with no restrictions on traffic movements. Examples are seen around the lakes and waterways of Leitrim/Roscommon/Monaghan etc, with signage provided to indicate the routes, or Sean Kelly routes around Waterford. In addition there are numerous Sli na Slainte walking routes provided around the country with signage, however limited physical facilities are provided.

In the UK, a network of Quietways has been proposed for London, with the first of these opened in early 2016. It is proposed that these routes will complement other cycle initiatives planned for London, and will target cyclists who want to use quieter, low-traffic routes, providing an environment for those cyclists who want to travel at a gentler pace.

This section addresses the planning context of the proposed scheme. In terms of planning, the strategic and national need for the scheme is supported within a broad range of national, regional and local policy documents.

Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017 and Draft Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022

“The vision for cycling is to make Dublin a city where people of all ages and abilities have the confidence, incentive and facilities to cycle so that by 2017, 25-30% of all new commutes within the city will be by bike.”

It is a policy of Dublin City Council to provide a more coherent and connected pedestrian and cycle network for the city, in a bid to change the modal share of commuters towards sustainable options. Positive results of this have been seen in recent years, with the use of private car decreasing by 17% in the period 2006-2014, with cycling figures increasing substantially. People walking increased to take 10% of the modal share in results of the 2014 Canal Cordon Counts. Plans continue to be progressed through new and proposed schemes, with a vision for a Green Cycle Network as shown in Figure 2.1.



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Fig.10 Dublin City Green Cycle Network

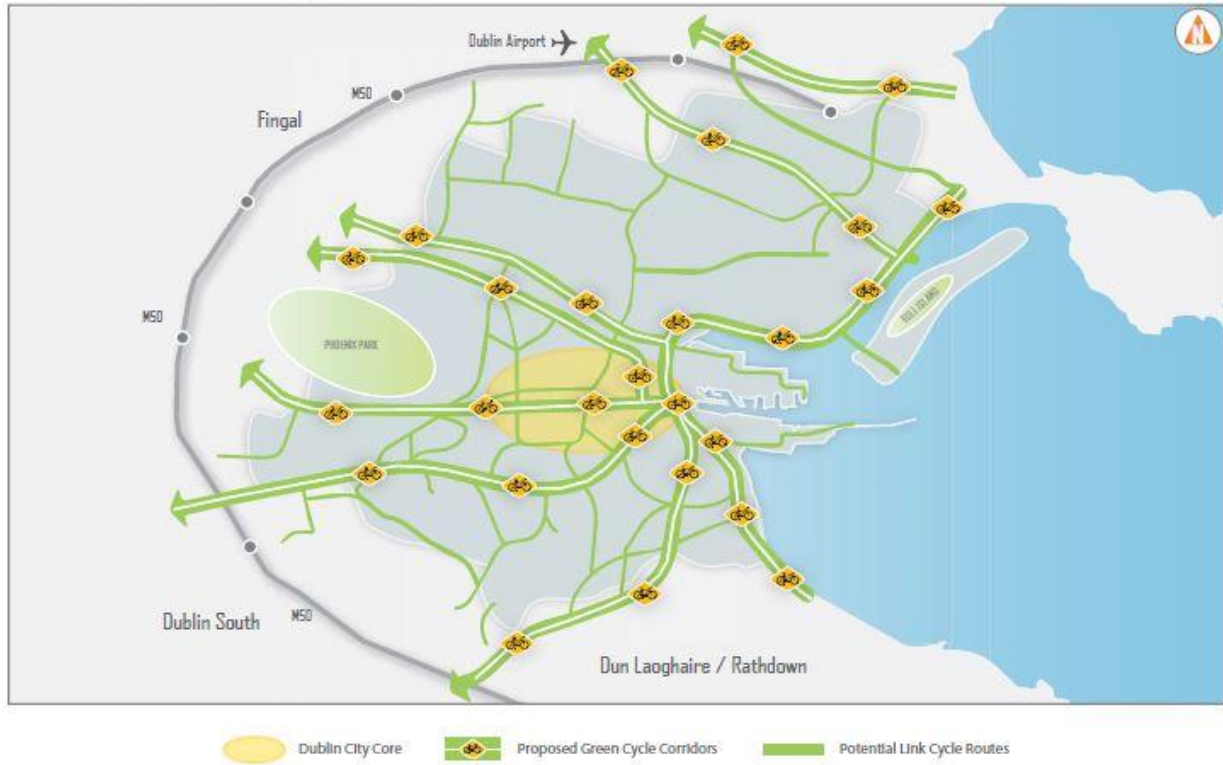


Figure 2.1: Dublin City Green Cycle Network (Source: Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017)

A number of policies have been put in place to aid in the development of cycle and pedestrian facilities including:

- SC3: To continue to develop a network of safe, clean, attractive pedestrian routes, lanes and cycleways in order to make the city more coherent and navigable
- SI9: To achieve a strategic, coherent and high quality cycle network across the city that is integrated with public transport and interconnected with cultural, recreational, retail, educational and employment destinations and attractions
- SI10: To enhance, extend and provide cycling infrastructure in accordance with the National Cycle Policy Framework 2009 – 2020 and the government’s, ‘Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future 2009 – 2020’.

Objective

SIO14: To develop a direct cycle linkage system away from the primary traffic network including on and off-road cycle lanes designed and constructed to minimise conflict with other road users.

Dublin City Council are committed to working with Green Infrastructure Objectives, as well as the NTA’s Cycle Network Plan for the Greater Dublin Area, and the National Cycle Manual.

Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Cycle Network Plan

The GDA Cycle Network Plan is a plan to identify and determine a consistent network of primary, secondary and feeder level routes across seven different local authority areas. The sample route identified from Kimmage to Herbert Park is approximately 6.5km, and crosses a number of main roads, with the majority of the route identified on residential streets. The sample route generally follows a number of feeder routes



Figure 2.2: GDA Cycle Network Plan and proposed Quietway sample route

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identified by the GDA Cycle Network Plan, as shown in Figure 2.2. The proposed link will also tie a number of primary cycle routes together, including Route 8, 9 10, 11 and 12.

National Cycle Policy Framework

The National Cycle Policy Framework (NCPF) is a government policy which sets out objectives for developing cycling as a mode of transport for the period 2009-2020. A target of 10% of all trips to be made by bike by 2020 is one of the main objectives.

The vision is that all cities, towns, villages and rural areas will be bicycle friendly. Cycling will be a normal way to get about, especially for short trips.

It is proposed that cycling can contribute to an improved quality of life and better public realm features. It can boost economy and the business environment as well as enhancing the environment we live in. It can give positive impacts to people's health.

The policy proposes a range of both hard and soft measures to encourage cycling in Ireland. This includes cycling friendly urban planning principles, which will encourage making developments more permeable, roads designed with pedestrians and cyclists in mind and making networks for these road users safe, direct, coherent, attractive and comfortable. A new "hierarchy of measures" is introduced in the Strategy focusing on reducing volumes of through traffic in sensitive areas, introduction of traffic calming measures in urban areas, and safer junctions for cyclists.

In terms of implementation, the Framework sets a hierarchy of intervention for the improvement of cycling networks as follows:

- Reducing volumes of through-traffic, especially HGVs, in city and town centres and especially in the vicinity of schools and colleges;
- Calming traffic/enforcing low traffic speeds in urban areas;
- Making junctions safe for cyclists and removing the cyclist-unfriendly multilane one way street systems;
- Redistribution of carriageway;
- Provision of cycle lanes and cycle tracks; and
- Cycleways (public roads for exclusive use of cyclists and pedestrians).

Smarter Travel

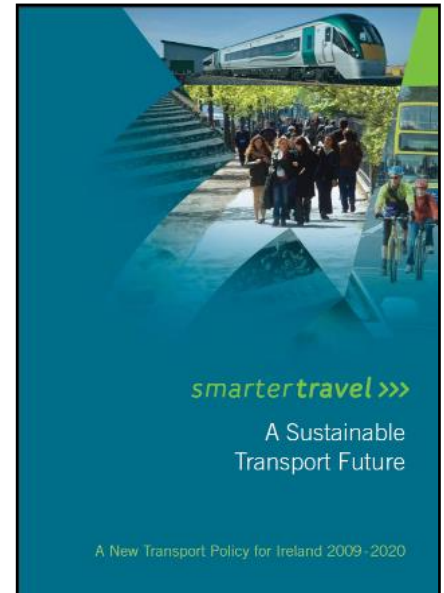
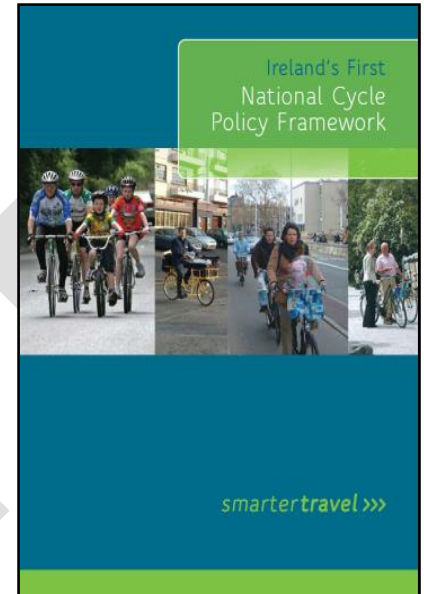
In 2009, the Department of Transport launched the Smarter Travel policy as the new national transport policy. The policy focuses particularly on how existing unsustainable transport and travel patterns experienced in Ireland might be tackled. The main objectives of the Strategy are as follows:

- Reduce the overall travel demand;
- Maximise the efficiency of the transport network;
- Reduce reliance on fossil fuels;
- Reduce transport emissions; and
- Improve accessibility to transport.

In order to achieve these objectives, the government has set some key targets which includes the reduction of car commuting from 65% to 45% with the remainder of trips made up of more sustainable travel options such as cycling, walking and public transport.

A multi faceted approach to achieving the objectives and targets set out in the Strategy is proposed including: transport and land use planning, employment policy, technology, communications and energy.

Pending a robust approach to future transport and planning, Smarter Travel proposes a fivefold increase in commuter cycling trips from 35,000 trips to 160,000 and a 41% increase in commuter walking trips from 205,000 to 290,000.



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2.2 Scheme Requirements

The scheme requirements of the project are summarised below:

- Assess the feasibility of providing a Quietway route, from Kimmage to Herbert Park, Ballsbridge. One route option has been provided, however alternative routes should be considered, taking into consideration schools, attractions and key destinations:
- Reduce the dominance of traffic throughout the study area, reduce vehicle speeds and thereby improve safety, improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Identify the necessary interventions, with low cost options preferred:
- Prepare a cost estimate and phasing of potential works:
- Prepare preliminary drawings/sketches: and
- Identification of the traffic management proposals to remove traffic and make the route safer. A reduction in rat-run through residential streets should also be identified.
- Provide a safety environment for all road users.

The proposed corridor should prioritise movement of cyclists, school children and pedestrians who need to traverse the area but wish to avoid commuting traffic. An additional objective of the proposal is to restrict cars and also be an effective means of significantly decreasing the number of "Rat-Runs" through the area.

Currently permeability is restricted along this route for a number of reasons, however there are opportunities to open up walls and provide new links to improve permeability of the area.

There are a number of critical factors for the success of Quietways including:

- wayfinding and signage, as well as intuitive routing of the scheme;
- directness;
- appropriate crossing facilities on busy roads;
- complete and whole route, rather than piecemeal;
- make use of restricted area for motor traffic (such as one way streets, and cul de sacs); and
- make use of other amenities such as parks and greenways.

2.3 Existing Conditions

The study area is located to the south of the Grand Canal, and passes through a number of residential streets, many of which have a distributor function. The study area runs from Herbert Park in the east to the south east area constituency boundary in the west at Corrib Road, Kimmage. An overview of the study area is presented below:

Herbert Park Road cuts through Herbert Park, effectively splitting the park in two. Pay and display parking is provided over the entire length of the road, with residential properties located at both extremes of the route. Herbert Park Road is a busy commuter link, with peak hour queues noted in the AM and PM peak periods. A signalised junction is provided at the junction of Herbert Park Road / Donnybrook Road, while dropped kerbs have been provided, no pedestrian stage has been included.

Marlborough Road is a local road, linking the R117 (Sandford Road) to the R138 (Donnybrook Road). It is a residential street, with pay and display parking generally provided on the southern side of the road. Marlborough Road is a busy commuter link in the AM and PM peak periods. A signalised junction is provided on Sandford Road, with a signalised pedestrian crossing provided on the northern arm of the junction.

Linking over to the Luas Line, Merton Drive, Albany Road and Park Drive are mainly residential streets. However with Gonzaga College and the Luas line at either end of this area, there are potential drop-off trips generated, particularly in the AM peak period.

There is a natural barrier with the Luas line splitting the study area into an east and west side. This barrier offers limited crossing opportunity for vehicles, however allows for permeability of pedestrians and cyclists at a number of locations. It is this link that can be expanded upon to provide a safe and protected route for cyclists and pedestrians to traverse the area. The initial route option crosses the Luas Line at the Cowper stop, and links Tudor Road to Cowper Road.

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Cowper Road links Merton Road to Rathmines Road Upper, passing through Palmerston Road junction. It is residential in nature with a park located to the southern end of the street. Due to the location of the Luas stop, motorists dropping commuters/school children in the AM peak period are common. Pay and display parking is provided on both sides of the road over the entire length. A signalised junction is provided at the junction of Cowper Road/Palmerston Road, and while there are dropped kerbs provided, no dedicated pedestrian phase is included in the signal phasing. The initial option proposed a link into Cowper Downs and through to Cowper Mews. Cowper Mews forms a priority junction with Rathmines Road Upper. There are no crossing facilities provided at this location.

Linking Rathmines Road Upper and Rathgar Road is Frankfort Avenue, which is a one way street south-east bound. Pay and display parking is provided over the entire length, with one traffic lane provided. The initial route turns off Frankfort Avenue to travel along Garville Road. This road is residential in nature, with pay and display parking provided on one side of the road. Garville Road links onto Rathgar Road in the form of a priority junction. A raised table is provided at this junction, with an on-road cycle lane provided through the junction. Frankfort Avenue is busy with traffic throughout the day, however Garville Road is less so.

Garville Avenue links Rathgar Road and Rathgar Avenue. Pay and display parking is provided on both sides of the road. Garville Road Upper continues through to Brighton Square and on to Terenure Road North. Pay and display parking is provided throughout. At the junction of Terenure Road North, existing cycle lanes are provided on both sides of the road. A signalised pedestrian crossing is provided to the south of the Ashdale Road junction.

Ashdale Road is a local residential street, with very little through traffic. Pay and display parking is provided through out. It is proposed to bring the Quietway along Ashdale Road and into Ashdale Gardens. At the end of this street, a wall prevents permeability; therefore it is proposed to break through to join Corrib Road. Corrib Road is a residential street, with an existing filtered permeability feature provided. Corrib Road links to Kimmage Road Lower.

Collisions

The RSA database of personal injury accidents was examined to establish if there are any existing safety issues in the study area that were not evident from the site visit. The database provides accident records for the period 2005 to 2013, with Figure 2.3 below outlining the recorded collisions locations over the eight year period.

No serious or fatal collisions were recorded along the initial route option. However a number of collisions involving pedestrians were recorded, including on Corrib Road, just off Kimmage Road and just south of the junction of Rathgar Road/Garville Avenue. Both of these collisions were recorded in the early hours of the morning. There was also a pedestrian collision in the early hours at the junction of Frankfort Avenue/Rathmines Road Upper/Cowper Mews. Pedestrian collisions were also recorded at Merton Drive/Sandford Road junction, on Marlborough Road and at the junction of Marlborough Road/Donnybrook Road/Herbert Park Road. Again all collisions were between the hours of 11pm and 7am.

No collisions involving cyclists were recorded along the route.

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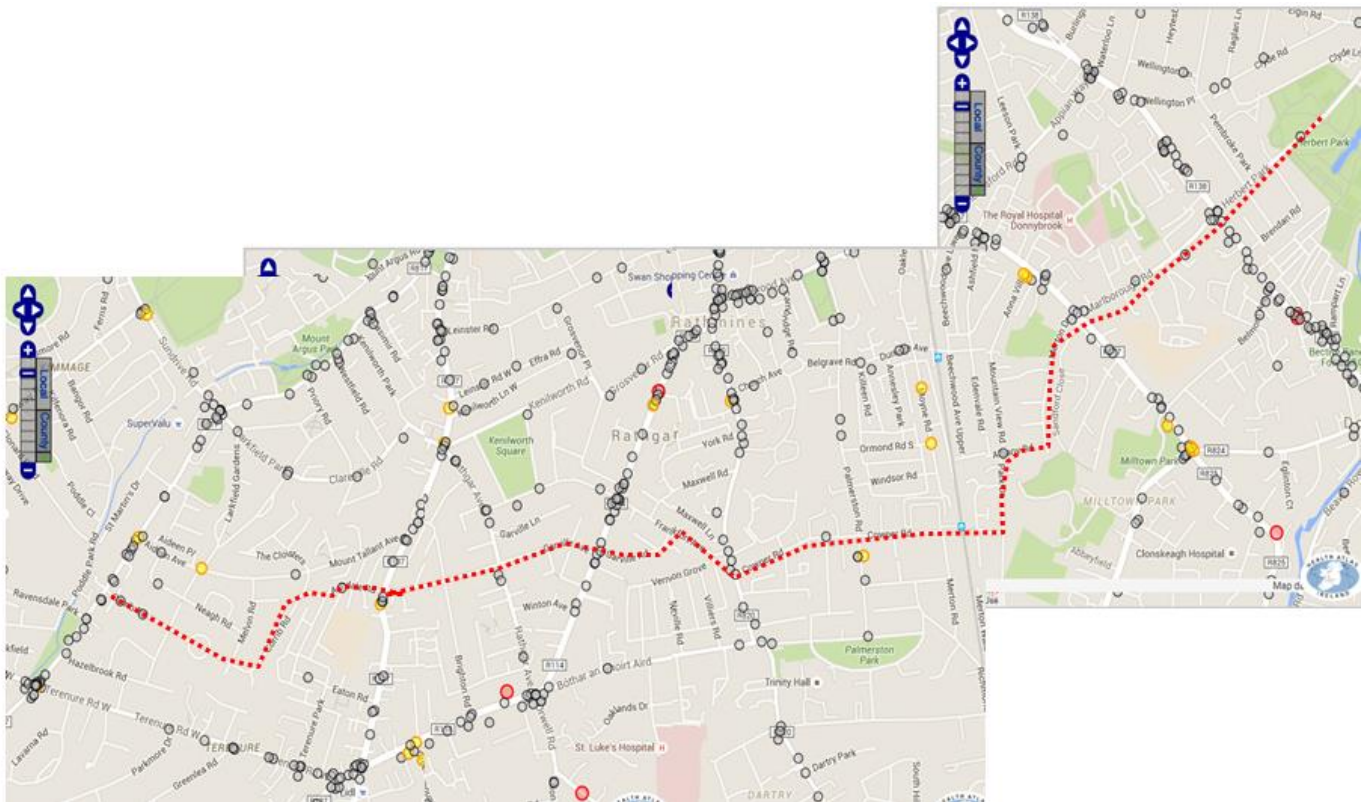


Figure 2.3: Accident Database 2005 – 2013

Generally bus routes pass through the proposed route in a north/south direction heading in and out of the city centre, however there is a bus route that travels along Cowper Road, between the junction of Rathmines Road and Palmerston Road. The 140 bus route travels between IKEA in Finglas and Palmerston Park in Rathmines and runs at a frequency of five times in the AM and PM peak hour.

Pedestrian Environment

Section 1 – Herbert Park to Green Luas Line

Beginning from Herbert Park and travelling west, pedestrian facilities are more than adequate along Herbert Park road, with a wide footpath located on both sides of the road, in good condition, and there are trees that line the road. There are, however, no dedicated crossing facilities for pedestrians at the Morehampton Road/Herbert Park Road junction. The only provision is dropped kerbs and a central island. There is no tactile provision through the junction.

Marlborough Road has a footpath on both sides of the road, with an adequate width for walking. There are trees lining the footpath which improves the streetscape. At the Marlborough Road/Sandford Road junction there is a signalised pedestrian crossing facility on the west arm only in the junction. The crossing would need to be upgraded and widened for implementing the scheme. On Merton Drive, there is a footpath on the west side of the road. After 140m, a footpath on the east side of the road begins. The road itself is narrow and includes ramps every 100m along the road. Footpath width is approximately 2-2.3m. There is existing public lighting along the road and the road is quiet residential.

Albany Road, Park Drive and Cowper Gardens are all similar to the facilities provided along Merton Drive. The roads are all residential with adequate footpath both sides and trees lining the street to provide a pleasant streetscape.

Section 2 – Green Luas Line to Terenure Road North

The Cowper Luas stop provides a crossing location for both pedestrians and cyclists with a wide walkway provided from the Luas to Cowper Road. Cowper Road provides good pedestrian facilities with a wide footpath located on both sides of the street. The condition of the footpath is good. The street is again lined with large trees on both sides, providing a pleasant streetscape to walk through.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

At the Cowper Road/Palmerston Road junction, there are no pedestrian crossing facilities provided on any arm. There are dropped kerbs on some arms but no tactile facilities. As the route continues from Cowper Road to Cowper Downs and Cowper Mews, the road layout remains the same.

Moving West to Frankfort Avenue and Garville Avenue, there is a footpath provided on both sides of the street. The footpath is wider on the southern side of the road, approximately 2.5 - 3m in width. Coming out of Garville Road at Rathgar Road, there are no crossing facilities provided at present. There will need to be a pedestrian crossing provided for the implementation of the scheme. Continuing along Garville Avenue to the Rathgar Ave junction, pedestrian facilities are good. There is a footpath on both sides of the road, both footpaths are in good condition. Ramps are located every 70m approximately. There are no formal crossing facilities at the Rathgar Avenue junction. Dropped kerbs are provided on all arms, however there are no tactile facilities in place.

There are no formal crossing facilities provided at the Garville Avenue/ Brighton Square junction. There is a raised table at the junction and dropped kerbs are provided, however, no tactile facilities are in place.

Brighton Square is a wide road with footpaths provided on both sides. Footpath provision is good; the paths are wide and are in good condition. The streetscape of the road could be improved.

Section 3 – Terenure Road North to Corrib Road

At the Terenure Road North/Ashdale Road junction, a toucan crossing is provided on the southern arm of the junction. Tactile facilities and dropped kerbs are provided. The suggested route continues along Ashdale Road. Footpaths are provided on both sides of the street. Width of footpath is narrower than in previous sections of the route, approximately 1 – 1.5m. The road itself is narrow and is residential in nature.

From the sample route provided, it runs from Ashdale Road to Corrib Road, routing through an existing wall. Corrib Road is residential. There is a footpath on both sides of the street with trees lining the footpath. Ramps are provided every 60 – 90m along the road. The road is quiet with no through traffic. There is an existing filtered permeability barrier in place which prevents rat running in this location.

Cycle Environment

Section 1 – Herbert Park to Green Luas Line

Herbert Park Road has no cycle facilities along its length. The road itself is quite wide with paid and permit parking along both sides. The road is in good condition and already has cyclists travelling along it. At the Morehampton Road/Herbert Park Road junction, there are no crossing facilities for pedestrians or cyclists. There are advisory cycle lane facilities on the Morehampton Road travelling in a north/south direction, running through the junction also.

Marlborough Road is a two way street, narrow in places. There is parking on the southern side of the road which is both pay and display and residential permit parking. There are no cycle facilities in place along this road at present as the road is too narrow.

At the Marlborough Road/Sandford Road junction, there are mandatory cycle lanes on both sides of Sandford Road, these run through the junction.

Merton Drive is a narrow two way residential street and has no existing cycle facilities. The road is in good condition. There is residential and paid parking on one side of the street; this parking is not allocated the full length of the street. Albany Road, Park Drive and Cowper Gardens have a similar layout to Merton Drive. There are no cycle facilities on the road. There is residential parking on both sides of these streets.

Section 2 – Green Luas Line to Terenure Road North

Crossing the Cowper Luas stop provides access to both pedestrians and cyclists with a dedicated facility in place. This then leads onto Cowper Road. There are no dedicated cycle facilities on this road. Parking is in place on both sides of the street. The street is wide, even with the parking both sides. The road is in good condition and can accommodate cyclists on road.

At the Cowper Road/Palmerston Road junction, there are no dedicated crossing facilities in place for cyclists. The proposed route continues along Cowper Road, which is a wide two way street with parking both sides of the road. There are no cycle facilities in place at present due to width restrictions of the parking and footpath allocation. The condition of the road is good and can accommodate cyclists.

Cowper Downs and Cowper Mews are both short residential streets. There is parking on Cowper Downs; however, no parking is allocated along Cowper Mews as this is a short laneway leading to the main road. No cycle facilities are in place at present on either street as it is not feasible to provide any facilities due to the narrow widths available.

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No crossing facilities are available at present at the Cowper Mews/Rathmines Road Upper/Frankfort Avenue junction.

Frankfort Avenue is a one way residential street travelling eastbound. There are no cycle facilities in place along the street. There is parking both sides of the street. The road itself is narrow and cycle facilities would not be a possibility for this road unless parking is removed and the street changes to two way or a contra-flow facility provided.

Garville Road is a two way street, and is residential in nature. Parking is allocated on the northern side of the street, this then changes to the southern side of the street halfway along the road. At the Garville Road/Rathgar Road junction, there are no crossing facilities provided. There are dedicated cycle lanes on the Rathgar Road on both sides.

Garville Avenue is a two way residential street with parking on both sides. There are no cycle facilities at present. Road width is narrow for a two way route, however, there is areas for cars to pull in throughout the street. Road condition is adequate for cycling, however, this route needs to be reduced in traffic in order to allow cyclists to travel on this street safely.

There are no cycle crossing facilities on Garville Avenue through the Rathgar Avenue junction, which is a busy traffic road. The route continues on Garville Avenue Upper, which is similar to Garville Avenue. Through the Brighton Square junction, there are no crossings in place. Brighton Square is a continuation of Garville Avenue in terms of layout and does not have any cycle facilities in place.

Section 3 – Terenure Road North to Corrib Road

At the Terenure Road North/Garville Avenue/Corrib Road junction, there are cycle crossing facilities in place on the southern arm. Terenure Road North also has advisory cycle lanes on both sides of the road and through the junction.

Ashdale Road and Ashdale Gardens is a two way narrow street. There are no cycle facilities in place due to width restrictions. Dedicated parking is located on the southern side of the street. The condition of the road is good, and cyclists can be accommodated on road through here.

Corrib Road is a two way residential street with no cycle facilities. This street has existing permeability barriers in place, therefore traffic is low through this street, and cyclists are safe to travel on road through here.

2.4 Opportunities and Constraints

GDA Feeder Routes

The GDA Cycle Network Plan is a plan which sets out a ten year strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow. The cycle network aims to provide new connections between towns in the rural areas of the Greater Dublin Area. The planned network consists of Primary, Secondary and Feeder routes.

The Primary and Secondary Routes are, in general, not an ideal option for cyclists travelling in this scheme as these routes are busy trafficked roads with a distributor function. The Quietway will focus on the feeder routes; these are quiet roads, mainly residential in nature, that connect the Primary and Secondary routes.

While the Quietway will inevitably cross Primary and Secondary roads along its proposed route, it would not be recommended to have the proposed route travelling along these roads for any extended period of time.

As can be seen in Figure 2.4, the initial route option, as proposed by DCC, follows a large section of feeder route, as identified in the GDA Cycle Network Plan. The scheme goes off the GDA Feeder Network in the Rathgar area, with the feeder route continuing on Frankfort Avenue, onto Leicester Avenue via Kenilworth Square and onto Rathgar Avenue. The feeder link is then broken, with the provision of the secondary route 9B linking into Mount Tallant Avenue and onto Aideen Avenue and Kimmage Road. The alternative route is also identified on Figure 2.4.

Alternative Route Considered

As noted in the existing condition section, Frankfort Avenue is a one-way street (southbound) with parking either side of the road. To continue on this street, filtered permeability would need to be provided, turning the street into a two-way route. Alternatively, one side of parking would need to be removed to allow for a contra-flow cycle lane to be provided. Crossing facilities are provided on Rathgar Road, while travelling along Leicester Avenue parking is provided on both sides of the road with two way flow. At the end of this street however there is no clear link to bring the route further. The Quietway would have to continue on Rathgar Avenue, which is generally a quiet route with low speeds for approximately 100m, turn onto Brighton Avenue and Brighton

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Square. This gets the route onto Harold’s Cross Road, which is a very busy route; however there are some existing cycle facilities provided on road. Travelling approximately 100m, access is then provided onto Mount Tallant Avenue. This route provides a direct route to Kimmage Road, while also providing a link into a possible future extension of the scheme.

GDA Feeder Routes

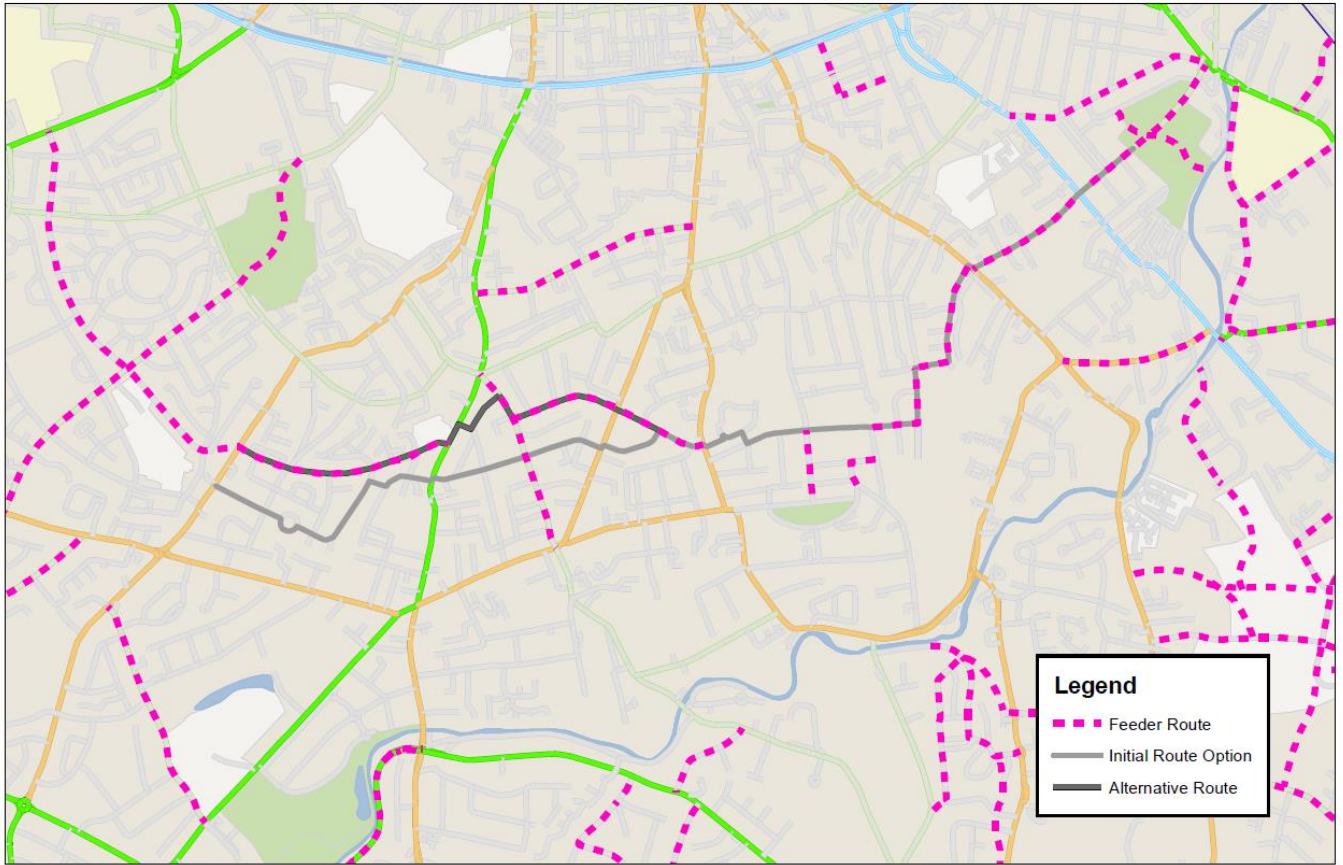


Figure 2.4: GDA Feeder Routes with route options identified.

The advantages and disadvantages of following the GDA Cycle Network Plan have been explored and are detailed below.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Follows NTA Feeder Route	Travels along a busy road for 100m (Harold’s Cross Road)
Avoid breaking through large boundary wall	Not suitable for less experienced cyclists
More direct and intuitive	
Potential provide traffic calming on route previously identified to council as having speeding/traffic volume issues.	

Considering the above advantages and disadvantages, it is considered that the provision of the Quietway along the Feeder Route in the Rathgar area is not beneficial and would not meet the scheme objectives of providing a quiet route for less experienced cyclists to travel on. Therefore this route option has not been explored further.

Access to Schools / Amenities

One of the main objectives of this scheme is to provide a route that is safe and attractive for the less experienced cyclists, removing them from the busy commuter routes and providing links to public amenities, such as schools and parks.

A route that is free from through traffic, and only used by local traffic with dedicated crossing points may encourage more parents to allow children to cycle to school. The recent Interim Report from the Smarter Travel Areas indicate that modal shift for school trips remains challenging, due primarily to child safety in relation to traffic danger.

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The local schools in the area were plotted and a number of high level routes identified.

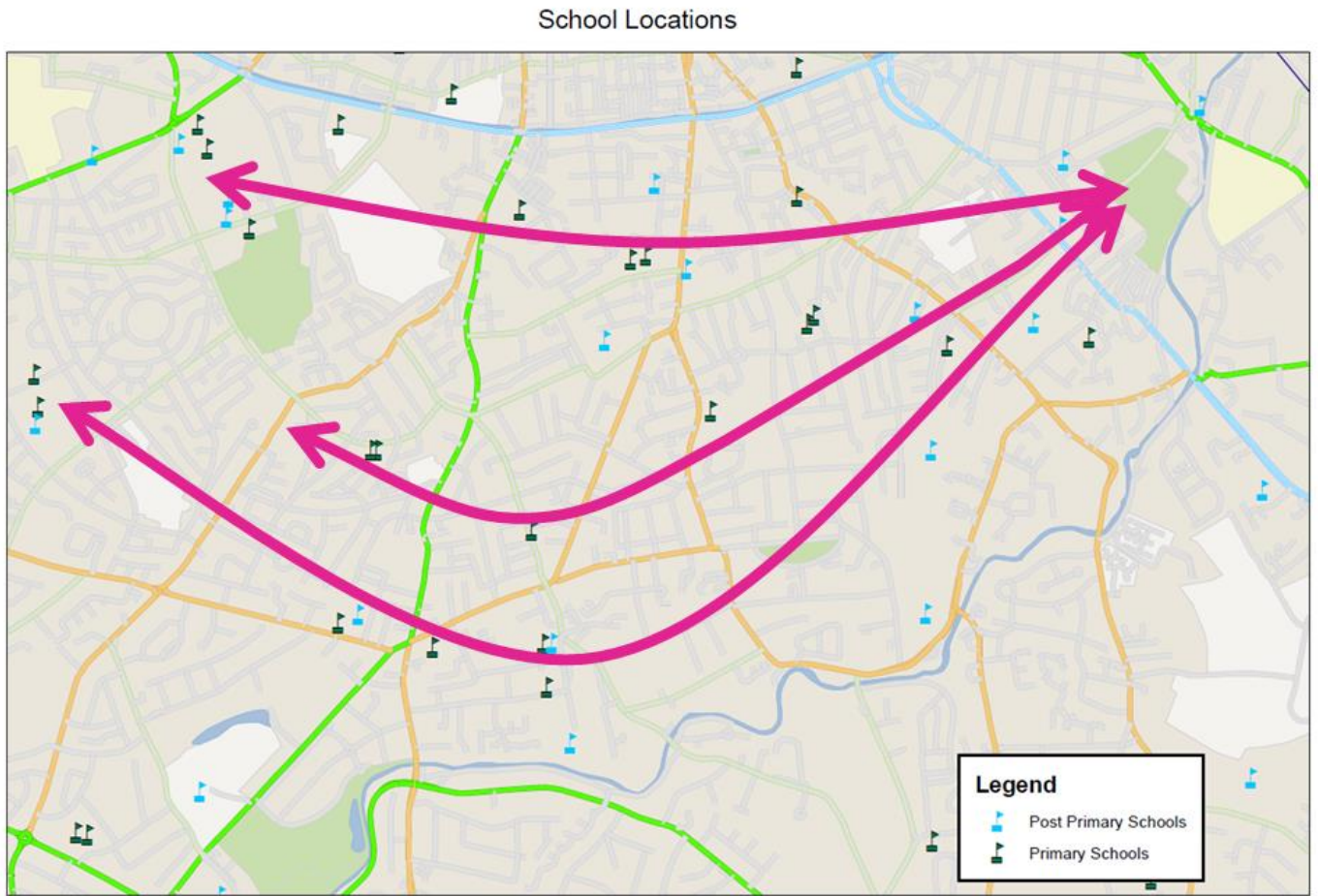
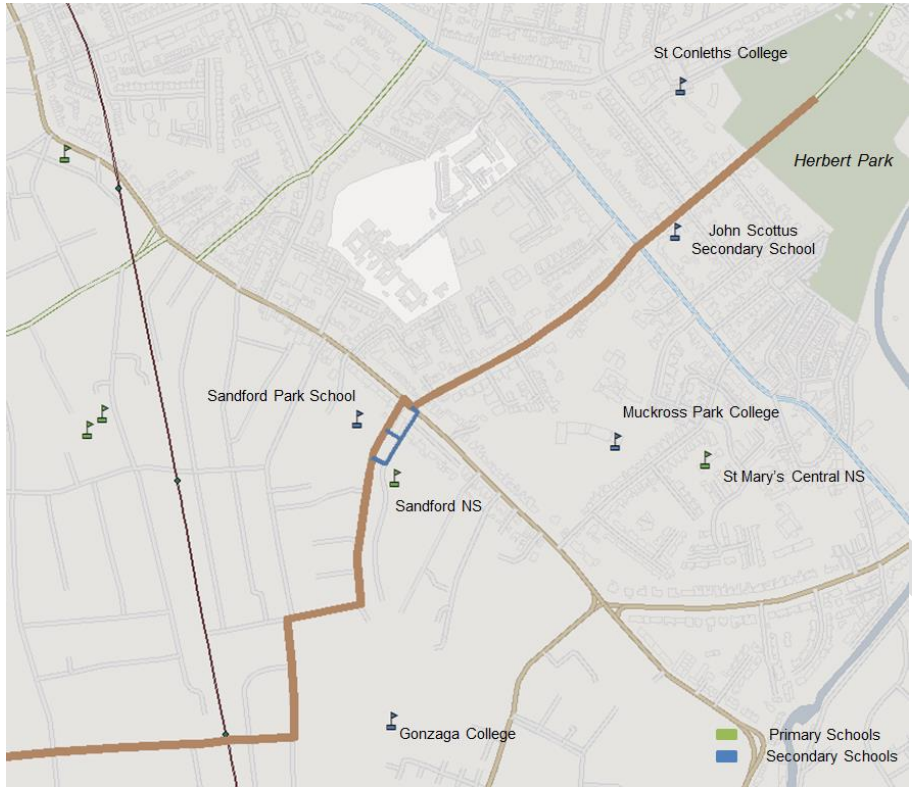


Figure 2.5: School locations with high level potential routing for the Quietway

Along the initial recommended route, there are a number of potential connections to the many primary and secondary schools within the area. They are shown below from Section 1 to Section 3.

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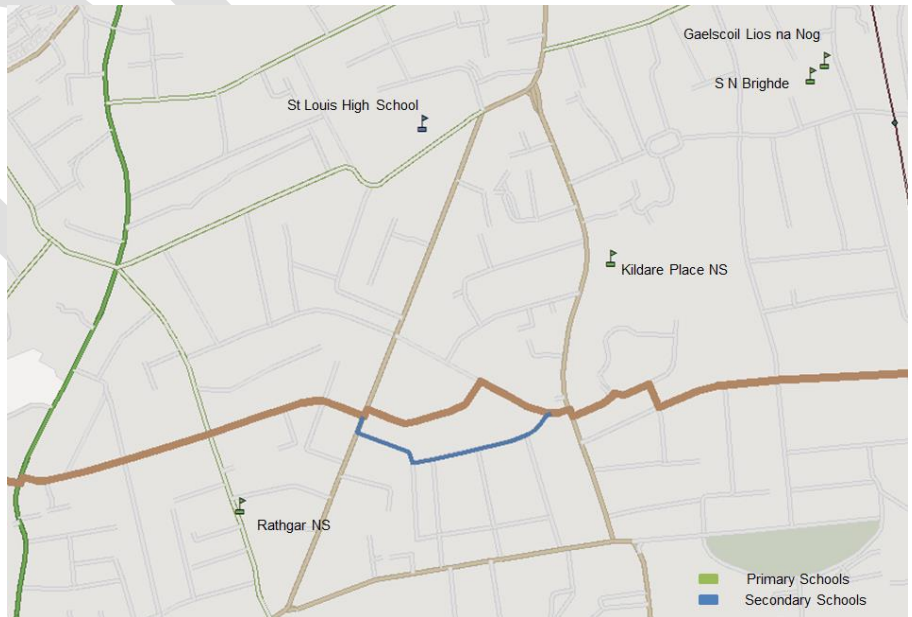
Section 1: Herbert Park to Green Luas Line



In Section 1 of the scheme, there are a number of schools that are located in close proximity to the potential route. There are five secondary schools and two primary schools. The secondary schools include St Conleths College, John Scottus, Muckross Park College and Sandford Park School. The primary schools include St Mary's Central National School and Sandford National School. Collectively, these schools have over 2,000 students attending every day.

There is the potential to link into these schools from the Quietway route.

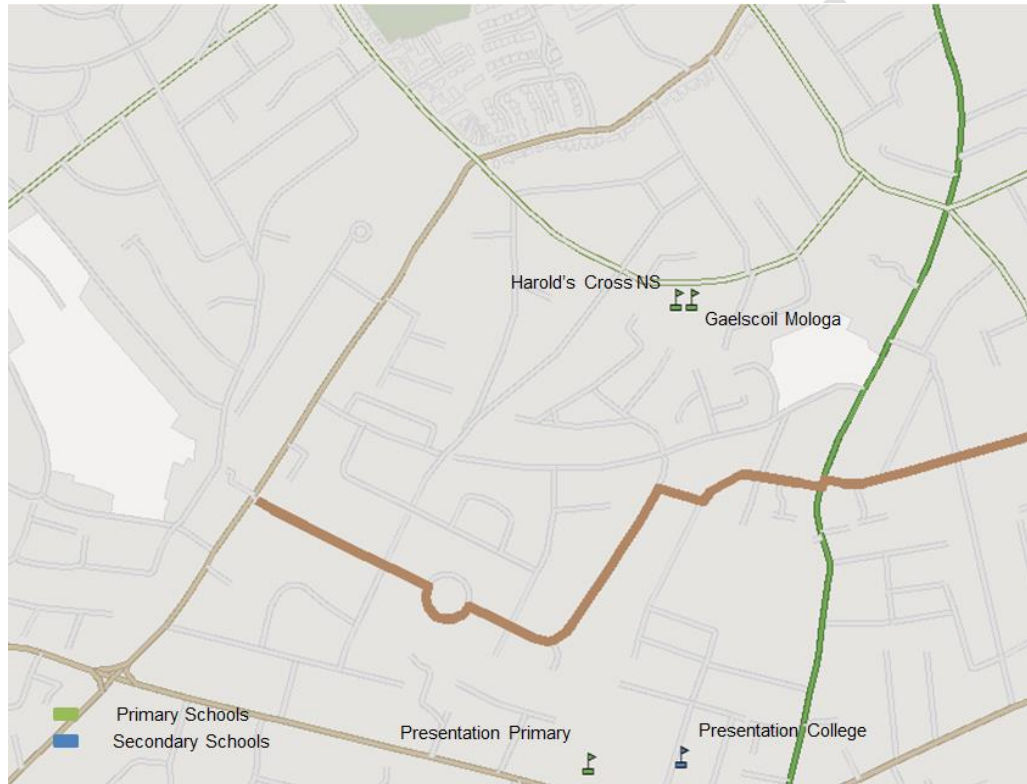
Section 2 – Green Luas Line to Terenure Road North



Capabilities on project:
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In Section two of the scheme, there are a number of schools located off the potential route. There is one secondary school and four Primary schools. The secondary school is St Louis High School. The primary schools include Gaelscoil Lios na Nog, SN Brighde, Kildare Place National School and Rathgar National School. There are over 1,600 pupils attending these schools in total. These schools, however, are situated off the proposed route and further assessment of potential links to these should be undertaken as part of a further study.

Section 3 – Terenure Road North to Corrib Road



In Section 3, there are three primary schools and one secondary school in close proximity to the potential route. The primary schools include Harold's Cross National School, Gaelscoil Mologa and Presentation Primary School, while the secondary school is Presentation College. There is a good link into each of these schools from the potential Quietway route. Collectively, these schools have approximately 1,400 pupils in attendance.

Dodder Greenway/Canalway Cycle Route

A study was undertaken in 2012 on behalf of the National Transport Authority (NTA) in order to determine the feasibility of a walking and cycling route along the full length of the Dodder River from Bohernabreena in South Dublin to Grand Canal Dock in Dublin City.

If this greenway progresses and is developed, it will provide a very attractive route along the southern side of Dublin travelling north up to Grand Canal. With the existing Canalway Cycle Route provided along the Grand Canal, there is a distinct lack of a quiet route for less experienced cyclists in the area between these two facilities.

The location of the Quietway route compared to the proposed Dodder Greenway and Canalway Cycle Route is displayed below in Figure 2.6.

The proposed Dodder Greenway covers an area of south Dublin from Tallaght to Grand Canal, therefore potentially providing safe walking and cycling facilities for a large residential network in this area. The existing Canalway Cycle Route provides a wide footpath and cycle lanes along the Grand Canal. This facility caters for large numbers of commuters travelling into the city centre every day and the location covers residential areas both north and south of the canal.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

The location of both the Dodder Greenway and the Canalway Cycle facility does not facilitate for residential areas in between these two routes. Therefore, as shown in Figure 2.6, the proposed route for the Quietway is located in between these two facilities and will cater for residents within these areas, while also providing a potential link into the Dodder Greenway.

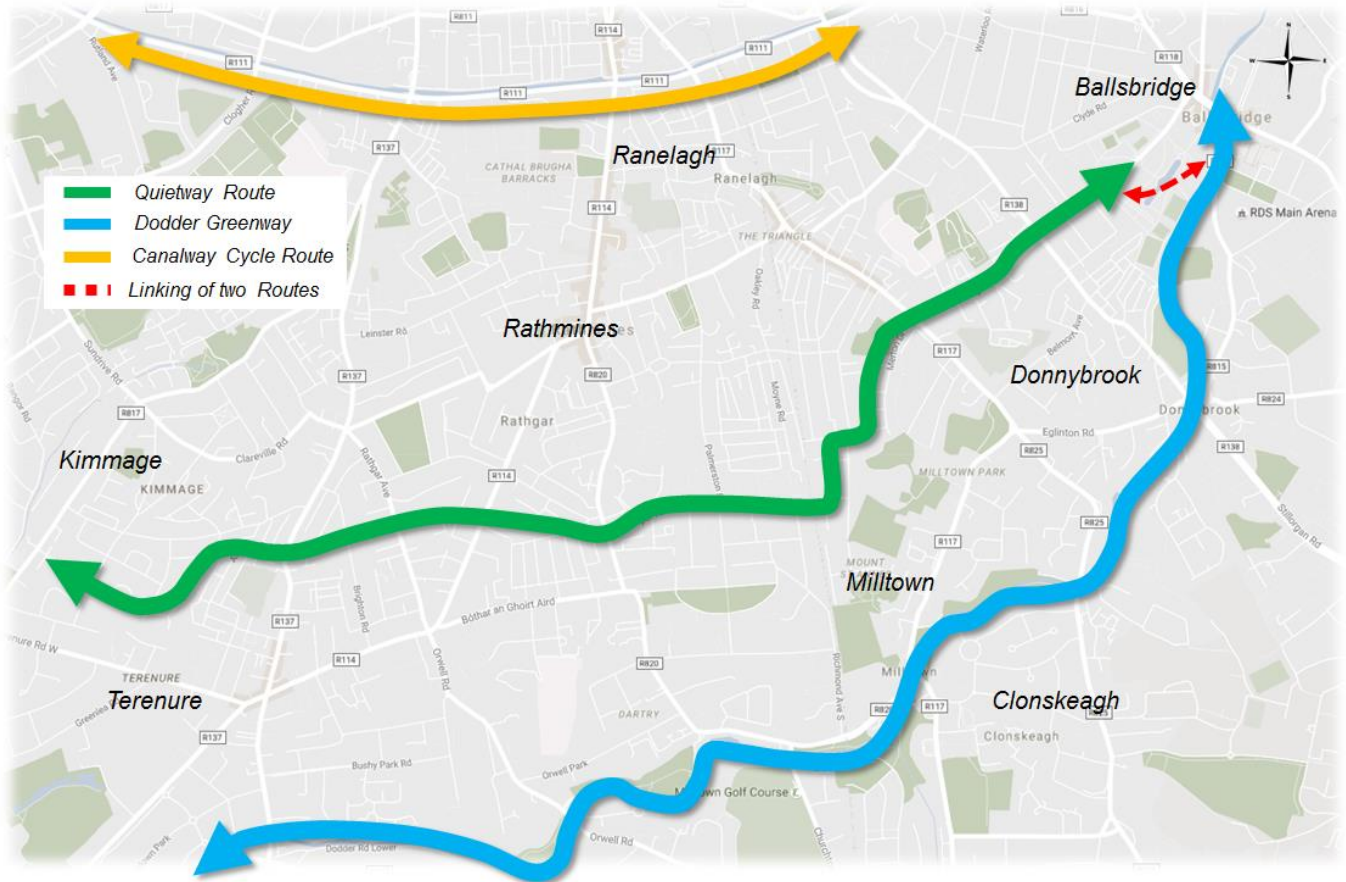


Figure 2.6: Location of the Quietway Route along with the Proposed Dodder Greenway Route and existing Canalway Cycle Route

2.5 Summary

In general there is a lack of east/west cycle facilities, as well as public transport routes on the south side of the city, with all routes generally leading to the city centre in a north/south direction. This provides an opportunity for pedestrians and cyclists to avoid the busy commuter routes and travel to their destination in a more direct manner.

There are a number of locations where crossing facilities are not provided, or the quality of the crossing is poor, given the nature and environment of the road. This includes locations such as the Herbert Park/Morehampton Road junction, the Cowper Road/Palmerston Road junction, the Cowper Mews/Rathmines Road Upper junction and the Garville Road/Rathgar Road junction. In addition, there are a number of locations where the footpath width is compromised due to vehicles parking on the footway or the level of facility provided.

High traffic speeds and/or volumes are a major issue, and one that will have to be resolved prior to the implementation of the scheme. Streets that see large volumes of through traffic in the peak periods are not attractive routes for the less experienced cyclists. These traffic dominated streets ideally have to become areas for local traffic only, in order to attract cyclists to the route. Traffic congestion on the route could lead to cyclists weaving in and out of stationary vehicles, which leads to an increased risk of collisions with other vehicles.

The Luas provides a severance line in a north/south direction, and while vehicles can cross the line, it is done so at a limited number of locations. Walking and cycling are generally permitted in more locations, which allow a competitive advantage to other modes of transport, particularly the private car. This allows the route to become more attractive to users.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

There is opportunity of following the GDA Cycle Network Plan feeder routes for the majority of the route, however in some instances these routes do not connect to other feeder routes, rather providing a connection to the Primary and Secondary routes, resulting in possible sections of the Quietway on busy commuter routes.

There are many schools in the south Dublin area, and providing a link that connects to a large number should be explored in a further study of the route.

The Dodder Greenway will provide an attractive route along the southern side of South Dublin, along the Dodder River and routing up towards Grand Canal. It has been determined, therefore, that the Quietway will not route too far south and will focus on areas north of the Dodder Greenway to accommodate residential developments in this area. There is, however, the possibility of connecting the Quietway route with the greenway at Herbert Park.

DRAFT

**Proposed Scheme Concept
Options**

DRAFT

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

3 Proposed Scheme Concept Options

3.1 Introduction

As noted there are a number of key elements required to make the Quietway a success, including:

- A direct route, provided in a whole route offering rather than short elements;
- A quiet route away from heavy volumes of traffic, while making use of one-way streets and cul-de-sacs;
- Appropriate crossing facilities on busy roads;
- Wayfinding and signage, as well as intuitive routing of the scheme;
- Making use of other amenities such as parks and greenways.

3.2 Option Development Process

The proposed Quietway, subject to this feasibility study, provides an east –west link in the south east constituency of Dublin city. The development of the possible route options was based on the above elements as well as taking into consideration the following:

- Travelling a route which permits access to the greatest number of school/amenities;
- Providing a route where existing traffic volumes could be reduced and alternative options for diverted traffic were available; and
- Examining the proposed feeder routes as set out in the GDA Cycle Network Plan, as well as linking a number of the primary cycle network routes;

Further to this, issues such as private lands, accident data and permeability were also considered. Rather than an end to end origin/destination project, this scheme aims to provide an east-west link away from high volumes of traffic. Currently there are limited options for this type of journey, with the majority of routes travelling towards the city centre. With the exception of the Grand Canal route, which already has a high quality cycle facility provided, there are no other direct east-west connections, with the Luas line providing severance in places.

The proposed options have been based on OS Mapping, with topographical survey not available for the full scheme. Therefore the proposed design is indicative only, and should be reviewed fully when a topographical survey is available prior to the next stage of design development.

The route has been split in three areas and proposals have been discussed under the following headings:

- Environment,
- Cultural, archaeological and architectural heritage
- Economy,
- Safety/accessibility,
- Integration, and
- Traffic diversions (if relevant).

Throughout the scheme, two key design options were considered,

- Option 1: Removal of through traffic with provision for cyclists on road; and
- Option 2: Removal of on-street parking to provide off-street facilities for cyclists.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

However Option 2 was only considered on links where space permitted (i.e. no removal of residential properties/gardens or CPO considered) while Option 1 focuses on traffic diversions and filtered permeability.

3.2.1 Herbert Park to Green Line Luas

The proposed starting point for the Quietway is Herbert Park. A connection could be provided through the park to the proposed Dodder Greenway to provide users with a further connection to the city centre, as well as areas to the south of the city, such as Milltown, Rathfarnham, Firhouse, Kiltipper. This will tie into the GDA Cycle Network Plan Feeder Route plan.

The initial proposed routes, as well as the GDA Cycle Network Plan shows a feeder route travelling down Herbert Park Road, onto Marlborough Road and Merton Drive/Albany Road/Park Drive/Cowper Gardens.

Herbert Park a busy commuter link, with existing parking either side of the road. Access is provided to the park and playground, as well as a number of side roads and residential properties. The link is also tree lined. Clyde Lane runs along the northern boundary of the park, while the Dodder River and Anglesea Road bound the southern side of the park.

Marlborough Road is a residential street, with on-street parking on one side of the road. It is a busy commuter link from Ranelagh to Ballsbridge. Merton Drive/Albany Road/Park Drive are quiet residential streets, however there is a large amount of on-street parking, used by commuters.

Design Option 1: Filtered Permeability / Traffic restrictions

Required Works: A design feature would be required at the centre of the park area, sample shown in Figure 3.1, close to the tennis courts, restricting traffic movements for vehicles through Herbert Park road.

The existing signalised junction at Herbert Road/Morehampton Road/Marlborough Road does not provide signalised crossing facilities. A crossing, on at least one arm would be required at this location, as shown in Figure 3.2. Dropped kerbs are provided, however tactile paving should also be provided. The introduction of a signalised pedestrian phase would have a significant impact on the capacity of the junction. This should be considered with further traffic analysis.

Travelling onto Marlborough Road, another design feature would be required to restrict movements on this link, similar in nature to figure 3.1 Consideration of the travel patterns to Muckross Park College should be carefully examined at this location. Discussions may be required with the school and a policy to ensure residential streets are not adversely impacted by parked and turning vehicles discussed.

At the junction of Marlborough Road/Sandford Road there are two options to consider, Merton Drive or Sandford Close. Sandford Close gives direct access to Sandford National School, as well as Gonzaga College, however access is restricted beyond this.

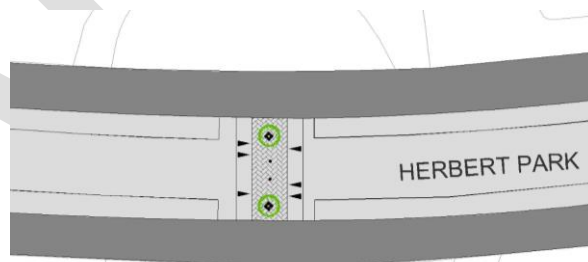
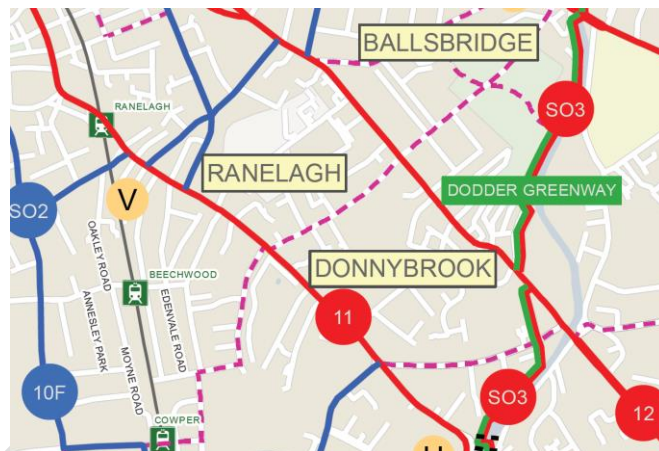


Figure 3.1: Design feature on Herbert Park Road

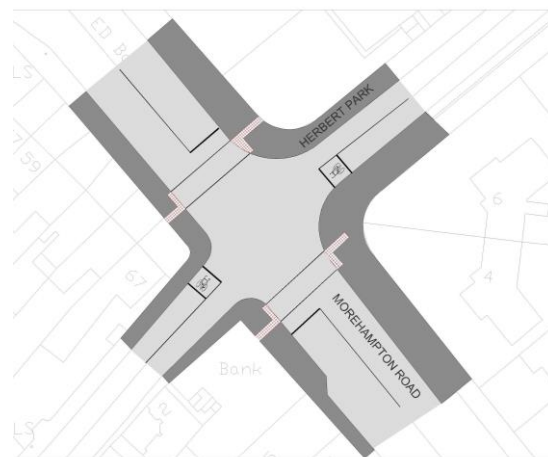


Figure 3.2: Herbert Park junction upgraded to provide crossing facilities

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

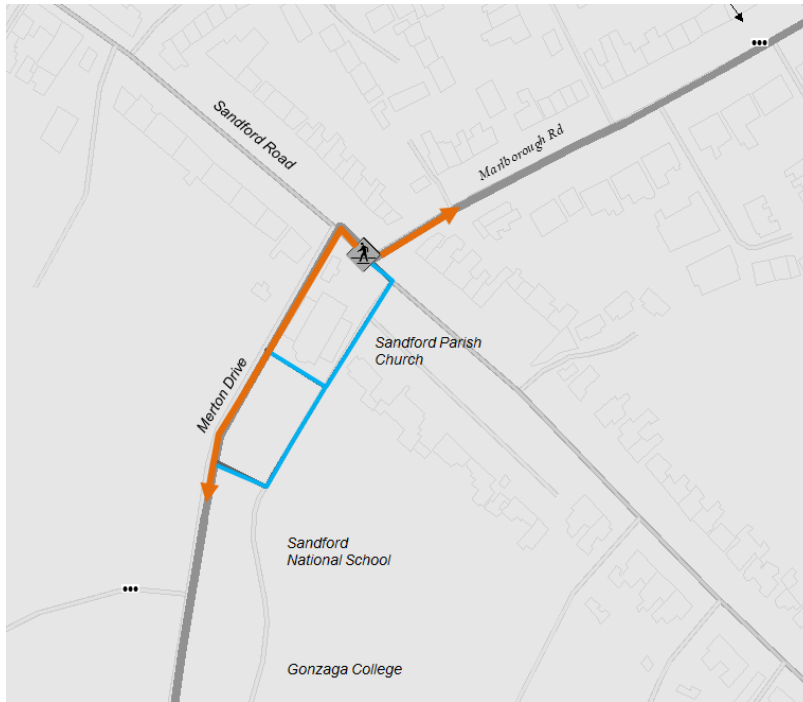


Figure 3.3: Route options considered through the Marlborough Road/Sandford Road junction.

A link through the lands of Sandford Parish Church & St. Philips Milltown would be required, or the purchase of lands from the garden of the parochial house. Alternatively the route is continued onto Merton Drive, via an upgraded pedestrian crossing on Sandford Road. Due to the cost of land purchase and possible issues that could arise from an agreement through the Sandford Parish Church, it is proposed to continue the route onto Merton Drive.

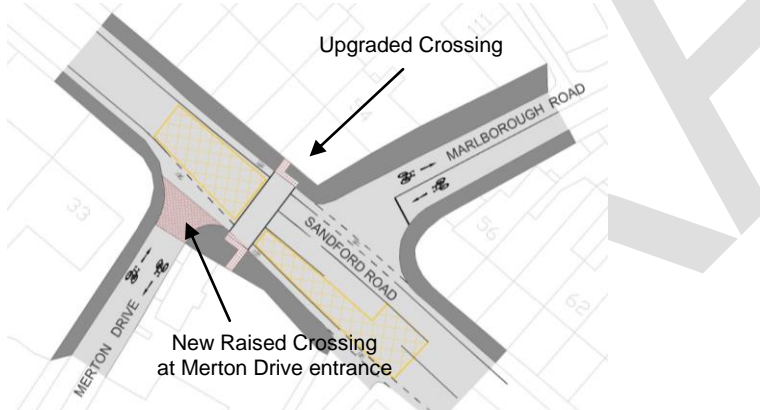


Figure 3.4: Upgraded pedestrian crossing at the Sandford Road/Marlborough Road junction

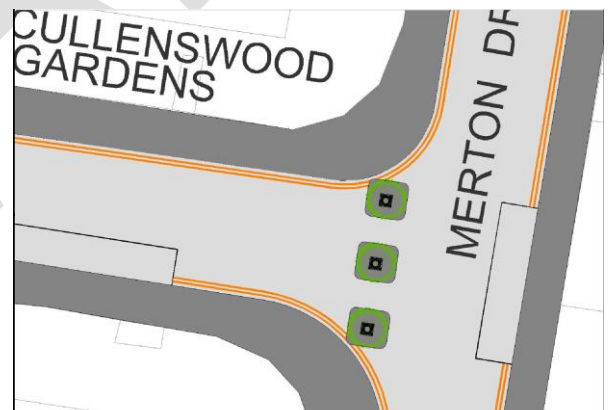


Figure 3.5: Filtered permeability feature providing restricted access Cullenswood Gardens

Restricted access is required on Merton Drive, with a possible location of west of Park Drive. In addition, consideration should be given to providing restricted access from Cullenswood Gardens, to ensure rat running is not transferred onto the northern section of Merton Drive.

From here the route continues onto Park Drive and Cowper Gardens without restriction.

Design Option 2: Removal of parking/provision of facilities

Herbert Park is approximately 9-9.5m wide, with parking either side of the road for the majority of the route. A number of options are available in this location. In order to maintain traffic movement through the park link, parking on one side of the road could be removed, providing a two-way off-road cycle track of 3m, a 5m carriageway and a 2.5m parking zone, as shown in the cross section, Design Option 2A, in Figure 3.6.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

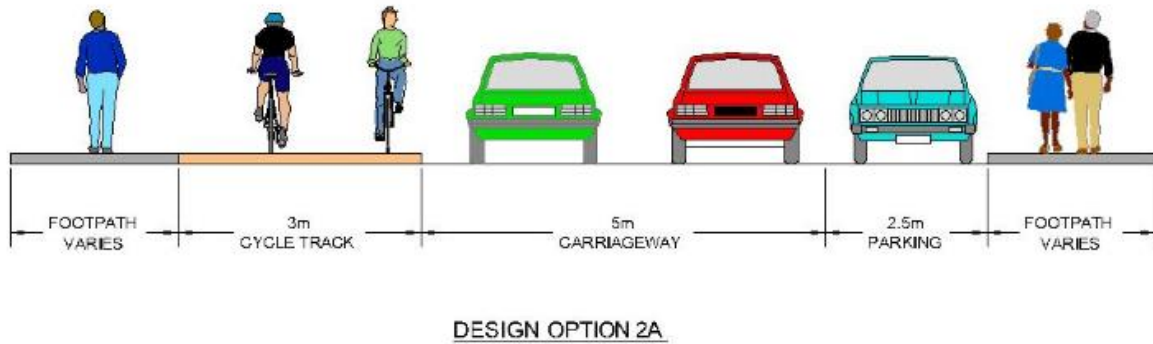


Figure 3.6: Cross Section for Design Option 2A

Alternatively a 4m wide cycle track could be provided, with a 3.5m wide carriageway, reducing traffic movements to one way, with a 2.5m parking zone, as shown in the cross section, Design Option 2B, in Figure 3.7. The key to selecting a preferred option at this location would be the analysis of the impacts of closing off the road to traffic completely, or the provision of a one way system.

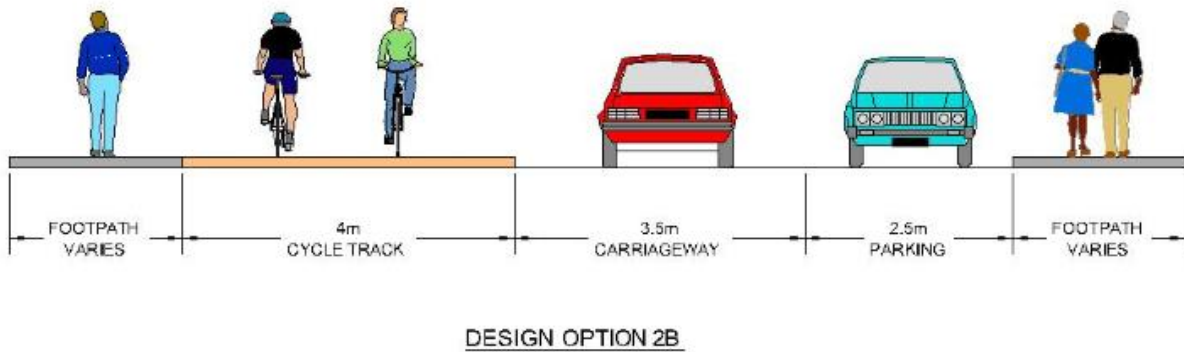


Figure 3.7: Cross Section for Design Option 2B

On Marlborough Road, due to the limited road width and lack of off-street parking for some of the residential units (northern and southern extents), provision of off-road facilities would not be appropriate at this location. Similarly on the links from Sandford Road to the Luas crossing, limited road space prevents the consideration of cycle facilities along these links. In addition the staggered nature of parking that takes place along some of the links, aids in the speed management of the road.

Alternatives Routes Considered:

Alternative routes, displayed in Figure 3.8, were considered from the Herbert Park area, including Clyde Lane/ Clyde Road/Wellington Place, however these roads exit onto the R138 (Morehampton Road), with no link available onto Appian Way, other than on the 5/6 lane regional road. This is not a good environment for less experienced cyclists, or school children. It also brings cyclists onto a busy route, with on-street parking and existing bus routes on Appian Way. Similarly travelling south towards Bloomfield Avenue, cyclists would again be forced onto the regional road, with restricted access provided through The Royal Hospital Donnybrook, this route does not provide the direct and intuitive routing required as traffic volumes are too high and restricted access is not possible.

Should a route through The Royal Hospital Donnybrook be available, the route could continue onto Anna Villa or Ashfield Road, with cyclists required to cross the Luas line at Beechwood. Through filtered permeability, a route along Dunville Avenue and Belgrave Road would result in the route exiting onto Rathmines Road Upper, a busy route with a number of buses located along the route. There would be a circuitous route required to get to Rathgar Road, another busy bus route, without a direct route onto the next section.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

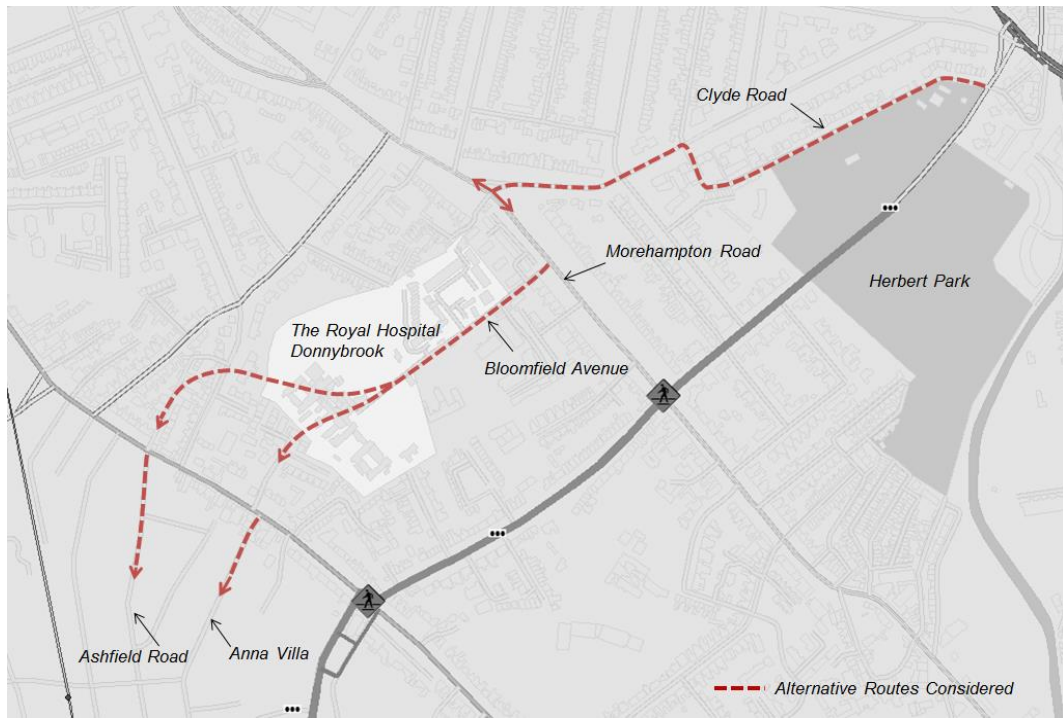


Figure 3.8: Alternative routes considered in Section 1 travelling north of Herbert Park

There are limited options beginning to the south of Herbert Park, as shown in Figure 3.9, with the regional road of Anglesea Road bounding the park, this route provides a vital access to the RDS/Ballsbridge area, which would limit the potential to restrict traffic movements on the route. The unattractive junction for access to the Stillorgan Road would require a vast amount of work to ensure safe crossings for inexperienced cyclists, while limited access options beyond this are available, with the Dodder Route already subject to another study; Beaver Row takes the route south of the ultimate destination.

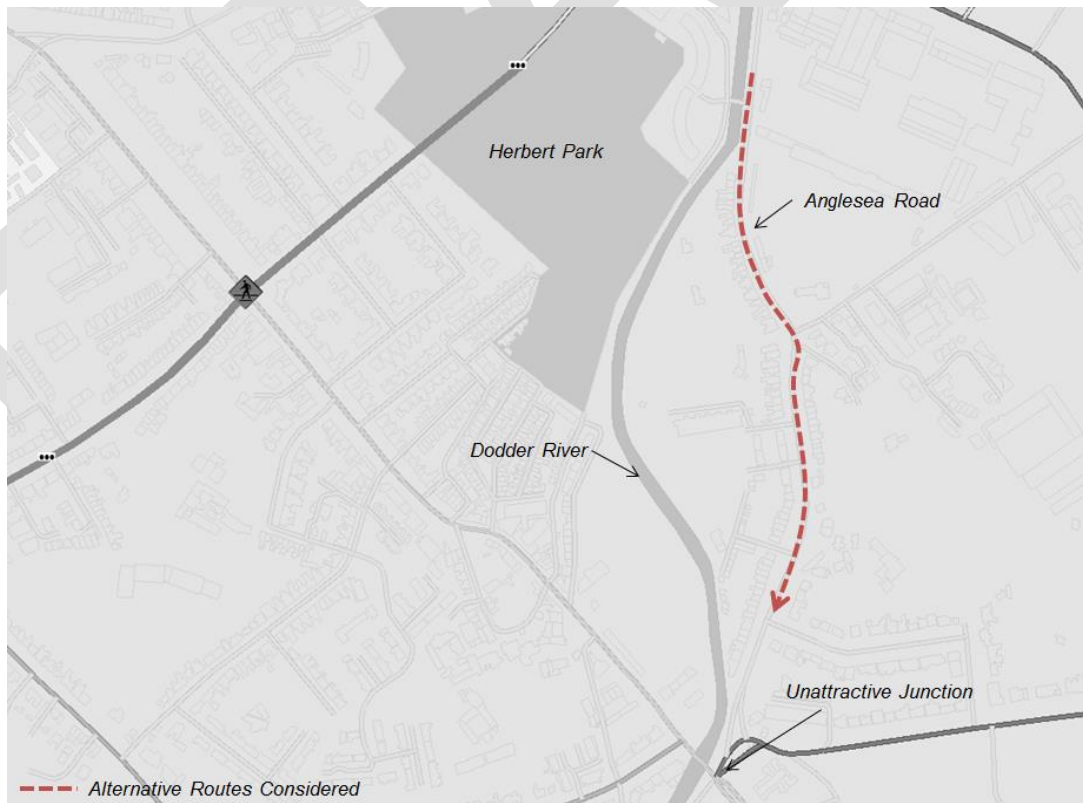


Figure 3.9: Alternative routes considered in Section 1 travelling south of Herbert Park

As such neither of these options are feasible to be taken forward.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

Potential Impacts:

Environmental Impact: Both Design Option 1 and Design Option 2 will be carried out within the footprint of the existing road. Hence there is no impact on the existing environment. All trees will be retained in each option.

Cultural, archaeological and architectural heritage: There will be no impact on archaeological and architectural heritage in the area.

Economy: The economic impact of the proposed options have been explored based on scheme capital costs, maintenance costs and quality of service for cyclists and pedestrians.

The majority of the scheme proposals for Option 1 and Option 2 are the same, with the exception of the treatment of Herbert Park road. Providing an off-road cycle facility along Herbert Park road will add significant costs compared to the permitting cyclists on the existing road way. In addition, the provision of an off-road cycle facility will require additional maintenance, with potentially additional sweeping requirements and maintenance of additional kerb lines and surfacing. To facilitate the provision of the off-road cycle facility, a line of on-street parking will have to be removed, with an associated loss of revenue for Dublin City Council. Comparing the quality of service provided in Option 1 and Option 2 at Herbert Park shows positive benefits to providing the off-road cycle facilities, however it is over a limited distance.

Safety/Accessibility

It is proposed in both Option 1 and Option 2 to provide upgraded crossings at the two major junctions along the route. Option 2 does remove cyclists from integration with vehicles completely over a short section, however Option 1 reduces traffic volumes in the area, thus also improving safety. In addition to the upgraded crossing facilities, with widened crossings, additional measures to improve safety and access along the route will include:

- Advanced stop lines at signalised junction;
- Continuous, coherent and linear route;
- Banned or filtered permeability throughout the area; and
- Continuous stream of signage to ensure a coherent route is identifiable by users.

Integration

This section follows one of the GDA Feeder cycle routes and so has the potential to link into this network as well as providing a safe route along residential streets. The route is in close proximity to a number of schools and has the potential to connect to these.

Traffic/Diversion

The largest impact for the scheme is the diversion of traffic due to the filtered permeability in Design Option 1. In this section, due to the heavy commuter traffic use of both Herbert Park and Marlborough Road, the impact will be significant in this area. Motorists wishing to travel along both of these routes will be required to divert to other areas in the area. The potential impacts have not been modeled, and this is an area that should be examined in further detail prior to the progression of the scheme to the next stage of design.

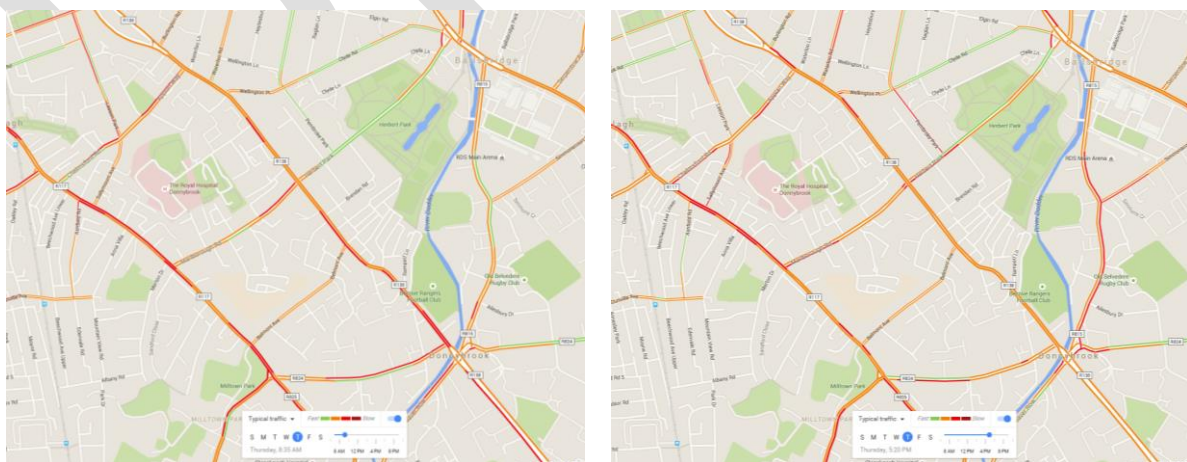


Figure 3.10: Typical level of traffic at peak times near Herbert Park area.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

The diversions required are highlighted in the following section. These are further highlighted on the diversion map in Figure 3.11.

1. Herbert Park – All movements are catered for at the Morehampton Road end of Herbert Park Road. The current link is approximately 750m. There are two diversion routes available, one via Clyde Road and the other via Anglesea Road. The maximum diversion lengths are 1.3km and 2.2km respectively. A similar diversion is required for motorists accessing Herbert Road from the Clyde Lane end. There is potential for motorists to rat run down Pembroke Park, with access provided to Clyde Road. This situation should be monitored and assessed in traffic modelling analysis.

For southbound motorists on Morehampton Road wishing to make a left turn and travel down Herbert Park, the filtered permeability will require these motorists to continue to Anglesea Road (2.2km diversion) or alternatively turn onto Wellington Place/Clyde Road. There is currently a ban on movements for northbound vehicles on Morehampton Road to Herbert Park. Vehicles exiting Marlborough Road wishing to continue through the park will have a slightly longer diversion, with motorists required to travel onto Waterloo Road/Wellington Lane/Wellington Road before returning to Clyde Road, an additional 400m. As noted above, potential for rat running on Pembroke Park should be reviewed.

Clyde Road generally does not show much congestion during the peak periods, however Anglesea Road shows slow moving traffic in both the AM and PM peak periods.

Should Option 2 be implemented, with an off-road cycle facility provided and two way traffic maintained, no diversions are required through Herbert Park.

2. Marlborough Road – This link is approximately 500m long. At the Morehampton Road end of the link, all movements are catered for, however access into Marlborough Road is restricted to northbound vehicles on Morehampton Road and straight through traffic from Herbert Park. The diversion routes are highlighted on the diversion map shown in figure 3.11. The northbound diversion is via Appian Way/Sallymount Avenue/Sandford Road and is 1.9km, with a southbound diversion via Belmont Avenue/Sandford Road (1.2km). Both of these routes show congestion in the AM and PM peak periods.

3. Merton Drive/Park Drive – It is proposed to provide filtered permeability to the west of Park Drive on Albany Road. Motorists exiting Park Drive or travelling along Albany Road will be diverted onto Mountain View Road and Beechwood Road should they wish to cross the Luas Line. Similarly motorists currently travelling along Edenvale Road/Albany Road will be diverted to Mountain View Road or Ashfield Road. The length of this diversion is negligible.

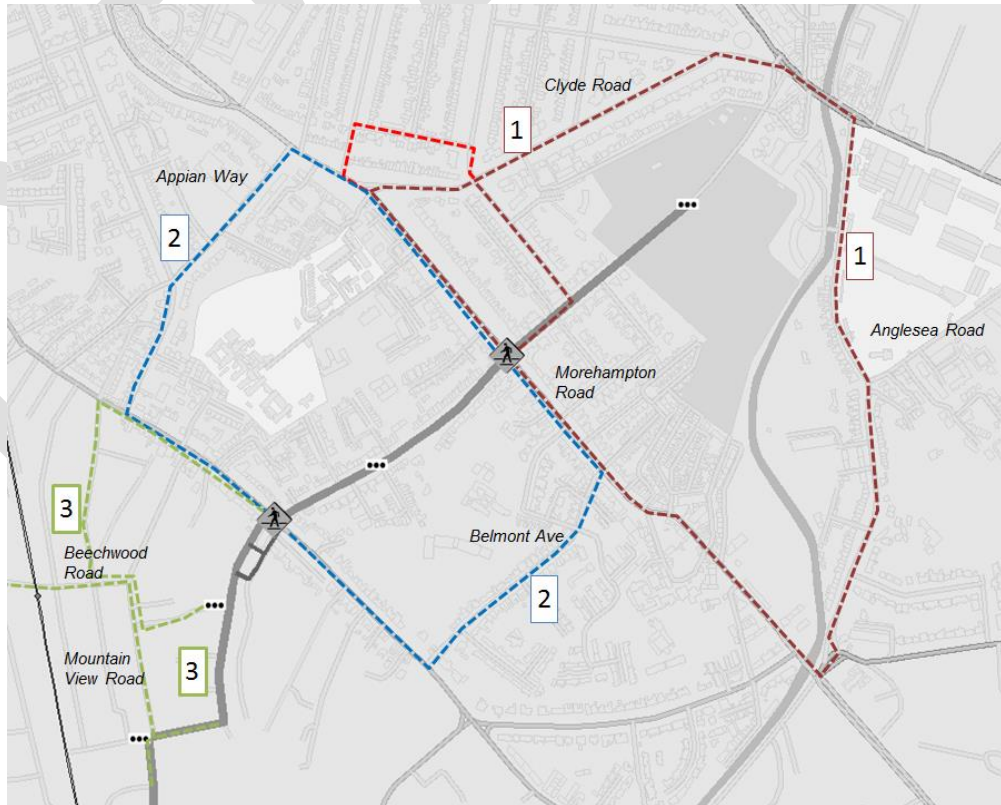


Figure 3.11: Diversion options in Section 1

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

In order to prevent heavy traffic flows on the northern end of Merton Drive (on the approach to Sandford Road), consideration should be given to filtered permeability on Cullenswood Gardens. The movement of traffic in this area should be observed, or may be shown in a microsimulation traffic analysis carried out prior to the implementation of the scheme. Should rat running become an issue physical measures could be implemented to reduce the movement at this location. This could take the form of full traffic restrictions, which would result in a diversion of approximately 900m for residents on the street. Alternatively, a yield system, reducing the attractiveness of the route (Similar to the images in Figure 3.12 below) could be provided, where by the capacity is reduced, and a delay is added to turning motorists.



Figure 3.12: Sample images of a yield system in place (Source: Google Maps)

Summary

A number of route options were considered for this section; however, due to lack of connectivity and the requirement to travel along regional roads, they have been discarded.

A number of options were considered through Herbert Park Road. Maintaining two way traffic and removal of parking on one side in order to provide an off road cycle facility emerged as the preferred option as it had the benefit of avoiding traffic diversions on the road network.

Filtered permeability is required on Marlborough Road and Albany Road with consideration to be given to providing a feature at the entrance to Cullenswood Gardens.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

3.2.2 Luas Crossing to Terenure Road North

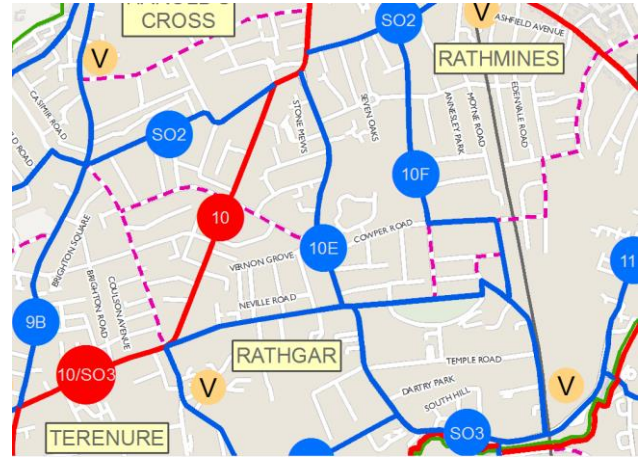
Travelling across the Luas line the next section of the route travels from Cowper Road to Terenure Road North.

The initial proposed route travels along Cowper Road, it then routes into the quieter roads of Cowper Downs and Cowper Mews, before crossing Rathmines Road Upper and onto Frankfort Avenue, Garville Road and Garville Avenue, onto Brighton Square and onto Terenure Road North.

A section of the route travels along the secondary route 10F, and rejoins the GDA cycle network on Frankfort Avenue on a feeder route.

Cowper Road is a single carriageway road, with parking either side of the carriageway for the majority of its length. There are trees located along the route, both mature and younger trees. At the eastern end of Cowper Road, commuter parking is prevalent with access close to the Luas line and the Cowper station.

To avoid a 70m link on the Rathmines Road Upper, the proposed route has been taken onto Cowper Downs, through a wall, and into Cowper Mews. Crossing Rathmines Road Upper, the route travels onto Frankfort Avenue which is a one-way street southbound, with parking provided on either side of the road. Garville Road is a narrow two way link, with parking provided on the northern side of the road, changing to the southern side on the approach to Rathgar Road. The route crosses onto Garville Avenue, Garville Avenue Upper and onto Brighton Square. These streets are generally residential, with parking provided along the route. Traffic volumes are generally low on this route.



Design Option 1: Filtered Permeability / Traffic restrictions

Required Works: A design feature would be required either side of Palmerston Road, on Cowper Road. On the eastern arm, a feature would be provided at the junction of Merton Road/Cowper Road, which will allow for a turning area to be provided for access to the Luas stop, as illustrated in Figure 3.13. On the western arm, a feature could be provided to the east or west of Palmerston Gardens (based on survey data of traffic movements from the estate), as shown in an example image in Figure 3.14. With an existing bus route on Cowper Road, this will have a significant impact on all road users.



Figure 3.13: Filtered permeability feature on Merton Road

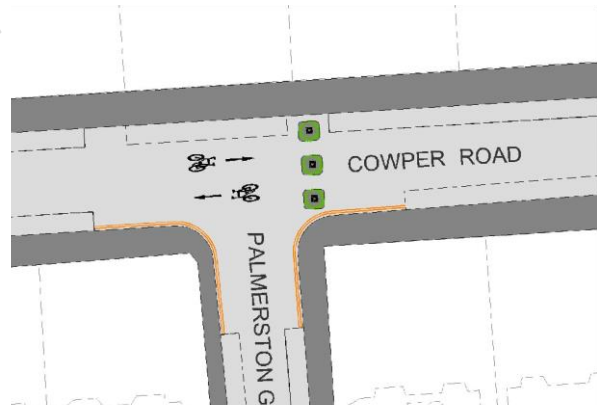


Figure 3.14: Filtered permeability east/west of Palmerston Gardens

The existing wall between Cowper Downs and Cowper Mews limits permeability at this location. It is proposed that an access could be provided through the wall, for pedestrians and cyclists only, to link the two residential estates.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

On Rathmines Road Upper, a wide crossing is required to provide a safe crossing for users over to Frankfort Avenue. This will result in the loss of some parking space (in the order of 1-2m). This is illustrated in Figure 3.15.

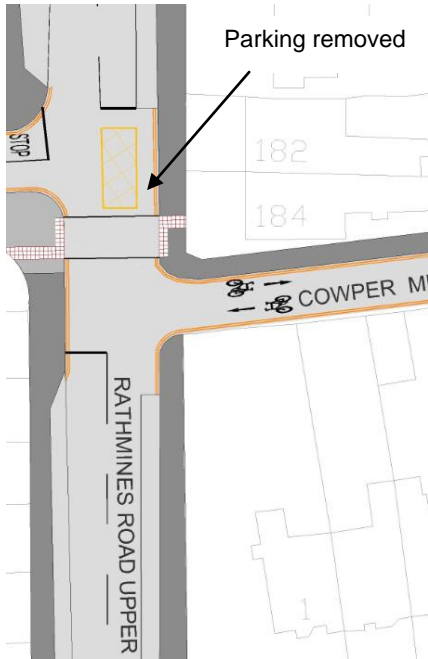


Figure 3.15: Signalised crossing on Rathmines Rd Upper

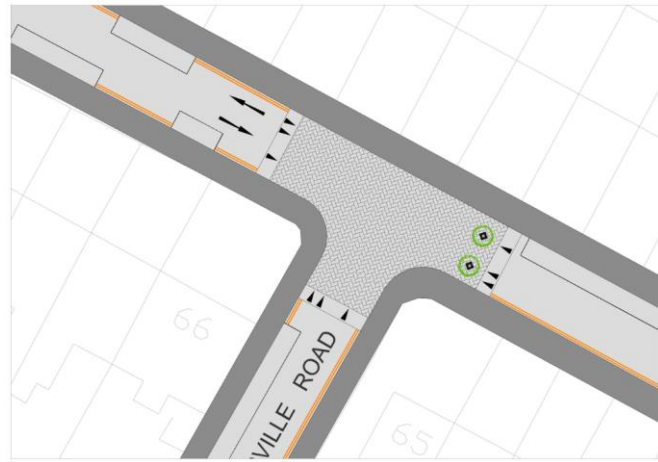


Figure 3.16: Option for route travelling along Frankfort Ave

The original scheme proposals see the route travel along Frankfort Avenue. This requires the street to be converted back to a two-way street, with parking staggered along the route, as shown in Figure 3.16. In addition a filtered permeability feature would be required to reduce through traffic on this existing busy route. Locating a restricted access feature to the south of the Garville Road junction will reduce rat running along Garville Road also.

Travelling onto Garville Road, there would be limited use of this route as a rat run, hence observations should be carried out after the implementation of the scheme to assess the requirements of physical features to reduce through movements.

A crossing is required on Rathgar Road, to the south of Garville Road providing access to Garville Avenue. Between Terenure Road North/Harolds Cross Road and the Rathgar Road, another feature will be required. It is proposed that this feature be placed to the west of Rathgar Avenue.

Design Option 2: Removal of parking/provision of facilities

An opportunity exists to remove parking along one side of Cowper Road, on the section between the Luas Crossing and Palmerston Road. This would remove the need for the filtered permeability and allow a two-way cycle facility to be provided on the link. This potentially removes a large section of commuter parking. Continuing along Cowper Road, the two-way cycle facility could be continued, again at the cost of on-street parking. The provision of facilities would reduce the impact to the existing bus route (140 from Palmerston Park to Finglas). Tie in at junctions would be subject to further analysis at preliminary/detailed design stage.



Figure 3.17: Two way cycle facility along Cowper Road

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

Going off the main line, the route would continue as before, through Cowper Downs and through the wall to Cowper Mews. Travelling over Rathmines Road Upper and onto Frankfort Avenue, there is limited potential to remove parking along this route, as many of the residential properties do not have access to off-street parking. Similarly on Garville Road, the road width is approximately 6m wide. A number of the properties do not have off-street parking, limiting the possibility of removing the on-street parking to provide dedicated facilities.

Continuing onto Garville Avenue and Brighton Square, there is on-street parking provided on both sides of the road, and while a number of properties do not have off-street parking, this is generally restricted to residential properties on one side of the road. A two-way off-road cycle facility could be provided on one-side of the road along this section of the route.

Alternatives Routes Considered:

The initial route proposed is the most divert route for the link. A number of alternative options were considered, however, and are illustrated in Figure 3.18.

Beginning with the Luas crossing, as noted in Section 1, the Beechwood crossing is difficult to get to initially, however should a route be found, the link provided to Rathmines Road Upper would result in a lack of connection to continue westbound, with users required to travel for some distance on the busy regional road. Similarly, once connected over to Rathgar Road, connections west are limited.

Should the route be continued on Albany Road, a diversion northbound or southbound would be required to get onto a route, thus creating a circuitous route. To the south, a link could be continued down Park Drive to Merton Crescent through a wall; however ownership of this estate is unknown and appears to be a private development. Hence crossing at Cowper Luas stop is the most feasible option. This requires the route to travel along Cowper Road.

Travelling onto Frankfort Avenue, there is a possible route onto Vernon Grove; this is a quieter residential street than Frankfort Avenue. The section of road between Rathmines Road Upper and Vernon Grove could be altered to reduce the road carriageway width, providing a shared surface from the junction of Rathmines Road Upper to Vernon Grove. An existing pedestrian link is provided between Vernon Grove and Belleville Avenue, which is a short cul-de-sac. This results in cyclist and pedestrians having to travel 35m on Rathgar Road.

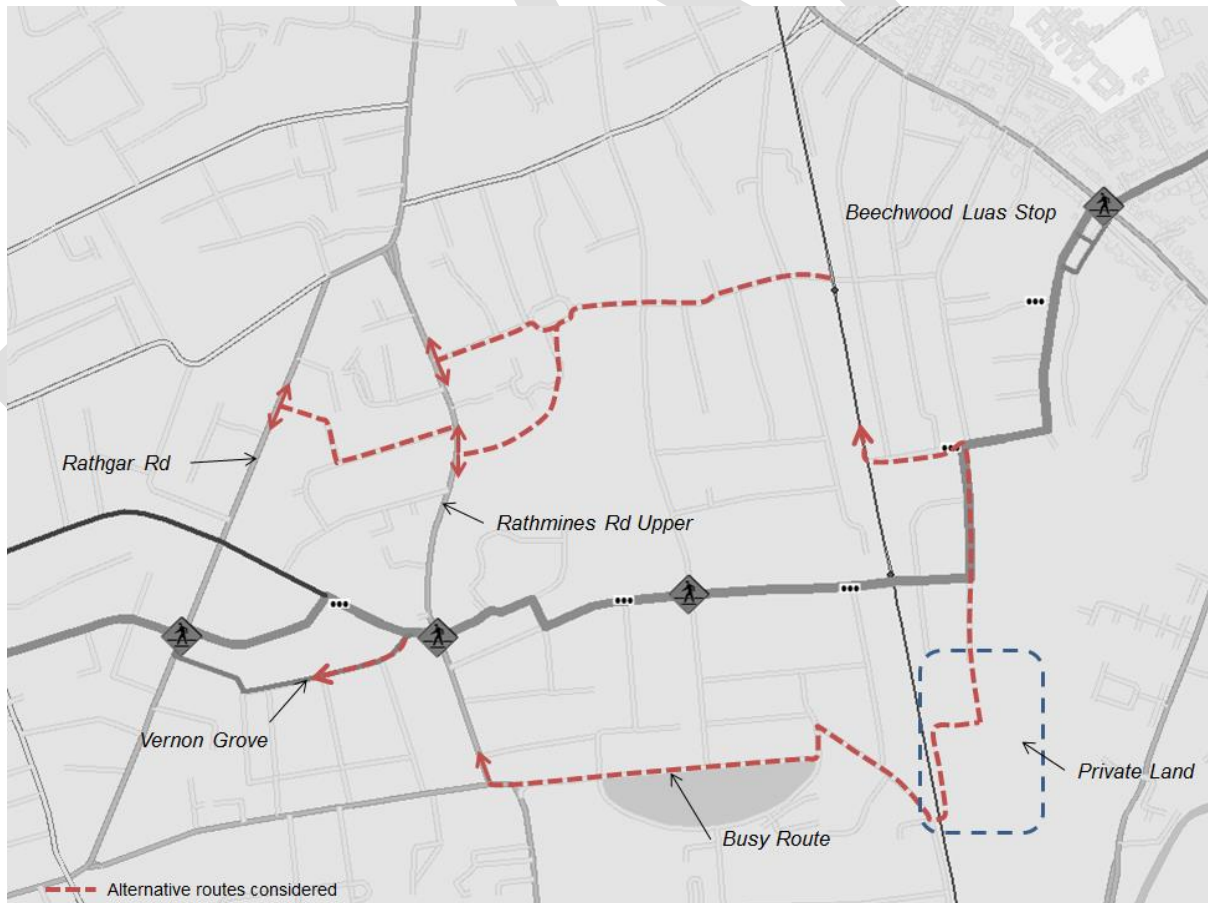


Figure 3.18: Alternative routes considered in Section 2

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

Another option considered at Frankfort Avenue is to continue the route along Frankfort Avenue, instead of turning onto Vernon Grove, up to the Rathgar Road. This would allow the Quietway to follow a GDA feeder route which continues onto Leicester Avenue until it reaches Rathgar Avenue. From here, however, there is no direct link for the Quietway to continue without travelling onto Rathgar Avenue, which is a busy trafficked road and would not be appropriate for the less experienced cyclist, therefore, this route was not considered further.

Due to difficulties crossing and maintaining a direct route north or south of the Cowper Luas crossing, the routes to the north and south are not feasible. Using Vernon Grove is a viable option and is considered further below.

Potential Impacts:

Environmental Impact: Design Option 1 and Design Option 2, as well as the alternative route through Vernon Grove, will be carried out within the footprint of the existing road. Hence there is no impact on the existing environment. All trees will be retained in each option.

In both options, there is a requirement to break through a wall between two residential estates.

Cultural, archaeological and architectural heritage: There will be no impact on archaeological and architectural heritage in the area.

Economy: The economic impacts of the proposed options have been explored based on scheme capital costs, maintenance costs and quality of service for cyclists and pedestrians.

The majority of the Design Option 2 provides off-road cycle facilities along the route. This will add significant costs compared to the permitting of cyclists on the existing road way. In addition, the provision of an off-road cycle facility will require additional maintenance, with potentially additional sweeping requirements and maintenance of additional kerb lines and surfacing. To facilitate the provision of the off-road cycle facility, a line of on-street parking will have to be removed, with an associated loss of revenue for Dublin City Council. Comparing the quality of service provided in Option 1 and Option 2, Option 2 would provide a better quality of service to the users of the facility. The alternative route via Vernon Grove would reduce the impact on loss of parking required in both Design Option 1 and Design Option 2.

Safety/Accessibility

It is proposed in both Option 1 and Option 2 to provide upgraded crossings at the three major junctions along the route. Option 2 will permit off-road cycle facilities to be provided along the route, which is inherently safer, although Option 1 reduces traffic volumes along the links. Therefore the safety will be similar for both options. In addition to the upgraded crossing facilities, with widened crossings, additional measures to improve safety and access along the route will include:

- Advanced stop lines at signalised junction;
- Continuous, coherent and linear route;
- Banned turns/ filtered permeability for traffic at key locations to improve route safety; and
- Continuous stream of signage to ensure a coherent route is identifiable by users.

Integration

A small section of the route follows the Secondary Route 10F of the GDA cycle network. The route rejoins the GDA feeder route at Frankfort Avenue. There are no schools that directly connect to the route in this section; however, there are possibilities of connecting these via a further study in this area.

Traffic/Diversion

Possible traffic diversions for Section 2 are outlined below and are illustrated in Figure 3.19.

4. Providing a design feature at the junction of Merton Road/Cowper Road will require motorists travelling on Merton Road to divert onto Temple Gardens and Temple Villas. This sees an increase from the original link of 290m to 550m, an increase of 260m.

Depending on the location of the traffic filter to the east or west of Palmerston Gardens the following diversions will be required. Assuming a physical feature to the west of Palmerston Gardens, motorists wishing to travel straight through on Cowper Road, a distance of 140m, will now be required to travel 1.2km, along Cowper Road, Rathmines Road Upper and onto Palmerston Park and Palmerston Road. In addition, the bus route on this road will need to be accommodated

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

elsewhere, or a bus gate provided. An alternative route, of similar length, is via Cambridge Villas and Church Avenue to the north of Cowper Road.

- On the section of route between Rathmines Road Upper and Rathgar Road, assuming the use of Vernon Grove, limited diversions would be required due to the residential nature of the area. Should a filtered permeability feature be required, localised diversion within the estate would result. This would need to be confirmed with traffic counts and Origin and Destination Surveys.

Should the route be continued up Frankfort Avenue, a major change in traffic movements would be required. Frankfort Avenue would essentially be cul-de-sac'd. The existing link between the Garville Road junction and Rathmines Road Upper is 230m. Motorists heading southbound on Frankfort Avenue will be required to travel approximately 2km to travel between Rathgar Road and Rathmines Road Upper, via Highfield Road. The northbound alternative from Rathgar Road is a circuitous route of 1.7km via Castlewood Avenue and Church Avenue, while from Rathmines Road, a shorter 700m route is available via Maxwell Road.

- It is proposed to provide filtered permeability to the west of Rathgar Avenue. This will create a cul-de-sac on Garville Avenue Upper. Motorists wishing to travel straight through to Garville Avenue or gain access to Rathgar Avenue can access these routes via Brighton Road. The 190m existing route would be extended to 560m, an increase of 370m. Rat running may continue on the western end of the link, along Brighton Road, therefore an additional ban on traffic movements (via a left or right turn ban on Terenure Road North or Terenure Road East would have to be explored. This should be considered after implementation and when an Origin/Destination survey has been carried out.

Motorists from Rathgar Road, wishing to turn onto Garville Avenue Upper will be required to travel onto Brighton Avenue, and Brighton Square. Alternatively there is a circuitous route via Winton Avenue, Rathgar Road and Brighton Road.

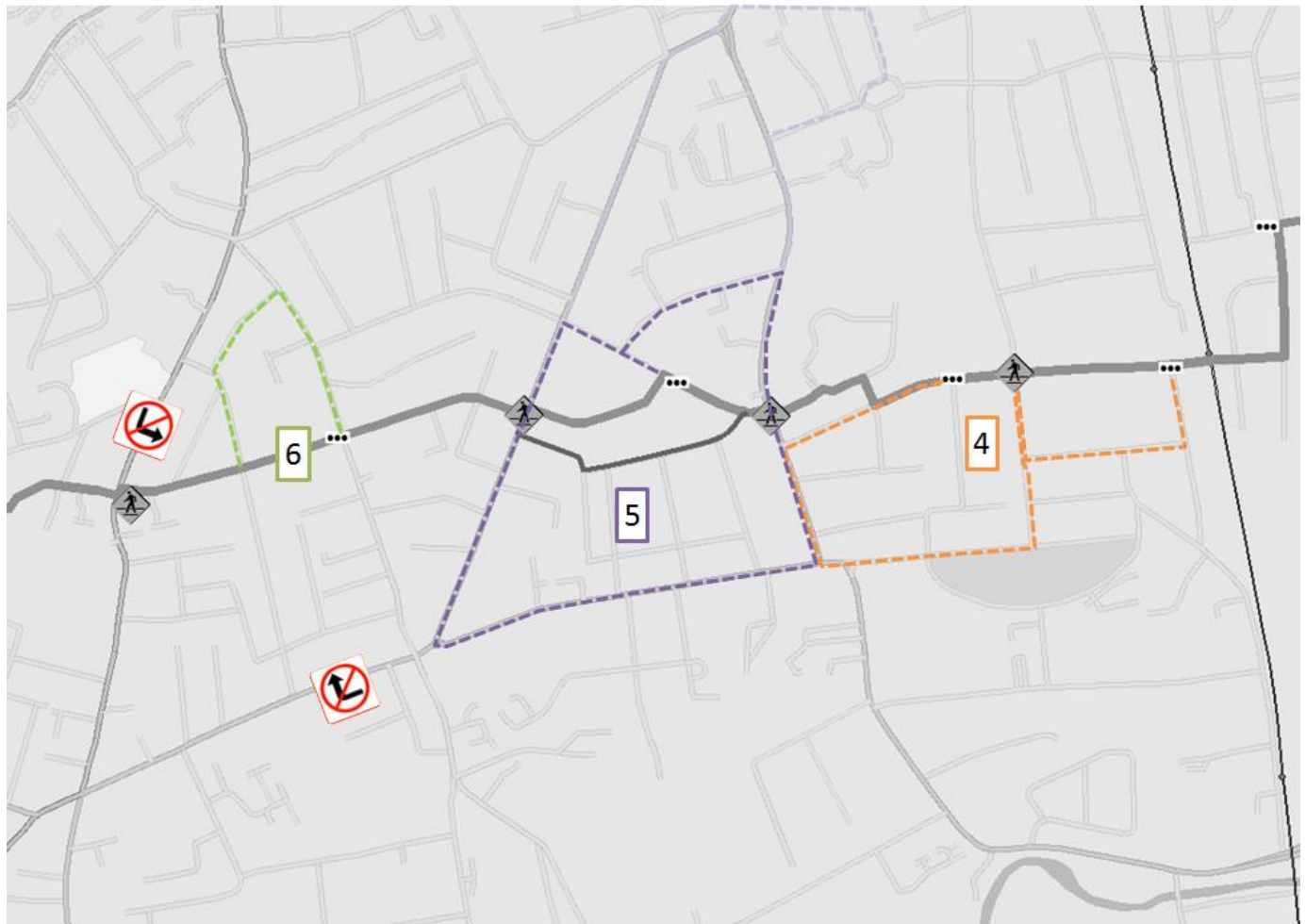


Figure 3.19: Diversion Routes Section 2.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

Summary

Similar to Section 1, limited alternative options for the proposed route are available due to location of private lands and/or lack of connections due to busy regional roads. The option of routing onto Vernon Grove is a possibility.

Filtered permeability is required at a number of locations in this section as well the necessity to route through a section of existing wall.

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Capabilities on project:
Transportation

3.2.3 Terenure Road North to Corrib Road.

The final section of the route is mainly residential in nature. The initial proposed route travels across Terenure Road North and onto Ashdale Road, which is generally a residential street with low traffic movements. There is existing on-street parking provided generally on one side of the road. It is proposed to take the route through Ashdale Gardens and break through a wall to Corrib Road. Corrib Road is a quiet residential street, with an existing filtered permeability feature restricting vehicle movements on Corrib Road. Parking generally takes place randomly along this route. The route is also tree lined. The route extends on the northern section of Corrib Road to Kimmage Road Upper, where the route is proposed to terminate.



The final section does not follow the GDA cycle network plan feeder routes, with the feeder planned to be on Mount Tallant Avenue. Access onto Mount Tallant Avenue is considered below in alternative routes considered.

Design Option 1: Filtered Permeability / Traffic restrictions

Required Works: The works in this area will be minimal. The existing signalised crossing on the southern arm of Terenure Road North will be maintained. Travelling on Ashdale Road, no works will be required, while at the end of Ashdale Gardens an access permitting pedestrians and cyclists will be required through the existing wall, illustrated in Figure 3.20.



Figure 3.20: Section of existing wall to be knocked to permit access to pedestrians and cyclists.

Travelling onto Corrib Road, no additional works will be required, as there is an existing filtered permeability feature provided, shown in Figure 3.21. Again continuing on Corrib Road on the other side of the permeability feature, no works will be required due to the residential nature of the area.



Figure 3.21: Existing permeability feature on Corrib Road

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

Design Option 2: Removal of parking/provision of facilities

In this area, due to the residential nature of the area, low speeds and volumes, it would not be necessary to provide dedicated facilities along this route.

Alternatives Routes Considered:

The alternative routes in this area follow the proposed feeder route on Mount Tallant Avenue. A number of options to access this route are available, shown in Figure 3.22.

Due to the lack of direct access to Mount Tallant Avenue, the proposed route would need to travel northbound or southbound from Brighton Square along Harold's Cross Road. Harold's Cross Road is a busy link, with a bus lane northbound and an on-road cycle lane. It is not an attractive route for novice or less experienced cyclists. As such, this is not a feasible route option.

There are two alternative routes available, linking from Ashdale Road and travelling along Ashfield Park, the route can then join Mount Tallant Avenue. Filtered permeability would have to be provided on the link to restrict through traffic in the area. Alternatively, if the route is continued onto Corrib Road, via Ashdale Gardens, the route could link north onto Mount Tallant Avenue. Again filtered permeability will be required to restrict through traffic on Mount Tallant Avenue.

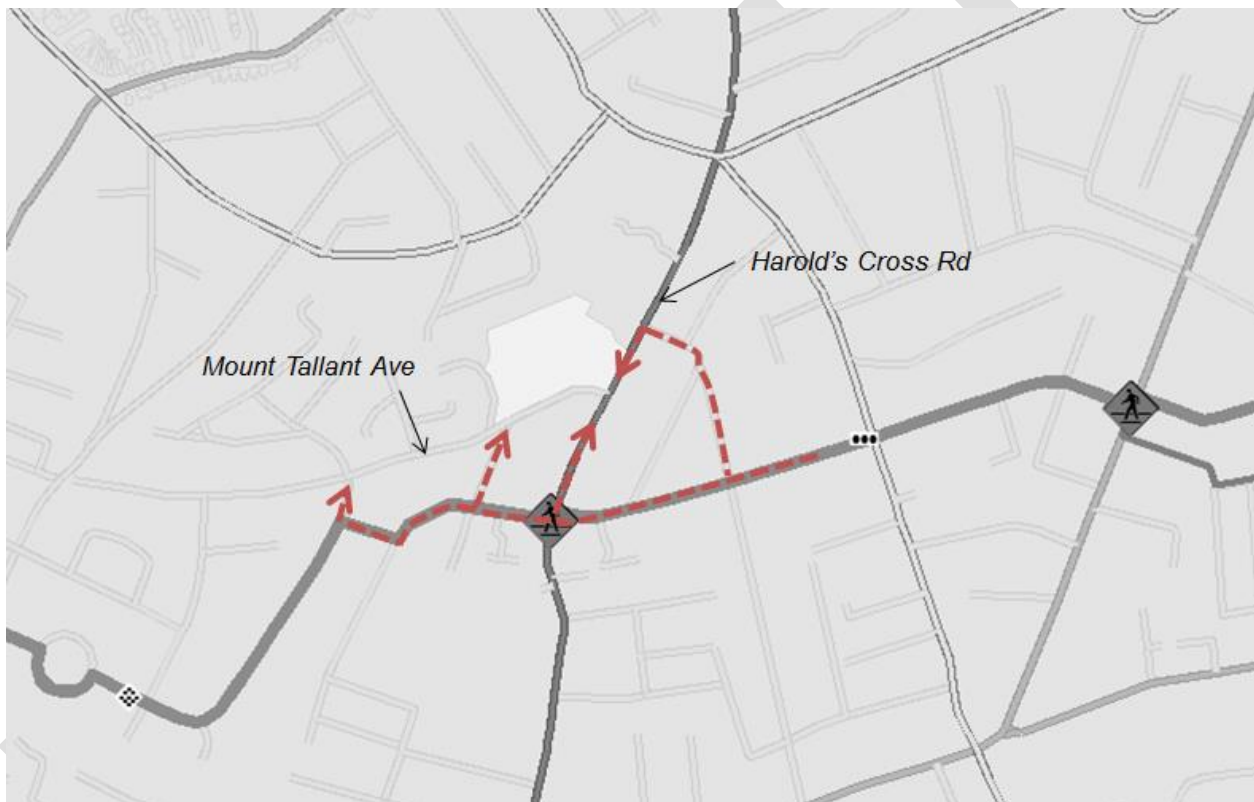


Figure 3.22: Alternative routes considered in Section 3

While both of these routes link into the proposed GDA Cycle Network Plan feeder route, the link terminates at a location on the Kimmage Road Lower where no direct link is available to continue the route, shown below in Figure 3.23. The GDA Feeder route appears to travel across a number of residential properties before continuing on Clonard Road and beyond. The proposed route, exiting at Corrib Road has the potential to travel straight across the road, into what appears to be a private development at Hazel Park. Discussions and agreement would need to be sought to provide a link through the wall onto Poddle Park Road, which would allow the route to continue towards Crumlin Children's Hospital, as well as a number of parks such as Stanaway Park, schools such as St. Agnes Primary School and Scoil Colm.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

As such, exiting onto the Kimmage Road Lower at Corrib Road is the preferred option.

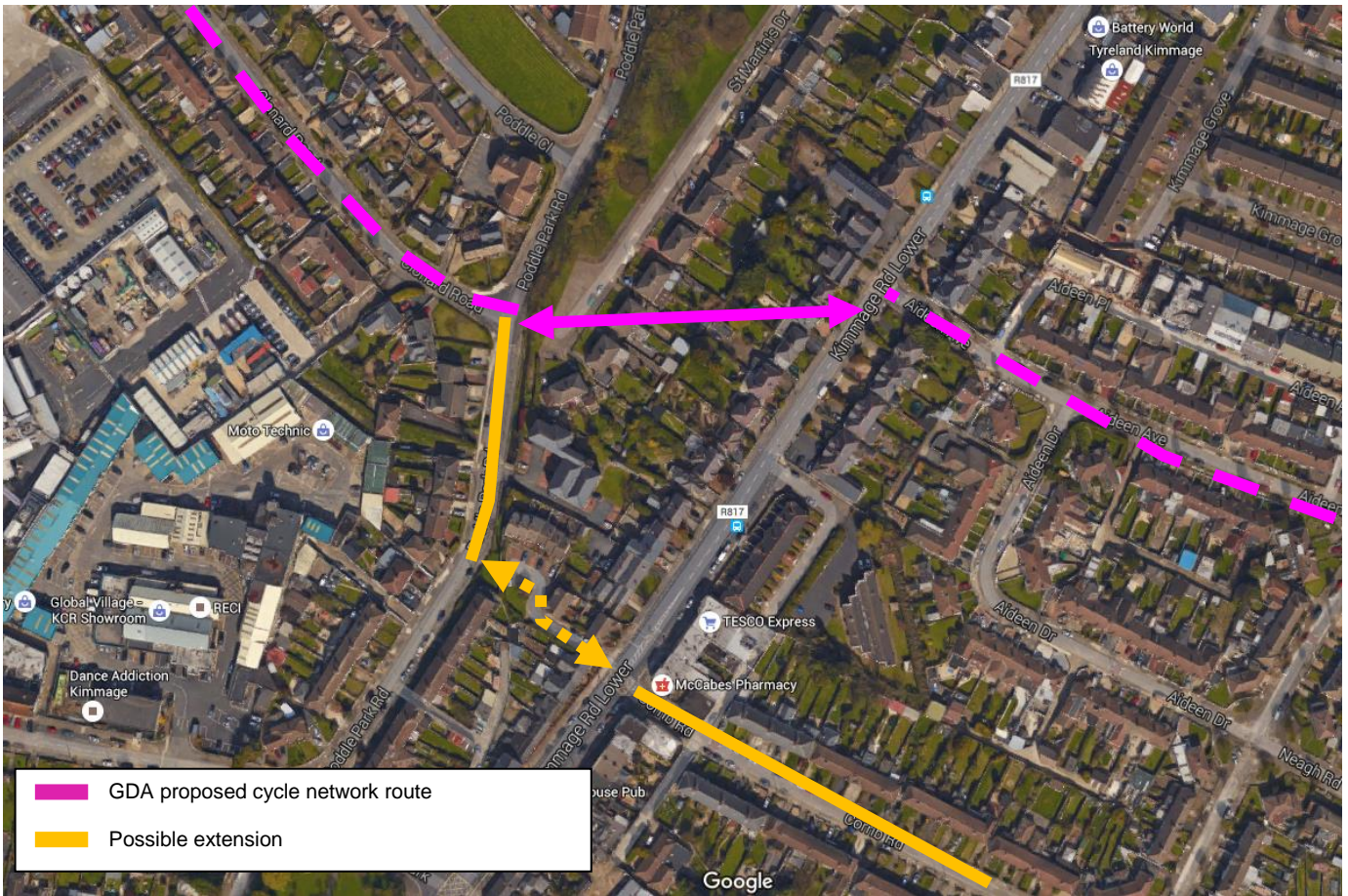


Figure 3.23: Termination of Quietway route at Kimmage Road Lower

Potential Impacts:

Environmental Impact: In general there are no environmental impacts with this section of the scheme.

Cultural, archaeological and architectural heritage: There will be no impact on archaeological and architectural heritage in the area.

Economy: The economic impacts of the proposed options have been explored based on scheme capital costs, maintenance costs and quality of service for cyclists and pedestrians.

Due to the residential nature of the area, Scheme Option 2 was not considered in this section. Scheme Option 1 will provide for pedestrians and cyclists on road with no additional filtered permeability necessary for this area. The route will require the removal of a section of wall, however, this will not add significant costs.

Safety/Accessibility

Due to the residential nature of this section, existing traffic volumes and speeds are low. As there is already filtered permeability in place through this residential estate, safety for vulnerable road users is high. The crossing at the Terenure Road North junction will also be upgraded for the scheme.

As well as upgrading of pedestrian crossing facility, additional measures to improve safety and access along the route will include:

- Advanced stop lines at signalised junction;
- Continuous, coherent and linear route;
- Continuous stream of signage to ensure a coherent route is identifiable by users.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

Integration

The preferred route option does not follow any of the GDA cycle route. As highlighted earlier in the alternative route section, Mount Tallant Avenue does follow the GDA feeder route, however, connectivity to further routes limits this as a viable route option. The route is located in close proximity to schools and has possible link connections to these. This section integrates well into the streetscape as there are existing filtered permeability features in place.

Traffic/Diversion

There are no diversions required with this option.

Summary

In Section 3, the route travels on mainly quiet residential streets, and therefore, there is little requirement to provide any additional features for traffic calming.

At the Terenure Road North junction, the existing signalised crossing will be upgraded as part of the scheme. It will also be necessary to provide a route through a section of wall which currently connects two residential streets.

A number of alternative options were considered in this section. There is the possibility of linking onto Mount Tallant Avenue, either from routing onto Harold's Cross Road or via Ashdale Road and Ashdale Park. Staying on Mount Tallant Avenue would mean that the route would terminate on a section of Kimmage Road Lower that would provide no potential link for a future connection continuing west. Therefore, in terms of future connections, exiting from Corrib Road is the preferred option.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

3.3 Preferred Scheme

The preferred scheme is set out below, with more detailed drawings provided in Appendix A. Throughout the scheme, road markings identifying the route, as well as dedicated route signage will be provided.

Section 1 – Herbert Park to Green Luas Line

The preferred scheme for Section 1 is illustrated in the map in Figure 3.24. The route will begin on Herbert Park Road where Option 2 will be implemented as discussed above, ie, provide a two – way 3m off road cycle track and remove parking on the southern side of the road, while maintaining two way traffic. This reduces the impact of traffic diversions in the area, however comes at the cost of on-street parking, which is commuter in nature. Crossing Herbert Park Road/Morehampton Road junction, a wide dedicated crossing facility will be provided. On Marlborough Road, the preferred option will be to provide a filtered permeability feature west of Muckcross College. This will reduce through traffic on this road, providing a safe environment for cyclists and pedestrians.

Travelling through the Marlborough Road/Sandford Road junction, an existing crossing located on the northern arm of the junction will be upgraded to provide for both pedestrians and cyclists. The route will then progress onto Merton Drive where filtered permeability features will be provided in two locations, at the entrance to Cullenswood Gardens travelling onto Merton Drive and also on Albany Road, just west of Park Drive.

The route will then continue across the Luas Line at the Cowper Luas Stop, where there is an existing access feature provided to facilitate pedestrians and cyclists while restricting vehicular access.

Section 2 – Green Luas Line to Terenure Road North

The preferred scheme for Section 2 is illustrated in the map in Figure 3.25. Travelling from the Cowper Luas facility, the route will continue on Cowper Road, where Option 1 will be implemented as discussed previously, ie, a filtered permeability feature will be provided at the junction of Cowper Road/Merton Road and Cowper Road/Palmerston Garden. The proposed route will then travel through Cowper Downs where it will be necessary to break through an existing wall to Cowper Mews.

At the Cowper Mews/Rathmines Road Upper junction, a crossing facility will be provided to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. The route will then travel onto Frankfort Avenue where it is proposed to take the route onto Vernon Grove instead of Garville Road, which was originally suggested. Taking the route onto Vernon Grove provides the possibility of having a sufficiently wide, direct crossing facility on Rathgar Road. It also negates the requirement of having to convert Frankfort Avenue to a two way system or having to remove necessary residential parking on one side of Frankfort Avenue to provide a cycling facility. It does mean that pedestrians and cyclists will have to travel on the Rathgar Road for approximately 30m to Garville Avenue, however, there will be an off road shared pedestrian and cycle facility provided.

Along Garville Avenue, it is proposed to implement a filtered permeability feature to the west of the junction with Rathgar Avenue. The route will then continue to the Brighton Square/Terenure Road North junction.

Section 3 – Terenure Road North to Corrib Road

The preferred scheme for Section 3 is illustrated in the map in Figure 3.26. An existing toucan crossing on the southern arm of the Terenure Road North junction will be used and upgraded for the scheme. The route will then travel onto Ashdale Road and Ashdale Gardens. No filtered permeability is necessary in this location as it is a quiet residential street with no rat running.

It is then proposed to take the route onto Corrib Road from Ashdale Gardens. This requires the removal of a section of wall to connect the two residential streets. Along Corrib Road, there are already filtered permeability features in place; these will be maintained with no requirement for additional permeability features along Corrib Road.

The scheme will terminate on Corrib Road at the Kimmage Road Lower junction. Ending the scheme at this location will provide a possible future connection through Hazel Park Road and onto Poddle Park Road into Crumlin.

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

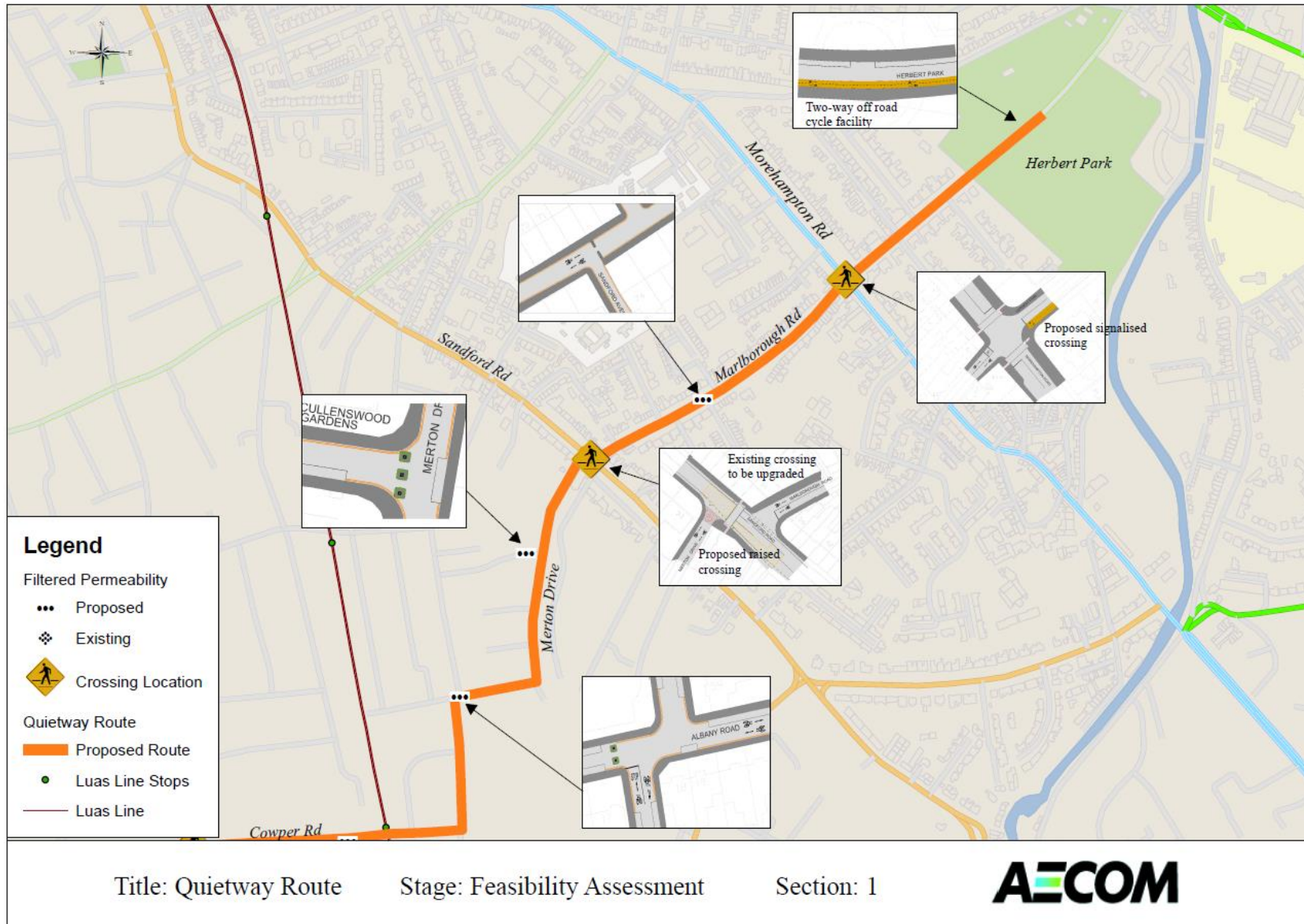


Figure 3.24: Section 1 of the Preferred Quietway Scheme

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

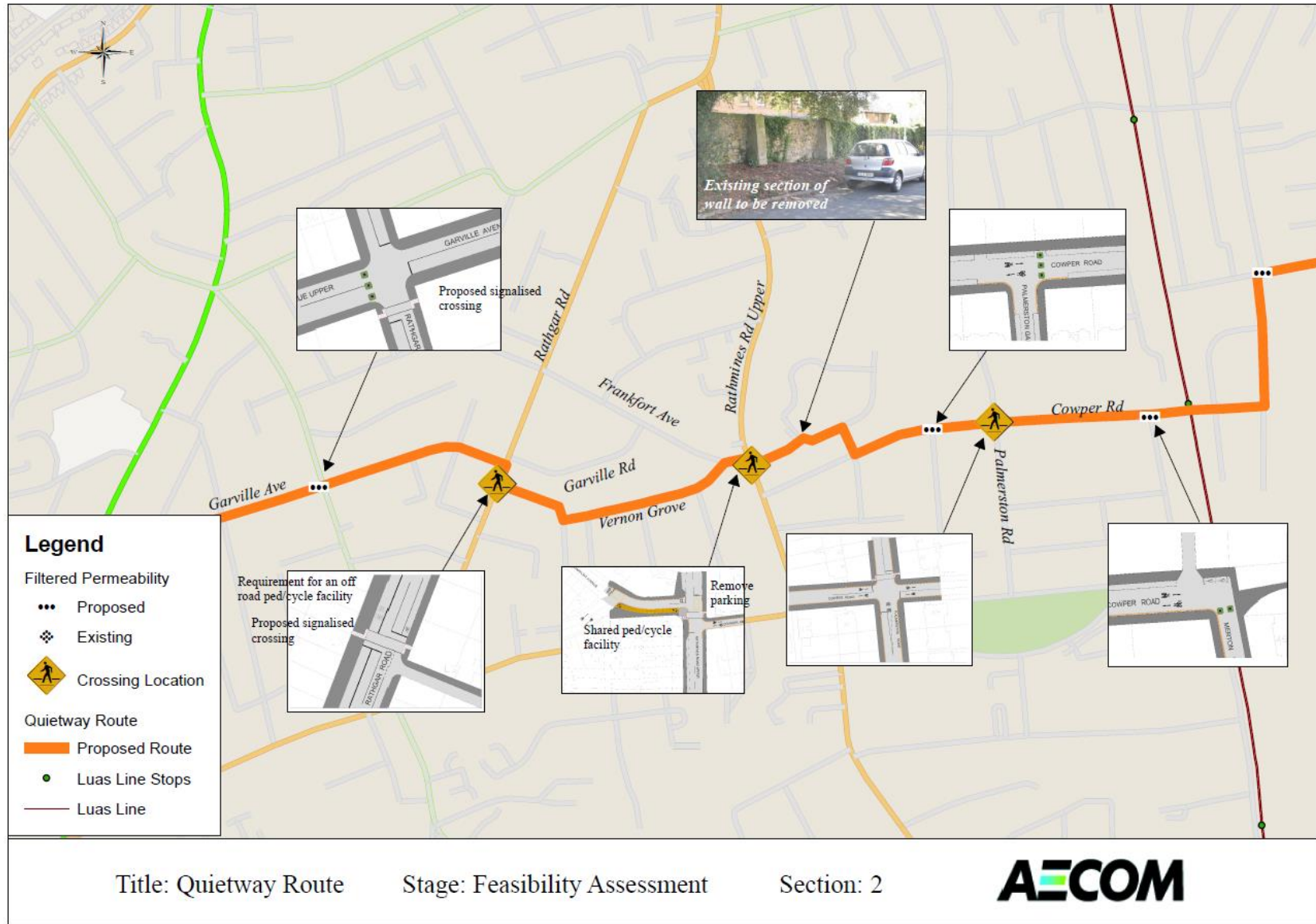


Figure 3.25: Section 2 of the Preferred Quietway Scheme

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

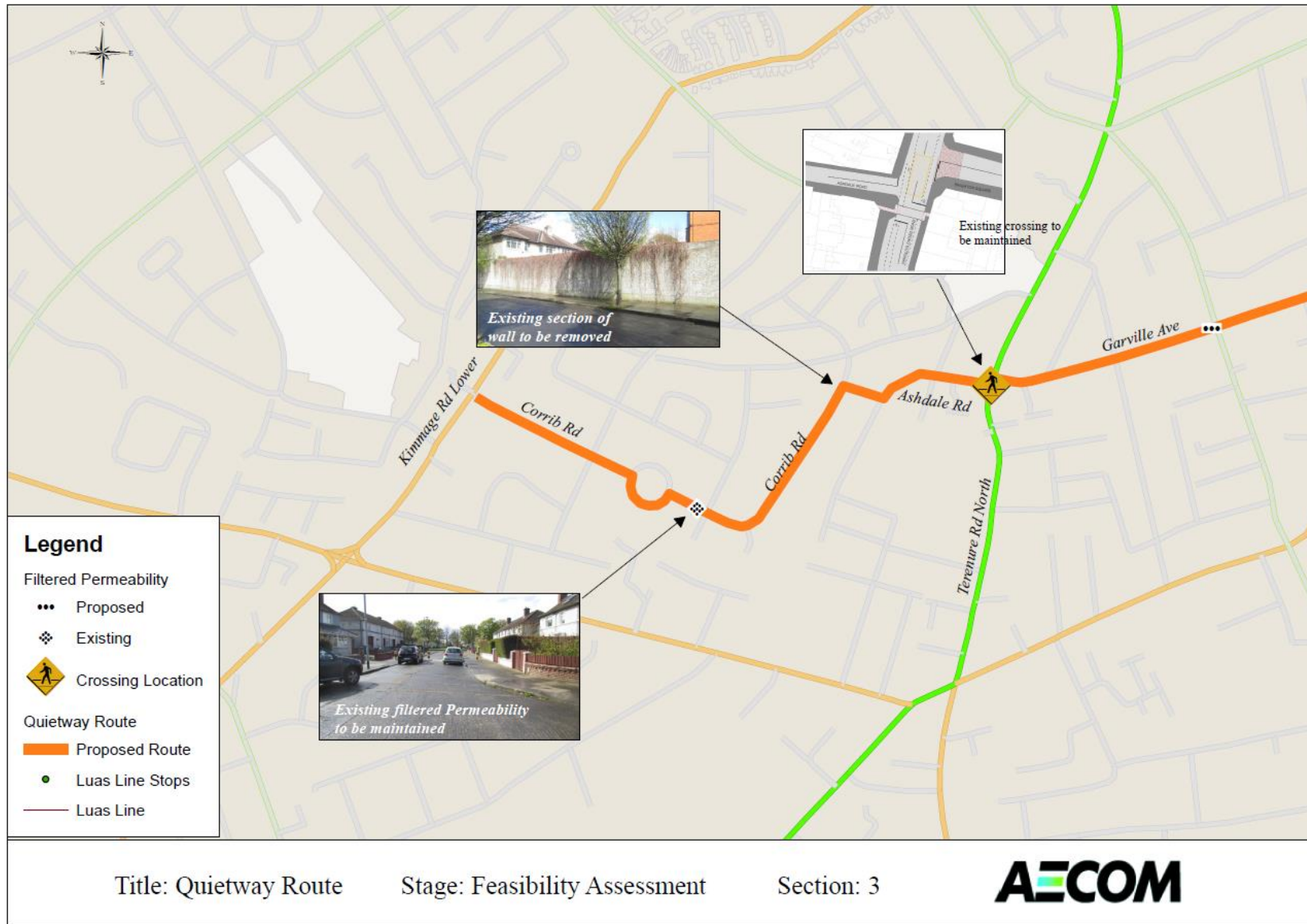


Figure 3.26: Section 3 of the Preferred Quietway Scheme

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

3.4 Works Required

The Works that will be required for this scheme are as follows:

Signage

Signage will be an important feature for this Quietway route. The location and accurate direction of signage will be important for users of the route, in particular, if the route is being promoted towards school children. More detail on the signage requirements is discussed below in Section 5.

Crossings

In total, there are seven crossing locations along the route that need to be upgraded for the implementation of the route; five of these will be new pedestrian crossings and will be located at the Herbert Park/Morehampton Road junction, the Cowper Road/Palmerston Road junction, the Rathmines Road Upper/Cowper Mews junction, the Rathgar Road/Belleville Avenue junction and the Rathgar Avenue/Garville Avenue junction while two will be upgraded crossings located at the Marlborough Road/Sandford Road junction and the Terenure Road North/Ashdale Road junction. These crossings will be wide, approximately 3 – 4m if possible, in order to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists crossing. Crossings will be facilitated with dropped kerbs and tactile paving.

At a small number of locations, it is not proposed to provide dedicated signalised crossings, such as the Garville Avenue/Brighton Road junction and the Corrib Road/Derravaragh Road junction. These crossings will be courtesy crossings and will have dropped kerbs and tactile provided.

Walls

Two existing walls will be altered as part of this scheme. It is a requirement to knock through a section of the existing wall between the Cowper Downs and the Cowper Mews residential estates. It is also a requirement to knock through a section of the existing wall between the Ashdale Gardens and Corrib Road residential estate. Access at these locations will be limited to pedestrians and cyclists. It is not proposed that vehicles will use these access points.

Lighting

Public lighting is already in place along the proposed route. These streets are residential streets and have existing public lighting in place. Lighting should be reviewed, however, at each of the crossing locations along the route and upgraded as necessary.

Cost Estimates

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Capabilities on project:
Transportation

4 Cost Estimates

4.1 Introduction

An initial cost estimate was undertaken for the proposed route. The route was divided into three sections;

- Section 1: Herbert Park to Green Luas Line
- Section 2: Green Luas Line to Terenure Road North
- Section 3: Terenure Road North to Corrib Road

4.2 Cost Estimate

Shown below in Table 4.1 is an initial estimation of the cost required to implement the scheme.

Item	Unit Type	Units	Rate (€)	Total
Section 1: Herbert Park to Green Luas Line				
New Pedestrian Crossing	No.	2	20000	40000
Upgraded Pedestrian Crossing	No.	1	8000	8000
Raised Crossing	No.	1	10000	10000
Tactile Paving Construction	m ²	24	80	1920
Off road cycle track	m ²	810	25	20250
Kerb removal/ New Kerbs	m	270	45	12150
Filtered Permeability Feature	No.	4	1000	4000
Road Markings (Text & Symbols)	No.	25	160	4000
Road Markings (Lines)	m	48	10	480
Signage	No.	20	350	7000
Public Lighting	No.	9	1000	9000
Total: Section 1				116,800
Section 2: Green Luas Line to Terenure Road North				
New Pedestrian Crossing	No.	3	20000	60000
Upgraded Pedestrian Crossing	No.	1	8000	8000
Raised Crossing	No.	1	10000	10000
Tactile Paving Construction	m ²	36	80	2880
Off road cycle/ped track	m ²	228	25	5700
Kerb removal/ New Kerbs	m	86	45	3870
Filtered Permeability Feature	No.	4	1000	4000
Section of Wall knocked	m ²	12	150	1800
Road Markings (Text & Symbols)	No.	24	160	3840
Road Markings (Lines)	m	78	10	780
Signage	No.	27	350	9450
Public Lighting	No.	16	1000	16000
Total: Section 2				126,320
Section 3: Terenure Road North to Corrib Road				
New Pedestrian Crossing	No.	0	20000	0
Upgraded Pedestrian Crossing	No.	1	8000	8000
Tactile Paving Construction	m ²	12	80	960
Kerb removal/ New Kerbs	m	16	45	720
Filtered Permeability Feature	No.	0	1000	0
Section of Wall knocked	m ²	20	150	3000
Road Markings (Text & Symbols)	No.	15	160	2400
Road Markings (Lines)	m	22	10	220
Signage	No.	14	350	4900
Public Lighting	No.	7	1000	7000
Total: Section 3				27,200
Sub Total			270,320	
Contingency (20%)			54,064	
Total (€)			324,384	

Table 4.1: Feasibility Cost Estimate for the Quietway Route

The results show that, in total, the scheme will cost approximately €324,384 to implement. That includes for a contingency of 20%.

Development of Quietway Concept

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Capabilities on project:
Transportation

5 Development of Quietway Concept

5.1 Introduction

The Quietway is a new concept for Ireland, with a small number of examples found in the UK. As such, it is important to sell the concept, providing the facilities with a unique selling point, as well as an identity that is evident throughout the scheme. This section of the report outlines a number of areas that should be examined as part of the scheme development.

5.2 Restricted access

One of the key features of the scheme is the reduction of through traffic along the proposed route. This reduces significantly the volume of traffic on the route, resulting in largely local/residential traffic remaining on the network. As such, speeds should be lower as the users of the route will be generally travelling within their community.

This aspect of the Quietway network should be maintained throughout. Where this is not possible, an alternative route should be considered.

5.3 Physical Features

As noted above, one of the key features of the scheme is the restricted access for motor vehicles through the route, however access will be required for pedestrians and cyclists. The design, material, lighting and planting should be considered. The designs may vary depending on the nature and local context of the area. Sample features implemented in previous schemes are illustrated in Figure 5.1.



Figure 5.1: Samples of filtered permeability implemented

Capabilities on project:
Transportation

5.4 Signage

A comprehensive wayfinding/signage strategy should be developed for the Quietway network. The signage should be provided throughout the network, giving the route an identity, while making the route understandable, comfortable, attractive and easy to use.

Providing a unique route marker/symbol will give the Quietway an identity and can be carried out throughout the scheme. A sample produced by AECOM is provided.

While signage will be required throughout the route, consideration should be given to incorporating it into existing signage and street furniture. As well as the route, consideration should be given to highlighting village centres, schools and other features of interest. A key requirement will be the signage through junctions. Guidance is available from Quietway Signage Guidance, TfL.



Figure 5.2: Extract from the Quietway Signage Guidance, TfL

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Conclusion and Recommendations

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Capabilities on project:
Transportation

6 Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusion

The conclusions of the feasibility study are:

- That a viable route is available.
- It is in line with planning policies, the local development plan, as well as the GDA Cycle Network Plan.
- The scheme costs would be in the region of €324,384.

6.2 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made and should be carried out prior to the development of the scheme;

- The scheme will have a significant impact on traffic movements in the area, and as such a traffic study should be carried out to assess the impacts. While the closure of some sections of the proposed route will have little impact on commuting traffic, such as areas closer to the western end of the scheme, the closure of links such as Herbert Park, Marlborough Road etc. will have a significant impact on traffic movements in the area.
- Traffic counts should be carried out extensively within the study area, and areas of potential rat running identified. Should rat running become an issue, further traffic management measures may be required, such as banned movements in peak hours or additional restricted access features.
- As far as is practical, the entire route should be phased to open at the same time. This will allow for a whole route to be provided to the community and will avoid a piecemeal facility to be provided.
- The proposed scheme will result in significant delays for many residents due to the filtered permeability, as well as, in a number of locations, the opening up of currently closed links. This could result in significant interest from the local community. As such the communication between the local authority and community should be considered at an early stage.
- The scheme drawings are indicative only, and based on OS mapping available. Full development of the scheme would require a topographical survey to ensure physical features can be accommodated along the route.

Appendix A: Scheme Drawings

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