Report on Local Permeability Projects

1.0 Introduction

The National Transport Authority (NTA) agreed in principle on 27th May 2011, to provide funding to South Dublin County Council (SDCC), to carry out Local Permeability Improvements in South Dublin County in 2011. This report outlines the proposed projects at the concept stage to provide information and invite comment

This project seeks to identify and improve established but informal walking and cycling routes, by upgrading existing links and removing blockages and barriers to easy movement.

The NTA brief is to focus on 'quick and easy wins' such as well used routes to schools, shops, community facilities and transport nodes to facilitate walking and cycling. Funding is available to complete at least 5 No. projects in 2011. Additional projects may be undertaken in 2012-2013 subject to the availability of NTA funding. Part 8 Planning processes will be commenced for the additional projects in 2011 where required.

2.0 Background

Much of South Dublin County is characterised by low density suburban housing. An emphasis on vehicular distribution in suburban areas, has given rise to 'neighbourhood cells' that are surrounded by distributor roads, walls and fences, with limited points of exit for pedestrians and cyclists. This creates barriers for pedestrians and cyclists and limits direct access to local schools, shops, community facilities and transport nodes. (Fig 1 below illustrates examples)

The current project seeks to identify informal pedestrian and cycle links that have emerged over time, to upgrade these links and remove blockages and barriers, such as walls and fences.

Fig. 1: Neighbourhood Cells surrounded by Distributor Roads and Desire Lines created by local residents in South Dublin County.





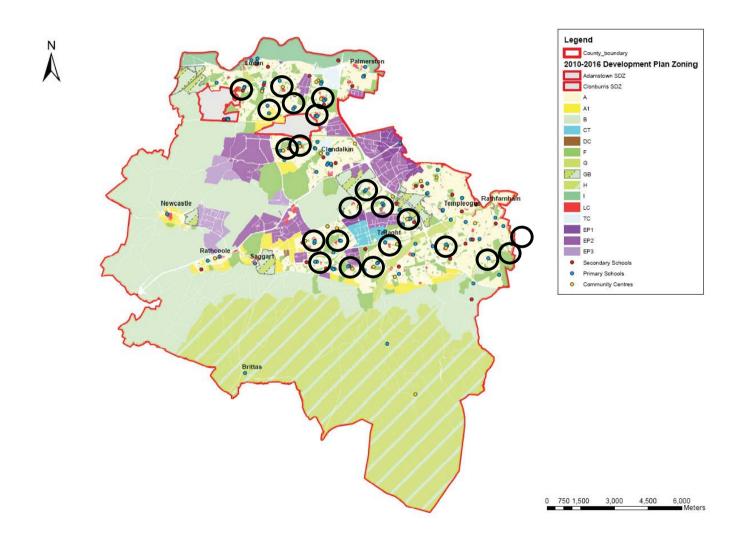




3.0 Scoping Stage

A GIS based map of South Dublin County, showing land use zoning, primary schools, secondary schools and community centres was generated (see County Map 1 below). This map was used to identify clusters of local facilities close to residential communities.

County Map 1 – South Dublin County – Clusters



SDCC Planners were asked to review the map and suggest suitable areas for analysis, based on their working knowledge of the County. The residential catchments of district and local centres that incorporate a minimum of 2 No. education and/or community facilities were selected for analysis.

The clusters were identified, as follows:

- 1. Superquinn District Centre, Lucan
- 2. Griffeen Local Centre, Lucan emerging
- 3. Ballyowen Castle Local Centre, Lucan
- 4. Rossecourt Local Centre, Lucan emerging
- 5. Rowlagh Local Centre, Clondalkin
- 6. Neilstown Local Centre, Clondalkin
- 7. Bawnogue Local Centre, Clondalkin
- 8. Deansrath Local Centre, Clondalkin
- 9. Kingswood Local Centre, Tallaght
- 10. Kilnamanagh District Centre, Tallaght
- 11. Belgard Local Centre, Tallaght
- 12. Kiltalown Local Centre, Tallaght
- 13. Tymon Local Centre, Tallaght
- 14. Springfield Local Centre (SuperValu), Tallaght
- 15. Brookfield Local Centre, Tallaght
- 16. Killinarden Local Centre, Tallaght
- 17. Aylesbury Local Centre, Tallaght
- 18. Millbrook Local Centre, Tallaght
- 19. Knocklyon Local Centre, Knocklyon
- 20. Grange Road Local Centre, Rathfarnham and Whitechurch Local Centre, Rathfarnham
- 21. Nutgrove Centre, Rathfarnham (Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council), (this was examined as it serves a large cachement of residents in South Dublin County.)

4.0 Analysis

The above selected areas were analysed through desk based research and site inspection to identify whether permeability improvements are needed, what barriers exist, what improvements might be possible and the benefit that would accrue.

5.0 Selection

The analysis procedure resulted in 18 No. potential projects identified in total of which at least 5 No. projects will be completed in 2011. The remaining projects will be submitted for funding for the 2012-2013 period. In the meantime Part 8 Planning processes will be progressed as required in 2011 for the 2012-2013 projects.

Please note:

- The links are described according to the local centres they serve.
- Each link will increase the access to that local centre and the benefit to the locality that can accrue as a result of that link being achieved .
- An accumulative benefit can occur if all links in a particular area were completed. However the links will also work as standalone projects.
- In some cases, where the accumulative benefit is large; links are amalgamated to create one strategic link where it is warranted.
- Where a reduction in distance is cited as a result of the link; this results in achieving or improving an acceptable walking or cycling distance.
- In most cases the link results in easier access to a local or district centre. In one or two cases the link results in improved access to the LUAS line in South Dublin. This is described in the narrative.
- The proposals are currently at the concept stage so all are subject to further investigation and detailed design

The permeability improvements are described in further detail below.

5.1 LUCAN ELECTORAL AREA (2)

(1) Griffeen Local Centre, Lucan

Griffeen Local Centre is an emerging local centre, comprising two national schools, retail, restaurant, pharmacy, medical centre and youth café. The 25A and 25B bus routes serve this local centre.

New crossing points on Griffeen Avenue and Griffeen Road (subject to investigation and detail design) would benefit c. 1000 households in the area residents by providing a link to the local centre and national school to the north; and the national school to the south has a proactive approach to cycling and a substantial number of students already cycle.

It is proposed to create an access, with pedestrian and cycle link, from the Moy Glas estate onto Griffeen Road at Griffeen Local Centre along an established desire line. This will benefit c. 150 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by 308 meters and provide access to the cycle routes and footpaths along Griffeen Avenue and Griffeen Road and Ballyowen Road. There is an extensive cycle network in the area.

It is proposed to create access from Foxborough onto Balgaddy Road and onto the Outer Ring Road and a pedestrian and cycle link along an established desire line from Foxborough estate onto the footpath and cycle way on Balgaddy Road. This will benefit c. 210 households and reduce walking and cycling to Griffeen Local Centre by 450 meters and provide access to the cycle routes and footpaths along Griffeen Avenue and Griffeen Road.

(2) Ballyowen Castle Local Centre

Ballyowen Castle Local Centre is an established local centre comprising retail, restaurant, public house, medical centre, pharmacy and community centre. The 25A and 25B bus routes serve this local centre.

It is proposed to create a new pedestrian and cycle routes from Fforster estate to Ballyowen Road (ORR) at the Ballyowen Castle junction and adjacent to the 25A/B bus stop. This will benefit c. 170 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by approx 450 meters. It links into the existing cycle routes on Ballyowen Road.

It is proposed to create a new pedestrian and cycle route from Colthurst estate to Ballyowen Castle Local Centre adjacent to the 25A/B bus stop. This will benefit c. 270 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by 265 meters.

It is proposed to create a new access with pedestrian and cycle link and lighting as required along the line of the old Esker creating an access onto Ballyowen Road and creating a link between the pedestrian footpaths and cycleways existing on Ballyowen Road and Griffeen Road. (Thereby linking into the extensive cycle network in the area). It is proposed to construct a new Toucan crossing (subject to design investigation) to facilitate crossing the Ballyowen Road at the proposed access point there. This will benefit c. 400 households and reduce walking and cycling distance by 406m. There is already an access point into the residential areas to the east and an existing pedestrian crossing at this point. This proposal increases the permeability of this area.

5.2 CLONDALKIN ELECTORAL AREA

(3) Bawnogue Local Centre, Clondalkin

Bawnogue Local Centre is an established local centre comprising retail, post office, church, national school and community centre. The 51B and 210 bus routes serve this local centre. There are substantial walls and fences creating barriers from this area to the south and east.

It is proposed to construct a lit pedestrian and cycle link of 600 metres from the Fonthill Road via Alpine Heights and Ashwood to the local centre, along an established desire line. This will significantly improve access to the local centre and to an on road cycle route on the Fonthill Road that links to the Grand Canal Way Green Route to the north and will also facilitate access to the Kildare Route Rail Line. This facilitates access to an extensive cycle network in the wider area. This proposal will benefit c. 570 households and reduce walking/cycle distances to the long distance cycle route and rail station by 1240 metres and to the local centre by 150 meters.

A Phase 2 project will provide a link from Ashwood to the north. This link will be 441m in length and will provide a direct walking and cycling route to the Green Route and to the access point that leads to the Fonthill Road, to the cycle routes thereon and to the Fonthill Railway station. This proposal will benefit c. 1200 households and reduce walking/cycle distances to the long distance cycle route and rail station by 1240 metres.

(4) Corkagh Park, Clondalkin

An existing foopath runs through Corkagh Park providing access from Fonthill Road to Clondalkin Town Centre. It is proposed to upgrade the existing footpath to a shared pedestrian and cycle link of 814 metres. There is an existing pedestrian crossing on Fonthill Road as well as a cycle route. The path passes through a pleasant environment and provides access to Clondalkin Sports and Leisure Centre and playground en-route. This will benefit c. 400 households and reduce walking/cycle distance to the town centre by 460 metres and bringing it within easy

cycle distance.

There are plans to link the existing popular Clondalkin Sports and Leisure Centre and playground to Clondalkin Town Centre by providing a bridge and walking and cycling route to the east. The provision of a cycle route along the existing footpaths in Corkagh Park will enhance the value of the proposed future link and ensure walking and cycling through this area is a feasible choice.

5.3 TALLAGHT CENTRAL ELECTORAL AREA

(5) Belgard, Tallaght

Belgard incorporates a Local Centre on the north eastern fringe, a LUAS stop and community centre to the east, a national school on the western fringe and a LUAS stop to the south.

It is proposed to construct 3 No. links via existing desire lines to improve accessibility to LUAS stops, the community centre, school and local centre. This will benefit c. 600 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by 597 metres to the Belgard Luas Stop and 479 metres to the Cookstown Luas Stop. It also facilitates access to the cycle routes on Belgard Road as well as access to the employment uses to the south of Belgard Heights. Existing desire lines run from along the Luas tracks, it is envisaged these proposals will provide alternative safer access.

(6) Kingswood Local Centre, Tallaght

Kingswood Local Centre is an established local centre comprising retail, post office, church, 2 No. national schools and a community centre.

It is proposed to construct a cycle and pedestrian link of 766 meters from 2 No. established pedestrian accesses onto Belgard Road and Embankment Road through Kingswood Heights to the Local Centre, to include a new toucan crossing (subject to design investigations) on Sylvan Drive at the Local Centre. This link will significantly improve access to the Local Centre for residents of Kingswood Heights and will also create a direct link from the entire Kingswood area to the Belgard Road on road cycle route and Tallaght Town Centre. This will benefit c. 936 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by 200 meters.

A new access and pedestrian link is proposed onto the Embankment Road to facilitate access to the Kingswood Luas Stop. This will benefit c. 300 households and reduce walking distance by 216 meters.

(7) Kilnamanagh District Centre, Tallaght

Kilnamanagh District Centre is an established district centre comprising a large supermarket and other retail, post office, church, 2 no. national schools, and a credit union. The Red line LUAS stops 714 meters to the north of the District Centre and there is a community centre to the east.

It is proposed to create a strategic link of 996m through open space to the north of the District Centre to improve access to the District Centre and to the LUAS stop. This will benefit c. 1200 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by 240 meters.

(8) Springfield Shopping Centre (Supervalu), Tallaght

Springfield Shopping Centre (Supervalu), Tallaght is an established local centre comprising retail, post office, church, a community centre and a cluster of schools in the immediate vicinity. The Parks Dept has plans to create a major walking and cycling route to the west of this proposed link as part of a scheme to upgrade Jobstown Park. The RPA has plans to create links to the east of this proposed route to increase access to Cookstown Luas Stop. This proposed link will complete a route between the aforementioned routes and add value to them.

It is proposed to create a cycle and pedestrian route of 1324 meters length from the R136 (Cheeverstown Road / Outer Ring Road) to connect through open space, link into the local centre and extend upwards to connect to a future RPA proposed link to the Cookstown Luas stop at the easternmost boundary. This will also create a link to Tallaght Town Centre. An existing pedestrian crossing on the R136 lies to the west of the proposed route (which links to the proposed route through Jobstown Park). This route leads onwards to community and education facilities and Tallaght Leisure Centre on Fortunestown Way.

Furthermore there are existing cycle routes on both the R136 (ORR) and Cookstown Way. This proposed link provides direct access from one to the other (via the RPA proposed link)

Therefore the proposed link completes a strategic route that has significant benefits in terms of connectivity for the West Tallaght area, reducing distance to local facilities by 399 metres and to public transport by 508 metres and benefiting c. 1100 households.

5.4 TALLAGHT SOUTH ELECTORAL AREA

(9) Aylesbury Local Centre, Tallaght

Aylesbury Local Centre is an established local centre comprising retail facilities and a community centre. There is a primary school adjacent and a secondary school further to the south.

It is proposed to upgrade the access onto Kiltipper Way and upgrade the existing footpath through the open space to a cycleway to improve cycling and pedestrian access to the Aylesbury retail centre and the local primary school and a secondary school – (Oldbawn Community College) to the north of the local centre. This will benefit c. 700 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by 278 meters.

(10) Millbrook Local Centre, Tallaght

Millbrook Local Centre is an established local centre comprising retail, a public health centre, church, 2 No. schools and a community centre.

It is proposed to upgrade an existing, well used and lit path through a spur of Dodder Valley Park – between Avonmore Road and St. Dominic's Road to improve linkage and accessibility around the local centre. This link connects residential areas to the local centre and passes the school and community centre along the way. This will benefit c. 650 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by 447 meters.

A second project in the area will provide a cycle link along an existing pedestrian route. This is a proposal of 986m in length that ties in the proposal above, links across the existing pedestrian crossing on the N81 to the Old Blessington Road / Tallaght Road (SDCC Roads Dept have plans to create a cycle route along the Old Blessington Road / Tallaght Road to provide cycle access to Tallaght Village from the east

along a route parallel to the N81). This will add value to the all the proposals in this area by linking into a wider network, providing access to Tallaght village and Town, the National Basketball Arena, Tymon Park and to the cycle routes that cross the M50.

5.5 RATHFARNHAM

(11) Knocklyon Local Centre, Knocklyon

Knocklyon Local Centre is an established local centre comprising a large supermarket, medical centre, 2 no. schools, a church, post office and community centre.

It is proposed to construct a pedestrian and cycle link of 354 meters via open space in the Dargle Wood estate, along an established desire line, onto Knocklyon Road at Knocklyon Local Centre. This will benefit c. 506 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by 576 meters.

It is proposed to construct a link of 95 meters via open space from Knocklyon Grove to Idrone Ave and construct a Toucan crossing (subject to design investigations) to connect surrounding residential areas to the local centre and national school along a well established desire line. This will benefit c. 420 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by 191 meters.

(12) Grange Road to Nutgrove Local Centre, Rathfarnham

Nutgrove Shopping Centre is a well established centre in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council with extensive retail, post office, schools and a park with playground and pitch facilties.

It is proposed to upgrade an existing pedestrian and cycle link of 550 metres from Grange Road to tie into an existing link to Nutgrove in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown south of Barton Road West. This is a straight and direct link along a historic road reserve and ties into an extensive cycle network to the west and east of the proposed link. This will benefit c. 781 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by 875 meters.

(13) Grange Road Local Centre and (14) Whitechurch Local Centre, Ballyboden, Rathfarnham

It is proposed to create an access and a pedestrian and cycle link of 84 metres from the open space to the east of the Whitecliff Estate to allow easier access to Whitechurch Road and onwards to the local centres in the vicinity. This follows an existing desire line. This will benefit c. 230 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by 289 meters. It also links into existing extensive east-west cycle routes along Taylors Lane, Grange Road and Ballyboden Way.

It is proposed to provide an access and a pedestrian and cycle link of 170 meters, via open space in Boden Park onto Ballyboden Way to improve access to the local centre, schools in the vicinity and to the existing cycle route on Ballyboden Road and reduce the distance to Whitechuch Local Centre. This will benefit c. 240 households and reduce walking/cycle distance by 688 meters. The proposal links into existing extensive east-west and north south cycle routes along Ballyboden Way, Taylors Lane and Ballyboden Road.

6.0 Project List (See County Map 2)

Following an analysis procedure the following projects are proposed:

2011 Projects (listed in north to south geographic order):

- 1. Griffeen Local Centre Link 1: Toucan Crossing points (subject to design consideration) & Moy Glas Link (See Local Map 1)
- 2. Clondalkin: Corkagh Park Link (See Local Map 2)
- 3. Tallaght: Belgard Heights Links to Luas (See Local Map 3)
- 4. Aylesbury: Link to Kiltipper (See Local Map 4)
- 5. Knocklyon Local Centre Link 1: Link through Dargle Wood (See Local Map 5)

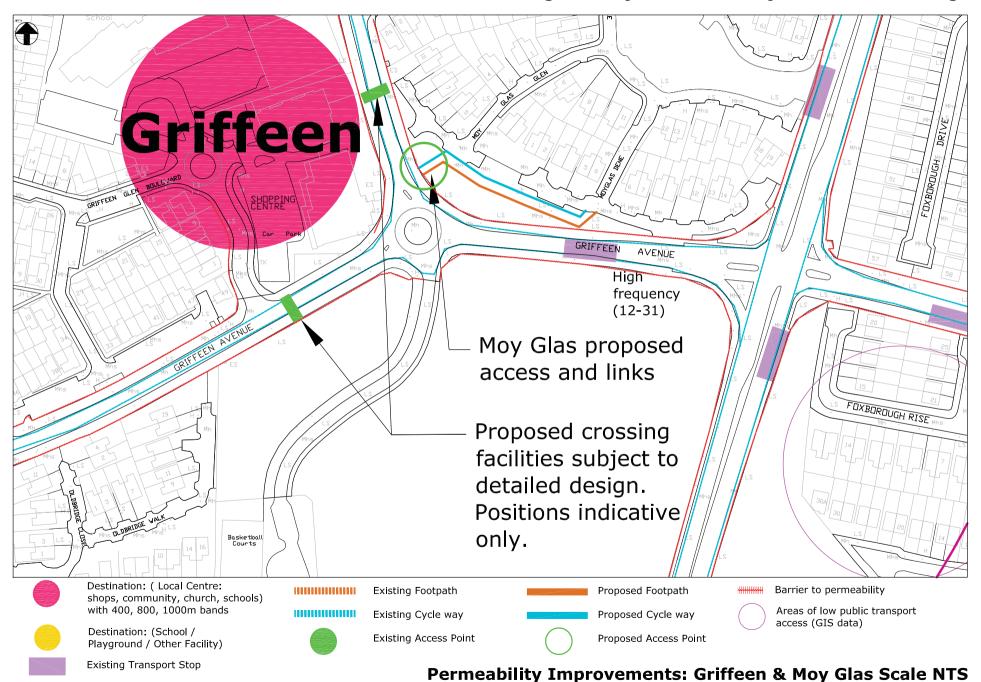
2012-2013 Projects (listed in north to south geographic order):

- 6. Ballyowen Castle Local Centre Link 1: Fforster and Colthurst Links (See Local Map 6)
- 7. Ballyowen Castle Local Centre Link 2: Esker Link (See Local Map 7)
- 8. Griffeen Local Centre Link 2: Foxborough Links (See Local Map 8)
- 9. Bawnogue: Link to Fonthill Rd (See Local Map 9)
- 10. Tallaght: Kingswood Link 1 Local Centre to Fonthill Rd (See Local Map 10)
- 11. Tallaght: Kingswood Link 2 to Luas (See Local Map 11)
- 12. Tallaght: Kilnamanagh District Centre to Luas (See Local Map 12)
- 13. Springfield Shopping Centre (Supervalu): West Tallaght Strategic Link (See Local Map 13)
- 14. Millbrook: Upgrade of existing links (See Local Map 14)
- 15. Knocklyon Local Centre Link 2: Link to local centre from Knocklyon Grove (See Local Map 15)
- 16. Grange Road Local Centre: Link from Whitecliff Estate (See Local Map 16) (Amalgamated with next link)
- 17. Whitechurch Local Centre: Link onto Ballyboden Way (See Local Map 16) (Amalgamated with previous link)
- 18. Nutgrove Centre: Grange Road to Loreto Park Link (See Local Map 17)

COUNTY MAP 2: Project Nos. 1-5 and 6-17



LOCAL MAP NO. 1: Griffeen Local Centre Link 1: Toucan crossing and Moy Glas Links subject to detailed design



Griffeen Local Centre Link 1: Existing Photos



Aerial photo



Access onto Griffeen Avenue from Haydens Park Walk (west of proposed project)

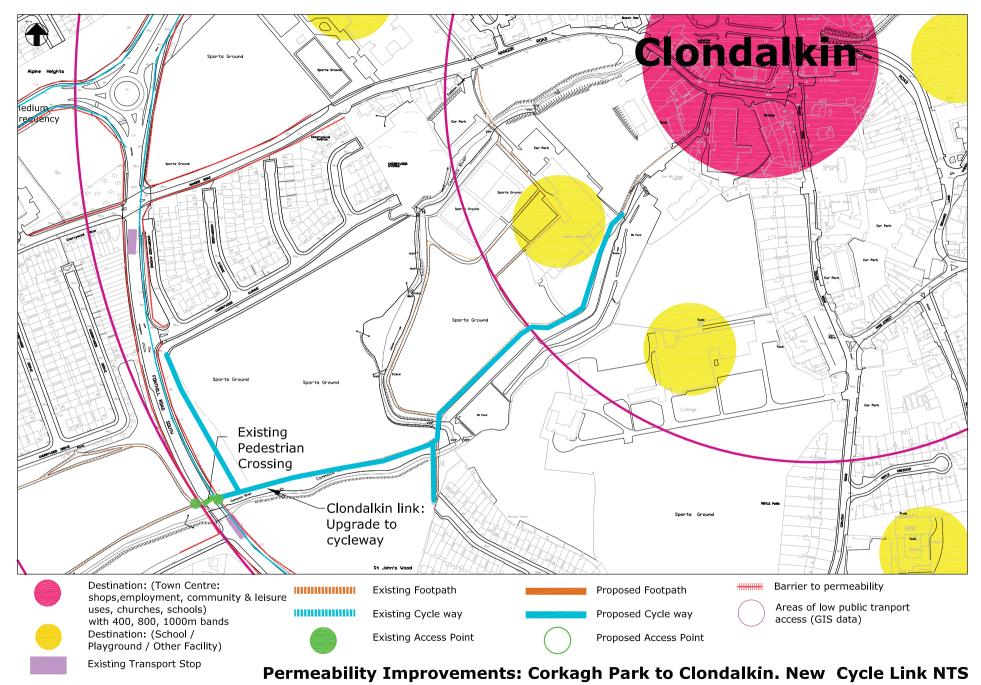


View into Moy Glas from Griffeen Avenue



Access onto Griffeen Avenue from Rossberry (west of proposed project)

LOCAL MAP NO. 2: CLONDALKIN: Corkagh Park Link



Clondalkin Corkagh Link: Existing Photos



Aerial photo



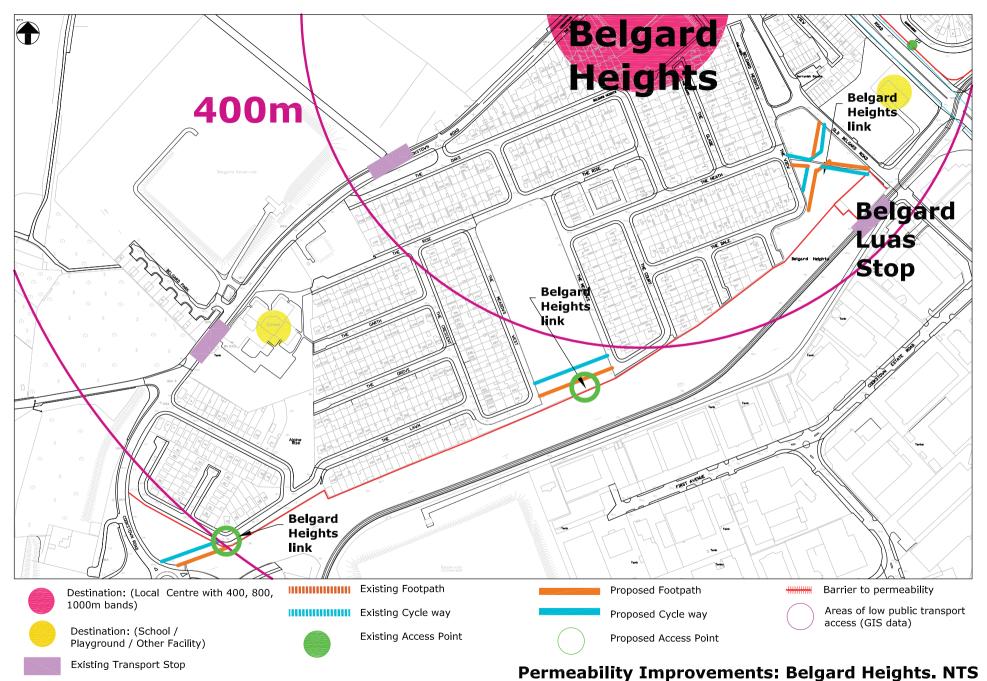
View into Corkagh Park from Fonthill Rd looking west



View into Corkagh Park from Fonthill Rd looking east



LOCAL MAP NO. 3 TALLAGHT: Belgard Heights Links



Tallaght Belgard Heights Links: Existing Photos



Aerial photo



Desire Line across The Meadows looking west

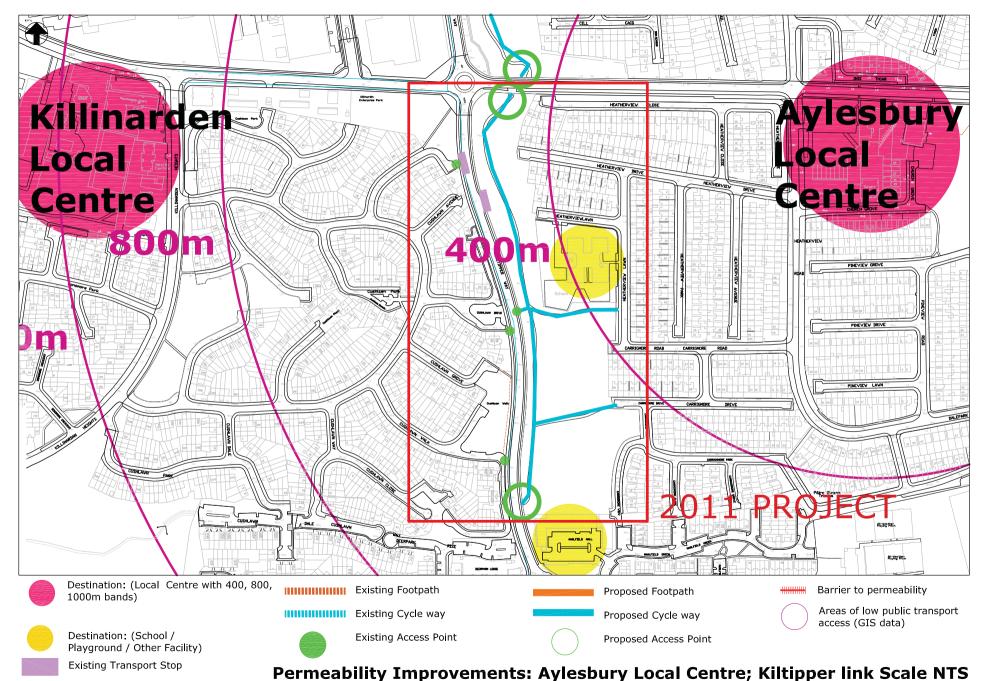


Desire line from The Dale to Belgard Luas



Desire lines from Alpine Rise, Belgard (note route along tracks)

LOCAL MAP NO. 4: AYLESBURY: Link to Kiltipper



Aylesbury: Existing Photos



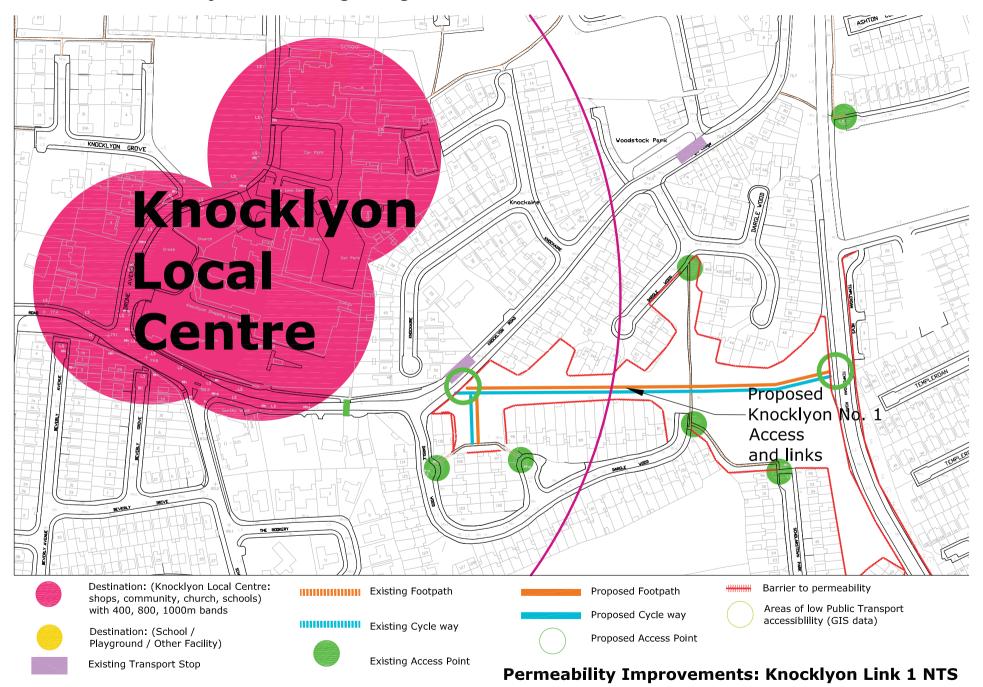


View from Firhouse Rd East



View from Heatherview

LOCAL MAP NO. 5: Knocklyon Link through Dargle Wood



Rathfarnham: Knocklyon Link 1: Existing Photos



Aerial photo



Wall blocking access to Knocklyon Rd

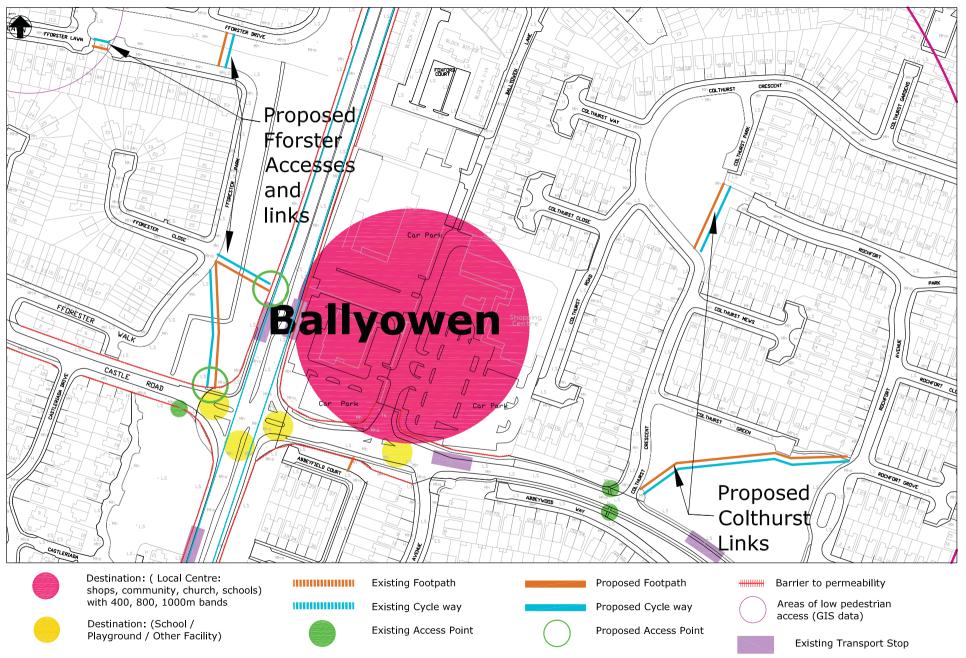


Access created from Templeroan Rd



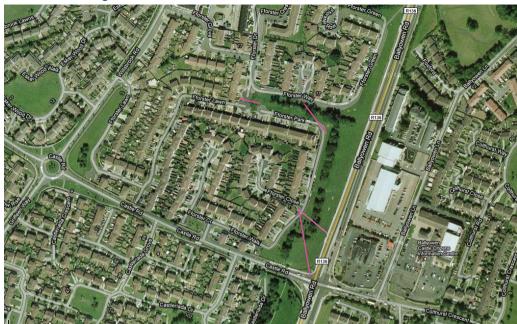
Desire lines accross open space

LOCAL MAP NO. 6: Ballyowen Castle: Fforster and Colthurst Links



Permeability Improvements: Ballyowen Castle Centre Colthurst Fforster Scale NTS

Lucan, Ballyowen Local Centre: Colthurst and Fforster Links: Existing Photos



Aerial photo: Fforster



Aerial photo: Colthurst

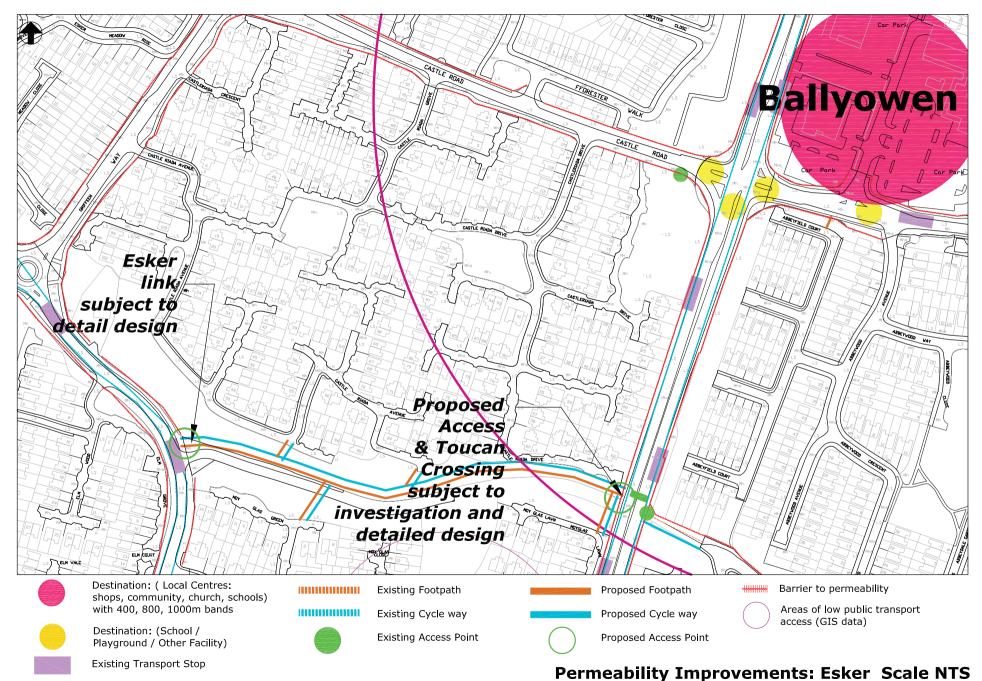


View into Fforster from Ballyowen Centre



Desire lines Colthurst

LOCAL MAP NO. 7: Ballyowen Castle: Esker Link



Lucan, Ballyowen Local Centre: Esker: Existing Photos



Aerial photo: Esker

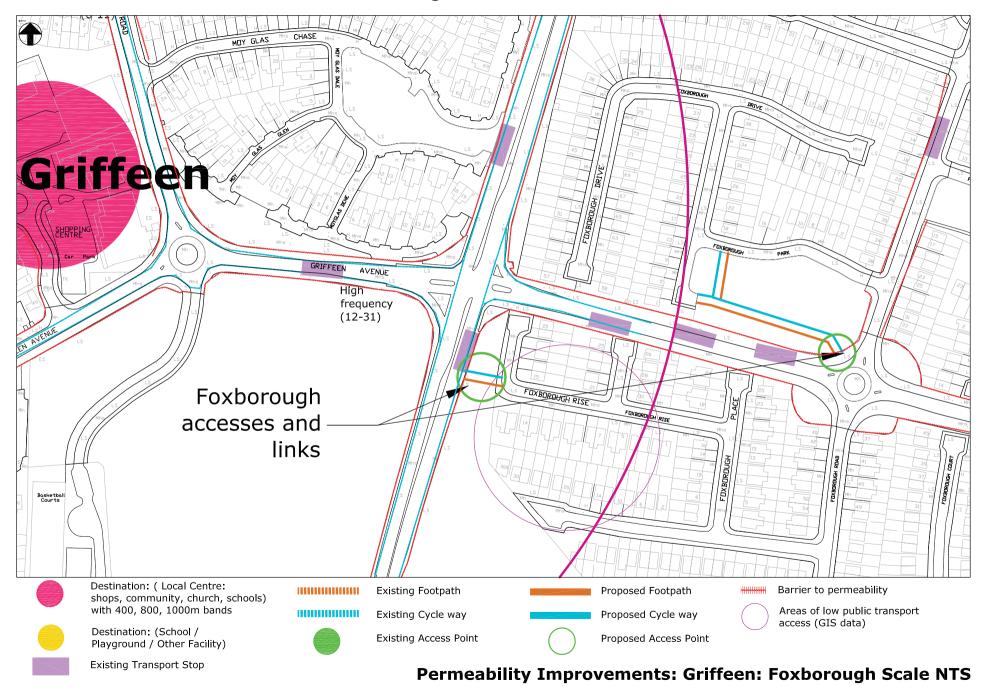


Looking east Ballyowen Rd (R136) into existing access



Existing pedestrian crossing on Ballyowen Rd (R136) view of the Esker looking west

LOCAL MAP NO. 8 Griffeen Local Centre: Foxborough Links



Lucan, Griffeen Local Centre: Foxborough: Existing Photos

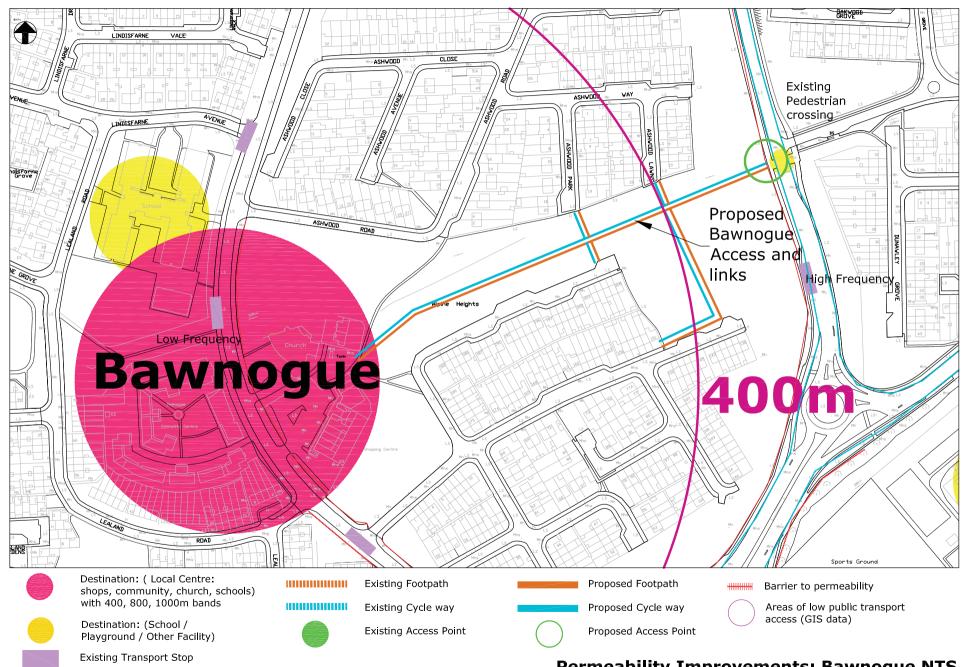


Aerial photo: Foxborough



Gap in hedge at Foxborough roundabout providing access into open space

LOCAL MAP NO. 11: Bawnogue: Link to Fonthill Rd



Permeability Improvements: Bawnogue NTS

Clondalkin: Bawnogue Local Centre: Existing photos



Aerial photo



Pedestrian Crossing on Fonthill Rd: note fence removed

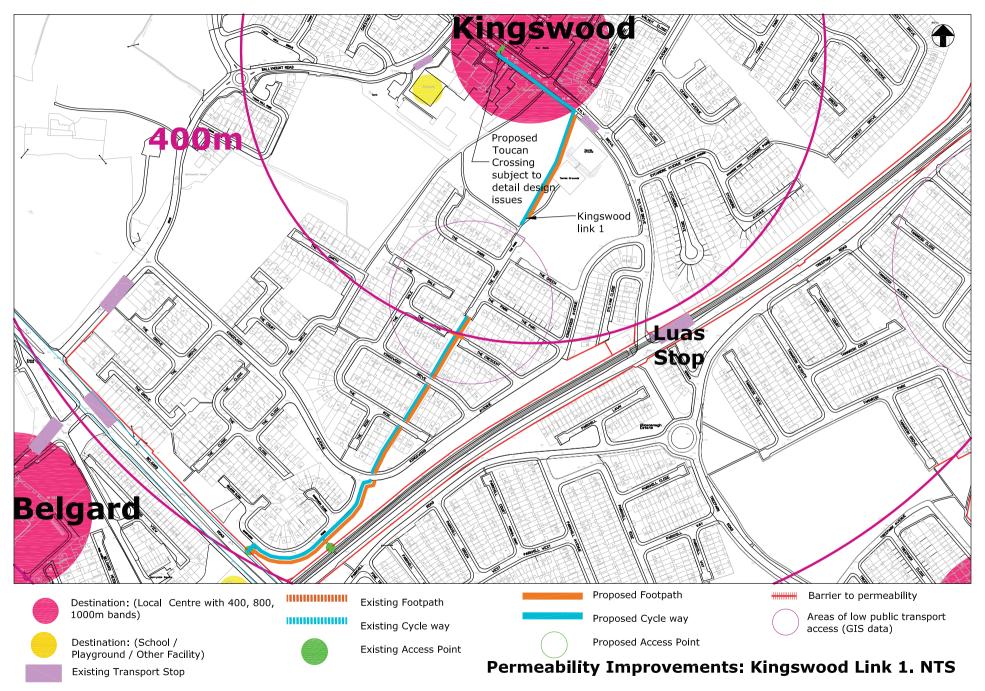


Desire Line

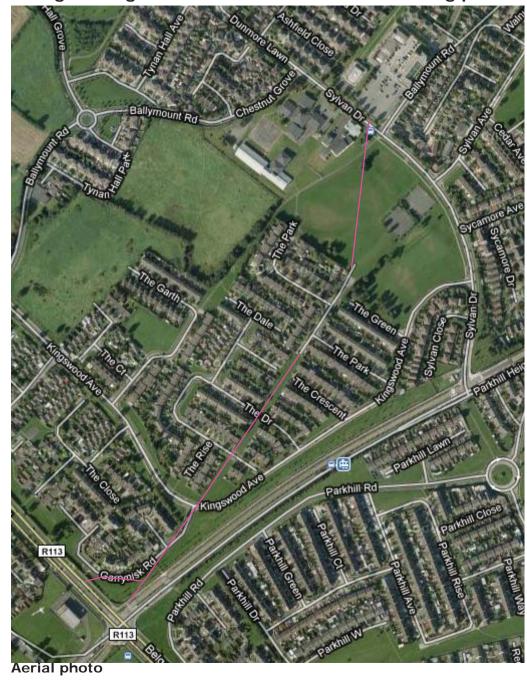


Popular route

LOCAL MAP NO. 12: Kingswood: Local Centre to Fonthill Rd.



Tallaght: Kingswood Local Centre Link 1: Existing photos



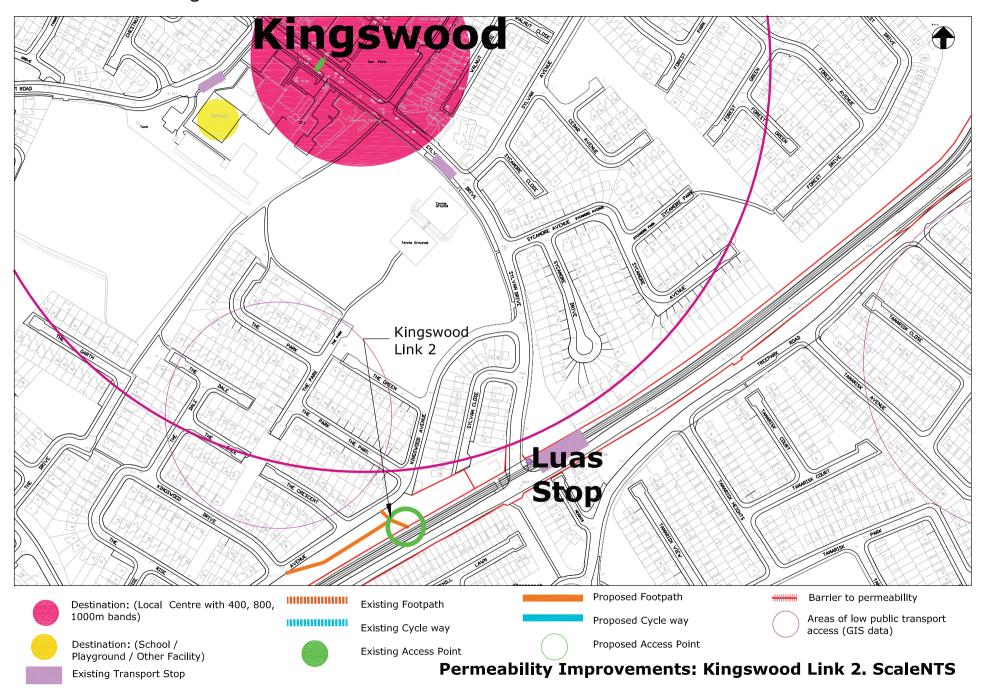


Desire Line

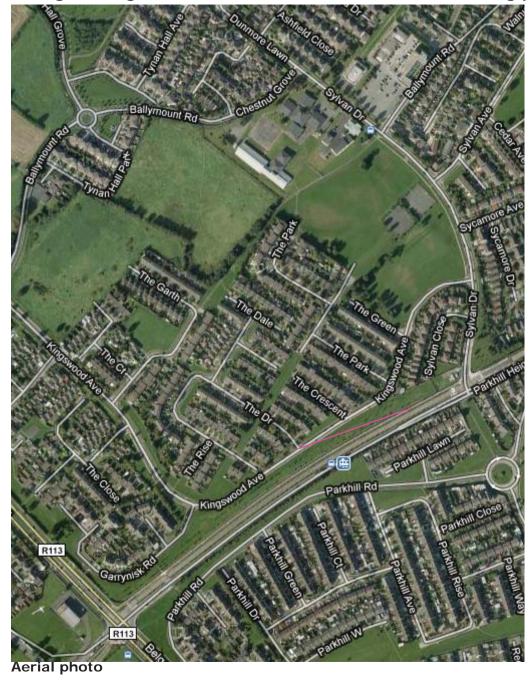


Desire line

LOCAL MAP NO. 11: Kingswood: Link to Luas



Tallaght: Kingswood Local Centre: Link to Luas: Existing photos



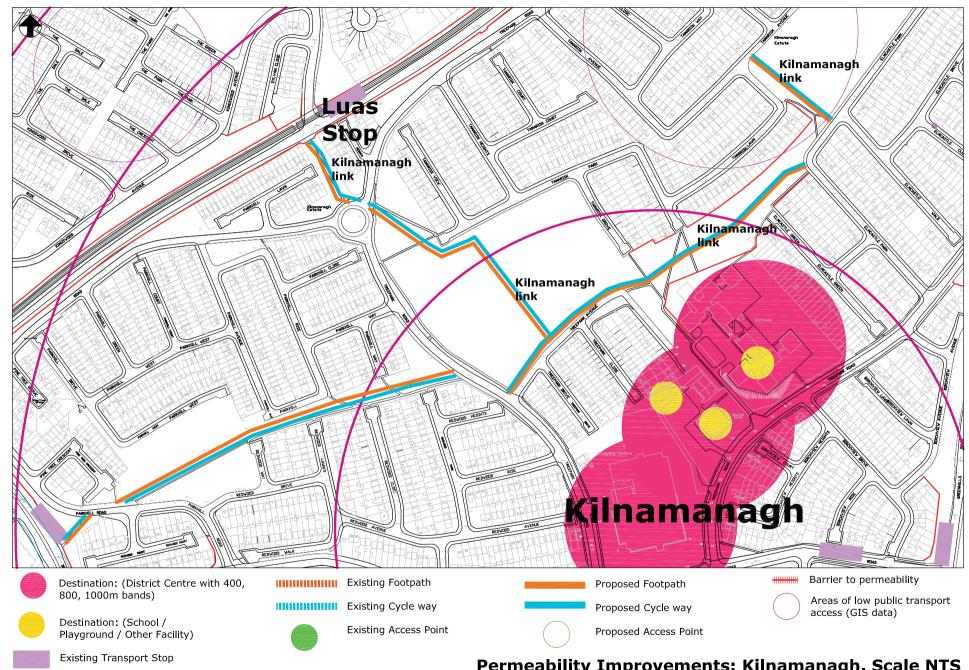


Looking south towards Kingswood Avenue



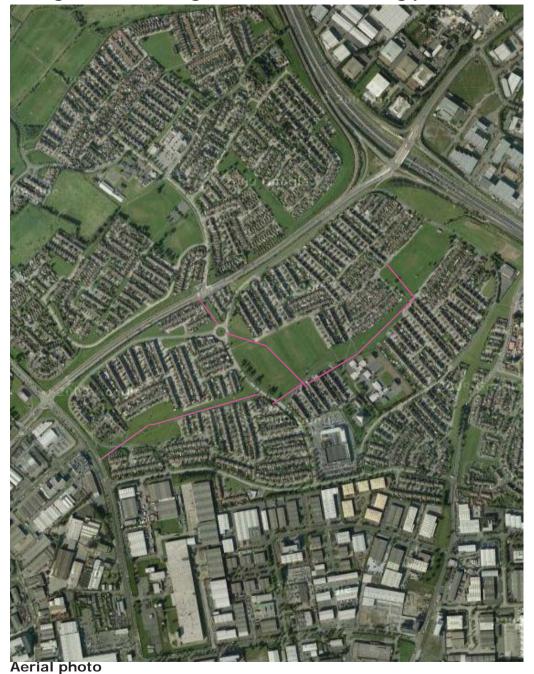
View of wall between Kingswood and Luas Stop

LOCAL MAP NO. 12 Kilnamanagh: District Centre Link to Luas



Permeability Improvements: Kilnamanagh. Scale NTS

Tallaght: Kilnamanagh Local Centre Existing photos

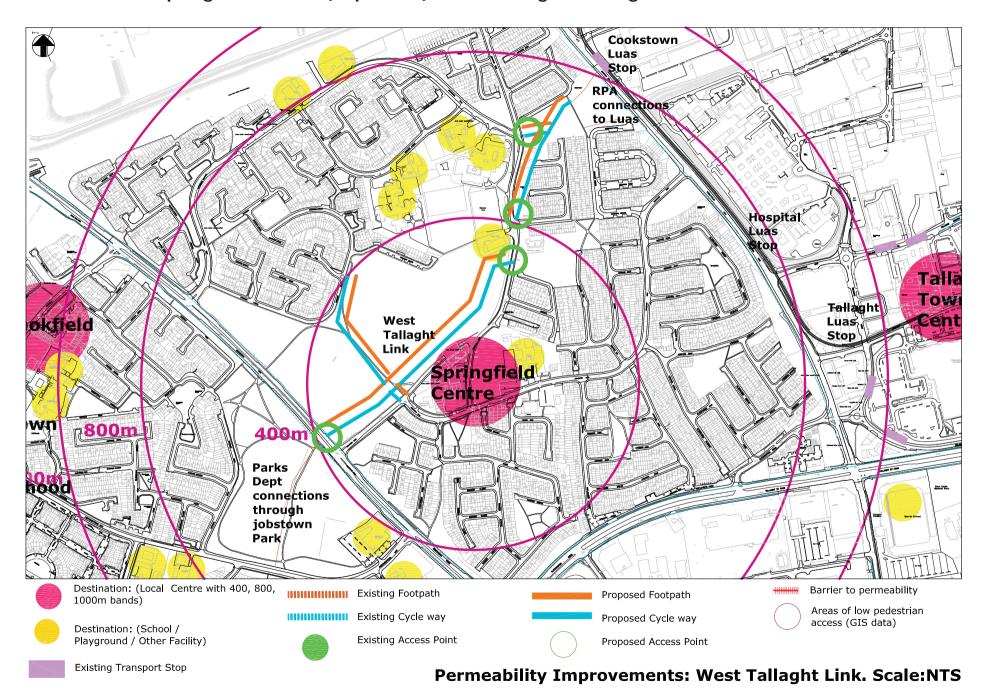






View from Elmcastle Park looking west

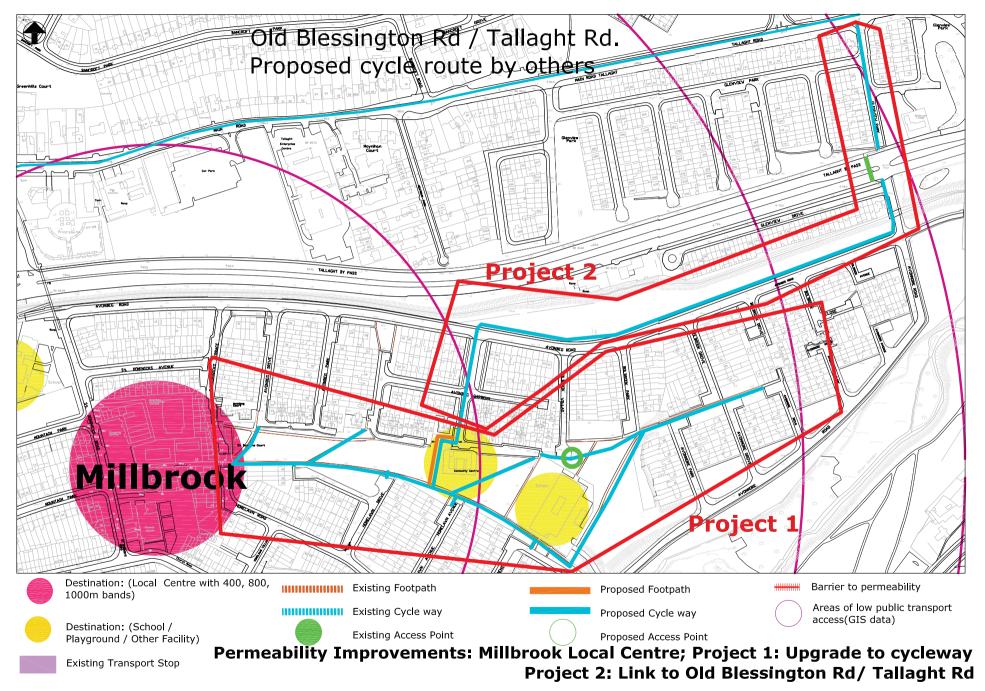
LOCAL MAP NO. 13: Springfield Centre (Supervalu): West Tallaght Strategic Link



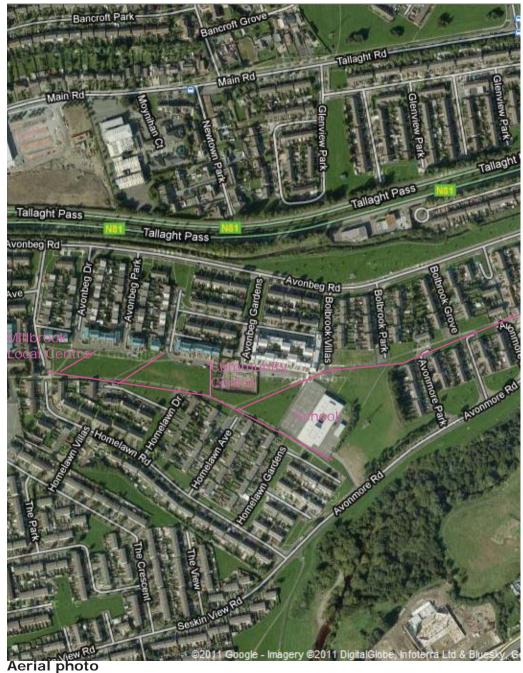
Tallaght: West Tallaght Strategic Link



LOCAL MAP NO. 14 Millbrook: Project 1 Upgrade of Existing links. Project 2 Link to wider network.



Millbrook Local Centre Existing photos



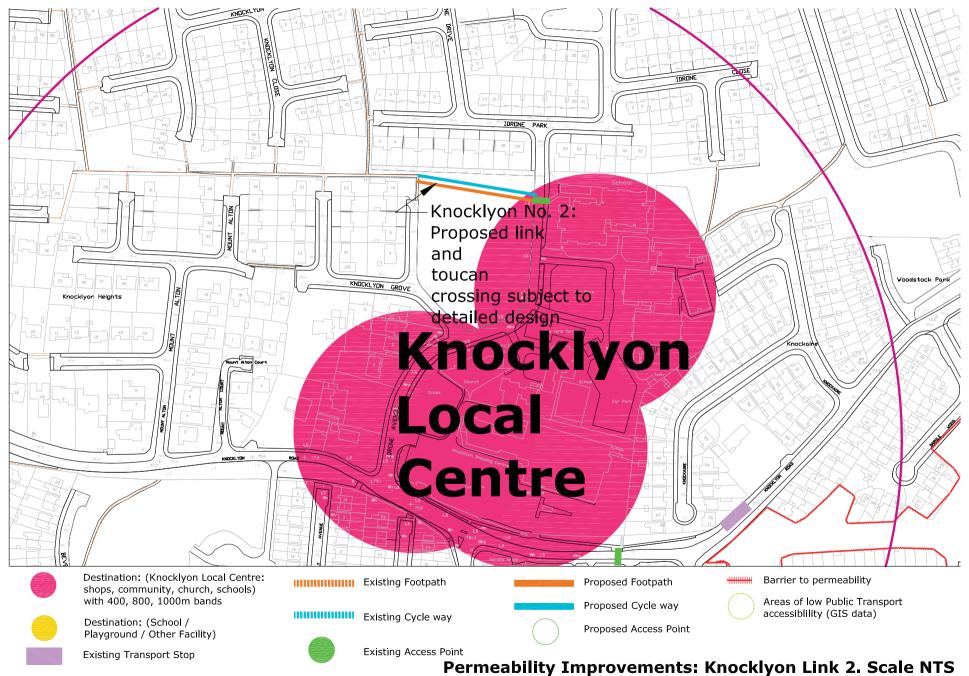


View of existing school along proposed cycleway



View from Local Centre looking east along link (existing footpath in view)

LOCAL MAP NO. 15 Knocklyon: Link to Local Centre from Knocklyon Grove



Knocklyon Local Centre Link 2: Existing photos

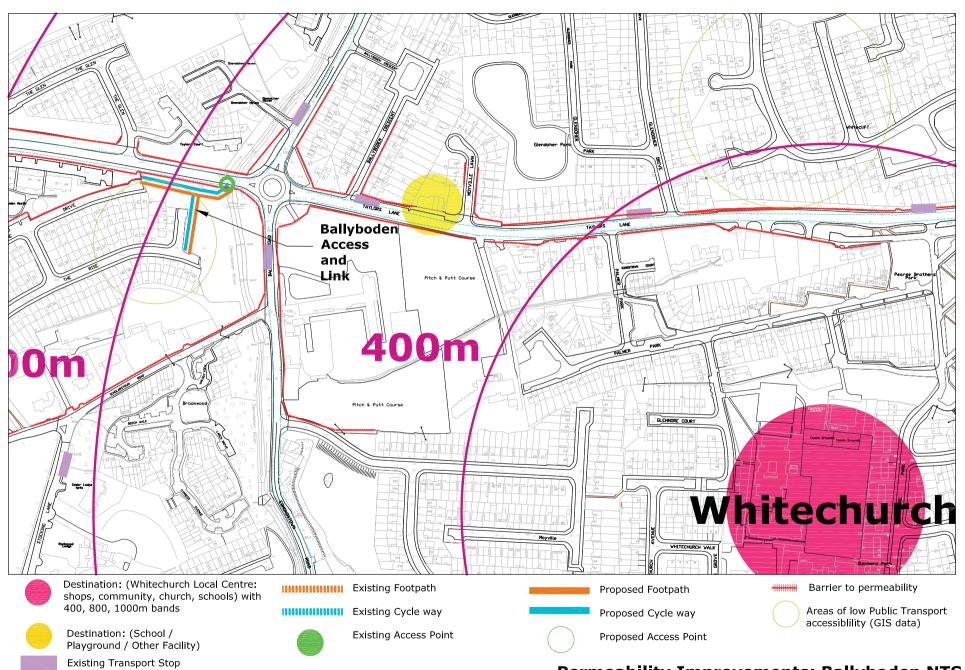


Aerial photo



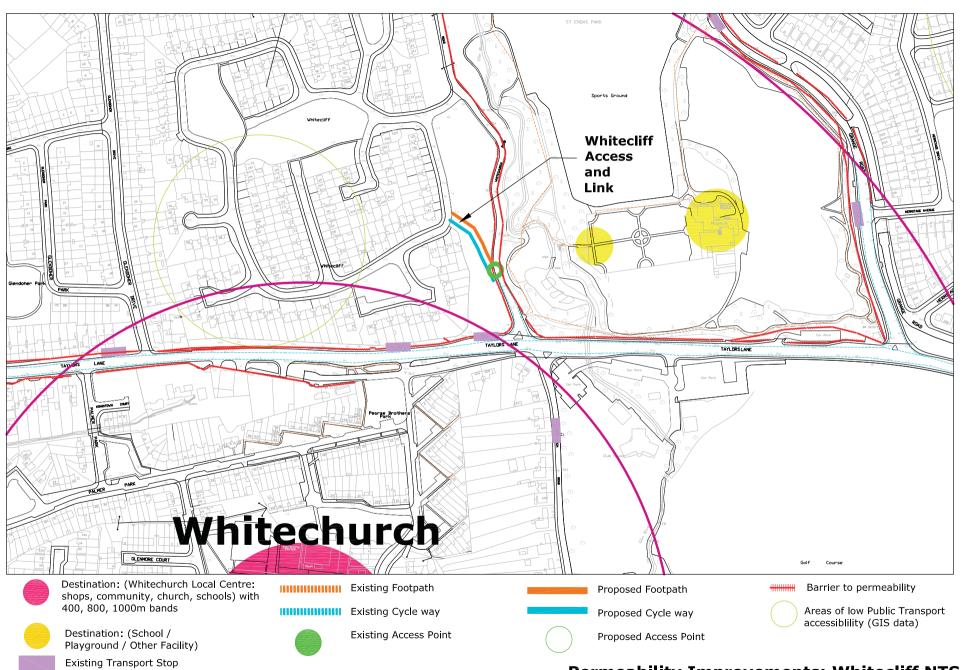
View from Local Centre towards west (desire line across open space)

LOCAL MAP NO. 16 Grange Road & Whitechurch Centres: Link from Whitecliff Estate & Link to Ballyboden Way



Permeability Improvements: Ballyboden NTS

LOCAL MAP NO. 16 Grange Road & Whitechurch Centres: Link from Whitecliff Estate & Link to Ballyboden Way



Permeability Improvements: Whitecliff NTS

Grange Road & Whitechurch Centres: Link from Whitecliff Estate & Link to Ballyboden Way: Existing photos



Boden Park: Aerial photo



Whitecliff Estate: Aerial photo

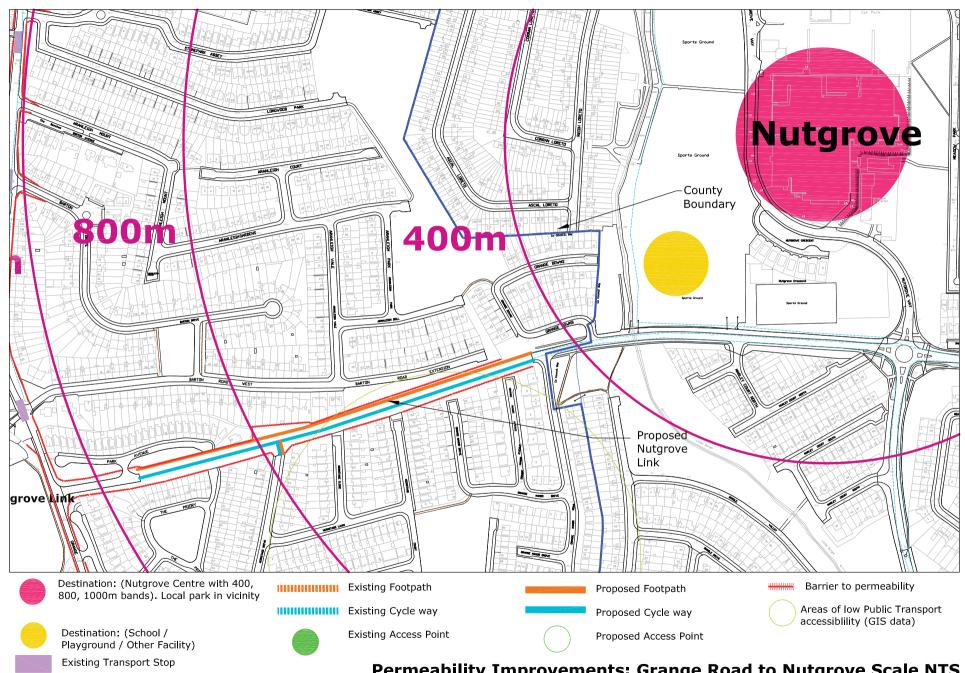


Boden Park: Desire Line



Whitecliff: Desire Line

LOCAL MAP NO. 17: Nutgrove Centre: Grange Road to Loreto Park Link



Permeability Improvements: Grange Road to Nutgrove Scale NTS

Nutgrove Local Centre: Existing photos



Aerial photo Desire Line