



Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination for proposed Local Authority Development

Project Name:	Safe Routes to School – Pope John Paul II National School, Malahide, Co. Dublin
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Description:

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme was developed in partnership by the NTA and Green-Schools, An Taisce, in 2020, as a response to the need to support schools to increase walking and cycling to schools. The works aim to enhance access routes to school by improving walking and cycling infrastructure in the vicinity of the school. The programme is funded by the National Transport Authority, administered by An Taisce and delivered by Fingal County Council.

The SRTS Programme acknowledges the ongoing need to facilitate improved active travel routes and infrastructure, mitigate existing road safety concerns at school, improve air quality around schools and facilitate modal shift towards active travel.

The works proposed as part of the proposed scheme include:

Caves Strand / Sea Road:

- Provide 4 uncontrolled crossings at Inbhir Íde / Caves Strand junction.
- Build out footpath extension on Sea Road and Inbhir Íde.
- Formalise raised crossing point to a Zebra crossing i.e. provide zig-zag markings, red tactile paving and belisha beacons.
- Remove kissing gate at the start of the path on the west side of Caves Strand.

Inbhir Íde:

- Road running in front of houses 109-101 – Road narrowing by building out footpath (2m) for first section, provide a ramp and at grade path separated of the carriageway by line markings and bollards.

Inbhir Íde Junction:

- Junction tightening and provide uncontrolled crossing (buff tactile paving and dropped kerbs).
- Road running in front of houses 84-82 – Road narrowing by building out footpath (2m) for first section, provide a ramp and at grade path separated of the carriageway by line markings and bollards.

Inbhir Íde Drive - Front of School Works:

- Junction tightening and ramp to provide pedestrian priority at Inbhir Íde / Inbhir Íde Drive Junction. Pencil bollards at junction to prevent parking.
- Coloured surface (buff) along entire School Zone/School Street area.
- Western end to become a 'School Street' with no left turn from Inbhir Íde into Inbhir Íde Drive except residents during school pick up/drop off times – removable bollards to be provided.

- Build a short ramp to enable cycling access to Inbhir Íde Drive.
- Relocate disabled parking bays to the east side of the junction, closest to the school entrance, where the school bus bay currently is.
- Shift school bus bay east along the same side of Inbhir Íde Drive. This will also prevent on street parking on the north side of the road for most of the length.
- Widen footway on east side of Caves Strand and north side of Inbhir Íde Drive.
- Speed ramp to mark school zone.
- Junction tightening and ramp at Inbhir Íde Close and Sonesta junctions.

Other works:

- Provision of uncontrolled crossings at 3no. locations.
- Provision of junction tightening, raised table and uncontrolled crossing at Ard Na Mara.

New road signs (no left turn) at Sonesta entrance

Fingal County Council will be providing regulatory traffic signs in accordance with Section 95 of the Road Traffic Act 1961 (as amended).

Legislative Context:

This determination has considered the relevant legislative context as set out in Section 1.3 of the AA Screening Report including, but not limited to:

- Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora)
- Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds)
- European Communities (Bird and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), as amended
- Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

Screening Report:

Brady Shipman Martin was appointed by Systra Ireland Ltd on behalf of Fingal County Council (FCC) to prepare a report to assist FCC, as the Competent Authority, in undertaking a screening exercise for Appropriate Assessment (AA). The prepared Screening Report entitled "Safe Routes to School – Pope John Paul II National School, Malahide, Co. Dublin APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT". The Senior Engineer, Environment, Climate Action, Active Travel & Sports Department of Fingal County Council, has examined and evaluated the report's content and agrees with the conclusions in the screening report and the reasons therein.

The AA Screening Report concluded that following an examination, analysis and evaluation of all relevant information, based on objective information and in the light of the best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, the proposed traffic calming measures, improved pedestrian and cycling facilities at Pope John Paul II, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, and in the absence of mitigation, is not likely to have a significant effect on any European Site(s), given the sites conservation objectives, and that there is no reasonable scientific doubt concerning this conclusion.

The main reasons for this conclusion are as follows:

- The scale of the proposed works is very minor in nature and any pollution from the works would be minimal if not negligible in quantity.
- Any pollution from the construction works would be minimal in quantity and if it entered any watercourse it would be so diluted as to be undetectable by the time the water enters the estuary/sea. A significant level of dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur in any event. Upon reaching the estuary any pollutants would be even further diluted and dissipated by the receiving waters.
- In addition, the construction of the proposed works will take place over a comparatively short period. There is no possibility of long-term impacts arising as a result of the construction elements of the proposed works, given the nature and scale of the proposed works.

Determination:

Having regard to the foregoing, based on objective information and in the view of the best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, for the reasons set out above and in the AA screening report, it has been concluded that the proposal of traffic calming measures, improved pedestrian and cycling facilities at Pope John Paul II National School, Inbhir Ide Dr, Yellow Walls, Malahide, Co. Dublin, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, without relying on any mitigation measures, will not have a significant effect on any European sites, given the site's conservation objectives, and that there is no reasonable scientific doubt concerning this conclusion.

It can therefore be concluded that the proposed development does not require a stage 2 Appropriate assessment.

This AA Screening Determination in respect of Safe Routes to School – Pope John Paul II National School, Malahide, Co. Dublin, has been made by Sinéad Murphy, the Senior Engineer, Environment, Climate Action, Active Travel & Sports Department of Fingal County Council.

Signature:  Senior Engineer, Environment, Climate Action, Active Travel & Sports Dept.
Sinéad Murphy Position/Department

Date: 15th August 2024.