

Cycleability Audit

28th November 2016



St. Michael's College

**Ailesbury Road,
Dublin 4.**

Roll Number: 60561G

St. Michael's College is voluntary secondary school for boys. The school was founded in 1944 by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (The Spiritans) and was extended in 1975. It is now operated by a partnership of laity and religious. St. Michael's provides mainstream second-level education to approximately 637 boys. The secondary school shares its campus with St Michael's College Junior School.

St. Michael's College is located at the junction of Ailesbury Road (R824) and the busy Merrion Road (R118). It is in close proximity to the Merrion Shopping Centre, diplomatic embassies and private residences. Vehicular access to the school is possible from Ailesbury Road and Nutley Avenue, with parking facilities on site. Pedestrian and bicycle access is also possible from an entrance on Merrion Road. The School is located approximately 400 meters from Sydney Parade Dart Station and approximately 150 meters from a Dublin bus stop served by the number 8,4,7 and 27x.



A **Cycleability Audit** is a methodical examination of how cycle-friendly a route may or may not be.

The word **Cycleability** means the “**ability to cycle**”.

Members of the school population identified a possible cycling route to school to audit.

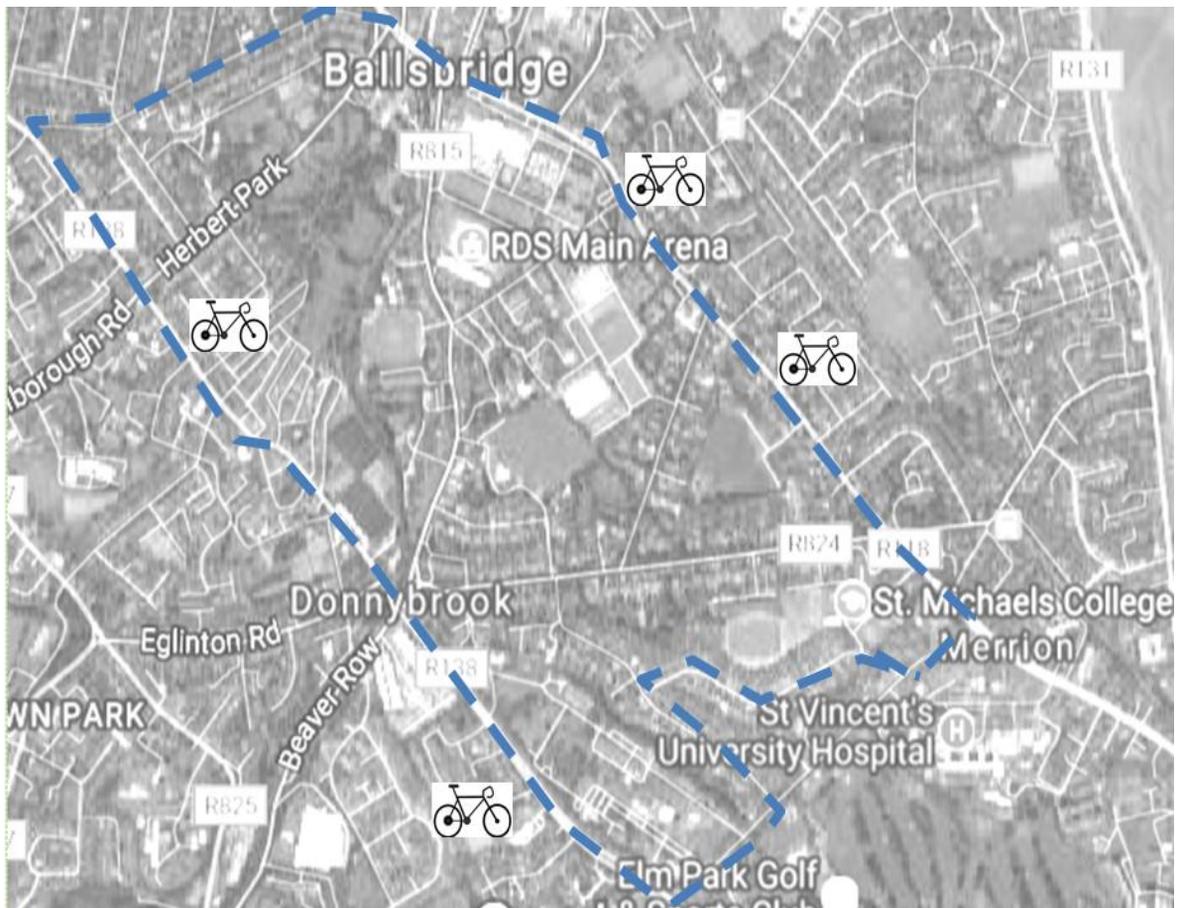


Objectives:

1. To evaluate local cycle routes.
2. To identify best practice and areas for improvement.
3. To feedback to Dublin City Council on measures that would improve a cyclist's experience.

Description of the route audited:

Our route included many of main roads used by pupils cycling to school. We departed the school from the Nutley Avenue entrance and turned northeast onto Nutley lane. At the junction we turned northwest onto Merrion Road and continued onto Herbert Park. From Herbert Park we cycled northwest past the RDS and into Ballsbridge. We then travelled in a southeast direction down Anglesea Road and through Donnybrook, turning back onto Nutley lane and back to the school.



Areas for improvement

Issue 1



Issue: Narrow Road

Location: Nutley Lane

Issue: This road is a pinch point for cyclists. Nutley links the busy primary Merrion Road and Stillorgan Road. It is used to access St. Vincent's University Hospital, RTE Studios and residential estates. The road carries considerable volumes of traffic. Many pupils and cyclists resort to cycling on the pathway at peak times. The lack of space is compounded by formal and informal on-street parking.

Possible actions: Road Widening, removal/reduction of on-street parking, shared road space. and inclusion of cycle lanes.

Issue 2



Location: Junction of Nutley Road and Nutley Avenue

Issue: Vehicular access to Nutley Avenue is prevented by railings. The location of the gap interrupts the flow of a cyclist. A cyclist must mount the path and dismount their bike, due to the sharp nature of the turn.

Possible actions: Drop the kerb in front of the shortcut to facilitate bicycle permeability.

Areas for improvement

Issue 3



Issue: The bicycle and car struggle to co-exist on the narrow Donnybrook Road.

Location: Heading south east through Donnybrook Village, Donnybrook Road

Description: The Donnybrook Road is a busy road with high volumes of traffic, particularly at peak commuter times. The road is narrow but has an advisory cycle lane. The presence of a lane suggests that the cyclist can be side-by-side with traffic. However, a car cannot fit between the lines of the cycle lane and the centre medium. It has been noted that many cars do try to fit. Cyclists have reported that the car squeezes into the cycle lanes and pushes the cyclist into the drains. This creates a dangerous hazard.

Possible actions: Review the street markings to ensure drivers and cyclists know both modes of transport do not fit space side-by-side. Launch an educational campaign. Review the speed limits. Introduce mixed traffic, were cyclists are in front or behind vehicles in a controlled speed environment.

Issue 4



Location: Junction of Donnybrook Road and Ailesbury Road

Issue: Advisory cycle lane is inside a left turning lane

Description: The cycle lane is placed within a very narrow left turning lane, on this busy and complex junction. This lane has a filter light that allows traffic to move left before the traffic goes straight ahead. A cyclist who wishes to go straight will be in the way of traffic in the lane, may have to undercut turning traffic and may face conflict with drivers.

Possible actions: Review cycle markings and light timings. Create an advance box for bicycles.

Positive findings



A wide pathway along the River Dodder, provides an off-road route for cyclists. This space is mixed use, with both pedestrians and cyclists sharing the pathway.



A considerable proportion of the Merrion road has a mandatory/advisory cycle lane.

Thank you for reading our report.

Please contact us with your feedback using the details below.

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