

MacAulay Drive – proposed shared pedestrian and cycle path

Concerns have been raised regarding conflict between pedestrians and cyclists on and emerging from the lane between MacAulay Drive and Craigiebuckler Drive. At the lane's endpoints, collisions between cyclists and pedestrians, and cyclists and dogs, have been reported. Along the lane, users are forced along a narrow 2-metre-wide asphalt strip, as half the lane has a reinforced grass paving surface that is difficult to walk or cycle on. This has resulted in conflicts between users travelling at different speeds or in opposite directions.

At present, the lane is officially a footway, meaning it is an offence to drive or cycle along it. However, the lane links directly into the core path network and is a recommended quiet route for cyclists (further information: <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/roads-transport-and-parking/cycling-aberdeen/cycling-maps>).

Aberdeen City Council now proposes that the lane is formally redetermined as a shared pedestrian and cycle path, which would allow the safety issues to be addressed whilst still encouraging cycling as a mode of transport in this area. The formal redetermination would require shared space signage to be installed at the lane's endpoints, and it is expected this would give warning to pedestrians of cyclists emerging from the side. In line with Cycling by Design recommendations, which specify paths of this type are at minimum 3 metres wide, the Council proposes to widen the asphalt surface of MacAulay Drive lane to eliminate conflict along the lane. It is also proposed painted markings are installed at either end of the lane to encourage cyclists to slow down and give way, and thereby reduce pedestrian-cyclist conflict in those locations. The Council further proposes to install areas of tactile paving to warn pedestrians with visual impairments of the shared pedestrian and cycle path, and of crossing points.