

Proposed crossings and shared use paths on Bankhead Drive and South Gyle Access



Issue:

Existing junction crossings are currently unsuitable to comfortably allow shared use for walking and cycling across South Gyle Access, Bankhead Drive and Bankhead Avenue. Similarly, footways along South Gyle Access and Bankhead Avenue are too narrow to comfortably allow shared use for walking and cycling.

Purpose and Context:

The proposals include improving crossings and footways on South Gyle Access, Bankhead Drive and Bankhead Avenue to allow both walking and cycling. The improvements will ensure that it is easier, safer and quicker for both pedestrians and cyclists to use the footways along these streets. The improvements are to QuietRoute 8, which is part of the network of QuietRoutes being implemented across the city.

The Council is developing a network of cycle routes across the city, called the 'QuietRoutes' network. We know that heavy or fast traffic is the most significant barrier preventing people who want to cycle from doing so. To address this, the QuietRoutes are designed so that people can cycle without having to be with heavy or fast traffic. QuietRoute 8 links Roseburn to Sighthill and Edinburgh Park. The lack of appropriate facilities on South Gyle Access, Bankhead Drive and Bankhead Avenue are key barriers which prevent the route meeting this required standard.

The improvements will help people to reach key local destinations on foot and by bike such as Forrester High School, St. Augustine's Roman Catholic High School, Edinburgh Park, South Gyle Industrial Estate and Edinburgh College and Edinburgh Napier University's Sighthill Campuses.

Proposed scheme:

The Council is proposing potential improvements to make it easier, safer and more convenient to walk and cycle along South Gyle Access, Bankhead Drive and Bankhead Avenue. We would like your views on the proposals and any other recommendations you have.

Proposals include:

- Localised widening of footways to ensure they can comfortably and safely accommodate shared use walking and cycling.
- The improvement of existing crossings on South Gyle Access and Bankhead Drive to allow for shared use walking and cycling.
- The improvement of existing ramped access to South Gyle Industrial Estate for people walking and cycling.
- The creation of a raised table across the existing access to Makro on Bankhead Avenue to improve priority for people walking and cycling.

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Purpose: to provide shared use path facilities along South Gyle Access, Bankhead Drive and Bankhead Avenue to reach key local and popular destinations and create a more pedestrian and cycle friendly environment.

Advantages:

- Improved facilities for people walking and cycling along South Gyle Access, Bankhead Drive and Bankhead Avenue
- Pedestrians and cyclists have greater priority over side streets
- Reduced conflict between different user types
- Key link between major education centres and South Gyle Industrial Park
- Improved crossing facilities

Disadvantages:

- Limited removal of green space to accommodate local footway widening and improvements

