

Technical Note

To An Bord Pleanála	Project number PR252947	Subject Ballinahinch Phase 2 Footpath Along R764	Date March 2020
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Footpath Route along R764

Introduction

AECOM have been appointed to support the Strategic Housing Development (SHD) of Ballinahinch Phase 2 in Ashford, Co. Wicklow. As part of this SHD planning application, AECOM have proposed a footpath along the western side of the R764 as per drawing no. PR252947-ACM-XX-00-DR-CE-10-0706. An open ditch/stream runs along the eastern side of the R764.

As part of the SHD Pre-App submission to An Bord Pleanála (ABP), Wicklow County Council (WCC) had raised concerns regarding the preferred side of the road this footpath should be located.

Under item No. 5 of the Pre-Application Consultation Opinion (Case Ref: ABP-305570-19), An Bord Pleanála requested *“further justification for the non-provision of a footpath to the east of the R764.”*

In this regard AECOM have examined the merits of locating the footpath on both the eastern and western side of the R764.

The following are the issues that arose;

Culverting the Stream

If the footpath was to be constructed on the eastern side, without road realignment, it would be necessary to build above the existing open stream. Therefore, it would be necessary to divert and/or culvert the stream at various locations.

The culverting of the stream will not be permitted by Wicklow County Council Sanitary Services Department (Refer to Maeve Cantwell’s Report dated July 2019) and by Inland Fisheries Ireland due to the potential impact on the River Varty which is a salmonid river.

If the road were to be realigned (using the land take on the western side), the footpath would be built adjacent to the stream. However, remedial work would be required to the stream to stabilise the stream’s bank to protect the footpath from possible collapse.

The current proposal, which provides the footpath on the western side of the R764, requires no interference with the stream and hence will not interfere with biodiversity during or after construction.

Land Take

If the footpath were to be constructed on the east side of the R764, without realigning the road, it would be required to attempt to secure land take at the existing driveways including the demolition of driveway walls.

Ardstone have agreed with property owners on the western side of the R764 regarding land take and have purchased Dawn Cottage to ensure delivery of this western footpath.

It should be noted that these land owners, on the western side, have given consent for their lands to be used for the footpath which will be taken in charge by Wicklow County Council in due course.

Public Lighting

If providing the footpath on the eastern side of the R764, the existing public lighting and associated ducting would need to be relocated. Only one lighting column would need to be relocated (at the roundabout to allow for a pedestrian crossing) if the footpath were to be provided on the western side of the R764.



The current proposal, which forms part of this SHD application to ABP, provides the footpath on the western side of the R764, this results in the relocation of the hedge/boundary at Dawn Cottage, which improves overall visibility at the junction with the R763. Ardstone have purchased this property in order to deliver the alterations required.

Drainage to Stream

The R764 currently drains to the stream through an inlet/depression in the grass verge. If the footpath is to be provided on the eastern side of the R764, a drainage connection to the stream would be required below the footpath.



Meeting with Wicklow County Council

A meeting took place between Kevin Scanlon, Municipal District Engineer, Wicklow County Council and Clodagh Holmes, AECOM on Wednesday **27th November 2019** to discuss the above issues.

The route was reviewed on site and it was agreed that, the proposed location of the footpath along the western side, was both appropriate and achievable under the current Strategic Housing Development application.

Conclusion

The current proposal to provide the footpath along the western side of the R764 has received the written consent of the residents involved. The alterations at Dawn Cottage will improve visibility at the existing pedestrian crossing at the junction of the R764/R763, without any negative impacts on the stream or its biodiversity.

Wicklow County Council and Inland Fisheries Ireland have opposed the culverting of the stream on the eastern side for environmental reasons, particularly the potential impact on the Varty, a salmonid river.

Wicklow County Council support the delivery of this western footpath under the SHD process and the works are included within the red line boundary as indicated on drawing no. PR252947-ACM-XX-00-DR-CE-10-0706.

Pre-Application Consultation Opinion – Item 5

As part of the full SHD application, the following details have been provided by the design team:

- Justification for the provision of the footpath along the western side of R764 – this report
- AECOM drawing no. PR252947-ACM-XX-00-DR-CE-10-0001 indicates the locations of the proposed pedestrian crossing adjacent to the roundabout and at the junction of the R764 and R7643. AECOM drawing no. PR252947-ACM-XX-00-DR-CE-10-0708 includes the TII standard detail for pedestrian crossings.
- KFLA have provided details of the boundary treatments at each dwelling/entrance along the R764.
- Tom Phillips & Associates (TPA) have provided justification for the height and nature of the new boundary treatments. This information is contained within the Response to ABP Opinion Report, prepared by TPA.