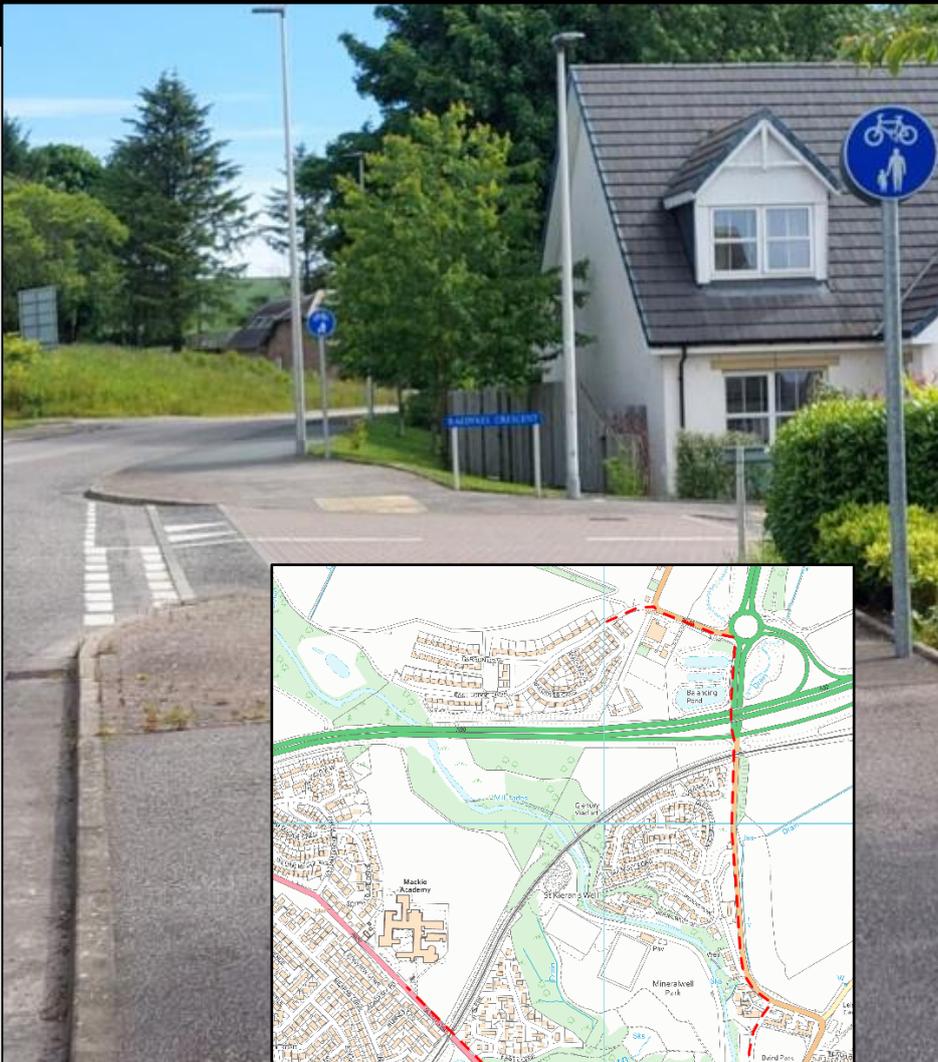


# Mackie Academy Walk Route Safety Review

Review: Mackie Academy Walk Route Assessment



Aberdeenshire Council

23/09/24

# Walk Route Safety Review – Mackie Academy

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## 1.0 Introduction

The School Transport team have requested a walk route safety review from the Ury housing estate to Mackie Academy with a view to removing the service. The council currently provides free school transport to all secondary school pupils who live more than three miles walking distance from their zoned high school. As New Mains of Ury is approximately 1.6 miles from Mackie Academy, this route does not qualify for free school transport.

This review does not determine whether a route is “safe” or “dangerous”. All roads may be thought of as presenting some element of road safety risk, the assessment determines whether the route presents exceptional road safety hazards, or if the risk can be mitigated through practicable improvements that can be made to achieve a safer walk route.

Walk route assessments are carried out on the basis that the pupil is being accompanied by a responsible adult on their journey to and from school. If the pupil is walking unaccompanied then it is for the carer/parent to determine that their child has the skills to walk and cross our roads without supervision. The Council expects parents/carers to make suitable alternative arrangements if they are unable to personally accompany their child. Parents/carers are also responsible for ensuring that their children have suitable clothing and footwear for the conditions. Their clothing should be reflective or use other high visibility aids including torches etc. where required.

Aberdeenshire Council considers that the most appropriate means of ensuring pupils can safely travel to school is through road safety education; parents/carers and schools are expected to educate pupils in such road safety matters from an early age. Mackie Academy currently does not have a Travel Plan; however, our Strategy Unit will be able to work with Mackie Academy if required to look at developing strategies and/or initiatives to assist in sustainable and safe travel to and from the school. School Travel Plan information is available [here](#).

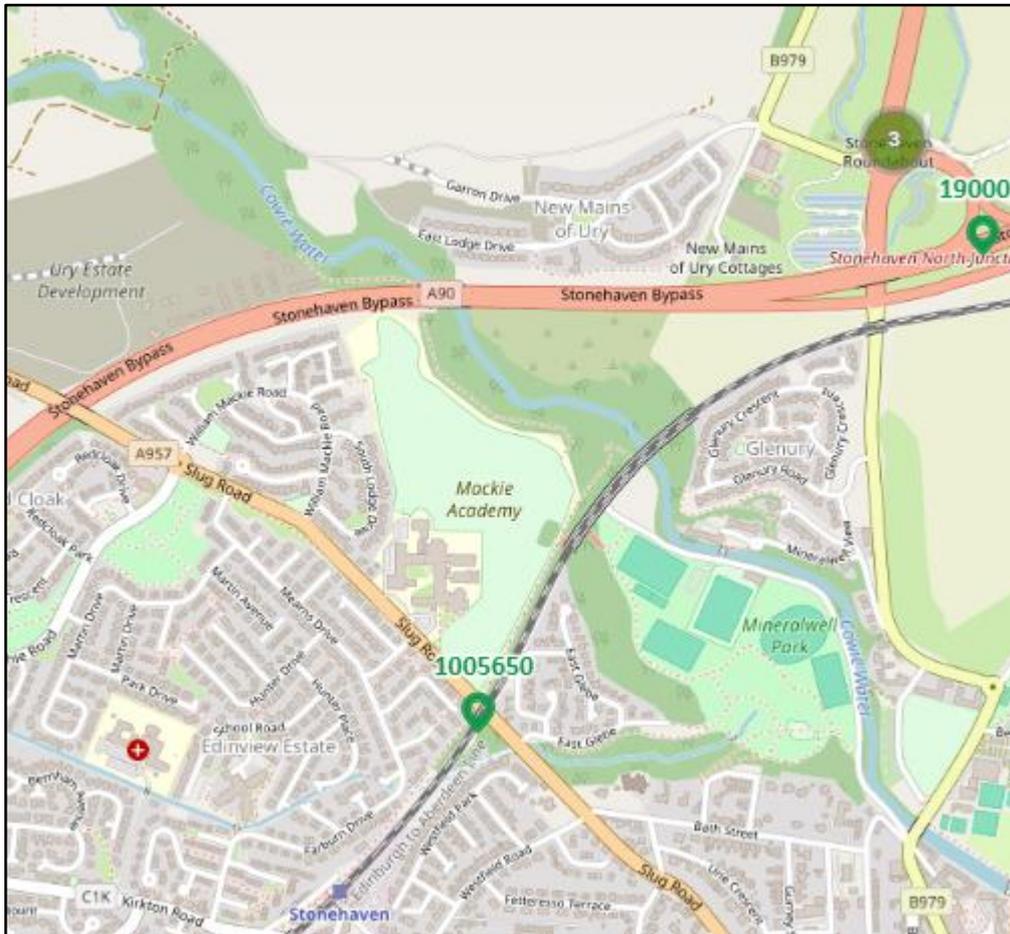
1.1 The Review Team members were:

**Andrew Wilkinson** *IEng MCIHT, HA RSA Cert Comp*  
Road Safety Engineer and Auditor  
Road Safety Unit  
Environment and Infrastructure Service  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Woodhill House  
Westburn Road  
Aberdeen  
AB16 5GB

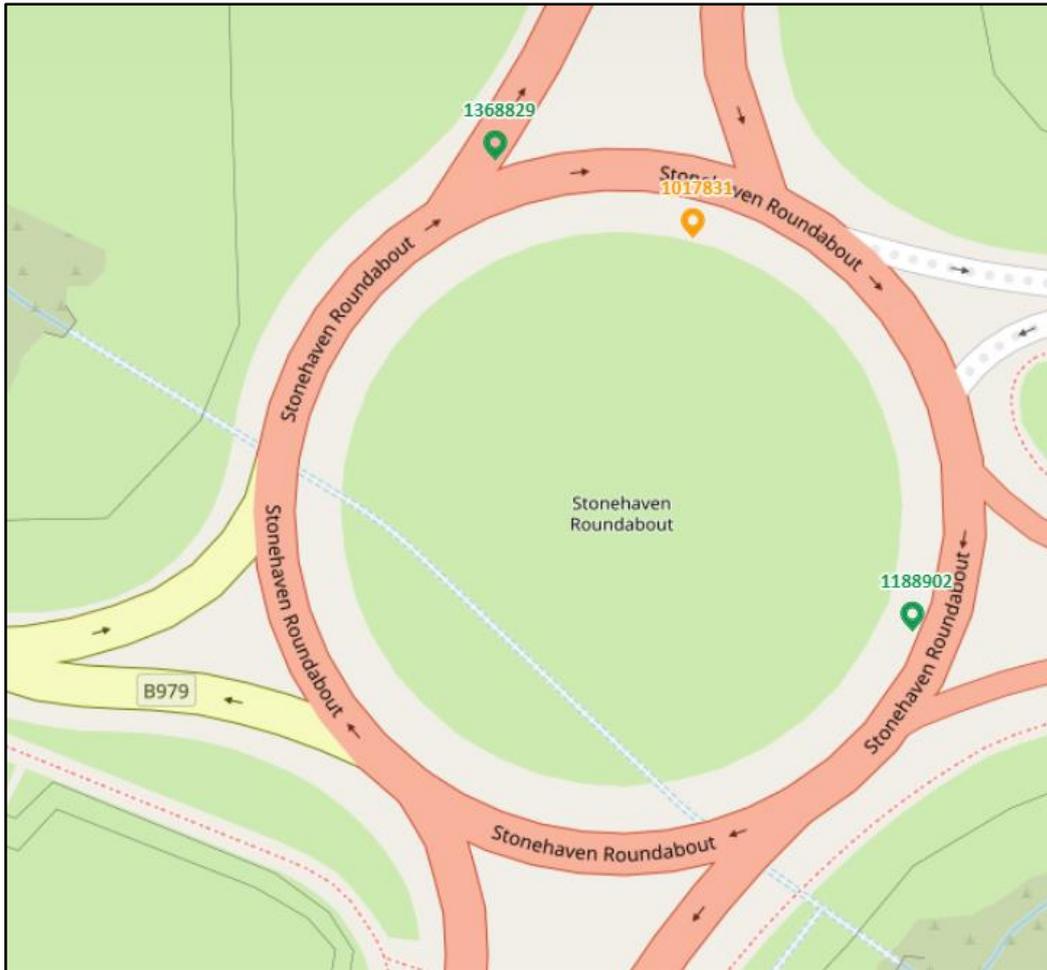
**Richard Bailie** *I. Eng MCHIT*  
Road Safety Engineer and Auditor  
Road Safety Unit  
Environment and Infrastructure Service  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Woodhill House  
Westburn Road  
Aberdeen  
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## 2.0 Accident History 2019 to 2023

There has been one reported injury collision on the walk route in the previous 5 years full reported data. There have also been three reported injury collisions on the roundabout accessing the AWPR which we shall also look at below.



- Slight injury collision, reference number 1005650 occurred on 16 November 2020 at 08:30 am. An 11-year-old male ran across the road without due care and attention and was clipped by the wing mirror of a car, which had tried to avoid the pupil.



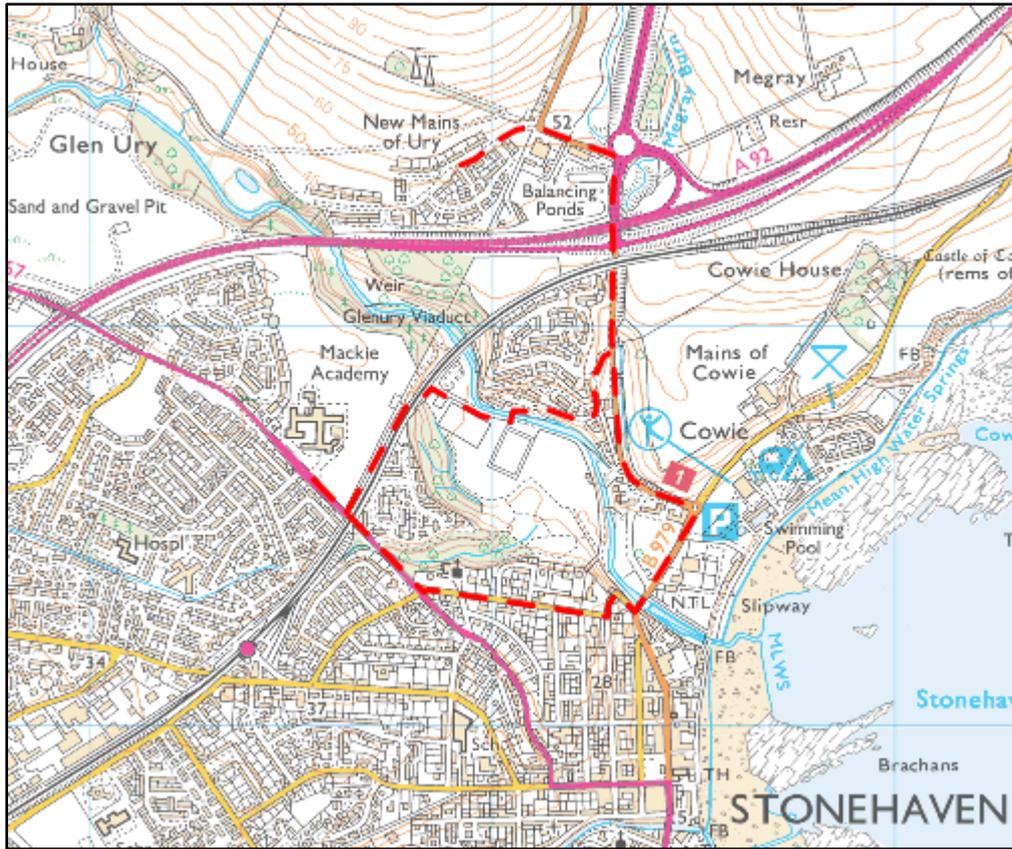
- These collisions occurred on the opposite side of the roundabout to where pedestrians would be walking. One involved vehicle brakes failing, one involved a driver exceeding the speed limit and disobeying the give way markings and the third was the result of a vehicle changing lane and colliding with another car when exiting the roundabout.

### 3.0 Methodology

A detailed road safety review took place on 13 June 2024 Between 10:00 and 11:30. The weather was dry and around 14°C.

Members of the Road Safety Team carried out a review of the full walking route from East Lodge Drive, along the B979, down the A90 and back onto the B979, Then Belmont Brae, Bath Street then the A957 Slug Road to the School. The Road Safety Unit then walked back to East Lodge Drive by using the unlit path adjacent to the school down the St Kieran's Well then along Mineral Well View and back onto the B979.

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#### 4.0 Observations and Recommendations

The photographs shown in the following sections highlight the walk route as found at time of review. Included in each review section is a risk map indicating the level of risk versus the probability of that risk occurring, with green being low risk, yellow being medium risk and red being high risk. We would request that any items identified as high risk be mitigated prior to the school transport being considered for removal.

Location: [New Mains of Ury](#)



Observations: This section is within a new housing development with standard footways and footway crossings.

Recommendations: No Recommendations.

Probability	Risk	Low	Medium	High
High				
Medium				
Low		<b>x</b>		

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Location: [East Lodge Junction](#)



Observations: The construction of this relatively new pedestrian crossing point is not particularly good. The footway narrows on the west side unnecessarily with a raised heel kerb which creates a trip hazard. The tactile paving slabs are not laid well making them uneven with gaps where weeds are growing through, creating trip and slip hazards. The dropped kerbs are to have an upstand no bigger than 6mm in order for wheelchairs to be able to manoeuvre easily over them. These upstands are higher than 6mm. It can also be seen in the picture above that a hazard marker post highlighting the bend has been damaged.

Recommendations: It is recommended that the School Transport Unit liaise with the Roads Development team and/or the Roads Network Management team to determine who is responsible for maintenance here and find out when the works will be carried out. It may still be the case that the developer is responsible for the repairs as the development is still under construction.

Probability	Risk	Low	Medium	High
High				
Medium		<b>x</b>		
Low				

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Location: [B979 Housing estate to AWPR roundabout](#)



Observations: The shared surface narrows to a narrow footway for a length of approximately 74m. There are signs indicating cyclists to dismount. The road is straight with good visibility in both directions. There are overhanging trees on the footway and as can be seen a hazard marker post has been damaged, potentially by an overhanging vehicle.

Recommendations: It is recommended that the hazard marker post is replaced and that the overhanging foliage is trimmed back and maintained.

Probability	Risk	Low	Medium	High
High				
Medium		<b>x</b>		
Low				

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Location: [B979 to AWPR Roundabout](#)



Observations: On this stretch there are two accesses to cross. One a property access and one a maintenance access. The shared surface sign is slightly masked by a lamp column when heading east, although the closer you get to it the more visible it becomes.

Recommendations: No recommendations.

Probability	Risk	Low	Medium	High
High				
Medium				
Low		<b>x</b>		

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Location: [B979 AWPR Roundabout to A92 Link](#)



Observations: This section has a wide street lit footway and traffic signals with a pedestrian phase to cross the road.

Recommendations: No recommendations.

Probability	Risk	Low	Medium	High
High				
Medium				
Low		<b>x</b>		

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Location: [B979 A92 Link to Baird Park](#)



Observations: This section of footway is narrower, approximately 1.7 to 2.0m in places along the route. The useable footway width is reduced by overgrown foliage in places. There are two accesses to cross, the Glenury Cottages access is particularly wide with some vehicles travelling on a parallel road to the path which may not be visible to pedestrians walking towards Stonehaven. This issue is mitigated by the low number of vehicles using Glenury Cottages and that vehicles will be travelling very slowly approaching the junction. On the north side of Glenury Cottages the speed limit lowers to 30mph, however the 30mph sign on the east side of the road is masked by overgrown foliage which may contribute to some vehicles not adhering to the limit.

Recommendations: We would recommend that the foliage which is encroaching on the footway and masking the speed limit signage is cut back and maintained.

Probability	Risk	Low	Medium	High
High				
Medium		<b>x</b>		
Low				

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Location: [Netherly Road](#)



Observations: Netherly Road is a quiet Road linking from the B979 to the north to the B979 just north east of Cowie Bridge.

Recommendations: No recommendations

Probability	Risk	Low	Medium	High
High				
Medium				
Low		<b>x</b>		

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Location: [Belmont Brae](#)



Observations: The Mineral Well Park/B979/Belmont Brae junction is unconventional and may encounter user confusion. Belmont Brae has a very narrow footway up one side with a crossing point at the top with poor visibility. There is currently a Council project in the design/consultation stage that will improve pedestrian facilities in this location.

Recommendations: No recommendations. If pupils and accompanying responsible adult is uncomfortable with this road there is an alternative which involves Barclay Street, Rodney Street and Anne Street which will add an additional 8 minutes walking time, approximately.

Probability	Risk	Low	Medium	High
High		<b>x</b>		
Medium				
Low				

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Location: [Bath Street](#)



Observations: Bath Street is street lit with standard widths footways. There is one section with overhanging foliage which reduces the usable footway width slightly. There are several access crossings, some with and some without tactile paving.

Recommendations: No recommendations just now, however, the householder may be required to cut back foliage if it continues to encroach into the footway.

Probability	Risk	Low	Medium	High
High				
Medium				
Low		<b>x</b>		

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Location: [A957 Slug Road](#)



Observations: There is overhanging foliage reducing the available footway width in places which may result in pedestrians stepping onto the carriageway if passing other people. The southeast corner of East Glebe has overgrown foliage which will mask vehicles exiting East Glebe, potentially resulting in pedestrians being struck by vehicles. The Part Time 20 sign was flashing with diagonal lights at 10:50am.

Recommendations: It is recommended that the foliage is cut back, and the Part Time 20 sign is repaired.

Probability	Risk	Low	Medium	High
High				
Medium			<b>x</b>	
Low				

## 5.0 Recommendations and Conclusion

Whilst there are several minor maintenance issues requiring to be addressed, this Walk Route Safety Review confirms that the route is acceptable for accompanied travel to Mackie Academy. There are adequate options to walk, bike or scoot which link into Aberdeenshire Councils focused active travel strategy, meaning travelling to Mackie Academy from the Ury estate is well catered for. The route is well signed and generally well maintained. There is adequate room for travel by all the usual means removing the requirement for Aberdeenshire Council to maintain bus provision.

It has previously been mentioned in this report that the Road Safety Unit, during the site visit, walked on the unadopted unlit path adjacent to the school down the St Kieran’s Well then along Mineral Well View and back onto the B979. This is an alternative route that is approximately 1.2 miles, slightly shorter than the route that is on adopted, street lit roads. This may prove more desirable to walk on given it is slightly more direct. It is up to the parents/guardians to determine whether this route is acceptable for use. During the site visit the weather was good, bright and dry. The route has steps and uneven ground which may become slippery and boggy in poor weather. There is also no street lighting, as such it may not be appealing to walk on during winter months.

Summary of recommendations:

Location	Recommendation
<a href="#">East Lodge Junction</a>	Repair tactile paving.
<a href="#">B979 Housing estate to AWPR roundabout</a>	Repair hazard marker posts and cut back and maintain foliage.
<a href="#">B979 A92 Link to Baird Park</a>	Cut back and maintain foliage.
<a href="#">A957 Slug Road</a>	Cutback and maintain foliage and repair Part Time 20 sign.