

Finglas to Phibsborough

4

Core Bus Corridor
Preferred Route

Public Consultation
March 2020





Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1 What has happened so far?	1
1.2 What is BusConnects?	1
1.3 What are the benefits of this project?	3
1.4 Understanding the terminology	5
1.5 Map of all 16 Core Bus Corridors	6
2. Preferred Route Description	7
2.1 Overview	7
2.2 St. Margaret's Road Junction to Slaney Road Junction - Finglas Road	8
2.3 Slaney Road Junction to Prospect Way (Hart's Corner) - Finglas Road	8
2.4 Key Changes from the Published EPR	10
2.5 Key Facts	10
3. How to take part in the public consultation	11
3.1 General queries	11
3.2 How to engage	11
3.3 What happens next?	11
4. Appendices	13
4.1 Index Map	14
4.2 Route Maps	16

1. Introduction

1.1 What has happened so far?

Between November 2018 and May 2019 the National Transport Authority (NTA) carried out the first round of public consultation on initial proposals for the Emerging Preferred Routes of sixteen Core Bus Corridors across the Greater Dublin Area (GDA). During this consultation phase thirteen thousand submissions were received in total. A Consultation Submissions Report for each corridor is available to view and download on our website www.busconnects.ie.

All of the submissions were reviewed and considered as part of the design preparation for the Preferred Route for each corridor. We have amended our initial proposals to address some of the issues raised in submissions, including incorporating suggestions and recommendations from local residents, community groups and stakeholders. We are now publishing the Preferred Routes for sixteen Core Bus Corridors and commencing a second round of public consultation.

This document is one of a series of sixteen, each dedicated to a single Core Bus Corridor. The document provides a written description of the Preferred Route from start to finish with supporting maps and includes information on revisions made, if any, from the initial emerging preferred route.

The original brochures detailing each Emerging Preferred Route, published last year, are available to view and download on our website www.busconnects.ie. These brochures contain information on the process for impacted property owners, the project timelines and steps required for statutory planning application.

1.2 What is BusConnects?

BusConnects is the National Transport Authority's programme to greatly improve bus services. It is a key part of the Government's policies to improve public transport and address climate change in Dublin and other cities. It is included within the following Government policy strategies:

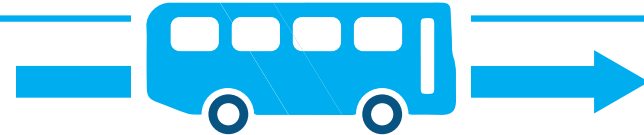
- ▶ The National Development Plan 2018 - 2027;
- ▶ Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016 - 2035; and
- ▶ The Climate Action Plan 2019.



Dublin is growing and needs a bus network that works for a developing city. The aim of BusConnects is to deliver an enhanced bus system that is better for the city, its people and the environment. BusConnects is designed to provide a better, more reliable and more efficient bus service for everyone.

BusConnects: The facts at a glance

230km of bus priority making journeys faster and more reliable



200km of cycle lanes/tracks



Transitioning to a new
low emissions bus fleet



State of the art
ticketing system

Cashless payment system



Simpler fare structure



New Park & Ride sites in key locations

New bus livery



providing a common style across all operators



New bus stops and shelters

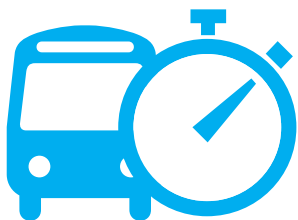
with better signage and information



Dublin area bus network redesign

creating a more efficient network with high frequency spines, new orbital routes and increased bus services

1.3 What are the benefits of this project?



Journey Time Savings -

This project will deliver journey time savings of up to 40-50% on corridors. Dedicated bus and cycle lanes can significantly increase bus travel speeds and reliability.



Building a sustainable city and addressing climate change -

Tackling the challenges of climate change is a priority for Ireland and moving more people to public transport is a key component of the solution.



Accessibility for all -

More bus shelters, with seating where possible, new footpaths and better information at bus stops, will make using the fully accessible bus fleet easier for all, including the elderly and mobility impaired.



Better cycling facilities -

This project will see the provision of much needed cycling facilities around the city region with over 200kms of high quality cycle routes provided.



Pedestrians and Urban Realms -

Along each route, improvements and enhancements will be made to footpaths, walkways and pedestrian crossings. Funding and investment for local urban realms with additional landscaping and outdoor amenities will be provided.

1.4 Understanding the terminology

1. Core Bus Corridor (CBC):

Part of the overall BusConnects Programme is to create 16 radial Core Bus Corridors (CBC). A CBC is an existing road with bus priority so that buses can operate efficiently, reliably and punctually. This generally means full length dedicated bus lanes on both sides of the road from start to finish of each corridor or other measures to ensure that buses are not delayed in general traffic congestion. The bus lanes will be alongside general traffic and segregated cycle lanes/tracks where feasible.

2. Segregated Cycle Tracks:

A segregated cycle track is a separate section of the road dedicated for cycling only. This space will generally be isolated from other vehicular traffic by a physical kerb. Where it is not physically possible to have segregated cycle tracks there will be the option of quiet roads and shared cycling on reduced speed roads for cyclists.

3. Emerging Preferred Route (EPR):

The NTA published outline plans for each of the 16 CBCs in a non-statutory public consultation process in 2018/2019. The options were called Emerging Preferred Routes (EPR), in some cases with multiple sub-options, to inform the public of the likely layout of the roadway with the necessary CBC infrastructure in place. They included possible impacts on front gardens, and likely changes to how traffic will operate to facilitate bus priority.

4. Preferred Route Option (PRO):

Following consideration of the public submissions about the 16 EPR's, the Core Bus Corridor proposals have been reviewed and amended. They are now being presented as the Preferred Route Option (PRO) and are subject to a second round of non-statutory public consultation.

They are not final proposals as they are subject to further consideration from the second round of public consultation and also subsequent examination in the context of Environmental Impact Assessment.

5. Bus Gate



A Bus Gate is a sign-posted short length of stand-alone bus lane. This short length of road is restricted exclusively to buses, taxis and cyclists plus emergency vehicles. It facilitates bus priority by removing general through traffic along the overall road where the bus gate is located. General traffic will be directed by signage to divert away to other roads before they arrive at the Bus Gate.

6. Signal Controlled Priority:

Signal Control Priority uses traffic signals to enable buses to get priority ahead of other traffic on single lane road sections, but it is only effective for short distances. This typically arises where the bus lane cannot continue due to obstructions on the roadway. An example might be where a road has pinch-points where it narrows due to existing buildings or structures that cannot be demolished to widen the road to make space for a bus lane. It works through the use of traffic signal controls (typically at junctions) where the bus lane and general traffic lane must merge ahead and share the road space for a short distance until the bus lane recommences downstream. The general traffic will be stopped at the signal to allow the bus pass through the narrow section first and

when the bus has passed the general traffic will then be allowed through the lights.

7. Toucan Crossing:

A Toucan Crossing is a roadway crossing designed to enable both pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road with purposefully designed signal controls.

8. Quiet Street Treatment:

Where CBC roadway widths cannot facilitate cyclists without significant impact on bus priority, alternative cycle routes are explored for short distances away from the CBC bus route. Such offline options may include directing cyclists along streets with minimal general traffic other than car users who live on the street.

They are called Quiet Streets due to the low amount of general traffic and are deemed suitable for cyclists sharing the roadway with the general traffic without the need to construct segregated cycle tracks or painted cycle lanes. The Quiet Street Treatment would involve appropriate advisory signage for both the general road users and cyclists.

9. Urban Realm:

Urban Realm refers to the everyday street spaces that are used by people to cross, shop, socialise, play, and use for activities such as walking, exercise or commute to/from work. The Urban Realm encompasses all streets, squares, junctions, and other rights-of-way, whether in residential, commercial or civic use. When well-designed and laid out with care in a community setting, it enhances the every-day lives of residents and those passing through. It typically relates to all open-air parts of the built environment where the public has free access. It would include seating, trees, planting and other aspects to enhance the experience for all.

Signal Controlled Priority (SCP)



1. Traffic proceeds as normal.

2. As the bus approaches, the light signal changes to halt general traffic.

3. The bus has priority to proceed.

4. When the bus has cleared the junction, general traffic proceeds.

1.5 Map of all 16 core bus corridors

Preferred Routes

1. Clongriffin to City Centre
2. Swords to City Centre
3. Ballymun to City Centre
4. Finglas to Phibsborough
5. Blanchardstown to City Centre
6. Lucan to City Centre
7. Liffey Valley to City Centre
8. Clondalkin to Drimnagh
9. Greenhills to City Centre
10. Tallaght to Terenure
11. Kimmage to City Centre
12. Rathfarnham to City Centre
13. Bray to City Centre
14. UCD Ballsbridge to City Centre
15. Blackrock to Merrion
16. Ringsend to City Centre



2. Preferred Route Description

2.1 Overview

The Finglas to Phibsborough Core Bus Corridor (CBC) commences on the Finglas Road at the junction between the Finglas Road and St. Margaret's Road and is routed along the Finglas Road as far as Hart's Corner in Phibsborough where it joins the Ballymun CBC from Hart's Corner to Arran Quay. Priority for buses is provided along the entire route, consisting of dedicated bus lanes in both directions. Continuous segregated cycle tracks are provided from Church Street junction in Finglas to Hart's Corner.

The following paragraphs will describe each section of the CBC in more detail, identifying the key design revisions which have been incorporated into the design since the publication of the Emerging Preferred Route (EPR) in February 2019.

2.2 St. Margaret's Road Junction to Slaney Road Junction – Finglas Road

The Finglas CBC commences on the Finglas Road at its junction with St. Margaret's Road. It is proposed to upgrade pedestrian facilities and bus stop facilities at this junction. Between this junction and the Mellows Road junction, a bus lane will be provided in both directions. The northbound bus lane will be provided on the existing left traffic lane, which will match the existing arrangement in the southbound direction to provide a single general traffic lane and a bus lane in each direction. No road widening will be required on the northbound side of the road as had been previously proposed.

At Mellows Road junction, it is proposed to provide bus lanes on the junction slip roads in both directions, along with footpaths for access. Between the Mellows Road junction and the Slaney Road junction, a continuous bus lane and a general traffic lane will be provided in both directions.

New bus stops will be provided on the Finglas Road south of Church Street junction with new pedestrian signals to allow passengers to cross the road. This facility will provide a direct link from Finglas Village to bus services that follow the Finglas Bypass.

Continuous segregated cycle tracks will be provided in each direction from Church Street junction (in Finglas) southwards to Hart's Corner at Phibsborough. In a change from the EPR, over the 1.5km length of the Finglas Road between Wellmount Road and Ballyboggan Road the proposed road layout has been adjusted to enable the existing grass verges and trees along the edges of the road to be retained. Widening into the existing median will not be required. Therefore almost all of the existing trees will be retained along the Finglas Road dual carriageway.

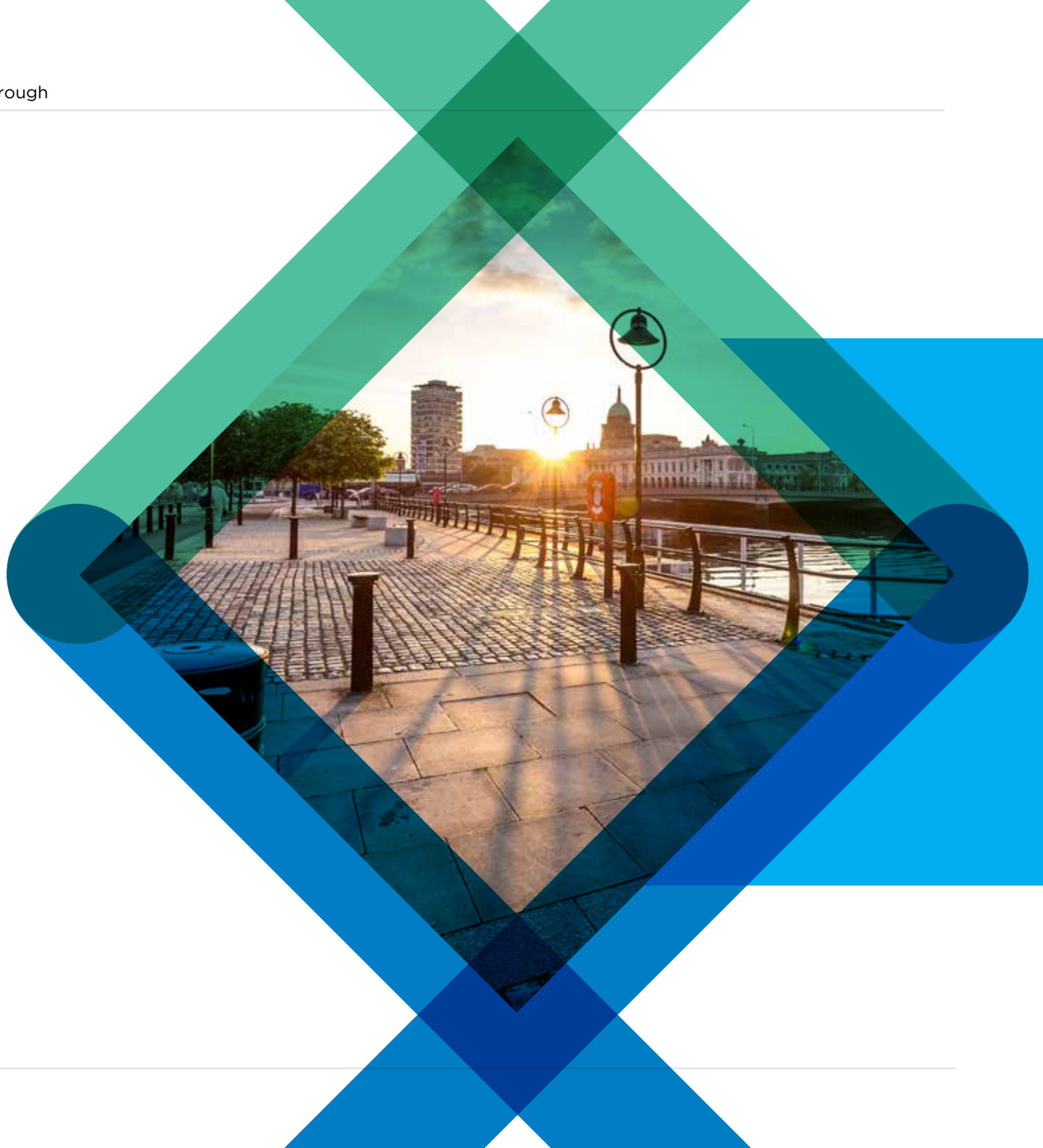
2.3 Slaney Road Junction to Prospect Way (Hart's Corner) – Finglas Road

Between the Slaney Road junction and the Prospect Way junction at Hart's Corner, it is proposed to provide a continuous bus lane, one general traffic lane and a segregated cycle track in each direction. To accommodate this wider cross section, it is proposed to have limited land take within the green space at Claremount Lawns, St. Vincent's Secondary School and a number of residential properties. The indicative extents of this land take are included in the Appendix of this brochure.

Opposite Glasnevin cemetery, a new proposal is included to provide an off-street car-park to replace the existing on-street parking with a similar number of parking spaces. This will encroach into the public open space at Claremount Lawns. The footpath and cycle track on the northbound side of the road will be realigned into the public open space behind the existing row of trees, which will be retained.

The proposed road layout along Finglas Road south of Glasnevin Cemetery has been adjusted to reduce the extent of land-take required for road widening, with fewer properties affected and less impact for those houses with smaller gardens and shorter driveways.

On the northern side of Prospect Way, it is proposed to provide a two-way cycle track for which one of the two general traffic lanes will be removed. The same arrangement will continue along the eastern side of Prospect Road to the Royal Canal where the cycle route will continue to Royal Canal Bank bypassing Phibsborough Village. This will allow cyclists to circulate around the northern and eastern sides of Hart's Corner, fully segregated from traffic.



2.4 Key Changes from the Published EPR

- The layout proposals have been modified to retain almost all existing trees along the Finglas Road dual carriageway.
- The proposed road layout along Finglas Road south of Glasnevin Cemetery has been adjusted to reduce the extent of land-take required for road widening with fewer properties affected.
- Opposite Glasnevin Cemetery an off-street carpark will replace the existing on-street parking at this location.
- A two-way cycle route is proposed to bypass the one-way traffic system at Hart's Corner.

2.5 Key Facts

- Approximate number of properties that may be impacted **12**
- Approximate number of designated on-street parking spaces that may be removed: **0**
- Approximate number of trees that may be removed: **34**
- Approximate route length: **4kms**
- Approximate cycle route length: **3.1kms**
- Current bus journey time: **up to 17 mins**
- BusConnects journey time: **12 mins**
- Future Bus journey time without BusConnects: **25 mins +**

3. How to take part in the public consultation

This brochure provides details of the proposed Preferred Route Option for this core bus corridor. These proposals are subject to a second non-statutory round of public consultation, and subsequent design refinement and environmental impact assessment, before a formal statutory application will be made by the NTA to An Bord Pleanála for approval.

3.1 General queries

The project website www.busconnects.ie has a dedicated section for the Core Bus Corridor project. All previous emerging preferred route brochures are available on the website. Users can access the site to find out more about the project and download copies of the key documents.

General queries can be directed to a dedicated Freephone - **1800 303 653** or by email to cbc@busconnects.ie

3.2 How to engage

We are inviting submissions in relation to the Preferred Route Options set out in this document. The closing date for submissions is stated on the website.

Written submissions and observations may be made by:



cbc@busconnects.ie



Core Bus Corridor Project
National Transport Authority,
Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2
D02 WT20

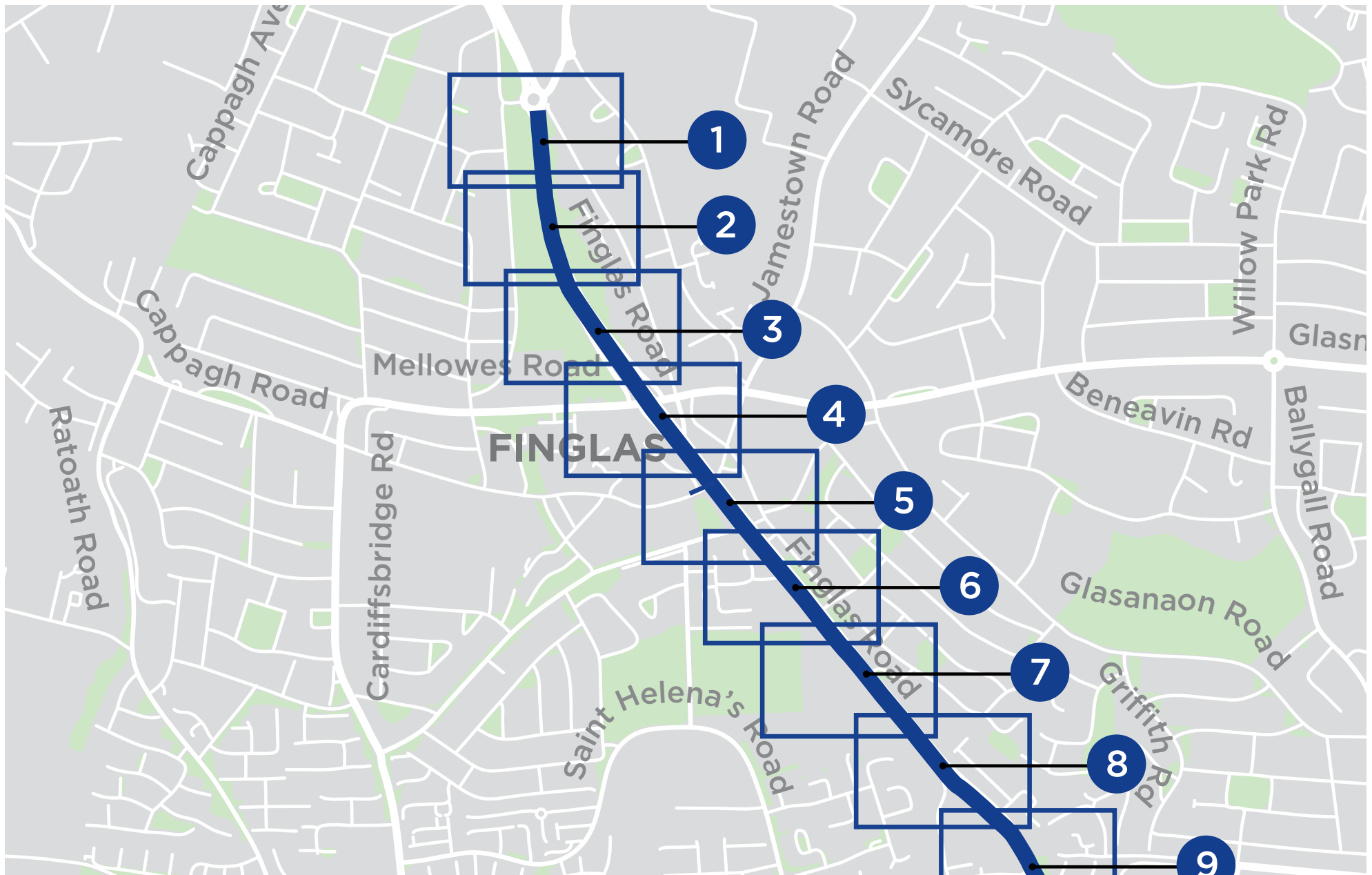
3.3 What happens next?

Following the second round of public consultation the NTA will finalise the Preferred Route Options for all sixteen corridors. The scheme designs will be finalised, transport and environmental impact assessments will be completed. This will culminate in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the scheme together with details of land to be acquired. This will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála during Q4 2020 for its consideration and determination. A formal statutory consultation process will be undertaken as part of that process.

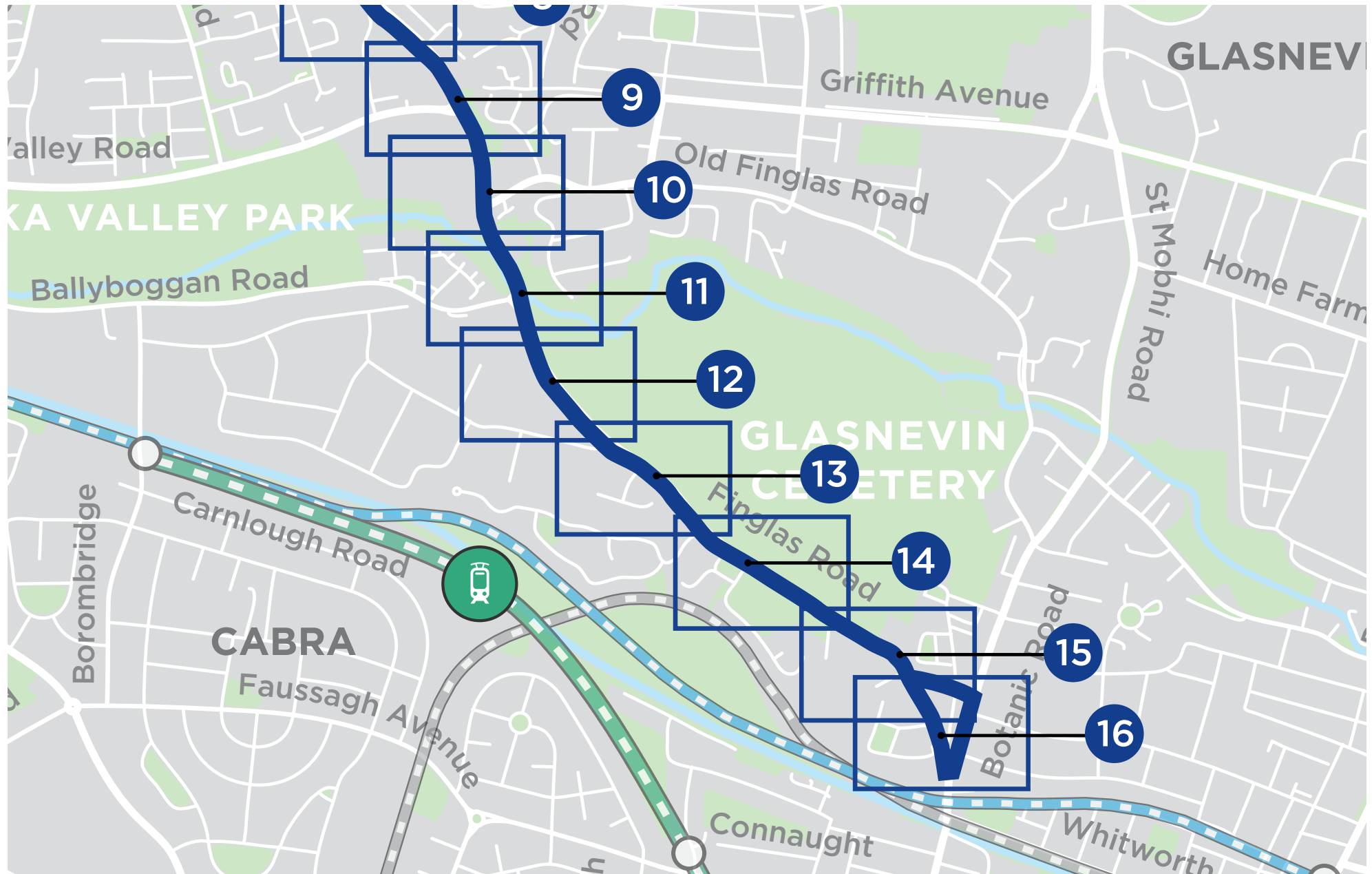


4. Appendices

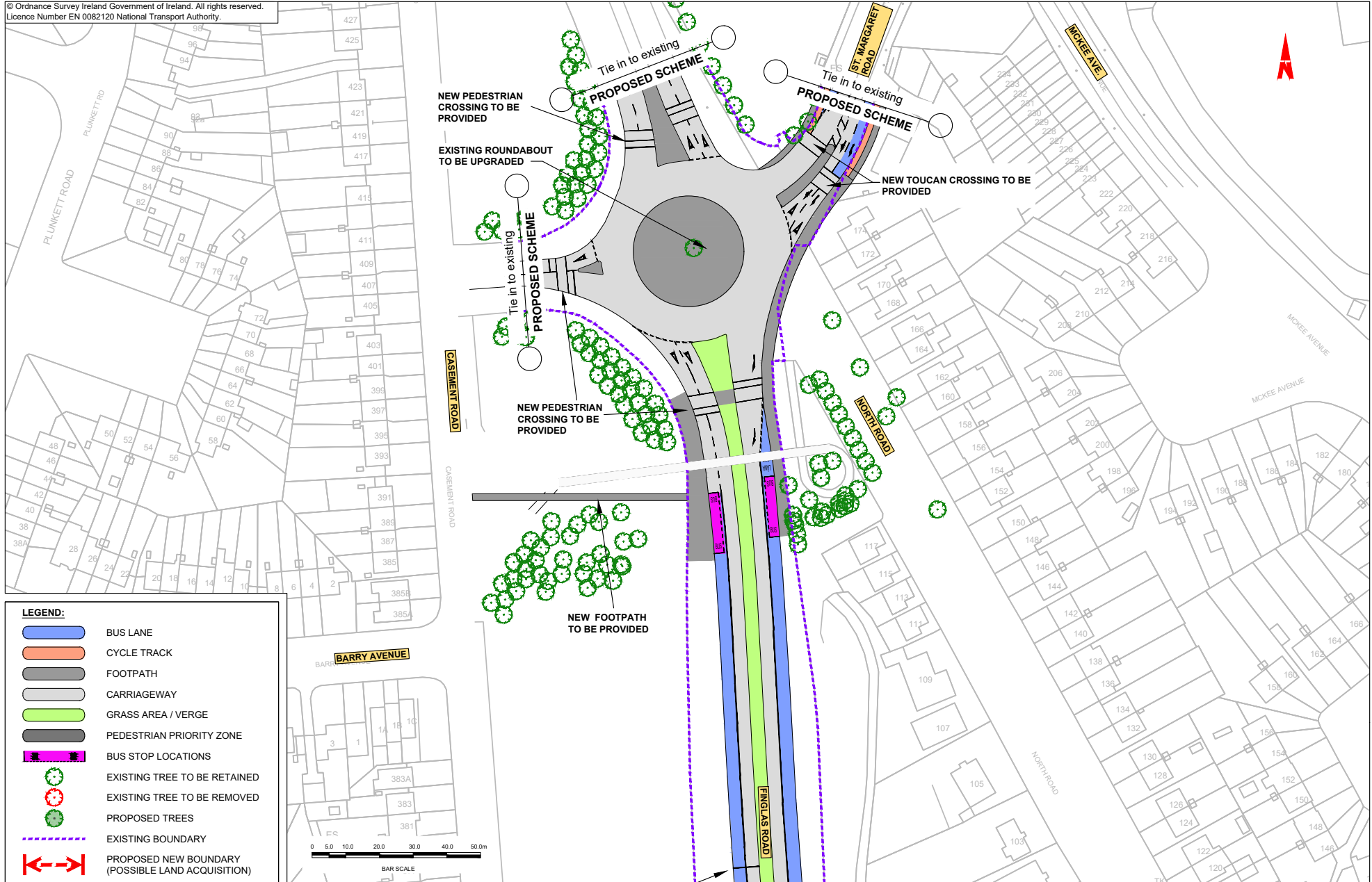
Index maps
Route maps



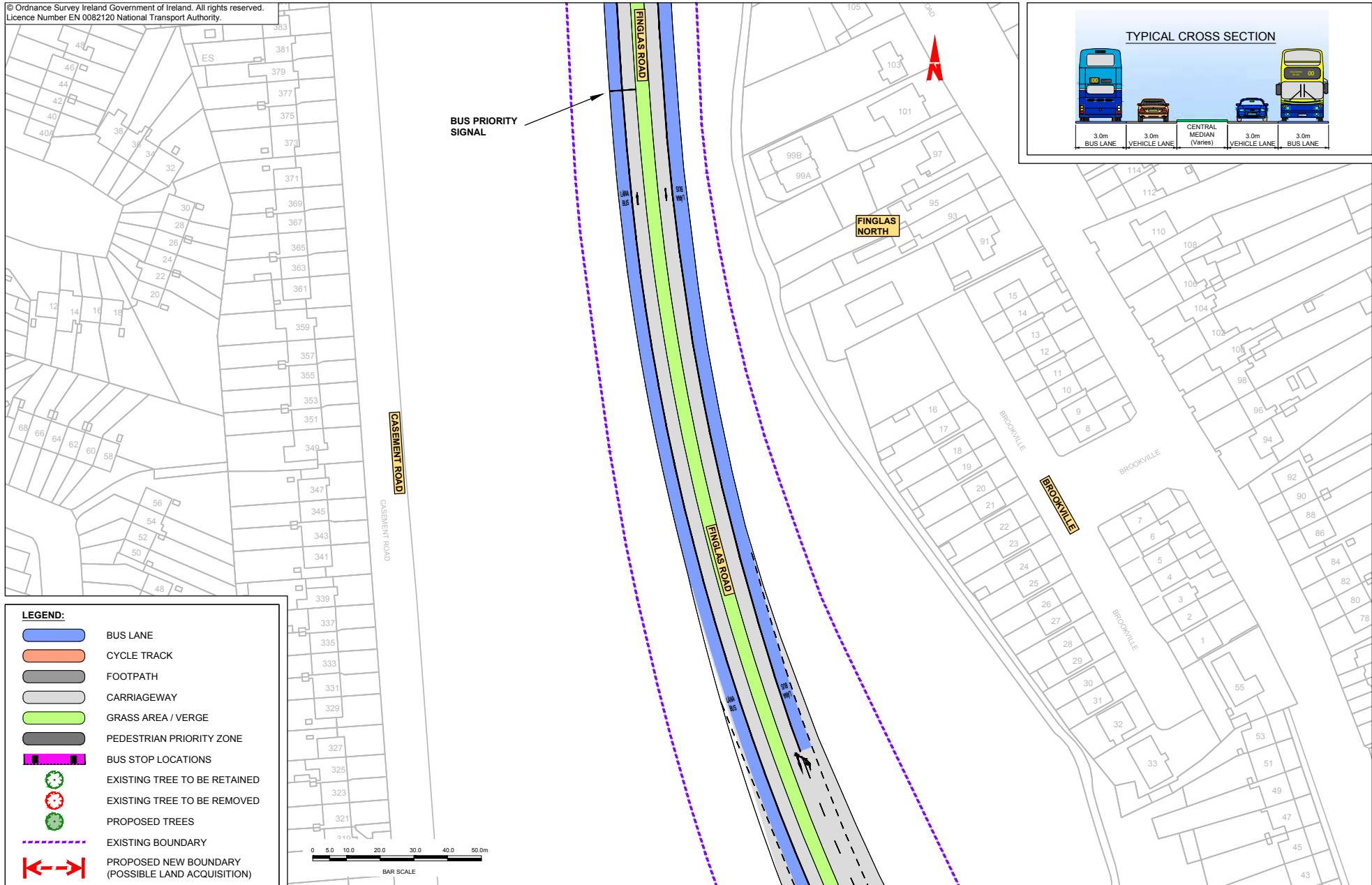
NOTE: The Preferred Route shown on the following drawings is indicative only and is subject to change following consultation and as part of the design development process.



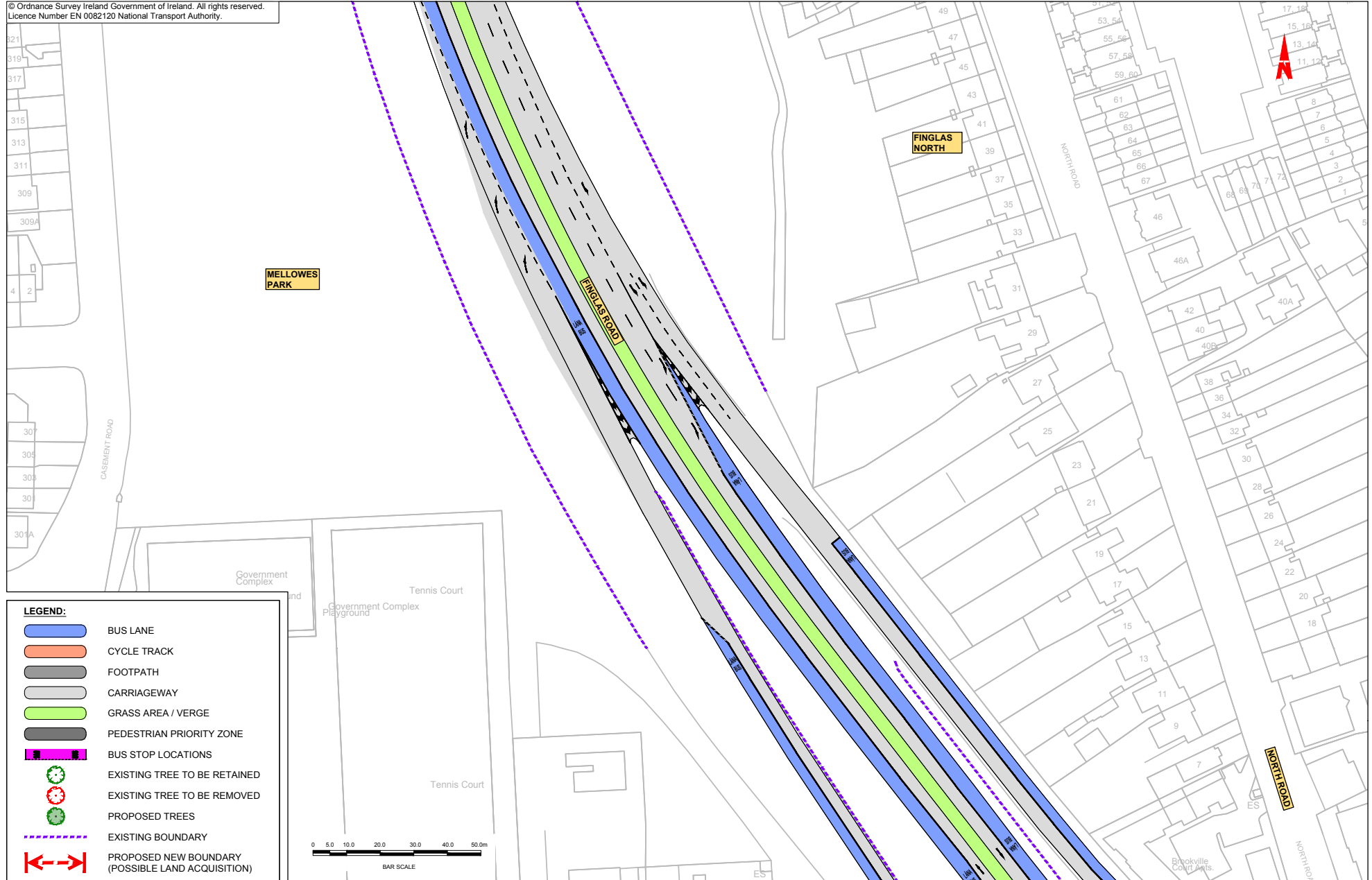
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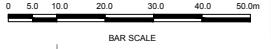


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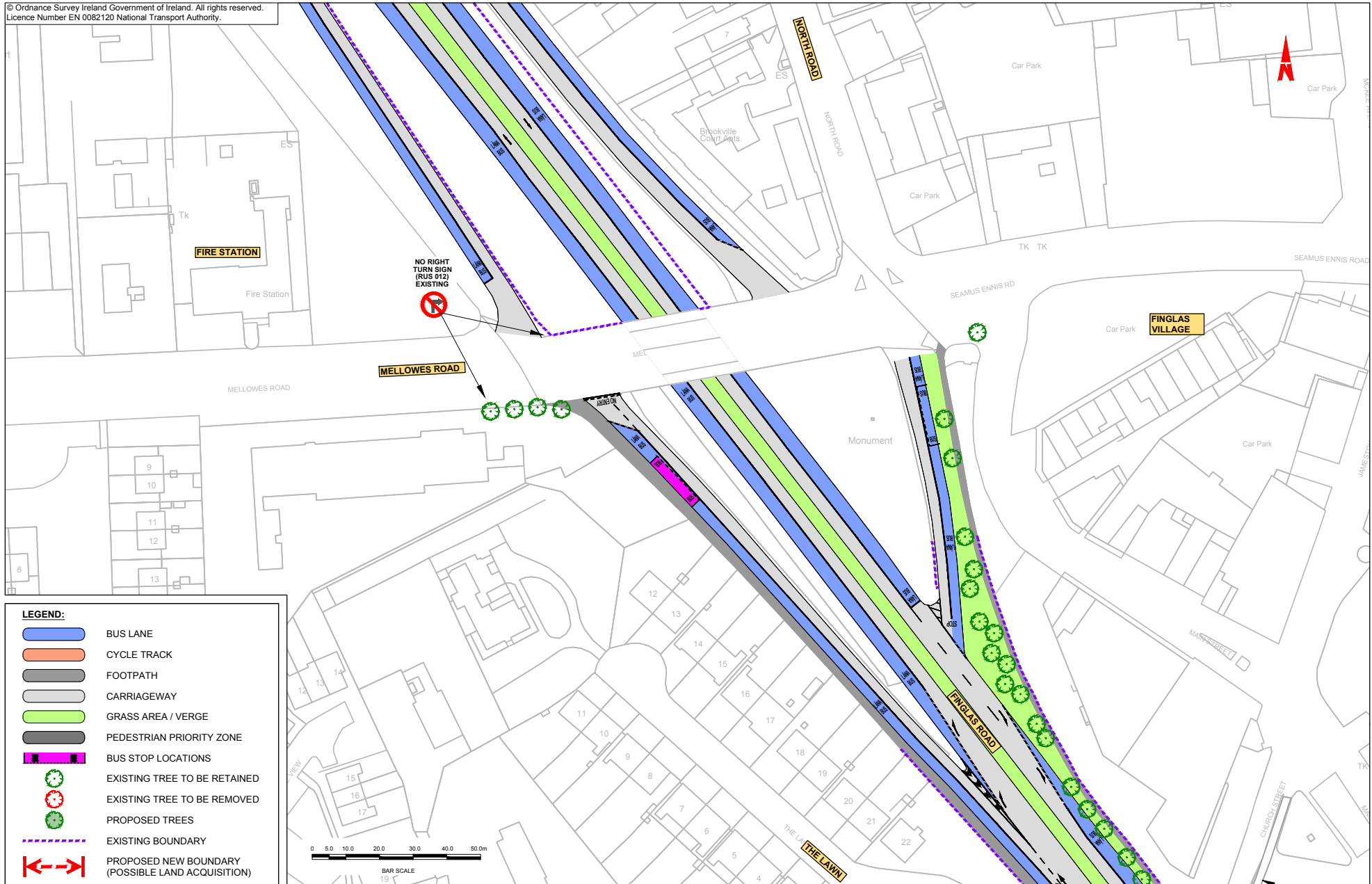


LEGEND:












-  BUS LANE
-  CYCLE TRACK
-  FOOTPATH
-  CARRIAGEWAY
-  GRASS AREA / VERGE
-  PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY ZONE
-  BUS STOP LOCATIONS
-  EXISTING TREE TO BE RETAINED
-  EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED
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-  EXISTING BOUNDARY
-  PROPOSED NEW BOUNDARY (POSSIBLE LAND ACQUISITION)

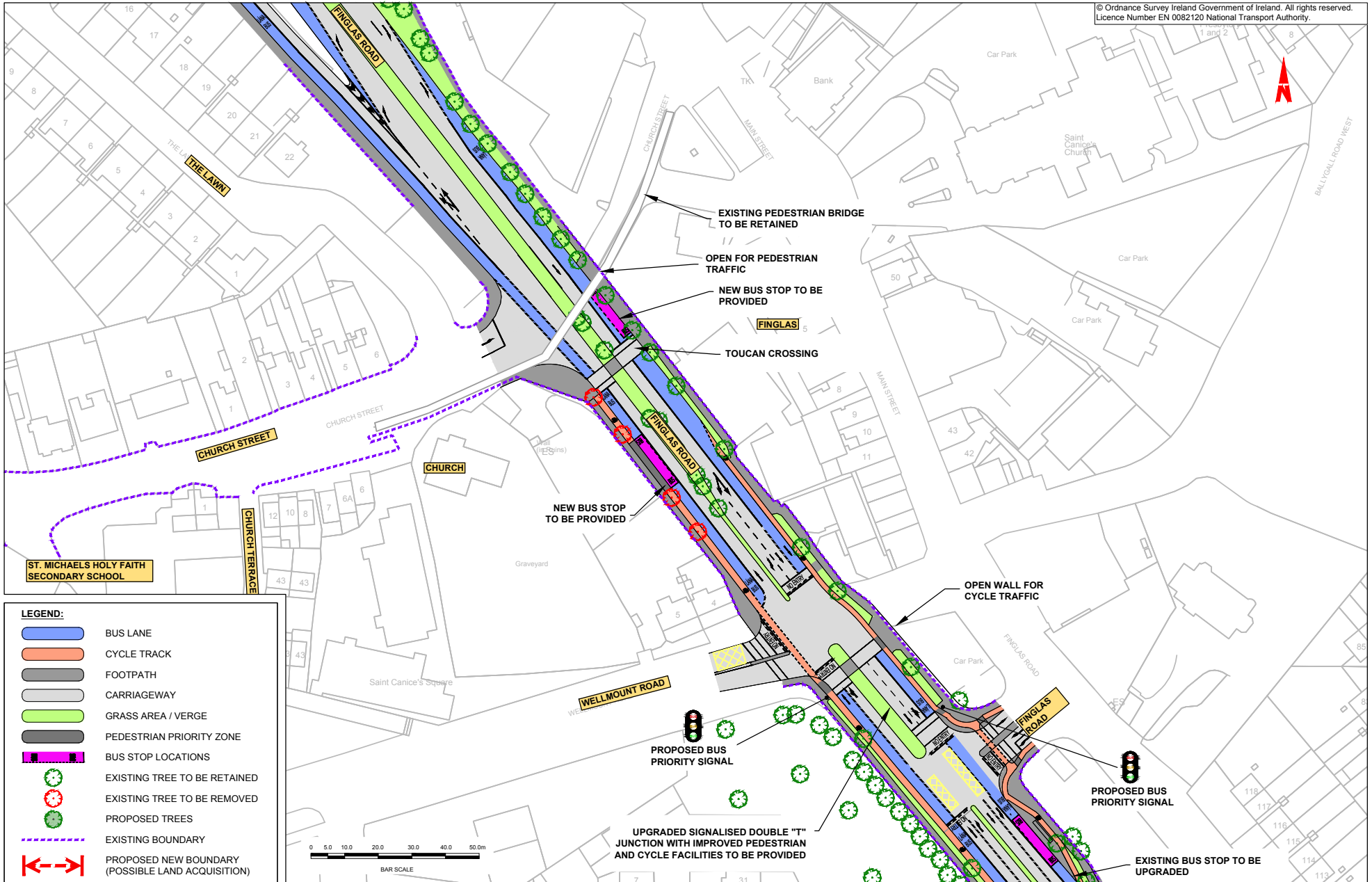


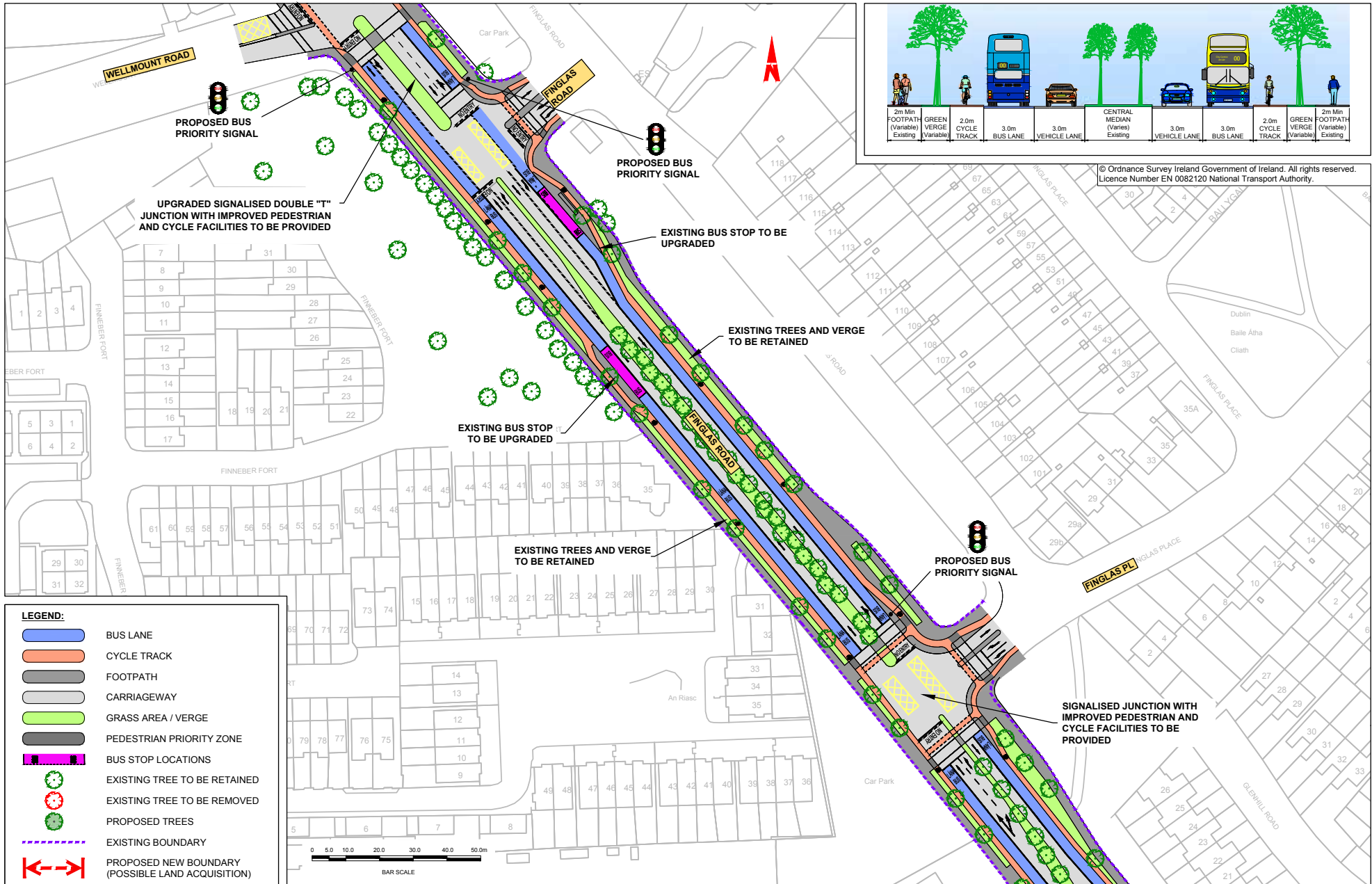
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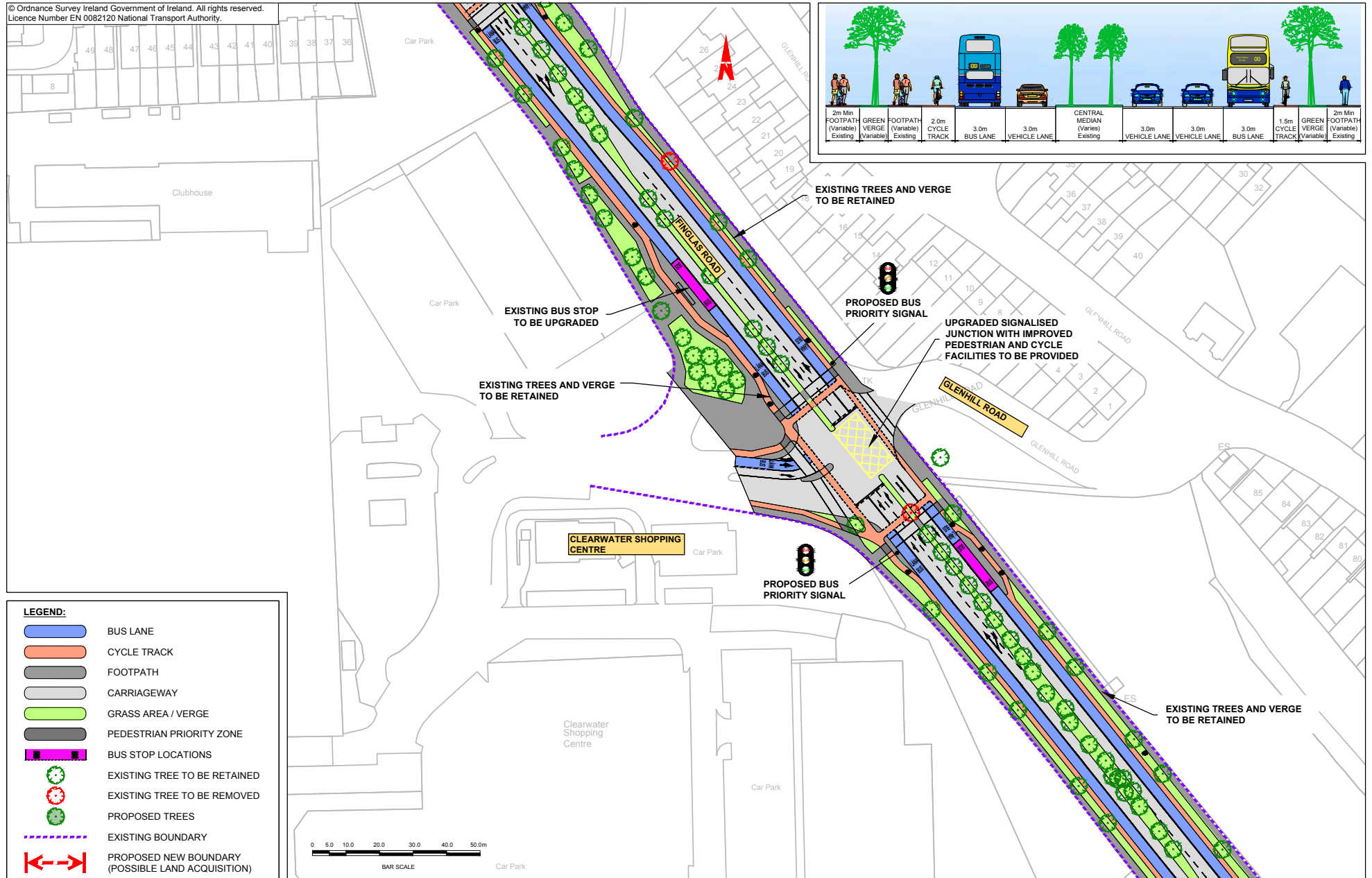
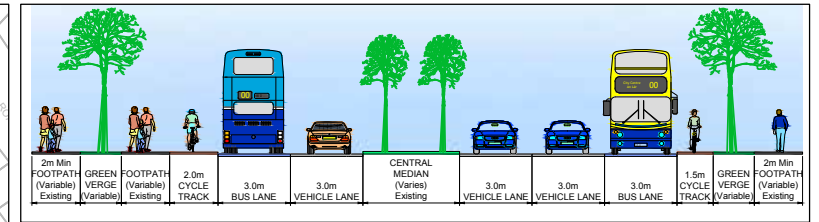
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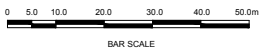


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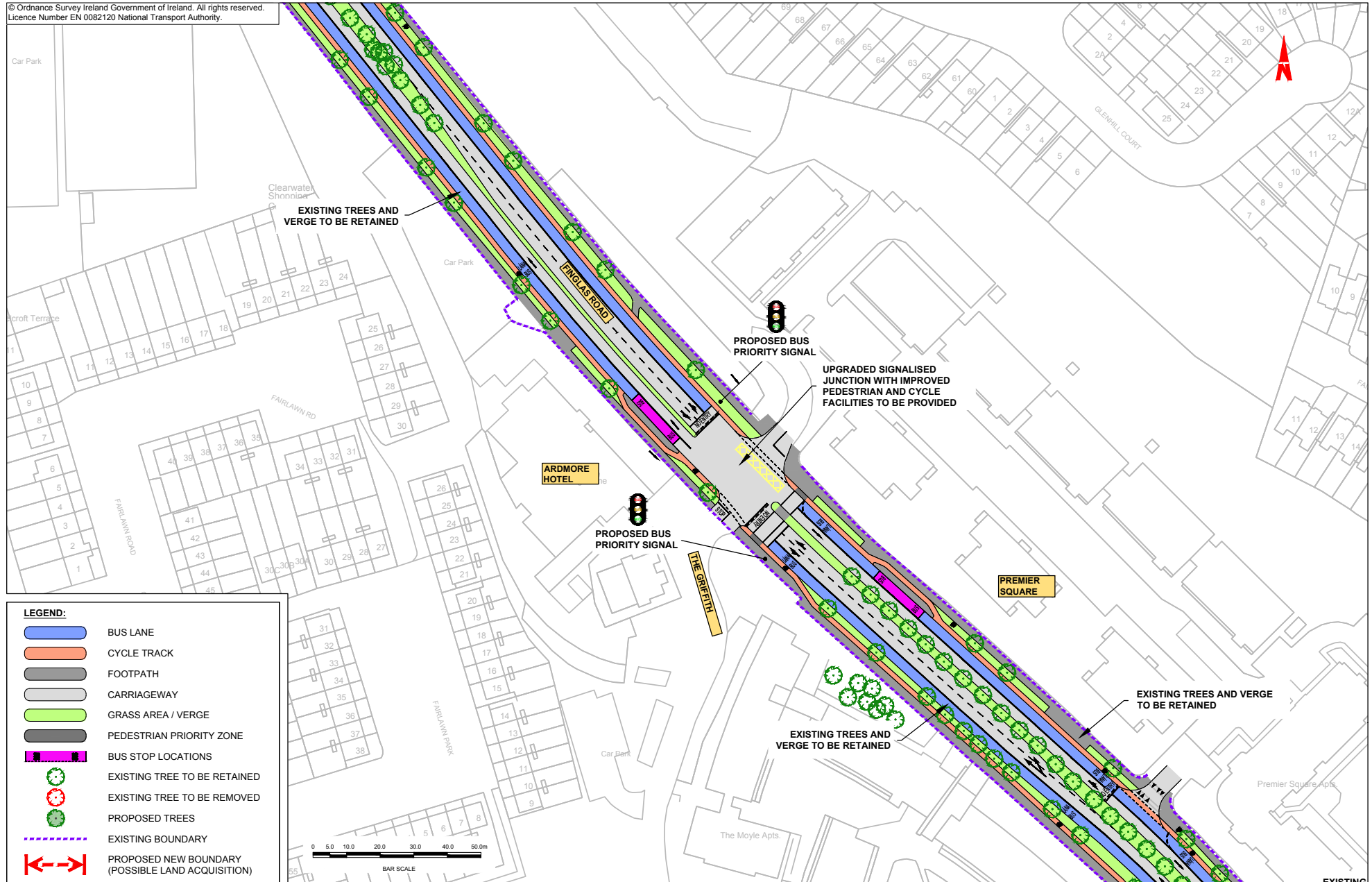


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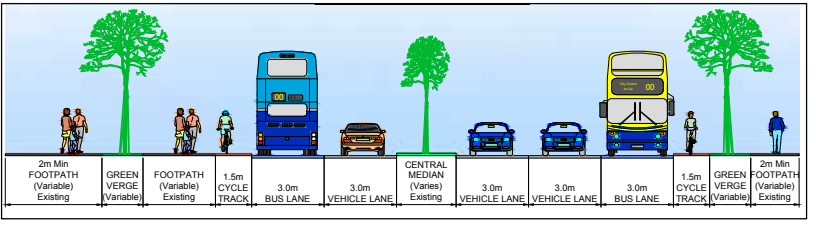
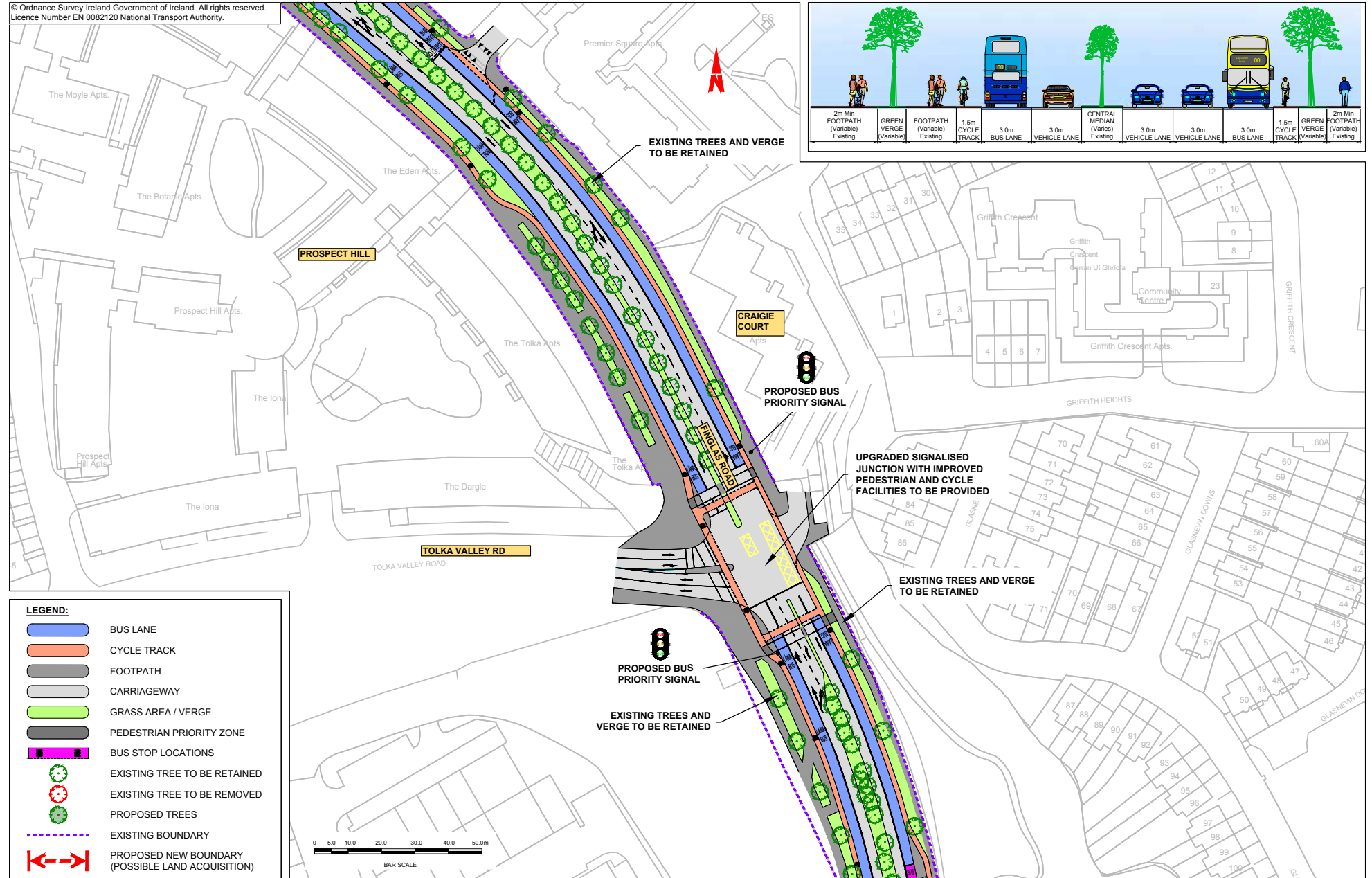
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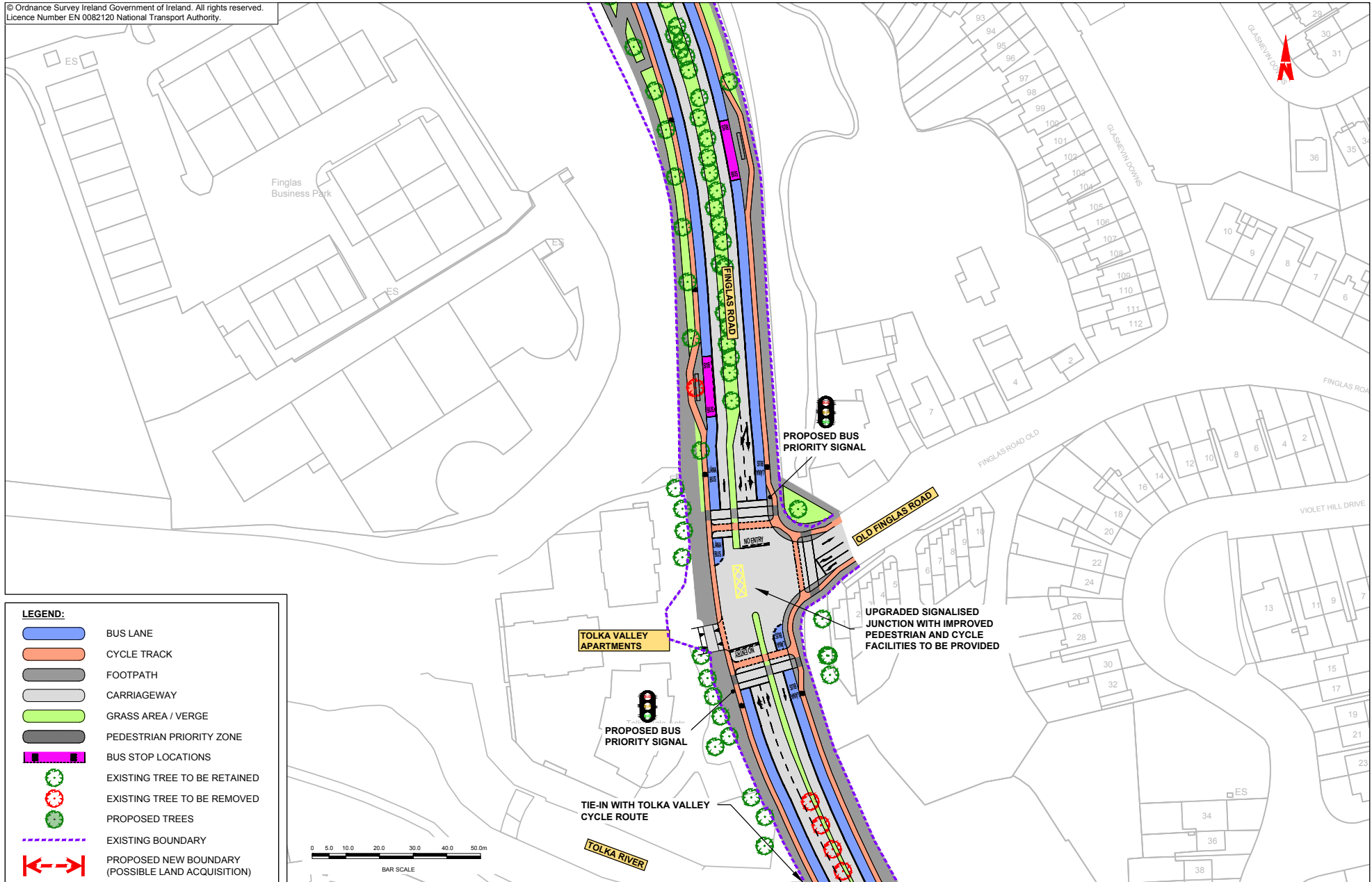


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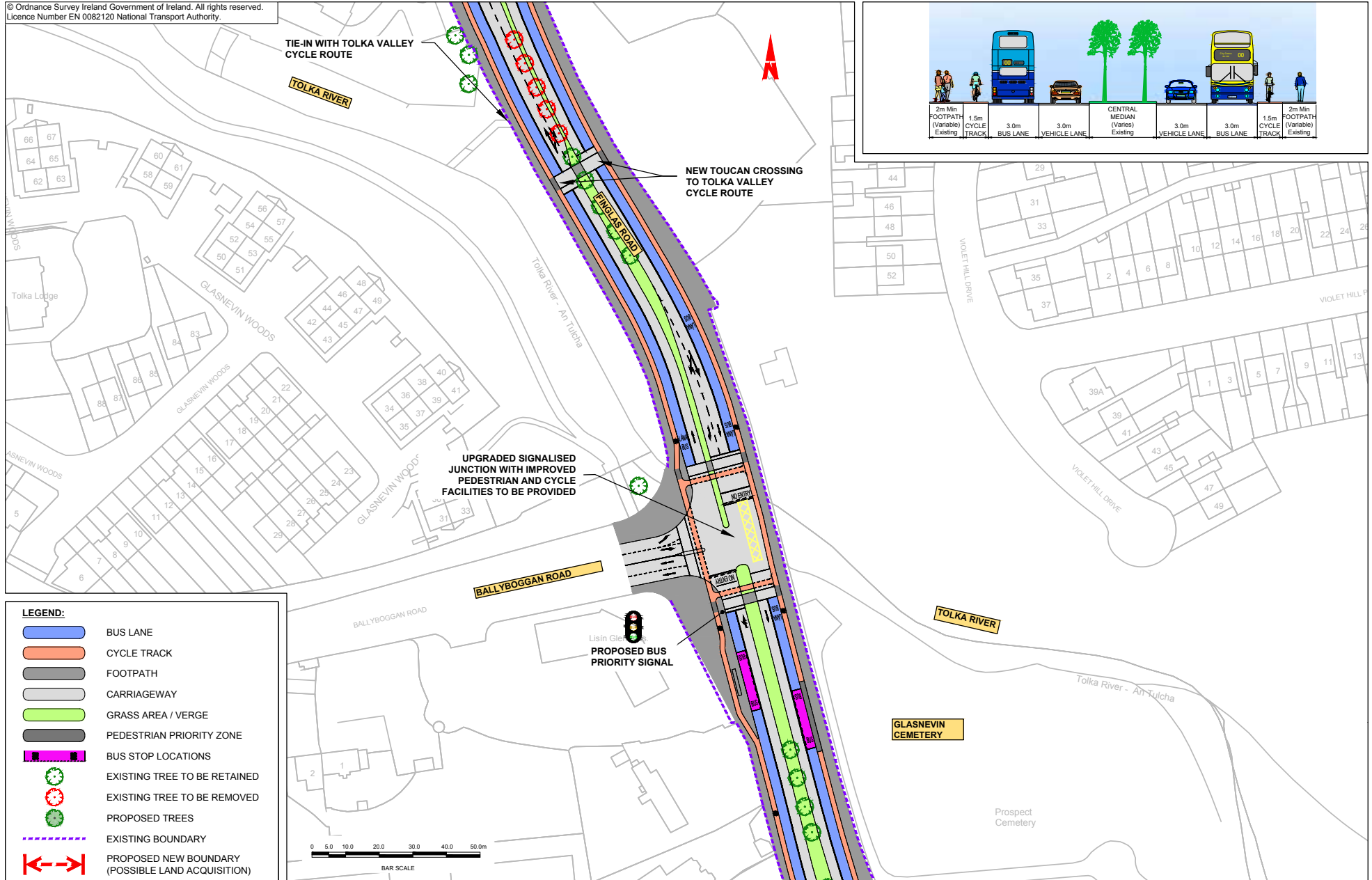
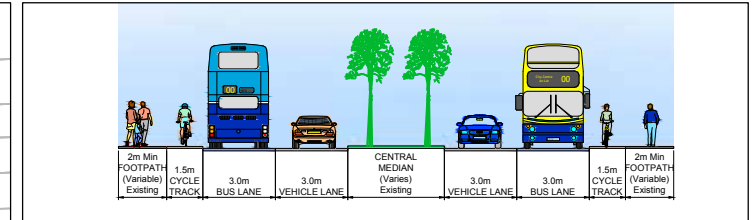


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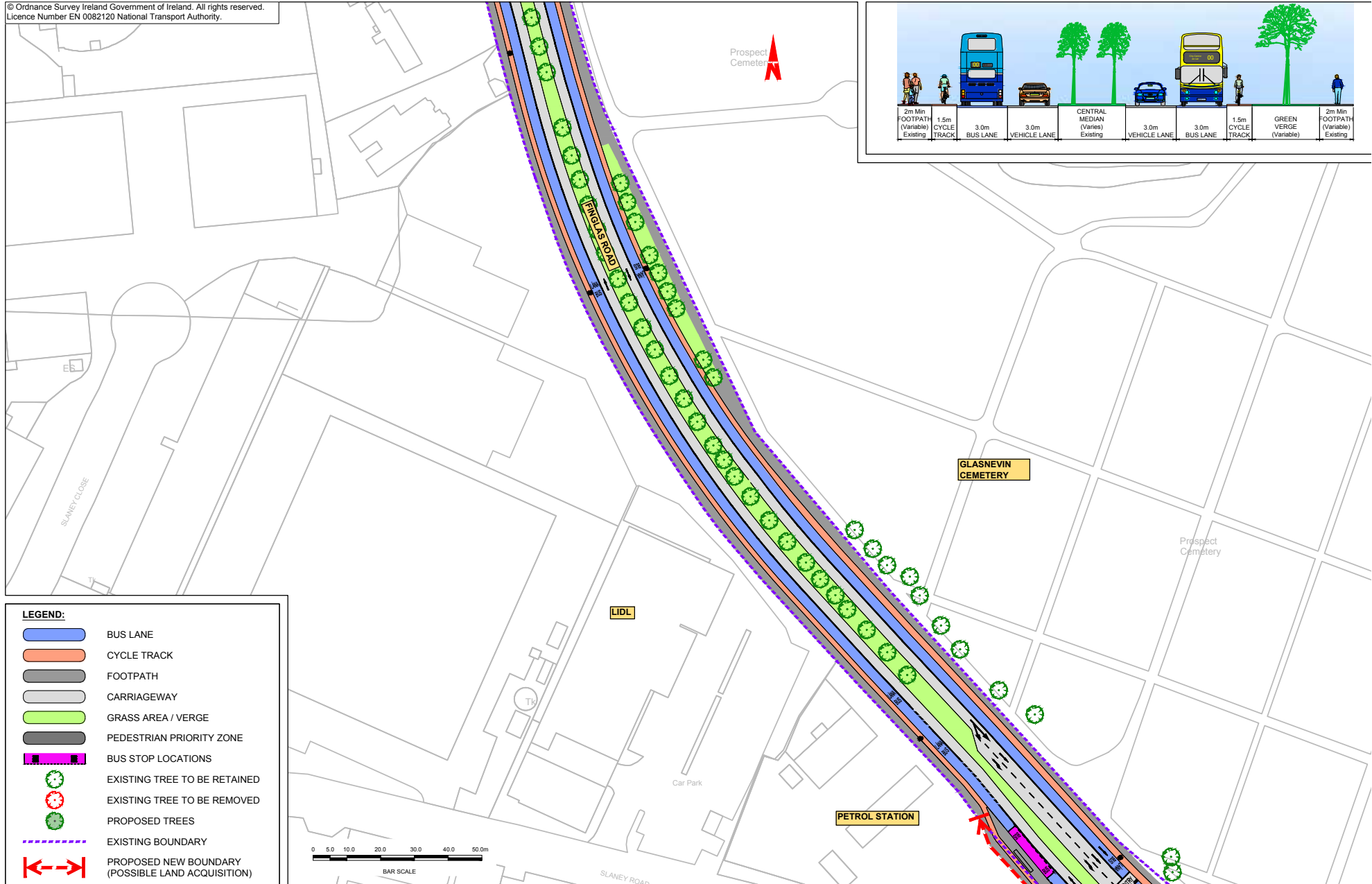




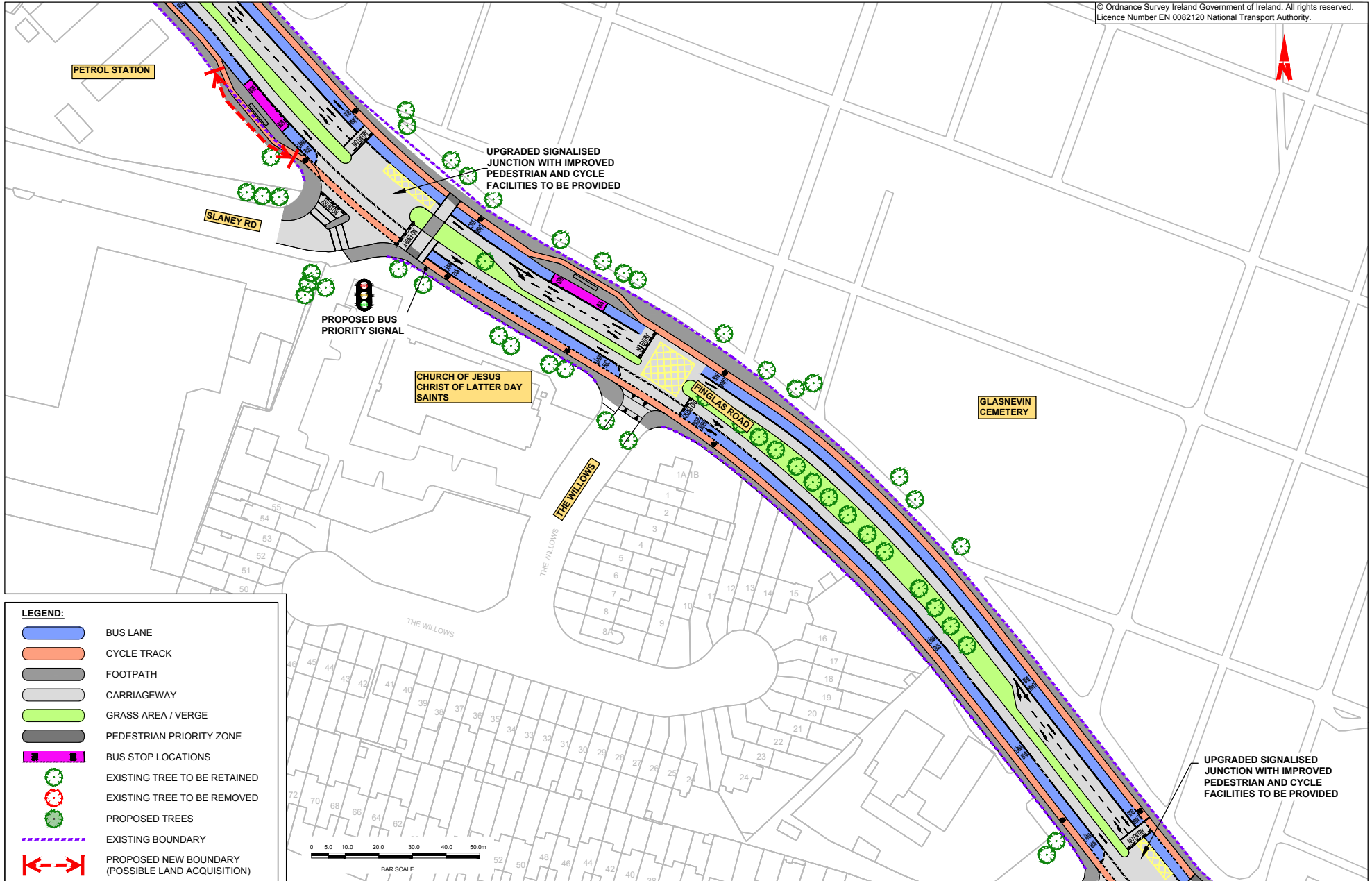
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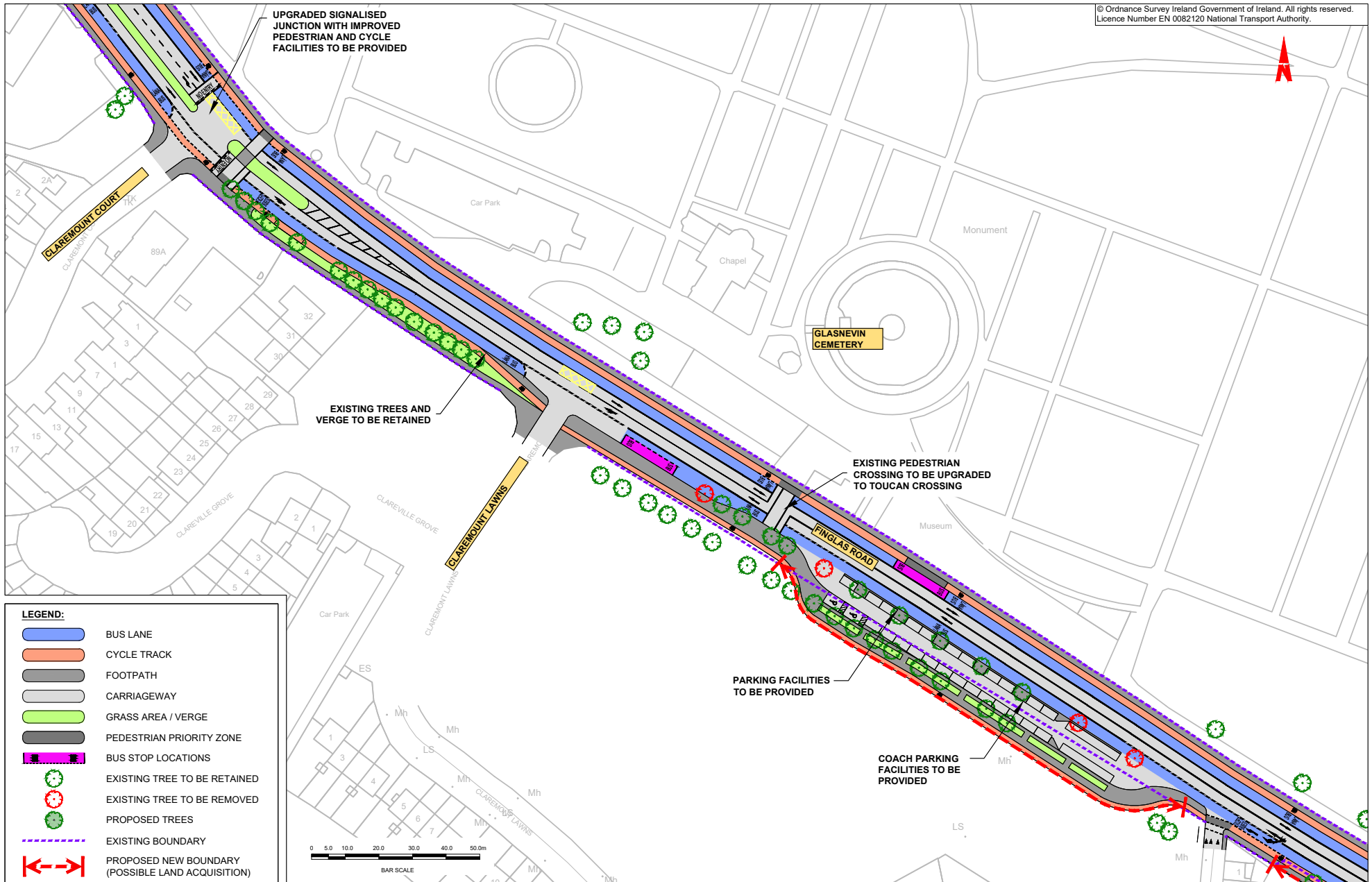
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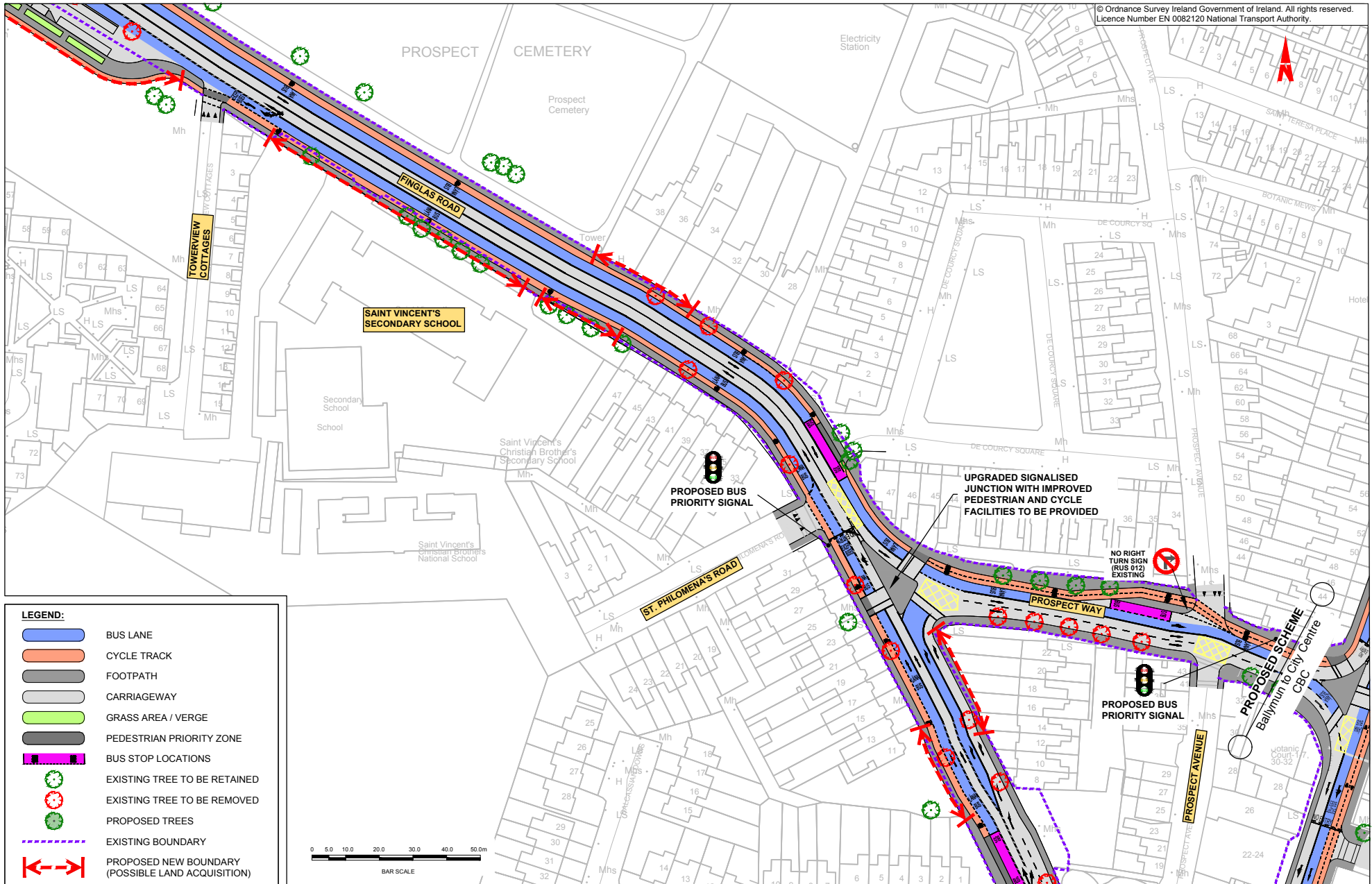
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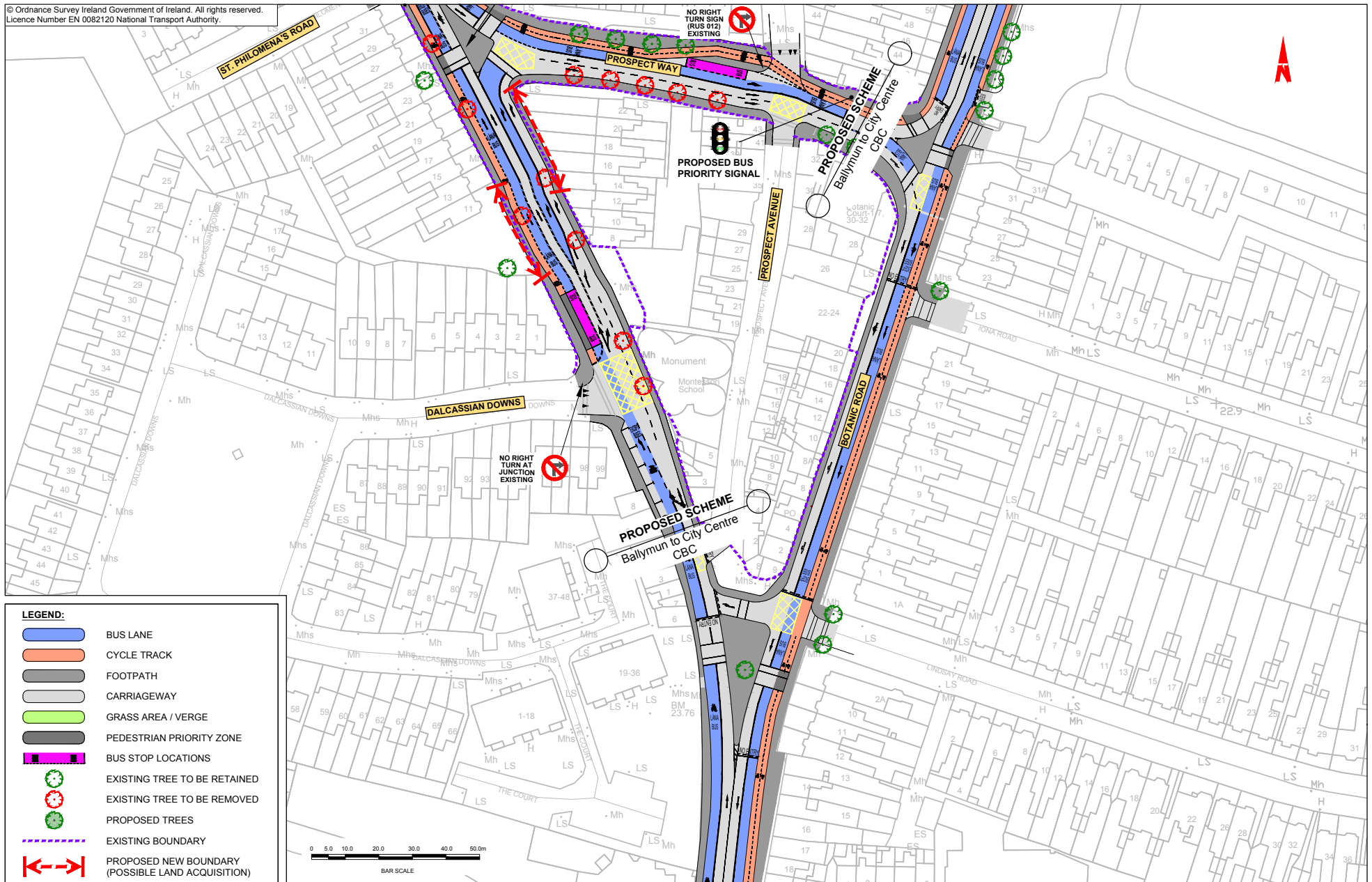




















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