

ARBORICULTURAL ASSESSMENT & IMPACT REPORT

HILL STREET
DUNDALK
CO. LOUTH

Project No.

TDUN013

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Revision

A

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- i Tree Condition Analysis & Preliminary Recommendations**
- ii TDUN013 101 Arboricultural Assessment & Constraints drawing**
- iii TDUN013 102 Arboricultural Impact & Tree Protection drawing**

Summary

The subject site is a derelict parcel of land located to the east of Hill Street, Dundalk which is becoming colonised by scrub vegetation. A total of 11 trees were identified on the site, described and categorised as per BS5627 (table 1). Trees are shown on drawing TDUN012 101 Tree Survey & Constraints.

The impact of the proposed development will necessitate the removal of all the scrub vegetation and the trees backing onto houses along Gosling's Terrace. The young trees along the existing path through the site are to be retained and incorporated into proposed new planting.

Though the removal of the existing trees and scrub will result in a loss of ecosystem services extensive new tree plantings are proposed within the streetscape and park areas. These trees if managed appropriately should provide a tree population which will be suited to the designed urban environment being proposed.

1. Client brief & Methodology

CMK Hort + Arb Ltd. were commissioned by Lafferty on behalf of the Land Development Agency to undertake an assessment of trees on lands at Hill Street, Dundalk (image 1). The initial fieldwork was undertaken on the 10th of October 2023.

The general description of trees (section 2) is designed to provide an unbiased assessment of the existing trees and woody vegetation. Though reference is made to the suitability or otherwise of incorporating trees into design proposals it does not reference any specific design proposals. The impact of proposals to develop the site are discussed within section 3 of this report and shown on drawing TDUN012 102 Arboricultural Impact & Tree Protection.

The survey methodology, supporting drawings and documentation follow the recommendations contained within BS 5837 (2012). The analysis of the trees was undertaken using the VTA methodology as developed by Mattheck and Breloer (1994).

2. General description of trees

The survey area lies to the east of Hill Street, Dundalk (image 1) and is essentially a derelict parcel of land traversed by a public path. The western side of the site appears to have been stripped of soil in the past and is now becoming colonised by scrub vegetation (image 2) primarily composed of goat and white willow (*Salix caprea* & *Salix alba*) and buddleia (*Buddleia davidii*, image 2). The eastern section of the site is wetter with a higher predominance of white willow scrub (*Salix alba*).

There are a small number of trees which appear to have been present before the site was modified (image 3). These are sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and one Swedish whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*) toward the northern boundary of the site (Gosling's Terrace).



Image 1. Tree survey boundary redline.

In addition, there are a small number of young small-leaved lime cultivars (*Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire') trees which appear to have been planted in very recent times to the western side of the public path which traverses the site.

Although as a whole the woody vegetation on the site provides habitat for a range of species which can take advantage of the early flowering willow and later flowering buddleia there are no trees of note. The trees to the rear of properties along the boundary with the gardens at Gosling's Terrace are suitable for retention within open space areas as apposed to being incorporated into new properties as the sycamore have the potential to grow to a large size and would represent an unacceptable burden on residents with small gardens.

The young trees along the path edge have good long-term potential however they could benefit from formative pruning, proper staking and if necessary, could be replaced or replanted at an appropriate time of year elsewhere on the site or at another location. Individual tree evaluations are outlined within Appendix i Arboricultural Assessment & Preliminary Recommendations.



Image 2. Typical view of scrub vegetation on the western section of the site from the public path



The section of the site to the eastern side of the public path is also populated with scrub vegetation (image 4). As the ground conditions in this area are wet the vegetation is mainly composed of willow (*Salix alba*). One dead sycamore is located adjacent to the path.



Image 4. Typical view of vegetation on eastern side of site

Individual tree descriptions and analyses are outlined within appendix i Tree Survey & Preliminary Recommendations. The locations, categorisations and constraints imposed by the existing trees are shown on drawing TDUN012 101 Tree Survey & Constraints (appendix ii).

3. Impact of the proposed development

The impact on and proposals to protect trees are shown on drawing TDUN012 102 Arboricultural Impact & Tree Protection. With the exception of the existing young trees to the west of the existing path the site will be cleared of all woody vegetation. This will initially result in a loss of ecosystem services. However, the incorporation of the existing stream into the open space provision is considered positive and the landscape design proposals which will allow for the development of marginal vegetation will potentially increase biodiversity in these areas.

New street and open space plantings of tree species and cultivars will ultimately increase the numbers of trees on the site and with appropriate management ensure a robust tree population into the future.

Tree protection measures are shown on drawing TDUN012 102 Arboricultural Impact & Tree Protection. Tree protection fencing should be erected prior to the commencement of works and maintained for the duration of the works. It is proposed that Herras fencing (type 1) is used with adequate space provided to the retained trees. This fencing can be replaced with trunk protection (type 2) when soil grading and/or soft works are being undertaken in close proximity to the trees.

4. Limitations of Survey

This survey should be regarded as a preliminary assessment of the trees and deals with the current condition as identified during this survey only. Every attempt was made to identify hazardous trees in this report, however; this survey was carried out from the ground and therefore cannot be held to have identified elements of decay, which may be hidden out of sight within the crown or beneath ivy or other obstructions. To counter this limitation in the survey process it is vital that during tree works any additional defects found by the climbing arborist are communicated to the consulting arborist to allow appropriate action to be taken.

The details within this survey are based on the condition of the trees during the survey period only. The findings in this survey cannot be held to be valid after any site disturbance, man-made or natural, which may have an adverse effect on any trees present.

5. Terminology

Tree categories

- A Trees of high quality and value due to their size, age, condition, historical/visual merit and/or conservation potential (a minimum of 40 years).
 - A1 Mainly arboricultural values. Particularly good examples of species, essential components of groups or of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features.
 - A2 Mainly landscape values. Trees, groups or woodlands which provide a definite screening or softening effects to the locality in relation to views into or out of site, or those of particular visual importance.
 - A3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation. Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, comparative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture).
- B Trees of moderate quality and value (a minimum of 20 years).
 - B1 Mainly arboricultural values. Trees that might be included in high categories but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of remedial defects including unsympathetic past management and minor storm damage).
 - B2 Mainly landscape values. Trees present in numbers, usually as groups or woodlands, such that they form distinct landscape features, thereby attracting a higher collective rating than they might as individuals but which are not, individually, essential components of formal or semi-formal features (e.g. trees of moderate quality within an avenue that includes better A category specimens) or trees situated internally to the site, therefore individually having little visual impact on the wider locality.
 - B3 Mainly cultural values including conservation. Trees with clearly identifiable conservation or other cultural benefits.
- C Trees of low quality and value (a minimum of 10 years).
 - C1 Not qualifying in higher categories.
 - C2 Trees present in groups or woodlands but without conferring on them greater landscape value and/or trees offering low or only temporary screening benefit.
 - C3 Trees with very limited conservation or other cultural benefits.
- U Trees in such condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management. Trees that are dead, dying or showing immediate and irreversible decline.

Comments: Refers to the tree's condition and suitability for the site.

Common name: Most widely used non-botanical name.

Terminology continued

Co-dominant: Two branches assuming the role of leading shoots. When growing close together may form a weak attachment (included bark) at their point of contact. Trees with this defect may be in danger of splitting at this weak attachment.

Crown Spread: Measured in meters north, south, east and west.

Decay fungi: Refers to those species of fungi which degrade living wood and which may, depending on the degree of degradation, render the tree structurally unsound.

Defects: Refers to cracks, storm damage and any other damage mechanical or biological.

Diameter: Diameter of the trunk (millimetres) at 1.5m. M.S. after the measurement refers to the tree being multi-stemmed.

Genus & Species: Refers to the botanical names for the tree.

Height: Measured in meters.

Monitor: Refers to trees which need to be re-surveyed on a yearly basis to assess their condition. This timescale may be sooner where works or adverse weather conditions have impacted negatively on the trees.

Overhaul: A reference to standard tree surgery work which consists of the removal of deadwood, crossing branches and balancing where appropriate.

Recommendations: Indicates surgery work necessary for the retention or, where necessary, removal of the tree.

Tree No. Refers to numbered tag fixed to tree during survey.

6. References

BS 5837 (2012). Trees in Relation to Design Demolition and Construction

Mattheck and Breloer (1994). The body language of trees

APPENDIX I. TREE CONDITION ANALYSIS AND PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

| Tag number | Species | Age Class | Vigour | Comments | Category | Preliminary Recommendations | Long-term potential (years) | Dbh mm | Height m | Spread m N, E, S, W |
|------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|----------|------------------------|
| 42 | Sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus | Mature | Good | A relatively well-developed specimen set back 1.5m from boundary wall. Very strong ivy growth up trunk obscuring view for assessment. No visible defects. | B2 | Cut ivy | 40 | 420 | 11 | 5,4,5,5 |
| 43 | Goat willow Salix caprea | Mature | Good | A multi stemmed specimen with wide unions between stems. Well-developed though canopy suppressed toward east due to competition from neighbouring | B2 | No action necessary | 20-30 | 440 | 10 | 4,2,4,4 |
| 44 | Ash Fraxinus excelsior | Early Mature | Good | A well-developed specimen with no visible evidence of ash dieback present. Strong ivy growth up | B2 | Monitor for ash dieback | Oct-15 | 280 | 12 | 4,4,3,3 |
| 45 | Swedish whitebeam Sorbus aria | Early Mature | Good | A well-developed specimen with no visible defects. | B2 | No action necessary | 20-30 | 130 | 4.5 | 2,2,2,2 |
| 46 | Beech Fagus sylvatica | Early Mature | Good | Probably planted as a hedge with this element now developing into a small tree. Trunk kinked but vertical from 2m. Upper canopy relatively well developed. Of questionable suitability in close proximity to boundary. | C2 | Consider for removal | 20-30 | 230 | 9.5 | 5,3,3,2 |

| Tag number | Species | Age Class | Vigour | Comments | Category | Preliminary Recommendations | Long-term potential (years) | Dbh mm | Height m | Spread m N, E, S, W |
|------------|--|-----------------|--------|--|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|----------|---------------------|
| 47 | Birch Betula pendula | Early Mature | Good | A well developed specimen with no visible defects | B2 | No action necessary | 40 | 140 | 9 | 2,2,2,2 |
| 48 | Small leaved lime cultivar Tilia cordata cv | Young | Good | Well-developed specimen with no visible defects | B2 | Remove stake | 40 | 60 | 3 | 0.5,0.2,0.5,0.2 |
| 49 | Small leaved lime cultivar Tilia cordata cv | Young | Good | Well-developed specimen with no visible defects | B3 | Remove stake | 40 | 60 | 3 | 0.5,0.5,0.5,0.5 |
| 50 | Small leaved lime cultivar Tilia cordata cv | Young | Good | Tight union between principal stems at 1m. Minor decay in stem to east at 1.25m but unlikely to be significant at present. | B2 | No action necessary | 40 | 80 | 3.5 | 0.5,0.5,0.5,0.5 |
| 51 | Small leaved lime cultivar Tilia cordata cv | Young | Good | A relatively well-developed specimen with no visible defects. | B2 | Remove stake | 40 | 60 | 3.5 | 0.5,0.5,0.5,0.5 |
| 52 | Small leaved lime cultivar Tilia cordata cv | Young | Good | A well developed specimen with no visible defects | B2 | Remove stake | 40 | 70 | 3.25 | 0.5,0.5,0.5,0.5 |
| 53 | Sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus | Mature | Dead | | U | Fell | 0 | 320 | 7 | 3,3,3,3 |