

# Independent Tree Surveys Ltd

## Tree Survey Report Dodder Rapid Deployment Scheme Milltown Road Dublin

July 2023



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## **1.0 Introduction**

Modifications to existing footpath and road layouts are required as part of plans planning to develop new and improved cycle routes along the Dodder River corridor. The routes pass street and parkland trees in nine sections highlighted on the AECOM Arboricultural Survey Brief; this survey report has been commissioned to provide an arboricultural assessment of the trees highlighted in these nine locations to input into the design and planning of the project and to provide recommendations where appropriate.

## **2.0 Report Limitations**

- The inspection has been carried out from ground level using visual observation methods only.
- Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly. Trees should be checked on a regular basis, preferably once a year. The conclusions and recommendations of this report are valid for one year.
- The fruiting bodies of some important species of decay fungi only emerge at certain times of the year and may not have been visible during this inspection.
- There is no such thing as a 100% safe tree in all conditions, since even perfectly healthy trees may fall or suffer branch break.
- The locations of some of the trees (those not picked up on the project topographic plan) shown on the survey drawings were plotted in their *approximate* locations and should be regarded as indicative.

### **Report Prepared by**

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M Arbor A (Membership number PR407)

April 20<sup>th</sup> 2023

### 3.0 Survey Methodology

The trees along the north side of Milltown Road were assessed from ground level using Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) techniques and relevant observations and findings were recorded in compliance with the industry standard document BS5837: *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction (2012)*. Groups of trees were assessed collectively.

#### 3.1 Survey Key

##### Tree Numbers

Individual street trees and tree groups were allocated numbers. These numbers identify the trees and tree groups in the survey schedule and on the supporting survey drawings.

##### Tree Species

Common and botanical names of the tree species were recorded.

##### Tree Crown Dimensions

Tree height (Ht), crown clearance (Cl) and crown-spread (NESW cardinal points) measurements are in metres and are estimated.

##### Stem Diameter (Dbh)

Measurements are in millimetres and taken at 1.5m from ground level, multiple stems (St) are recorded as a function of the BS:5837 RPA formulae described below. Where tree stems could not be directly accessed; the stem diameters were estimated.

##### Tree age classes

Y	Young	Recently planted (with 5 years or so)
SM	Semi-Mature	Well established young tree
EM	Early Mature	Established tree not yet fully grown
M	Mature	Full or near full grown tree
LM	Late Mature	Older specimen in full maturity
OM	Over Mature	Full maturity now declining through natural causes
Vet	Veteran	Notable due to large size, old age, ecological importance

##### Tree Physiological and Structural condition

Good:	No obvious defects visible, vigour and form of tree good.
Fair:	Tree in average condition for its age and the environment.
Poor:	Tree shows signs of ill health/structural defect
Bad:	Tree in seriously bad health/major structural problem

##### Work Recommendations

Preliminary management recommendations are made where necessary and pertain to current site conditions unless otherwise stated.

### **Estimated Remaining Contribution (ERC)**

The approximate number of years that a tree should continue to live and contribute amenity, conservation, or landscape value to the site under current site conditions.

### **3.2 Tree Retention Category (Cat) (BS5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations)**

The tree retention category system grades a tree's suitability for retention within a development:

- A** Indicates a tree of high quality and value. These are trees that are particularly good examples of their species, which also provide landscape value. These trees are in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution. (A minimum of 40 years is suggested)
- B** Indicates a tree of moderate quality and value. Trees that might be included in the high category but are downgraded because of impaired condition. These trees are in such a condition as to make a significant contribution. (A minimum of 20 years is suggested)
- C** Indicates a tree of low quality and value - trees with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or younger trees with a stem diameter of below 150mm and/or <10m in height.
- U** Trees that are in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years.

#### **Sub Categories**

Tree categories may be further categorised using the following sub-categories (e.g. C1, C2 or C3) - 1 mainly Arboricultural qualities, 2 mainly landscape qualities, 3 mainly cultural values.

### **3.3 Root Protection Area**

The Root Protection Area (RPA) is the minimum area around individual trees to be protected from disturbance during construction works; RPA is recorded as a radius in metres measured from the tree stem and is shown on the tree survey/constraints drawing as a circle with the tree stem in the centre.

For single stem trees, the root protection area (RPA) should be calculated as an area equivalent to a circle with a radius 12 times the stem diameter. For trees with more than one stem, one of the two calculation methods below should be used. The calculated RPA for each tree should be capped to 707 m<sup>2</sup>.

a) For trees with two to five stems, the combined stem diameter should be calculated as follows:

$$\sqrt{(\text{stem diameter } 1)^2 + (\text{stem diameter } 2)^2 \dots + (\text{stem diameter } 5)^2}$$

b) For trees with more than five stems, the combined stem diameter should be calculated as follows:

$$\sqrt{(\text{mean stem diameter})^2 \times \text{number of stems}}$$

#### 4.0 Summary of Findings

The trees were assessed during site visits in February and March 2023; the field data for the trees is contained in the accompanying Tree Survey Schedule in the appendices. Indicative tree location, BS5837 category, RPA and approximate crown shape are shown on the Tree Survey/Constraints Drawings 23007\_TS sheet 8.

This section included a linear group of 12 Hornbeam trees that have been established in the narrow verge along the north side of Milltown Road. The trees are now in early maturity and have grown to mostly occupy the available space between the road carriageway to the south and private houses to the north. The Hornbeam trees are in apparently good health and condition and were graded category B using the BS5837 categorisation. Some of the branching from the trees is now restricting the street lighting and associated overhead powerlines. There is likely to be some root spread from the trees under the footpath to the south, and this may extend further under the road surface. Any works within the nominal root zones of the trees should expect to encounter roots and should be undertaken with care and in line with BS5837 (2012); where existing surfacing is being lifted, the sub-base should be left in place where practicable.



1. Group G1 along Milltown Road, viewed from the east

## 5.0 Recommendations

Preliminary management recommendations for the trees assessed are listed in the tree survey schedule in the appendices; these pertain to *current* site conditions unless otherwise stated. All tree pruning work should be carried out by qualified and experienced tree surgeons working to *BS3998 (2010) Tree Work – Recommendations*.

Works associated with the new cycle scheme in areas adjacent to trees should be carried out in accordance with the recommendations made in the following two industry standard documents:

NATIONAL JOINT UTILITIES GROUP (NJUG). *Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility apparatus in proximity to trees*. Volume 4, issue 2. London: NJUG, 2007.

BS5837 (2012) *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*  
BSI Standards Limited 2012

## 6.0 Tree Protection Recommendations

The tree protection measures should be in accordance with BS5837 (2012) *Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction – Recommendations*.

The project managers should appoint a qualified arborist to provide advice and guidance to the contractors carrying out the works. The arborist should meet the contractors on-site prior to works commencing and go through the tree protection measures, explaining the recommended procedures and emphasising the importance of protecting the trees during the course of the project. The project arborist should be available to attend the site on a regular basis to aid and advise the tree protection set up along the route.

The two main areas of importance are the prevention of physical injury to the main stems and branches of the trees close to the work sites, and the prevention of activities at and below ground level within the root protection areas (RPAs) of the trees that could adversely impact on the tree roots systems. Where large mature trees are located outside the work area, but that may have root spread extending into the work zone under old stone boundary walls or paving etc. the work crew should take additional care during any initial excavation works and seek arborist advice if significant root spread (woody roots of >25mm diameter) is encountered.

Tree stems and root flare areas of the tree bases should be protected from direct physical damage from adjacent site works by protective wooden panels erected around the trees. Tree protection fencing should be erected around any undisturbed ground within the RPAs of trees being retained to prevent construction activity and machinery encroaching onto exposed soil, where it could cause compaction and root damage. The fencing and protective structures should be erected before site works

commence and will not be removed or moved unless authorised by a qualified arborist.

Where site machinery must encroach upon original soil surfaces or ground exposed by the removal of the existing hard surfacing within the RPAs of the trees to be retained for reasons unforeseen and unavoidable; suitable ground protection should be put in place to prevent any significant soil compaction or root damage near the trees; this should take the form of suitable strength ground protection mats or cellular confinement system capable of supporting the appropriate weight.

Where an existing hard surface is removed within the RPA of a tree being retained, care should be taken not to disturb tree roots that might be present beneath it. Hand-held tools or appropriate machinery should be used (under arboricultural supervision) to remove the existing surface, working backwards over the area, so that the machine is not moving over the exposed ground. If a new hard surface is to be laid, it might be preferable to leave any existing sub-base in situ, augmenting it where required. Particular care should be taken within the RPAs of the larger specimen trees of high value, where root spread may be extensive and at times hard to predict.

Any new underground services such as electricity cables, water pipes etc. will be routed away from the root protection areas of the trees to be retained; where this is not possible for reasons unforeseen, the services should be installed using specialist methodology (such as *Airspade* excavation, Air Vacuum truck or Mole drilling) that ensures minimal impact on any tree roots.

All exposed roots and/or soil profiles containing roots of trees to be retained should be kept damp in dry conditions by regular watering and be covered with a double layer of hessian fabric to prevent desiccation. Where backfill is required, this should be of good quality topsoil, structural soil, or clean sand.

Root severance should be avoided where possible, with no roots >25mm being cut without consultation with the project arborist. Where roots have to be cut back, they should be pruned with saw or secateurs to leave a clean cut.

All site offices, materials storage, staff parking etc. should be located outside of the RPAs of the trees being retained.

The retained trees should be assessed by a qualified arborist following the completion of the construction works.



## **7.0 Appendices**

### ***A. Tree Survey Schedule***

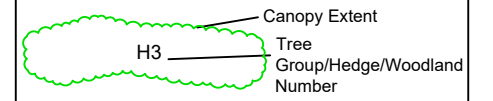
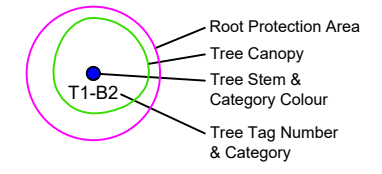
### ***B. Tree Survey Drawing 23007\_TS (Tree Constraints Plan) Sheets 1-9***

Tree Survey Schedule  
River Dodder Rapid Deployment Scheme  
March 2023

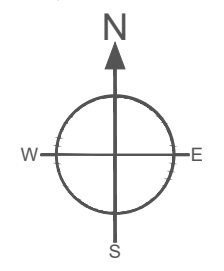
Type	No.	Species	Age	Ht m	Dbh mm	St	Cr	N	S	E	W	ERC	Phys Cond	Structural Condition/Comments	Preliminary Recommendations	RPA m	Cat
<b>Site 8. Milltown Road</b>																	
G	1	Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)	EM	10	350	1	2.4	4	4	5	4	20+	Good	Good/Fair. Linear group of 12 small/medium sized trees in grass verge. Varying stem diameter. with most 300 to 350mm dbh and 2x smaller trees to west 180mm dbh. 8 to 12m tall. Some branches restricting street light and interfering with overhead powerlines.	Prune tree clear of overhead ESB wires.	4.2	B2



**LEGEND**



- Category A Trees (high value)
- Category B Trees (moderate value)
- Category C Trees (low value)
- Category U Trees (unsuitable for retention)



**NOTES:**  
Please see Tree Survey Report for further detail.  
All drawings to be read in conjunction with the consulting architects and engineers drawings.

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**Project Name:** Dodder Rapid Deployment Scheme, Dublin

**Drawing Title:** Tree Survey/Constraints Plan

**Drawing Number:** 23007\_TS\_Site 8 Milltown Road

**Client:**

**Agent:**

**Date:** 12/04/2023

**Scale:** 1:400@A3