



## **APPENDIX 5-1**

### **TREE SURVEY REPORT**



## **Tree Survey Report**

Strategic Housing  
Development,  
Knocknacarra District  
Centre, Gort na Bró,  
Rahoon, Galway





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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 General Introduction

This report describes the results of a tree survey carried out at Gort na Bró, Rahoon, Galway. The tree survey was undertaken to provide an evaluation of the trees which may be impacted upon by a proposed strategic housing development. A site location map is shown in Figure 1.1.

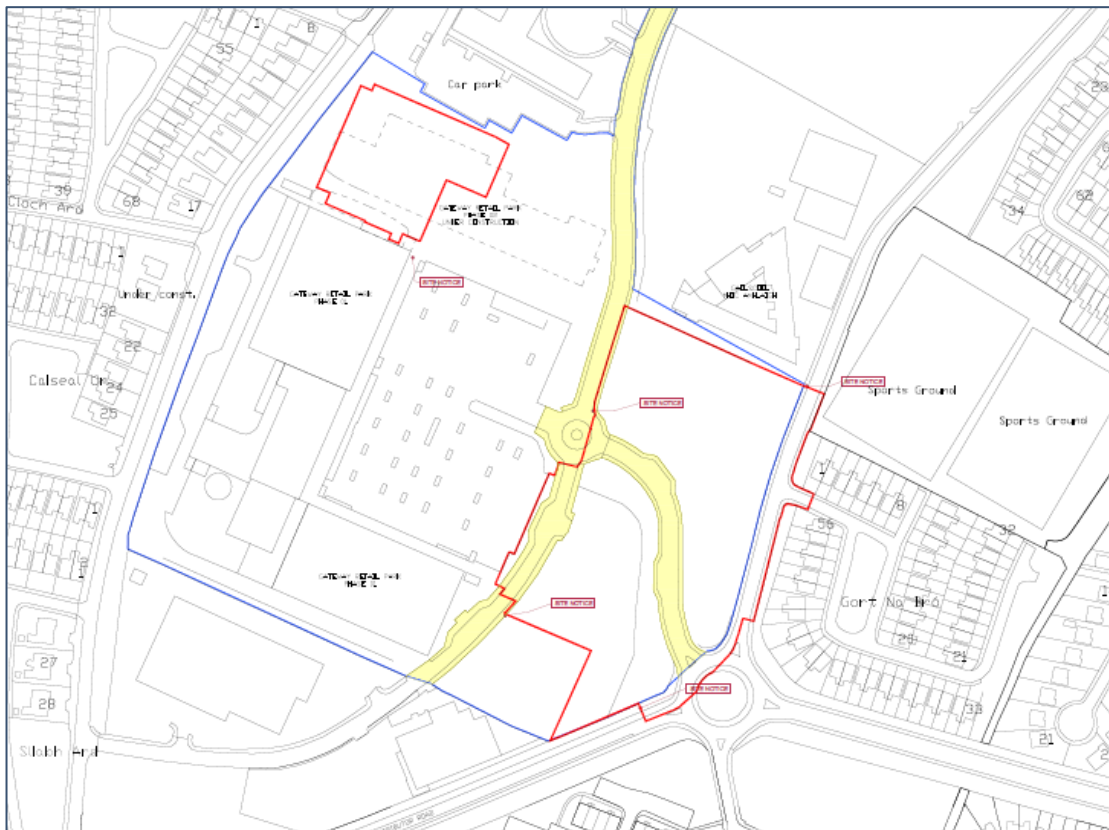


Figure 1.1: Site Location Map

The report provides information on the tree species, the arboricultural, landscape and cultural value of the identified trees or groups of trees and the root protection area associated with them.

## 1.2 Methods

A tree survey was conducted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2019. The survey work was completed by James Owens B.Sc. (Env), M.Sc. James has a degree in Forest Management and has undertaken numerous tree surveys including for the OPW as part of the Lower Lee Drainage Scheme.

The trees were all mapped on a topographical survey that was undertaken as part of the proposed development. This survey was used as the baseline providing the location of the trees to be surveyed.

Where additional trees were identified (not shown on the baseline survey but present on the ground), these were also included in the assessment. However, the trees that did not show up on the survey were located within the groups assessed and were small and of low value. It was therefore decided that mapping their exact location was not required.

Individual trees or groups of trees were provided with a unique identifying number. Data was recorded for individual trees or homogenous groups of trees with the following attributes recorded:

- > Species
- > DBH (Diameter at breast height)
- > Life stage
- > Tree height
- > Tree quality

The tree quality assessment was undertaken in accordance with Table 1 in BS 5837:2012 (BSI. 2012) The tree quality assessment primarily assessed trees on their landscape qualities.

Trees were categorised as:

- > Category A: Trees of high quality
- > Category B: Trees of moderate quality
- > Category C: Trees of low quality
- > Category U: Trees unsuitable for retention

One further category was added for the purposes of this study (BR). This category was used where trees were of moderate quality but were easily replaceable. For example, where semi-mature trees form part of a valuable group of trees but could be replaced because of their size, they were included in Category BR (Replaceable).

Root protection areas were calculated for individual trees/groups of trees. This calculation followed the methodology set out in Section 4.6 and Annex D of BS 5837:2012.

The tree survey took place outside the optimal season for vegetation growth (Smith et al. 2011), however all trees were readily identifiable to genus and a full and comprehensive survey was achieved.

## 1.3 Reporting

Details of the recorded attributes and general commentary about the trees is provided in tabular format in the following sections.

2.

## SURVEY FINDINGS

The tabulated attribute survey data for the area is shown in Table 2.1 below. A map displaying the RPA for each tree or group of trees and their categories is shown in Figure 2.1.

Table 2-1: Survey attribute data

Tree/Group ID	Category	Species	Tree Height (m)	DBH (cm)	Life Stage	Notes
1	C	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , <i>Betula sp.</i> , <i>Acer sp.</i>	4.5	15	Immature	Whitethorn hedgerow with occasional maple and birch. Easily replaced
2	BR	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Betula sp.</i> , <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Prunus sp.</i>	8	32	Semi-mature	Group dominated by semi-mature ash of moderate landscape value, good form. Other smaller trees less than 0.15 dbh. No large mature trees recorded
3	C	<i>Salix sp.</i>	7	75	Semi-mature	Two multi-stemmed willows in scrub area. Easily replaced.
4	BR	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Betula sp.</i> , <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Salix sp.</i>	7	36	Semi-mature	Ash dominating the group but also includes semi-mature birch and beech. Birch with poor form and leaning. Group has moderate landscape value. No large mature trees recorded
6	C	<i>Fagus sylvaticus</i>	4	22	Immature	Small height and easily replaced
5	BR	<i>Betula sp.</i>	6	27	Semi-mature	Poor form, leaning. Moderate landscape value. No large mature trees recorded.
7	BR	<i>Betula sp.</i> , <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	6	23	Semi-mature	Birch poor form and leaning. Group has a moderate landscape value. No large mature trees recorded.
8	BR	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Betula sp.</i>	7	40	Semi-mature	Group dominated by ash. Birch leaning and forked. Beech relatively small height and easily replaced. No large mature trees recorded
9	BR	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Betula sp.</i> , <i>Acer sp.</i>	7	28	Semi-mature	Large group of trees with ash dominant and with good form. Birch poor form and leaning. Overall moderate landscape value. No large mature trees recorded
10	C	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Betula.sp</i>	5	20	Semi-mature	Relatively small trees easily replaced



11	BR	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	6	32	Semi-mature	Good form and dominant trees in the group. Could be replaced in a relatively short time. No large mature trees recorded
12	BR	<i>Fraxinus excelsior, Betula sp.</i>	6	32	Semi-mature	Ash dominating group surrounded with easily replaced small birch. No large mature trees recorded
13	BR	<i>Acer sp.</i>	7	20	Semi-mature	Relatively large and good form but replaceable.
14	BR	<i>Fraxinus excelsior, Betula sp., Acer sp., Fagus sylvatica, Crataegus monogyna</i>	7	32	Semi-mature	Large group dominated by beech and ash. Moderate landscape value but replaceable. No large mature trees recorded
15	BR	<i>Fraxinus excelsior, Fagus sylvatica, Betula sp., Acer sp.</i>	7	30	Semi-mature	Large group dominated by ash, beech and maple. Moderate value but replaceable. No large mature trees recorded
16	BR	<i>Betula sp.</i>	6	17	Semi-mature	Moderate landscape value as a group but replaceable. No large mature trees recorded
17	C	<i>Acer sp.</i>	4	10	Immature	Small and easily replaced
18	C	<i>Fraxinus excelsior, Acer sp.</i>	5	12	Immature	Young and easily replaced
19	C	<i>Fraxinus excelsior, Acer sp.</i>	4	12	Immature	Young and easily replaced
20	C	<i>Acer sp.</i>	5	10	Immature	Young and easily replaced



*Plate 2.1: Group 9 dominated by ash with birch, maple and beech*



*Plate 2.2: Larger birch and beech north of road into Gateway Retail Park*



*Plate 2.3: Immature whitethorn hedgerow to the north of the study area*





*Plate 2.4: Multi-stemmed willow in area of scrub to the north of the study area*

### 3. **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

No trees of high-quality, Category A status, were recorded within the study area. Semi-mature ash, beech, maple and birch trees were identified as moderate landscape value but were assessed as replaceable and classified as BR. These trees are of a size and age that although they increase the landscape value of the area, they are replaceable. Should they be removed, large potted, semi-mature, nursery trees could be planted to off-set any loss of landscape value. The remaining trees within the study area were immature, small and easily replaced. Some of these trees are small enough to be taken up and re-planted again should appropriate care be taken when excavating, moving and storing the trees. The landscape plan for the proposed Strategic Housing Development will involve the planting of semi-mature specimen trees and extra heavy standard tree planting through the centre of the site and along the northern, eastern and southern-eastern boundaries.

## 4. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

BSI (2012) Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations. British Standards Institute.

Smith, G.F., O'Donoghue, P., O'Hora, K. and Delaney, E. (2011). Best practice guidance for habitat survey and mapping. The Heritage Council.

