

**CMK**

Horticulture & Arboriculture Ltd.

# Arboricultural Assessment Report

Residential Development,  
Newtownmoyaghy,  
Kilcock, Co. Meath

<b>Project No.</b>	TKIL004	<b>Date</b>	18/11/19
<b>Project Name</b>	Residential Development, Newtownmoyaghy, Kilcock	<b>Revision</b>	D

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Client Brief & Methodology	1
2. General Description Of Trees	2
3. Limitations of Survey	3
4. Relevant Legislation	3
5. Terminology	4
6. Site images & Hedgerow descriptions	6
7. Individual Tree Schedule	14
8. References	15

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## 1. Client brief & Methodology

CMK Hort + Arb Ltd were commissioned by McGarrell Reilly Homes to undertake an arboricultural assessment of trees and hedgerow vegetation of a site located east of Kilcock and between the R148, R125 and west of the Moyglare Road, Kilcock, Co. Meath. The fieldwork was undertaken on the 3rd of September and 23rd October 2019.

This assessment is designed to be an independent analysis of the trees therefore does not take into consideration any plans for the future development of the site; however, it is recognised that there are proposals to re-develop the site therefore some of the comments within Sections 6 and 7 may reference the suitability of trees for retention in this context.

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).



Image 1. Site overview with red line outline of survey boundary located in Newtownmoyaghy, Kilcock, Co. Meath.

## 2. General description of trees

The site is located to the east of Kilcock and between the R148, R125 and west of the Moyglare Road, Kilcock, Co. Meath (see image 1).

The majority of surveyed trees are self-seeded ash, interspersed in agricultural hedgerows.

A total of 11 trees and 7 hedgerows were identified and assessed. The condition of the trees is generally moderate to poor with a relatively high spread within categories B and C (table 1 and chart 2). The condition and categorisation of individual trees is contained within section 8 of this report and can be located in drawing TKIL004 101 to TKIL004 105 inclusive.

The condition of the hedgerows within the survey boundary is moderate to poor overall with most unmanaged or poorly maintained.

A wooded area located within a neighbouring property to the southwest corner of the site (image 3, page 6) consists a young plantation of ash of less than 30 years. Some of the more established specimens are overhanging site by 1-2m

No TPOs (Tree Protection Orders) or SAC (Special Areas of Conservation) are present in the site.

Category	Number	% of total
A	0	0%
B	5	45.5%
C	5	45.5%
U	1	9%

Table 1. Tree Category breakdown (see page 4 for tree category explanations).

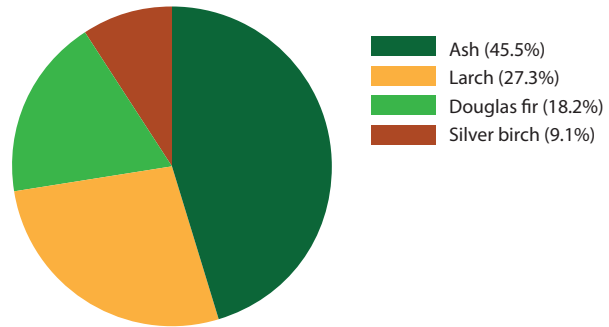


Chart 1. Tree species breakdown.

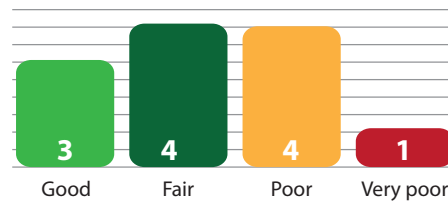


Chart 2. Tree vigour breakdown.



### 3. 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.

### 4. Relevant legislation

There are no Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) on any of the trees on this site. However unless planning permission which clearly identifies trees for removal has been granted then under Section 7 of the Forestry Act 2014 a person wishing to fell trees must apply to the minister for a licence to do so.

Exempted trees: Section 19 states that the requirement for a felling licence for the uprooting or cutting down of trees does not apply where:

- The tree in question is standing in an urban area
- The tree is considered dangerous and hazardous.
- The tree is within 10m of a public road and regarded as hazardous
- The tree in question is less than 100 ft. / 30m from a dwelling other than a wall or temporary structure;
- The tree in question is a hazel, apple, plum, damson, pear, or cherry tree grown for the value of its fruit or any ozier;

Other exceptions apply in the case of local authority road construction, road safety and electricity supply operations.

The Act is administered by the Forest Service (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food). The Felling Section of the Forest Service is based in Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford (053-9160200 or 1890-200223).

If any queries arise re tree felling in general it is recommended that advice is sought from Felling Section of the Forest Service or the local forestry development officer for further information.

### Bats

Trees may contain bats. Bats are afforded legal protection under Irish and EU legislation and agreements (Wildlife Act (1976), Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2000), S.I. No. 94 of 1997 and S.I. No. 378 OF 2005 implementing the EU Habitats Directive, Bonn Convention (The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animal) and the Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats).

Trees provide roosting opportunities for bats. Mature trees are the most likely to have potential as roost sites. This may be provided by cavities, crevices, limb fractures, storm damage or mechanical damage and may even be by way of loose bark. Felling of mature trees and even surgery to large limbs may place bats at risk and both procedures remove roosting sites for bats.

Professional advice from a bat specialist has been received and is included in the EIAR that is submitted with this application.

## 5. Terminology

### Tree categories

<b>A</b>	Trees of high quality and value due to their size, age, condition, historical/visual merit and/or conservation potential. (a minimum of 40 years)
<b>A1</b>	Mainly arboricultural values. Particularly good examples of species, essential components of groups or of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features.
<b>A2</b>	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.
<b>A3</b>	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>B</b>	Trees of moderate quality and value (a minimum of 20 years)
<b>B1</b>	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)
<b>B2</b>	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.
<b>B3</b>	Mainly cultural values including conservation. Trees with clearly identifiable conservation or other cultural benefits.
<b>C</b>	Trees of low quality and value (a minimum of 10 years).
<b>C1</b>	Not qualifying in higher categories
<b>C2</b>	Trees present in groups or woodlands but without conferring on them greater landscape value and/or trees offering low or only temporary screening benefit.
<b>C3</b>	Trees with very limited conservation or other cultural benefits.
<b>U</b>	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.

## Terminology (cont.)

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

**Common name:** Most widely used non botanical name.

**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 metres north, east, south, 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 metres.

**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.





Image 2. The back of property on the R125 showing silver birch (#2811) on left.



Images 3 & 4. Wooded area in neighbouring property to southwest corner of site. Young plantation of ash of less than 30 years averaging 16-20 meters in height. Some of the more established specimens are overhanging site by 1-2m.





Image 5. Hedgerow A.

### Hedgerow A

**Description:** Agricultural hedgerow in the northeast section of the site. Well developed and mostly complete.

**Species present:** Hawthorn and occasional elder and bramble.

**Average height:** 4 meters **Total length:** 57 meters







Image 6. Hedgerow B.

## Hedgerow B

**Description:** Hawthorn and elder in a full but unmanaged agricultural field boundary hedgerow. Behind are willow and field maple trees set in a private residential property.

**Species present:** Hawthorn and occasional elder and bramble.

**Average height:** 3 meters **Total length:** 48 meters







Image 7. Hedgerow C.

### Hedgerow C

**Description:** Agricultural hedgerow mainly composed of hawthorn. Sections of hedgerow incomplete. Occasional elder. Contains two mature ash (#2801 & #2802).

**Species present:** Hawthorn and occasional elder.

**Average height:** 3-5 meters **Total length:** 152 meters







Image 8. Hedgerow D.

### Hedgerow D

**Description:** Agricultural field boundary hedgerow with large hawthorn. Unmanaged and incomplete in places.

**Species present:** Hawthorn and occasional elder and bramble.

**Average height:** 4-6 meters **Total length:** 85 meters







Image 9. Hedgerow E.

### Hedgerow E

**Description:** Agricultural hedgerow on eastern boundary mainly composed of hawthorn with occasional elder and bramble. Incomplete in places. A group of early-mature larch (#2822-2826) of low to moderate value located within a fenced off area to south of hedgerow.

**Species present:** Hawthorn, bramble and elder.

**Average height:** 4 meters **Total length:** 193 meters







Images 10, 11 and 12. Hedgerow F.

### Hedgerow F

**Description:** Well developed but unmanaged hedgerow on the western boundary of the site with larger specimens of mature hawthorn, alder and occasional ash (#2821 & 2022).

**Species present:** Hawthorn, alder and ash.

**Average height:** 4-7 meters **Total length:** 411 meters







Image 13. Hedgerow G.

### Hedgerow G

**Description:** A degraded agricultural hedgerow located within southern section of the site which has lapsed due to lack of maintenance. Occasional standard hawthorn present. A plantation of young ash within the neighbouring site to the east providing a degree of shelter and screening to subject site.

**Species present:** Hawthorn, elder and bramble.

**Average height:** 4 meters **Total length:** 341 meters



## 7. INDIVIDUAL TREE SCHEDULE

Tag Number	Species	Vigour	Age class	Category	Comments	Recommendations	Long Term Potential	DBH (mm)	Height (metre)	Clear Stem (metre)	Crown spread NESW (metre)
2022	<i>Ash Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Fair	Young	B2	Young and drawn up competition form surrounding vegetation.	No action necessary	15-20	260	6.5	3.5n	1;2;2.5;1.5
2801	<i>Ash Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Good	Mature	B2	Located at the edge of an agricultural field ditch to east. Roots unlikely to extend in this direction. Crown suppressed south due to neighbouring tree. No visible defects.	No action necessary	15-20	600	12	1.75w	6;3;3;6
2802	<i>Ash Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Good	Mature	C2	Located at the edge of an agricultural field ditch to east. Roots unlikely to extend in this direction. Crown suppressed north due to neighbouring tree. No visible defects.	No action necessary	10-15	490	16	2.5s	3;3;6;6
2803	<i>Ash Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Poor	Mature	C2	Crown poorly developed due to heavy pruning from presence of overhead services. Thick ivy growth obscuring upper canopy.	Cut ivy and re-assess	<10	820	9	0	3;4.5;0;2
2811	<i>Silver birch Betula pendula</i>	Fair	Early Mature	B2	Restricted crown due to subdominant status, otherwise well developed.	No action necessary	15-20	540	8	2s	3;2;3;2
2821	<i>Ash Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Good	Mature	B2	Well formed tree that might suffer drainage issues from being situated in base of ditch.	No action necessary	20-30	600	10	6w	5;5;5;5
2822	<i>Larch Larix decidua</i>	Fair	Early Mature	C2	One of small group of trees. Limited long term potential due to close competition of neighbouring trees.	No action necessary	10-15	380	260	2	1;1;1;1
2823	<i>Douglas fir Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Fair	Mature	C2	Dominant specimen of this small grouping of larch. Needles confined to outer tips of branches.	No action necessary	10-15	530	7	0.5n	3;1;3;3
2824	<i>Douglas fir Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Dead	Mature	U	One of small group of trees. In a state of advanced decline.	Fell	0	280	4.5	NA	NA
2825	<i>Larch Larix decidua</i>	Poor	Early Mature	C2	One of small group of trees. Canopy suppressed south due to competition.	No action necessary	10	370	7	1n	2;1;1;1.5
2826	<i>Larch Larix decidua</i>	Poor	Early Mature	C2	Subdominant to neighbouring trees. Limited long term potential.	No action necessary	<10	410	6	0	3;1;1;1

\*Refer to drawings TKIL004 101 to TKIL004 105 inclusive.

## 8. REFERENCES

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

Fossit J. A. (2000). A guide to habitats in Ireland. Heritage Council

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

