

**Arboricultural Report
Response to Request for Additional Information**

Planning Register Reference 23/60219

Hawthorn Tree at,

Tinnakilly

Ashford

Co Wicklow

November 2023

The Tree File Ltd

Consulting Arborists

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14th November 2023
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Keldrum Ltd
Oakfield Industrial Estate,
Ninth Lock Rd,
Clondalkin,
Dublin 22,
D22 XD28

**Re. Request for Additional Information regarding Hawthorn at
Tinakilly, Ashford, Co Wicklow
Planning Register Reference 23/60219**

Prepared by

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Report Brief

“The Tree File Ltd” has been requested by “Keldrum Ltd” to address the Arboricultural issues raised in the request for additional information outlined in the Wicklow County Council order PRR 23/60219. Particularly, this report addresses item No.5 of the request for additional information as below.

5. A number of third party observations have raised concerns with regard to the removal of a tree located centrally within the southern field which has been referred to as a fairy tree of local significance.

It is noted that the tree survey and arboriculture report prepared by The Tree File does not include the tree referred to as the Fairy Tree and it is not clear why it has been excluded.

The applicant is required to submit an updated arborist report in relation to the tree, including any relevant historical information and if appropriate put forward mitigation measures to protect/preserve the tree.

Report Context

This report and the recommendations made are based on an above ground visual review of the tree in question. The recommendations provided are based upon the inspector’s knowledge and experience. The report is also based on the tree inspectors knowledge of the site and the conditions found thereon.

Report Summary

It appears more likely that the plant material noted within the field, is naturally arising in associated with poor, rocky ground. No historic or archaeological information has been found to suggest that the group existed much before the mid 20th century.

Notwithstanding this, it is appreciated that the location and context of the group appears to lend itself to being named as a “fairy Tree”, though this may be more associated with parallels of expected appearance, rather than any historic connection.

Tree Review

In light of the request for additional information, the site was revisited specifically to review the noted Hawthorn.

The tree comprises a small community of specimens, dominated by Hawthorn. The cumulative plant stands nearly 8 metres tall however, it is unclear as to whether it comprises a single plant or combines either 2 or 3 directly adjoining plants whose stems, through continued, growth have coalesced and combined as a single stem.

The Hawthorn is adjoined by additional material including, to the south-east by an Elderberry and also by elements of Dog Rose and Bramble.

Notwithstanding contorted and congested form and the combination of plants, the general health status remains reasonably good.

Context and Local Conditions

The plants arise from an area of notably disturbed and rough ground. The area supports numerous large weathered stones, presumably collected from about the adjoining field.

A review of available historic information and archaeological information made available through the Planning rotate related study of the site revealed no evidence of any historic or archaeological artefacts or features that this plant group might be associated with. Particularly, attention is drawn to the 25 inch mapping information available (see figure 4) that is commonly regarded as being exceptionally accurate. Whilst trees and tree groups are indicated on this mapping for this area and indeed the mapping illustrates well and accurately the larger tree groups of the site, note is made that nothing is indicated in the vicinity of the hawthorns location.

Additional interest is generated by the historic aerial photography as in figures 1 – 4. These images correctly identify the Hawthorn however, attention is drawn to the ground conditions within its general vicinity. All photographs would appear to suggest that agriculture has avoided and diverted about this tree however, particular interest relates to the 199 one image which, through good timing, illustrates the tree is associated with an area of poor agricultural productivity, delayed growth and apparently poor ground.

This factor in conjunction with the congregation of stones and rocks within the vicinity of this tree would suggest that over time, the field may have been cleared of obstacles and that local material had been dumped in this area. If so, this would readily explain the natural arising of what are all native plants.

Additionally, and notwithstanding what would be regarded as the mature status of the Hawthorn, its size is not atypical for the species and particularly should prove to be three individual trees then it is unlikely to be of any great age. This would appear to be corroborated by the lack of indication on the 1888 – 1830, 25 inch mapping.

Note has been made to a recent art reference in respect of a painting titled “The Fairy Tree”. This appears to relate to the subject tree however, it appears to be of very recent origin.

In light of the lack of historical or archaeological references or relationships, it appears more likely that this tree and its accompanying native plants have arisen naturally relative to an area of land not intensively farmed over time.

It appears that the tree’s being named as a fairy tree is more likely to relate to local colloquialisms and the fact that it's position, distant from other trees lends itself to the archetypal expectations of such a tree.

Conclusions

There appears to be no evidence, historic or archaeological, to corroborate or confirm anything other than very recent references of this tree being a “Fairy Tree”.

Site Photographs

Ordnance Survey Ireland historic mapping and imagery

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Photo 1

A clip of historic aerial/satellite photography from 2001. Note is made of poor/rough ground in vicinity of tree.



Photo 2

A clip of historic aerial/satellite photography from 1996 illustrating existence of tree at that time.



Photo 3

A clip of historic aerial/satellite photography from 2013. Note is made of rough ground in vicinity of tree.

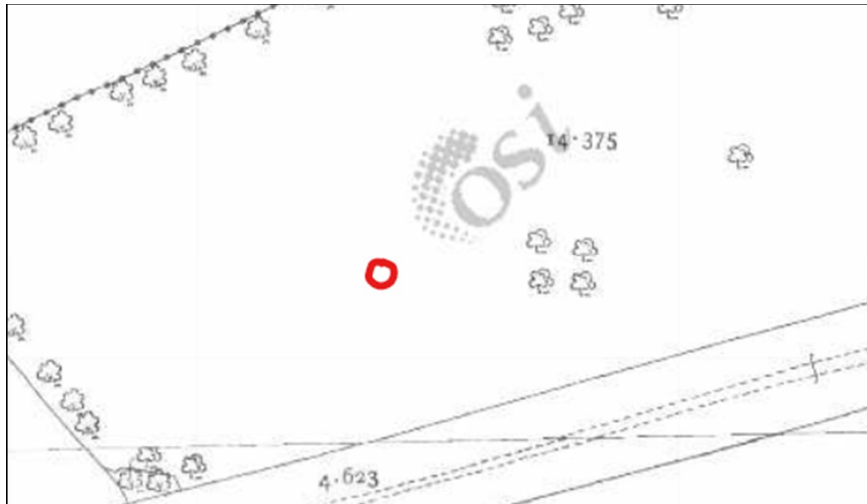


Photo 4

A clip of historic 25 inch mapping (circa 1888-1930) depicting approximate location of Hawthorn. Note is made that the otherwise accurate mapping at that time, depicts no vegetation in area of the Hawthorn (red circle)