

Chief Executive's Report

For proposed Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in Caragh,
Naas, Co. Kildare



Planning Department,
Kildare County Council
14th July 2022

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1.0 Introduction

This report refers to a proposed Tree Preservation Order (TPO) for a group of 20 no. trees located at the northern end of the village of Caragh. The TPO process is provided for under Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act).

In accordance with the Act, the Planning Department initiated the TPO process in October 2021 as follows:

- A Public Notice was published on the 12th October 2021 in the Leinster Leader newspaper and on Kildare County Councils Consult webpage¹ inviting members of the public to make a submission regarding the proposed draft TPO within a 6 week public consultation period. The public notice is attached in Appendix 1 of this Report.
- A report and map were prepared detailing the amenity value and location of the trees. This report and associated map were both published on KCC's Consult webpage and these are attached as Appendix 2 of this Report.
- Landowners affected by the proposed TPO were notified in writing by registered post on 12th October 2021. A copy of the public notice, report and map were issued to invite submissions in this regard.



Figure 1: Location and photograph of trees, Caragh.

¹ <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/draft-tree-preservation-order-caragh>

2.0 Submissions Received

A total of 3 no. submissions were received during the public consultation period from the following:

- KCC-C52-1: Brian McArdle
- KCC-C52-2: O'Flynn Group
- KCC-C52-3: Anne, Elizabeth and Patricia Crowe

These submissions are included in Appendix 3 of this report.

3.0 Summary of Issues Raised in the Submissions

The following is a summary of the issues raised in the submissions received. The Chief Executive's response to the issue is outlined in Section 4 of this report.

3.1 Submission KCC-C52-1: Brian McArdle

Received from Brian McArdle (dated 27/10/2021).

- Fully supports proposal and hopes for the use of more TPOs in Kildare in the future.

3.2 Submission KCC-C52-2: O'Flynn Group

Received from Brady Shipman Martin on behalf of the O'Flynn Group who object to the proposal. This submission is identical to Submission KCC-C52-3 using the same report by Brady Shipman Martin and Tree Survey Report by Independent Tree Surveys. These reports are summarised below.

Brady Shipman Martin

- No proper assessment was made of the subject trees and their condition.
- There are errors contained in the council's TPO report which records 20 no. Beech trees, when in fact there are 23 no. trees comprising 18 no. Beech trees, 3 no. Oak trees and 2 no. Ash trees and no detailed assessment of their condition was undertaken.
- The tree survey attached to the submission notes overall tree condition is poor and of the 23 trees, 17 are graded category U (unsuited to long term retention) and 6 are graded category C (low quality).
- This TPO would therefore be contrary to subsection 11 of Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which allow for trees to be exempt from the TPO process if they are dying or dead or have become dangerous.
- A TPO is not required as the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 has objectives NH1 and RH1 which protects the trees.
- The council's assessment that the trees appear to be in good condition is incorrect. There is no scoring for 'condition' in the Amenity Assessment matrix.

- The two individual trees which stand proud of the treelines have severe Ash dieback and are liable to collapse. These trees would not therefore integrate into future residential development or public amenity/open space development.
- Given the size, condition and dangerous nature of the trees, the integration of these trees into residential or public amenity is unsuitable.
- A TPO would add immediate, unnecessary and unworkable liability and management responsibilities to the landowner and potentially financial liability to the Planning Authority (in accordance with Sub-section 2(b) of Section 205 of the Act).

Tree Survey Report by Independent Tree Surveys

The tree survey notes overall tree condition is poor and of the 23 trees, 17 are graded category U (unsuited to long term retention) and 6 are graded category C (low quality).

The overall tree condition is poor, with the over-mature Beech trees being mostly in physiological and structural decline. Many of the Beech trees are showing clear signs of significant structural weaknesses and low physiological vitality. Several trees have already sustained major structural failures, including stem breakage. Many of the Beech trees were seen to be colonised by species of fungi well known to cause significant wood decay and subsequent stem or root plate failure.

The three Oak trees were showing signs of physiological stress, although their structural condition was not as poor as the Beech Trees.

The two individual Ash trees both show signs of the Ash dieback disease, with one also having significant basal decay, rendering it liable to collapse.

3.3 Submission KCC-C52-3: Anne, Patricia and Elizabeth Crowe

There are 3 parts to submission KCC-C52-3

Part 1

Received from Byrne and O'Sullivan Solicitors on behalf of Anne, Patricia and Elizabeth Crowe (dated 11/11/21) in relation to the following:

- Wants confirmation that the subject trees sought to be preserved and protected under Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) are within their client's land folio KE54923F.
- Section (3)(a)(i) obliges the Planning Department to serve notice and their clients did not receive any Notice of the intended Tree Preservation Order from Kildare County Council.
- Accordingly, the proposal by Kildare County to make a TPO is invalid pursuant to Section 205 (3)(a)(i) of the Planning Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- They summarise that this TPO should be withdrawn.

Part 2

Received from Byrne and O'Sullivan Solicitors on behalf of Anne, Patricia and Elizabeth Crowe (dated 19/11/21) in relation to the following:

- No letters were received by their clients.
- Evidence should be provided to indicate who signed for subject letters.
- They maintain the proposal by Kildare County to make a TPO is invalid pursuant to Section 205 (3)(a)(i) of the Planning Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Part 3

Received from Cross Chartered Building Surveyor on behalf of Anne, Patricia and Elizabeth Crowe dated 12/01/22 objecting to the proposal. This submission contains a report by Brady Shipman Martin detailing objections to the proposed TPO, a Preliminary Tree Survey Report and a letter from Byrne and O'Sullivan Solicitors, and is summarised by the following bullet points.

Byrne and O'Sullivan Solicitors on behalf of the Landowner

- They maintain the proposal to make a TPO is invalid pursuant to Section 205 (3)(a)(i) of the Planning Development Act 2000 (as amended). This is because their clients maintain they never received written notice.

Brady Shipman Martin on behalf of the Landowner

- There are errors contained in the council's TPO report which records 20 no. Beech trees, when in fact there are 23 no. trees comprising 18 no. Beech trees, 3 no. Oak trees and 2 no. Ash trees and no detailed assessment of their condition was undertaken.
- The tree survey attached to the submission notes overall tree condition is poor and of the 23 trees, 17 are graded category U (unsuited to long term retention) and 6 are graded category C (low quality).
- This TPO would therefore be contrary to subsection 11 of Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which allow for tree to be exempt from the TPO process if they are dying or dead or have become dangerous.
- A TPO is not required as the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 has objectives NH1 and RH1 which protects the trees.
- The council's assessment that the trees appear to be in good condition is incorrect. There is no scoring for 'condition' in the Amenity Assessment matrix.
- The two individual trees which stand proud of the treelines both trees have severe Ash dieback and are liable to collapse. These trees would not therefore integrate into future residential development or public amenity/open space development.
- Given the size, condition and dangerous nature of the trees, the integration of these trees into residential or public amenity is unsuitable.

Tree Survey Report by Independent Tree Surveys on behalf of the Landowner

- Same report as summarised above.

4.0 Chief Executive's Response

The principal issues raised in the submissions received refer to:

- Statutory notices and validity of the process.
- Health, condition, number and species of the trees.
- Value and purpose of the TPO.

Each of these issues is considered below.

Statutory Notice and Validity of the process

As per Section 205 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), notice was issued to the registered landowners affected by the proposed draft TPO in October 2021. Ownership details were obtained from Land Direct and registered post was issued. An Post indicate this correspondence was delivered.

Following receipt of correspondence from Byrne and O'Sullivan Solicitors on behalf of Anne, Patricia and Elizabeth Crowe (as summarised above), who are registered landowners in this regard, it was considered appropriate to re-advertise the draft TPO process to ensure full engagement with relevant landowners. A new public notice was published in the Leinster Leader on 14th December 2021 and an additional 6 week public consultation period followed. Notice was issued to Anne, Patricia and Elizabeth Crowe care of Byrne and O'Sullivan Solicitors. Notice was also issued to another landowner.

Kildare County Council is satisfied that adequate notice was issued to the landowners in this regard. The landowner has since actively engaged with the Planning Department throughout this process and provided consent for an independent arborist to access the land to carry out an inspection of the subject trees.

Health, condition, number and species of the trees

Having regard to the submissions received, and in particular the report from an arborist on behalf of the landowners and the O'Flynn Group who have an interest in the land, which questioned the number, species and condition of the trees, it was considered prudent that an assessment of the trees be carried out by an independent arborist to inform this process.

The services of an independent Arborist were procured by Kildare County Council and an inspection took place on 19th May 2022, with consent given by the landowners to access the land. See Appendix 4 for full report and for mapping of the trees inspected.

This report concludes:

- 23 trees were noted on site, of which there are 19 no. Beech trees, 2 no. Oak trees and 2 no. Ash trees.
- The majority of trees were in a mature and stable condition. Some trees had endured physical damage, possibly from storms, and had decaying wounds as a result of the damage.
- In accordance with Table 1 of BS5837:2012 '*Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction*', 16 no. trees were identified as Category A, 1 no. tree as Category B and 2 no. trees as Category C.
- One tree was noted to be dead and another suffering from Acute Oak Decline.
- The 2 no. Ash trees, labelled as No.'s.19 and 20 on the draft TPO map, were showing signs of Ash Dieback.
- Fungus was noted on many trees.

An annotated map is included in Appendix 4 aligning the Arborists mapped trees with the map that was published with the Draft TPO. Along the western line of the trees from tree No. 1 onwards heading east there are a number of decayed stumps of trees that appear to have failed 1-2m above ground level. The tree labelled 'a' is dead, the tree labelled 'b' is at risk of mechanical failure and the tree labelled 'c' has Acute Oak Decline (in Appendix 4).

Generally, the arborist concluded, these are important trees and are worthy of protection. The value of large trees to the environment and as a habitat is significant.

Value / purpose of the TPO

Section 205 of the Act states that 'if it appears to the planning authority that it is expedient, in the interests of amenity or the environment, to make provision for the preservation of any tree, trees, group of trees or woodland, it may, for that purpose and for stated reasons, make an order with respect to any such tree, trees, group of trees of woodlands as may be specified in the order'.

'Amenity' is not defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Therefore, for the purposes of this assessment, 'amenity' is considered using an assessment matrix, based on relevant Irish and British sources. The Planning Department devised ten assessment categories to consider amenity and environmental value of these trees (see Appendix 2). These mainly focus on the amenity value and biodiversity value of the subject trees. The subject trees score highly in this regard due to their maturity, the public views they provide and habitats they accommodate.

It is considered that these trees provide a very high level of amenity value to the village of Caragh. Their potential loss would not just be a detriment of the setting of this village and future development on the land, but also be a loss of biodiversity, habitat and carbon stores.

It is noted the purpose of a TPO is not to preserve trees in perpetuity but to control their wilful destruction.

5.0 Chief Executive's Conclusion

It is acknowledged there are differing professional opinions regarding the classification of the trees in accordance with BS5837:2012 '*Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction*'. However, having regard to the provision of Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, in particular subsection 11 which stipulates that a TPO shall not apply to trees that are dying or dead or have become dangerous, it is considered appropriate to remove Tree Nos. 9, 19 and 20 from this proposed TPO for the following reasons:

- Tree No. 9 is a *Fagus sylvatica* (Beech tree) and has significant damage to its buttress and lower trunk. The wound is approximately 2 metres high and 1.5 metres wide, with decay in the centre.
- Tree Nos. 19 and 20 are a *Fraxinus excelsior* (Ash trees) which show signs of Ash Dieback.

All other trees surveyed in the independent arborist's report that were not part of the original proposed TPO are either too damaged or dead (trees labelled a, b and c in Appendix 4 for context) to be considered for TPO status.

The remaining trees, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 are all considered to be of both high amenity and environmental value, as they provide a pleasant woodland backdrop to the village of Caragh and a habitat for a diverse number of species (as set out in the Independent Arborist Report in Appendix 3).

6.0 Chief Executive's Recommendation and Reasons

In the interest of amenity and the environment, it is recommended that a Tree Preservation Order, with modifications as set out in Schedule 1 below, is made for 17 no. trees located at Caragh, Naas, Co. Kildare.

The trees to which this amended TPO refer are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 as illustrated in the map accompanying the amended Draft Order. For clarity, the KCC arborists reference number is also included in the Schedule.

REASONS: These trees have both high amenity value and environmental value, as they provide a pleasant woodland backdrop to the village of Caragh and a habitat for a diverse number of species.

Note: Section 205(2)(b) of the Act states that the order may *inter alia* require the owner and occupier of the land affected by the order to enter into an agreement with the planning authority to ensure the proper management of any trees, subject to the planning authority providing assistance, **including financial assistance**, towards such management as may be agreed.

Schedule 1: Amended Draft Order

Amended Draft Order in accordance with Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

Kildare County Council Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 2021

Reference No. TPO1/2021 in Register:

WHEREAS it appears to the Kildare County Council (hereinafter called “the planning authority”) being the planning authority for the County of Kildare, that it is expedient in the interests of the amenity and the environment of the general locality where the trees are located to make provision for the preservation of the trees specified in the First Schedule to this Order and more particularly delineated on the map annexed hereto.

NOW THEREFORE in the exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Planning Authority hereby orders that the cutting down, topping, lopping or wilful destruction of the trees specified in the Schedule to this order and delineated on the map attached hereto is prohibited.

The Planning Authority hereby further declares that the trees specified in the Schedule are of special amenity value.

This Order may be cited as the Kildare County Council Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 2021 and placed on the register.

Schedule 1

Part 1: Tree(s) of Special Amenity Value

All trees are located in Caragh Village, Co. Kildare on two adjoining sites to the east of Caragh Catholic Church on the opposite side of the R409 as shown in the attached map entitled 'Lands at Caragh, Naas, Co. Kildare subject to proposed Tree Preservation Order'.

<i>TPO Map 1 Ref.</i>	<i>Arb Ref (Map 2).</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location</i>
01	0601	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
02	0602	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
03	0603	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
04	0604	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
05	0605	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
06	0606	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
07	0607	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline

08	0608	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
10	0611	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
11	0612	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
12	0613	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
13	0616	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within eastern field boundary treeline
14	0617	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within eastern field boundary treeline
15	0618	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within eastern field boundary treeline
16	0619	Oak tree <i>Quercus Robur</i>	Located within eastern field boundary treeline
17	0620	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within eastern field boundary treeline
18	0621	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within eastern field boundary treeline

Part 2: Exemptions

This Order shall not apply to the cutting down, topping or lopping of trees which are dying or dead or have become dangerous, or the cutting down, topping or lopping of any trees in compliance with any obligation imposed by or under any enactment or so far as may be necessary for the prevention or abatement of a nuisance or hazard.

Schedule 2

Applications for Consent to the Planning Authority to the cutting down, topping, or lopping of any tree the subject of this Order.

Applications for Consent to the Planning Authority to the cutting down, topping, or lopping of trees can be made under Section 32 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) or by applying to the Planning Authority to amend or revoke this Order under Section 205(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Schedule 3

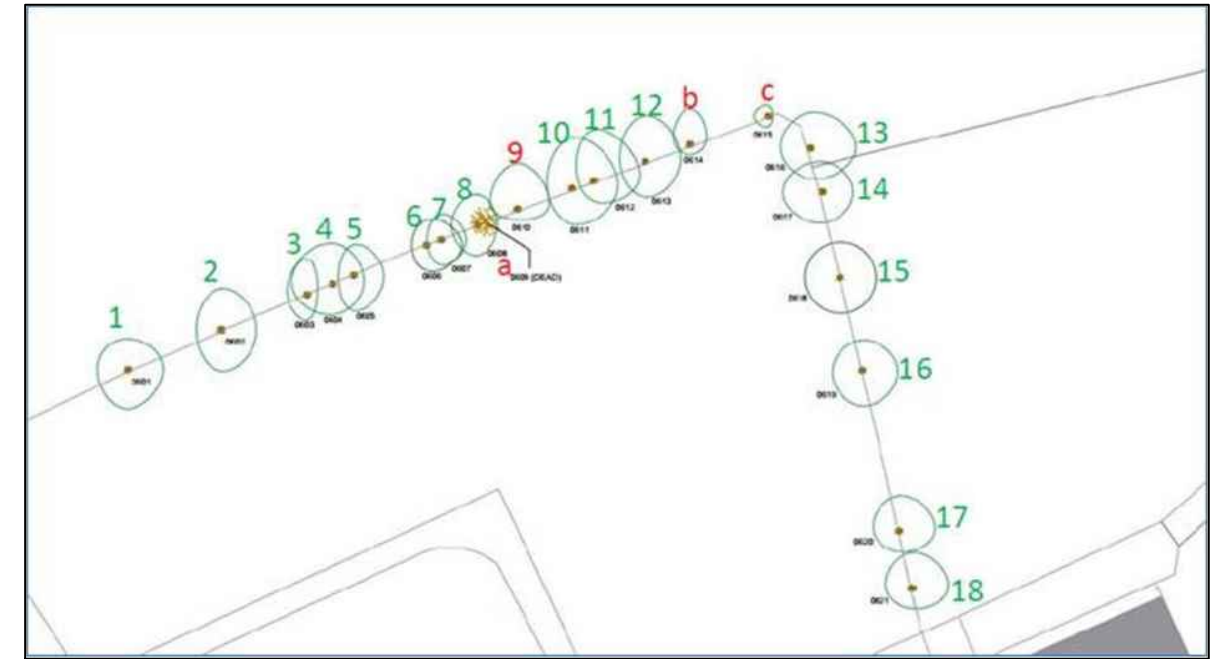
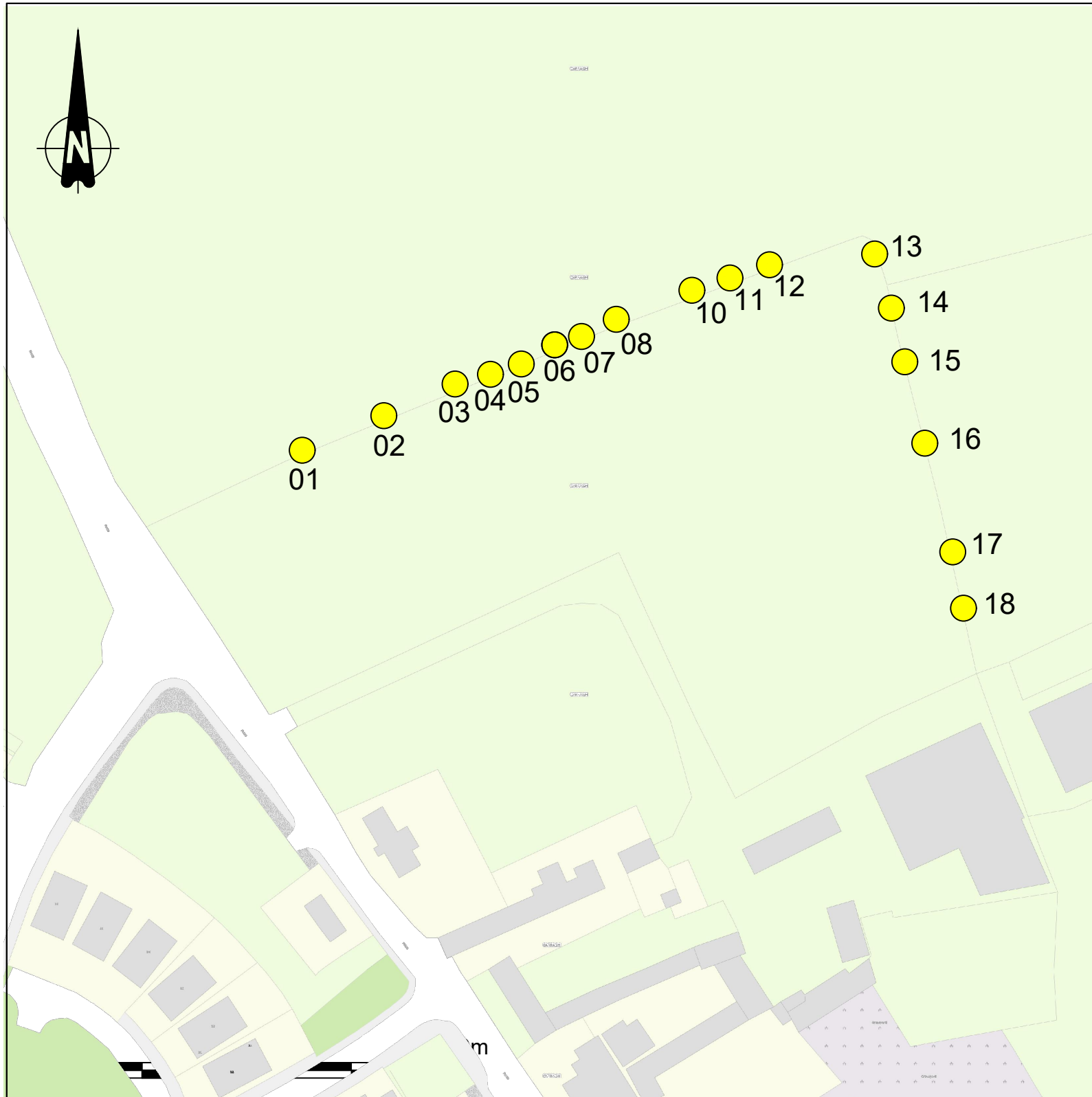
Section 32 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) states:

(1) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, permission shall be required under this Part

(a) in respect of any development of land, not being exempted development, and

(b) in the case of development which is unauthorised, for the retention of that unauthorised development.

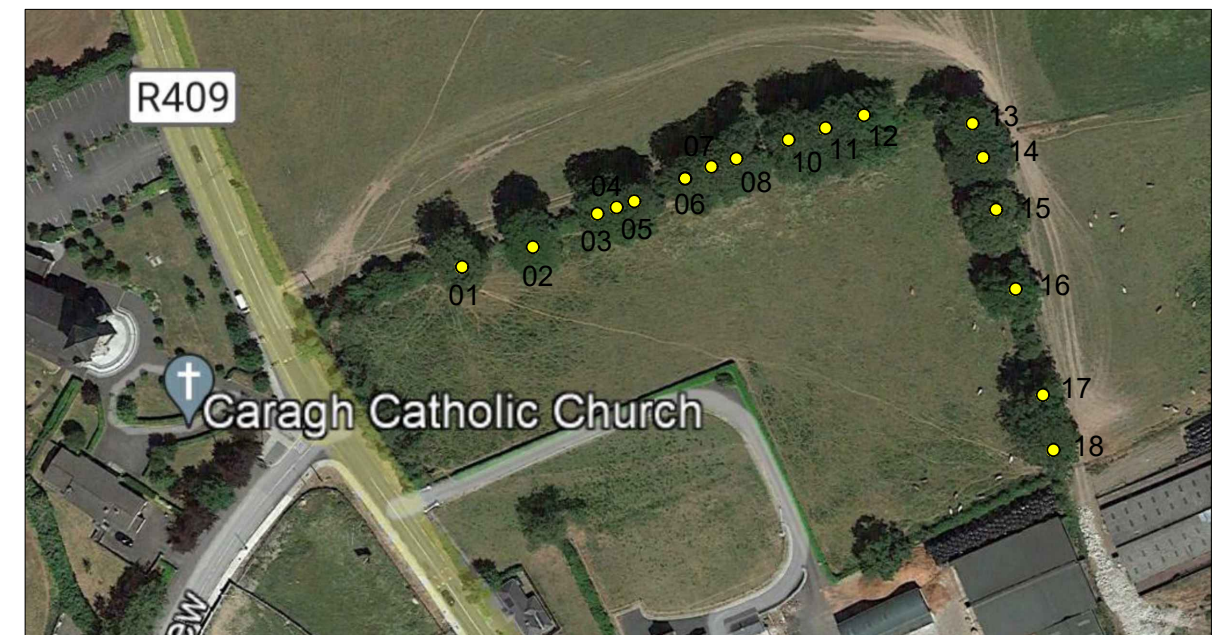
(2) A person shall not carry out any development in respect of which permission is required by subsection (1), except under and in accordance with a permission granted under this Part.



TPO Ref	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Arb Ref	0601	0602	0603	0604	0605	0606	0607	0608	0611	0612	0613	0616	0617	0618	0619	0620	0621

9, a, b and c are not included in this TPO

Composite map with Arborist's Reference



Imagery @ 2021 Google, Imagery © 2021 Maxar Technologies, Map data © 2021.

Trees at Caragh, Naas, Co. Kildare, subject to Amended Draft Tree Preservation Order

TPO1/2021: Trees affected by Tree Preservation Order outlined in blue.

Map has been prepared in accordance with the Land registry mapping requirements as set out in the relevant acts, rules and guidance notes



Kildare County Council
Planning & Strategic
Development Department
Áras Chill Dara,
Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.

Director of Services.
Eoghan Ryan, B.A, M.R.U.P., M.Sc.


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Drawn by:
D.C / MO'L
Date: 15/07/2022

Checked by:
L.C
Date: 15/07/2022

Approved by:
J.O'R
Date: 15/07/2022

LEGEND

Tree location and number  01

Folio no. KE54923F & KE54911F

OS Map no. 3508-A & 3508-C

Scale 1:2500

DWG: 400/22/503

Appendix 1 – Public Notice, KCC (12th October 2021)

Notice of Proposal to Make a Tree Preservation Order

Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Kildare County Council as planning authority gives notice that it intends to make an order under Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in accordance with the draft Order set out in the Schedule to this notice, to preserve and protect the trees specified in the draft Order located at Caragh, Co. Kildare and prohibit the actions stated to be prohibited as set out in the Schedule to the draft Order.

A copy of the draft Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is available for inspection at the following locations from **Tuesday 12th October 2021 to Wednesday 24th November 2021**:

- Kildare County Councils online Consultation Portal: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/browse>
- Planning Office, Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas during opening times of 9.30am–4.00pm, Monday to Friday (closed Bank Holidays). In accordance with public health advice, appointments must be booked in advance at <http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/> and subject to public health restrictions.

Submissions or observations regarding the proposed Order may be made on or **before 4pm on Wednesday the 24th November 2021** and must be submitted online or hard copy as follows:

- Online: through the submission form facility available on Kildare County Council's Consult portal: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/> , **OR**
- By post to: Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department, Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare (clearly marked '**Draft TPO Caragh**').

All such submissions or observations will be taken into consideration by Kildare County Council as planning authority.

Any person who contravenes an Order or, pending the decision of the planning authority, a draft Order under Section 205 Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, shall be guilty of an offence.

Schedule to this Notice:

Draft Order in accordance with

Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

Kildare County Council Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 2021

Reference No. TPO1/2021 in Register:

WHEREAS it appears to the Kildare County Council (hereinafter called "the planning authority") being the planning authority for the County of Kildare, that it is expedient in the interests of the amenity and/or the environment of the general locality where the trees are located to make provision for the preservation of the trees specified in the First Schedule to this Order and more particularly delineated on the map annexed hereto.

NOW THEREFORE in the exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the planning authority hereby orders that the cutting down, topping, lopping or wilful destruction of the trees specified in the Schedule to this order and delineated on the map attached hereto is prohibited.

The planning authority hereby further declares that the trees specified in the Schedule are of special amenity value.

This Order may be cited as the Kildare County Council Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 2021.

Schedule 1

Part 1: Tree(s) of Special Amenity Value

All trees are located in Caragh Village, Co. Kildare on two adjoining sites to the east of Caragh Catholic Church on the opposite side of the R409 as shown in the attached map entitled 'Lands at Caragh, Naas , Co. Kildare subject to proposed Tree Preservation Order' (which is available to view at the locations outlined above).

Ref. No.	Description	Location
01	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
02	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
03	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
04	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
05	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
06	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
07	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
08	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within northern field boundary treeline
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15	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within eastern field boundary treeline
16	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within eastern field boundary treeline
17	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within eastern field boundary treeline
18	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within eastern field boundary treeline
19	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located within southern field boundary
20	Beech tree <i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Located to the east of the site entrance from R409

Part 2: Exemptions

This Order shall not apply to the cutting down, topping or lopping of trees which are dying or dead or have become dangerous, or the cutting down, topping or lopping of any trees in compliance with any obligation imposed by or under any enactment or so far as may be necessary for the prevention or abatement of a nuisance or hazard.

Schedule 2

Applications for Consent to the Planning Authority to the cutting down, topping, or lopping of any tree the subject of this Order.

Applications for Consent to the Planning Authority to the cutting down, topping, or lopping of trees can be made under Section 32 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) or by applying to the Planning Authority to amend or revoke this Order under Section 205(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Schedule 3

Section 32 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) states:

(1) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, permission shall be required under this Part

(a) in respect of any development of land, not being exempted development, and

(b) in the case of development which is unauthorised, for the retention of that unauthorised development.

(2) A person shall not carry out any development in respect of which permission is required by subsection (1), except under and in accordance with a permission granted under this Part

Signed: Eoghan Ryan
Director of Services
Planning and Strategic Development
12th October 2021

Appendix 2 – TPO Report & Map, KCC (12th October 2021)

Proposed Tree Preservation Order At Caragh, Naas, Co. Kildare

**In accordance with Section 205 of the
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**



**Planning Department
Kildare County Council
12th October 2021**

Introduction

This report refers to a proposed Tree Preservation Order (TPO) for a group of 20 no. Beech trees in Caragh, Naas, Co. Kildare. The trees are located at the northern end of the village, as shown in the Map accompanying this report and replicated in Figure No. 1 and 2 below.



Figure No. 1: Location of 20 no. beech trees subject to this proposed Tree Preservation Order



Figure No. 2: Aerial image of 20 no. beech trees subject to this proposed Tree Preservation Order¹

¹ Imagery © 2021 Google, Imagery © 2021 Maxar Technologies, Map data © 2021

Legislative Context

TPOs may be made under Section 205 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended). This is a planning mechanism which identifies individual or groups of trees as being important and requiring protection. A TPO may be sought in order to protect a single tree, a group of trees or a woodland that may be under threat and/or has significant amenity value.

Section 205 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 states the following:

(1) If it appears to the planning authority that it is expedient, in the interests of amenity or the environment, to make provision for the preservation of any tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands, it may, for that purpose and for stated reasons, make an order with respect to any such tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands as may be specified in the order.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), an order under this section may—
(a) prohibit (subject to any conditions or exemptions for which provision may be made by the order) the cutting down, topping, lopping or wilful destruction of trees, and
(b) require the owner and occupier of the land affected by the order to enter into an agreement with the planning authority to ensure the proper management of any trees, group of trees or woodlands (including the replanting of trees), subject to the planning authority providing assistance, including financial assistance, towards such management as may be agreed.

It is a requirement of the Act that where a planning authority proposes to make a TPO it must undertake the following:

- Serve notice of its intention to do so to the owner and occupier of the land affected by the order.
- Provide a map indicating the location of the tree(s) or woodland to be preserved.
- Publish notice of the proposed order in one or more newspapers circulating in its functional area.

Submissions or observations regarding the proposed TPO may be made to the planning authority within a stated period of not less than 6 weeks. Following this and having considered the proposal and any submissions/observations, the planning authority may make the order, with or without modifications, or refuse to make the order. The owner and occupier of the land subject to the order must be notified accordingly. Similarly, if a planning authority intends to revoke or amend an order it must give notice of its intention to do so. The provisions of the Act also ensure that TPOs do not apply to the cutting down, topping or lopping of trees which are dying, dead, have become dangerous, or any trees in compliance with any obligation imposed by or under any enactment or so far as may be necessary for the prevention or abatement of a nuisance or hazard.

It is a requirement of the planning authority to enter a TPO on to a register of records.

Tree Preservation Orders in County Kildare

Table 13.5 of the County Development Plan lists the existing TPOs in Kildare and this has been adapted below.

Clane	1987/1	OS 6''14
Ballymore Eustace	1991/1	OS 6''29
Clogheen (Moore Abbey)	1988/1	OS 6''28
Clongowes	1987/1	OS 6''14

Policy Context: Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023

Volume 2 of the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2017-2023 contains the Caragh Village Plan (Section 2.5.4 of Volume 2).

The subject trees are located on and near the village plan boundary. The trees are located on lands zoned 'C(1): New Residential', as outlined in yellow in Figure 2 overleaf.

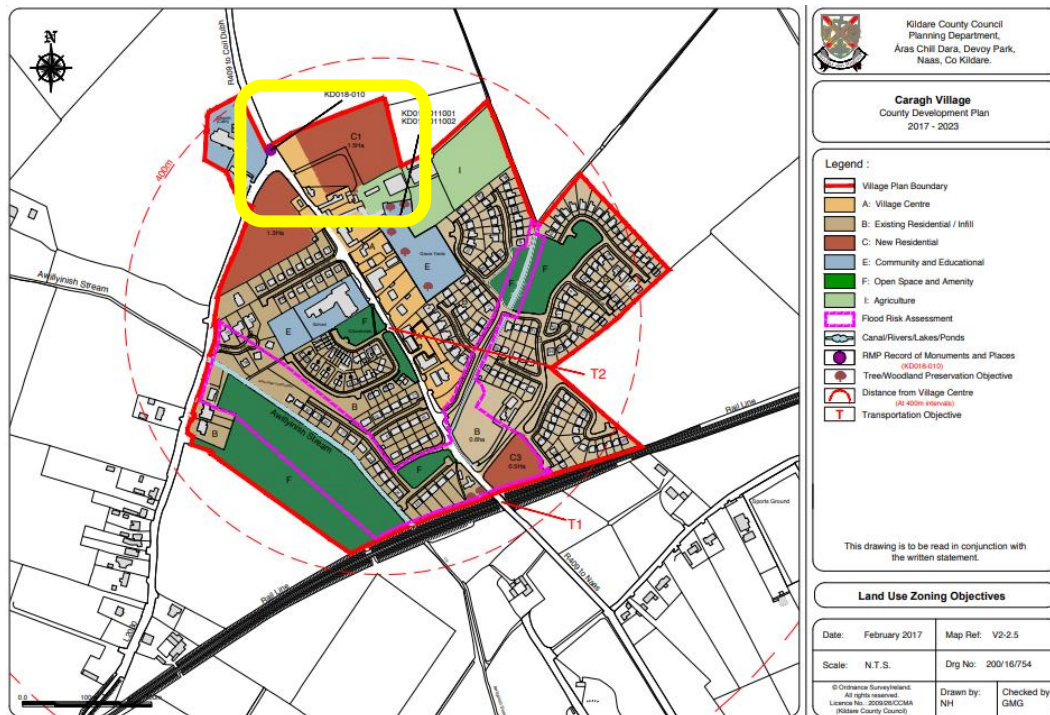


Figure 3. Map reference V2-2.5 showing objectives in Caragh [Source: CDP Volume 2]. Approximate location of trees shown in yellow.

Objective NH1 states that it is an objective of the Council to “Survey the trees illustrated by the appropriate symbol on Map V2-2.5 and to seek to protect trees deemed to be of sufficient amenity value.”

Objective RD 1 states that certain development requirements will apply to residential zoned lands - including C(1) - of which one is that “existing trees and vegetation on the site shall be retained and integrated into any new development if merited.”

Proposed TPO

This Proposed TPO refers to 20 no. mature beech trees on lands to the east of the R409 (opposite the Church) in Caragh Village, Kildare. The 20 trees comprise of 12 no. trees forming a treeline along the northern field boundary, 6 no. trees forming a tree line along the eastern site boundary, 1 no. tree on the southern site boundary and 1 no. free standing tree set back from the R409.

The trees traverse two Folios. The relevant landowners have been notified of this proposed Tree Preservation Order.



Figure 4: Trees subject of proposed TPO as viewed from R409



Figure 5. Trees along the northern field boundary subject of proposed TPO



Figure 6: Trees along the eastern field boundary subject of proposed TPO



Figure 7: View of the subject trees (in background) from the graveyard to the south



Figure 8: Single tree (No. 20 on Map) subject of proposed TPO



Figure9: Single tree in southern field boundary (No. 19 on Map) subject of proposed TPO

Amenity

As per Section 205 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, provisions can be made for the protection of a tree, trees or woodlands in the interests of **amenity or the environment**.

'Amenity' is not defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Therefore, for the purposes of this assessment, 'amenity' is considered using an assessment matrix, based on relevant Irish and British sources².

Ten assessment categories are included in the matrix, each of which contain several factors that range in score/value. The categories are as follows:

1. Tree Size – From very small (2-5m) to very large (200m+). The measurements relate to the crown size which can be calculated by using the full height, 'clear stem' and crown width.
2. Age Band for Species – Late mature/Mature/Early mature/Young. Life spans of species vary and also depend on the setting.
3. Biodiversity– This is an assessment of how important the trees are for biodiversity i.e. habitat provision, wildlife support, nesting etc.
4. Public Visibility – The visibility from public viewpoints should be assessed and the type of public spaces should be noted also. This factor ranges from 'limited visibility' to 'prominent'.
5. Private Visibility – Where the tree(s) is not visible from public viewpoints, they may be observable from private dwellings and the number should be assessed, ranging from 0-10 properties to 50+ properties (within 0.5km radius)
6. Other Trees in the Visual Landscape – What is the level of tree cover in the area. This can range from; 'Wooded surrounding' to 'None'
7. Suitability to the Setting – Certain trees seem particularly suited to a location and significantly add to the character of that setting. Ranges from 'Just' to 'Particularly'
8. Future Amenity Potential – This is an assessment of the tree's future amenity value or potential, ranging from; 'Fully realised' to 'High'
9. Tree (Negative) Influence – This refers to the influence or potential negative impact a tree may have on surrounding buildings or structures. 'Significant' to 'Insignificant'
10. Added Factors – A range, including; screening unpleasant views, green infrastructure contributions, etc.

It should be noted that even if trees are not visible from public spaces they can still possess significant amenity value, particularly if they are observable from private dwellings.

The total score available is 50. A score of 0 to 15 is considered low amenity value, a score of 16 to 34 is considered to be medium amenity value and a score of 35 or more is considered of high amenity value.

² <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/media/9861/tpo-evaluation.pdf>

Assessment of Amenity

The trees appear to be in good condition and are mature examples of beech trees (*Fagus Sylvatica*). There may be more than one species in the group and this may need to be confirmed by closer examination. As a collective, they form a boundary, along with hedgerows, between two green fields which appear to be used for agricultural purposes. A dirt track runs alongside the tree row providing access to a large shed/agricultural building. Two individual trees are also included which stand proud of this treeline for their individual merit and their visual relationship with the tree stands. The lands containing the trees are at the outskirts of Caragh Village, with access directly opposite the entrance to the local church.

The trees are situated on privately owned land. The trees offer an attractive view and can be seen from various locations along main street, from the church, the graveyard and glimpsed from Old Chapel Wood residential estate to the south east. Views from the church and graveyard are considered to be valuable in terms of the areas character. Although views from the graveyard are partly obstructed by an agricultural building, their canopies can be observed, as can be seen from Figure 7.

Beech trees are not considered native, although they are noted for their beauty, excellent hedging potential and benefits for wildlife. Their use for hedging has been widespread in Ireland since the 18th century³. Beech trees can live for 350 years, with 250 years considered more typical⁴. Categories are assigned to the different stage of a beech tree, with 'ancient' the term for trees over 225 years, 'veteran' assigned to those between 125 and 200 years and 'notable' beech trees those between 75 and 150 years old. It takes approximately 30 years for a beech tree to be fully mature. Based on this information, the trees subject of the TPO request would appear to be fully mature examples of Beech and are likely to be 'notable' examples, that is between 75 and 150 years old.

Using the assessment matrix referred to in this report, an evaluation of the trees subject to the TPO request has been carried out. The trees have been assessed as a collective. Appendix 1 contains the assessment table, with the highlighted cells the score assigned to the trees. The following bullet points provide an explanation for some of these scores:

- For 'Tree Size' the following approximate measurements were estimated, based on observations made from a distance: Average height is 25 to 30 metres with a 'clear stem' of roughly 6 metres and an approximate canopy width of 10 metres. This gives a 'size' of 190m² and a score of '6'.
- The 'Age Band' is considered as 'mature', with the trees estimated to be between 75 and 150 years old and roughly at the middle of their lifespan.
- Public visibility is relatively limited, although there are viewpoints from locations such as from the Main Road, the church, the cemetery and adjoining residential areas which provide high value views.

³ <https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/publications/2017/Segment-015-of-TodaysFarm-Jan-Feb-2017.pdf>

⁴ <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/how-to-record/species-guides/beech/>

- In terms of 'future amenity potential' it is noted the adjacent land is zoned for residential purposes therefore there is potential for residential development in close proximity to the trees and an opportunity for the trees to be integrated into a new development and opened up for greater public and private view. The trees are deemed to have a 'high' level of amenity potential.
- The trees act as nesting locations and localised habitats for various fauna, particularly species of birds. Therefore, they are deemed to possess important biodiversity associations.

The total score assigned to the trees subject to TPO request is 36 which deems the trees to be of high amenity value.

Recommendation

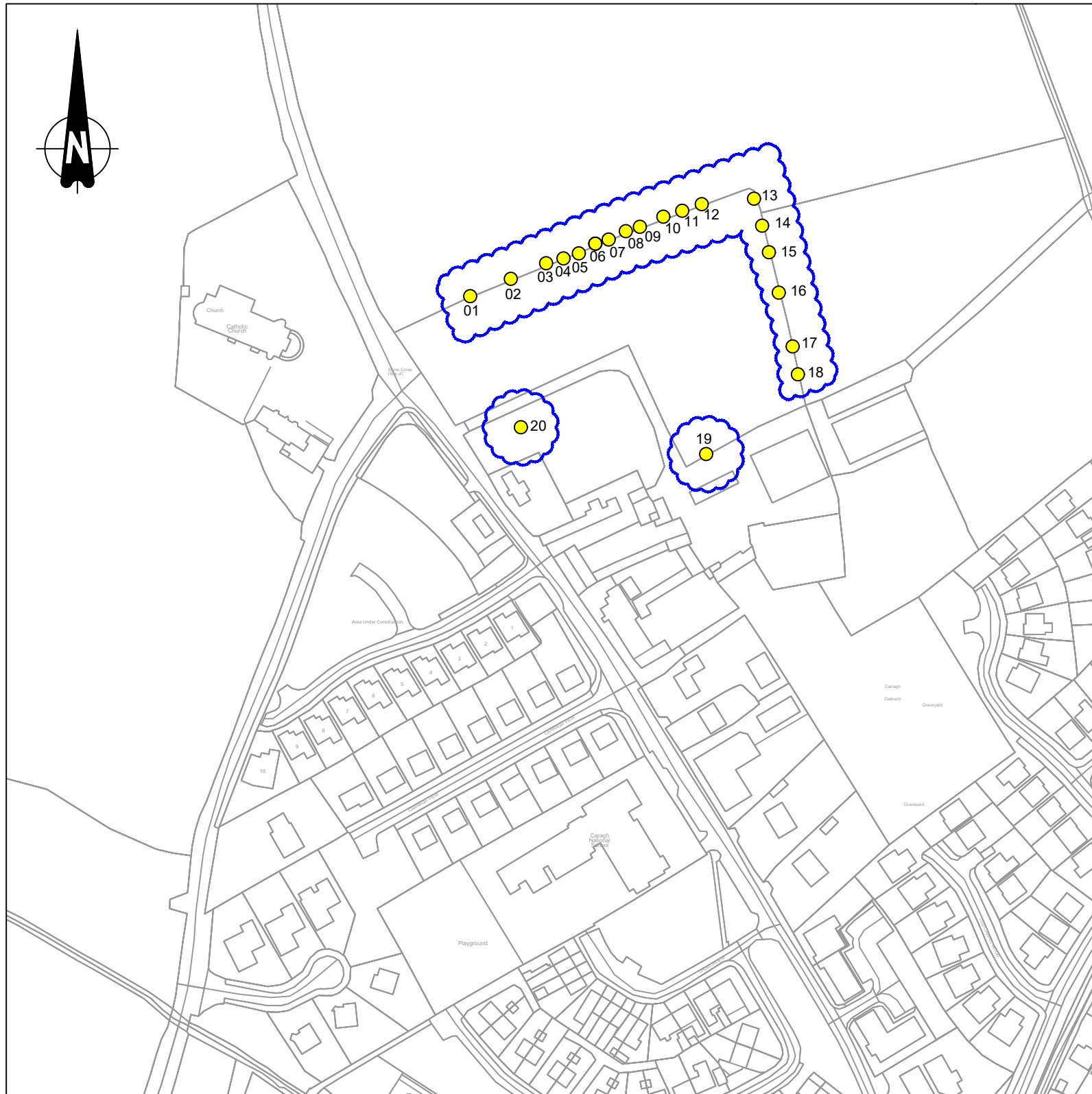
In the interest of amenity and the environment, it is recommended that the subject trees are brought forward for a preservation order in the context of Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

**Planning Department
Kildare County Council**

Appendix 1 – Amenity Assessment Matrix

Tree Size	Age Band	Biodiversity Value	Public Visibility	Private Visibility	Marking
Very small 2-5 m2	1 Young. Recently planted or saplings, establishing well .	1 Detracts from or damages biodiversity (invasive or non-native)	-1 Little to no visibility from any public space	1 0-9 properties within 0.5km radius.	0 to 15 Low
Small 5-25 m2	2 Early mature. Established, crown extending vigorously.	2 Negligible benefits/impact	1 Limited visibility from public spaces (glimpses from a few number of locations only).	2 10-20 properties within 0.5km radius.	16 to 34 Medium
Medium 25-100 m2	3 Mature, middle half of life, possibly full height.	3 Some biodiversity value	2 Other features may block slightly but moderately appreciable from between one and four public places.	3 21-39 properties within 0.5km radius.	35 to 50 High
Large 100-200 m2	4 Late mature. Full crown size achieved.	4 Good value for biodiversity	3 Prominent and readily appreciable from well frequented places.	4 40-50 properties within 0.5km radius.	
Very large 200 m2+	5	5 Significant feature of biodiversity	4	5 50+ properties within 0.5km radius.	
	4	2	3	3	2

Other Trees in the Visual Landscape	Suitability to the Setting	Future Amenity Potential	Tree Influence (Negative)	Added Factors	Total
Wooded surrounding. More than 70%, minimum 100 trees.	1 Not suitable/Unusual in setting	1 Fully realised.	1 Significant negative influence/impact	0 Screening unpleasant views (now or future)	1
Many. 69 - 30%, 99 -50 trees.	2 Just suitable.	2 Limited.	2 Substantial	1 Green Infrastructure contributions	1
Some. 30 - 10%, 49 -10 trees.	3 Fairly suitable.	3 Medium.	3 Moderate	2 Climate Change Resilience	1
Few. 0 - 10%, 9 or less trees.	4 Very suitable.	4 High.	4 Slight	3 Storm water runoff interception	1
None within 0.5km radius.	5 Important for setting	5	None	4 Screening urban development	1
	3	5	4	4 Allied health benefits	1
				4 Local/County plan relevance	1
				1 Assisting development assimilation to landscape	1
				1 Historical association	1
				1 Veteran or ancient status	1
				6	36



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Imagery @ 2021 Google, Imagery © 2021 Maxar Technologies, Map data © 2021.

Lands at Caragh, Naas, Co. Kildare, subject to
Proposed Tree Preservation Order



Kildare County Council
Planning & Strategic
Development Department
Áras Chill Dara,
Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.

LEGEND

Land affected by Tree
Preservation Order



Tree location and number



Lands affected by Tree Preservation Order outlined in blue.

Director of Services.

Eoghan Ryan, B.A, M.R.U.P., M.Sc.

Folio no. KE54923F & KE54911F

Map has been prepared in accordance with the Land registry mapping requirements as set out in the relevant acts, rules and guidance notes

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D.C
Date: 06/10/2021

Checked by:
L.C
Date: 06/10/2021

Approved by:
J.O'R
Date: 06/10/2021

OS Map no. 3508-A & 3508-C

Scale 1:2500

DWG: 400/21/499

Appendix 3 – Submissions received

1. Brian McArdle
2. O'Flynn Group
3. Anne Crowe, Patricia Crowe, Elizabeth Crowe



Kildare County Council
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara

Unique Reference Number: KCC-C52-1

Status: Submitted

Submission: Support

Author: Brian McArdle

Consultation:

Draft Tree Preservation Order - Caragh

Observations:

I fully support this TPO, and hope to see more of them used in Kildare in future.

Documents Attached: No

Boundaries Captured on Map: No



**Brady Shipman
Martin.**
**Built.
Environment.**



Planning Department,
Kildare County Council
Naas
County Kildare

Date: 12 January 2022

Re: Proposed Tree Preservation Order at Caragh, Naas, County Kildare

To: The Planning Department, Kildare County Council

This response has been prepared on behalf of the O'Flynn Group in objection to a proposed making of Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in accordance with Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for trees described in the Proposed Tree Preservation Order report (KCC, Oct 2021) as:

"for a group of 20 no. Beech trees in Caragh, Naas, County Kildare"

The Proposed Tree Preservation Order Report (TPO Report) further identifies the trees as follows:

"This Proposed TPO refers to 20 no. mature beech trees on lands to the east of the R409 (opposite the Church) in Caragh Village, Kildare. The 20 trees comprise of 12 no. trees forming a treeline along the northern field boundary, 6 no. trees forming a tree line along the eastern site boundary, 1 no. tree on the southern site boundary and 1 no. free standing tree set back from the R409."

This objection is being made on a number of grounds, all of which highlight that the TPO should not be confirmed, and if confirmed, would be on unsound basis placing unworkable restrictions on the lands, unworkable conditions for the management of the trees, and in effect make void the TPO.

This objection is supported by a detailed survey of the condition of the trees, initially prepared in April 2021 and updated in November 2021 (copy attached). The Tree Survey has been prepared by qualified arborist Mr. John Morgan of Independent Tree Surveys, in accordance with 'BS5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction – Recommendations'.

1. Basis for Proposing the Tree Preservation Order

The proposed TPO is being made without full and proper regard to an assessment of the trees and their condition. This is clearly evident in the errors contained in the TPO Report (including the Assessment of Amenity), which records 20 no. Beech trees, when in fact there are 23 no. trees comprising 18 no. Beech trees, 3 no. Oak trees and 2 no. Ash trees and no detailed assessment of the condition of the trees was undertaken.



**Brady Shipman
Martin.**
**Built.
Environment.**

The attached Tree Survey (by Independent Tree Surveys) provides a detailed assessment of the trees, with photographs, highlighting the poor and deteriorating condition of the trees – an issue, which due to their advanced age has been taking place for some time and will continue to their eventual loss.

In this regard the Tree Survey notes:

“Overall tree condition is poor, with the over-mature Beech trees being mostly in physiological and structural decline. Many of the Beech trees are showing clear signs of significant structural weaknesses and low physiological vitality. Several trees have already sustained major structural failures, including stem breakage. Many of the Beech trees were seen to be being colonised by species of fungi well known to cause significant wood decay and subsequent stem or root plate failure.

The decaying remains of three large trees (S1-S3) were also identified between the individuals recorded in the survey; these were evidently also Beech trees that have failed in the past due to basal decay associated with old age and decline. The three Oak trees were also showing signs of physiological stress, although the structural condition was not seen to be as poor as amongst the Beech trees. The two individual Ash trees were both showing signs of Ash dieback disease, with tree T22 also having significant basal decay, rendering it liable to collapse.

The Beech trees are all in full or late maturity and will continue to deteriorate over the coming years. Older Beech is especially vulnerable to wood decay, which when sufficiently well-advanced will cause the trees to succumb to structural failure. The Ash trees are both likely to die from Ash dieback disease or structural failure over the next few years.”

Of the 23 trees, 17 are graded category U (unsuited to long term retention) and 6 are graded category C (low quality). Due to their poor condition, none of the trees are of moderate or high quality or of moderate or high value. The Tree Survey also provides a series of photographs highlighting the poor physiological and structural condition of the trees.

Therefore, confirming this TPO would only lead to a situation where such confirmation would not apply in accordance with Sub-section 11 of Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, as the trees are in a declining and dangerous condition.

Sub-section 11 states that:

(11) Without prejudice to any other exemption for which provision may be made by an order under this section, no such order shall apply to the cutting down, topping or lopping of trees which are dying or dead or have become dangerous, or the cutting down, topping or lopping of any trees in compliance with any obligation imposed by or under any enactment or so far as may be necessary for the prevention or abatement of a nuisance or hazard.





**Brady Shipman
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2. No Requirement for Proposed Tree Preservation Order

Not only should the proposed TPO not be confirmed for reason of the poor and dangerous conditions of the trees, but the making of the TPO is also unnecessary for the protection of the trees, if this was merited.

As set out in the TPO Report, the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 already contains appropriate provisions for the protection and retention of these trees, where appropriate and merited. In this regard, the TPO Report specifically refers to Objectives NH1 and RD1, which state that it is an objective of the Council to:

(NH1) "Survey the trees illustrated by the appropriate symbol on Map V2-2.5 and to seek to protect trees deemed to be of sufficient amenity value."

(RD1) "existing trees and vegetation on the site shall be retained and integrated into any new development if merited."

3. Errors in the TPO Report

As previously noted the TPO incorrectly describes the trees as "20 no. Beech trees", when in fact there are 23 no. trees, comprising 18 no. Beech trees, 3 no. Oak trees and 2 no. Ash trees.

Errors continue in **Assessment of Amenity** (pages 9 & 10 of 11 and Appendix 1), which appears to form the basis for the proposed TPO. It is noted in the Assessment that the trees "*appear to be in good condition*", which is clearly incorrect having regard the attached detailed Tree Survey.

The Assessment notes that "*Two individual trees are also included which stand proud of this treeline for their individual merit and their visual relationship with the tree stands.*" However, as noted in the Tree Survey these are "*two individual Ash trees both showing signs of Ash dieback disease, with tree T22 also having significant basal decay, rendering it liable to collapse.*"

The Assessment notes in terms of "*future amenity potential*", that "*the adjacent land is zoned for residential purposes therefore there is potential for residential development in close proximity to the trees and an opportunity for the trees to be integrated into a new development and opened up for greater public and private view. The trees are deemed to have a 'high' level of amenity potential*"

However, given the size, condition and dangerous nature of the trees, this statement and rating is clearly incorrect. Large trees in poor physiological and structural condition, and which are liable to collapse (and where some have previously fallen), cannot be considered suitable for integration into a proposed residential or public amenity / open space development.

Likewise Appendix 1 of the Assessment of Amenity (TPO Report) indicates that the "*Future Amenity Potential*" of the trees is rated as 4 (high value), however, given the age and condition of the trees, this rating can be no more than 1 (Fully realised), if not zero. It is noted that the Appendix provides no rating / scoring for 'condition', which given the TPO legislation must be a critical consideration for the proposed TPO.



**Brady Shipman
Martin.**

**Built.
Environment.**

4. Conclusion

In conclusion it is submitted that the proposed TPO is being made on the basis of inaccurate information, which excludes the poor, declining and dangerous condition of the trees. In effect the condition of the trees would render any such TPO void in accordance with Sub-section 11 of Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Given the poor condition of the trees proceeding to confirm a TPO would add immediate, unnecessary and unworkable liability and management responsibilities to the landowner, and potentially financial liability to the Planning Authority (in accordance with Sub-section 2(b) of Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended).

While the lands in the vicinity of the trees are identified for future development potential, the poor and declining physiological and structural condition of the trees means that the trees are reaching the end of their natural lives and their longer-term retention will not be possible irrespective of the future development potential of the lands.

Finally, a TPO is neither appropriate nor warranted for these trees, as provisions already exist in the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 for the appropriate assessment, consideration and retention of the trees in development proposals, where merited.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Burns
for

Brady Shipman Martin

6891_Letter.doc

Encl. Tree Survey





Independent Tree Surveys

Preliminary Tree Survey Report

In relation to a proposed
TPO at Caragh, Naas,
Co. Kildare

Kildare County Council
Planning Department

14 JAN 2022

RECEIVED

12 April 2021

Updated 18 November 2021



Independent Tree Surveys

Our Lady's Cottage,
Drummond
Rosenallis
Co. Laois

T: 057 8628597
M: 087 1380687

Caragh Tree Report
Preliminary Tree Survey Report

DOCUMENT:
Preliminary Tree Survey Report

This document has been issued and amended as follows:

Issue	Revision	Description/Status	Date	Prepared by	Checked by
01	00	Tree Survey Report	19/11/2021	JM	JM

Kildare County Council
Planning Department
14 JAN 2022
RECEIVED

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1 INTRODUCTION

Kildare County Council has issued notification of a proposal to apply a Tree Preservation Order to mature trees on lands at Caragh, Naas, Co. Kildare.

Many of the trees identified for inclusion in the TPO have been recorded as being of poor health and condition (in a preliminary tree survey carried out in April 2021), which would render them unsuited for inclusion in a TPO. This report has been prepared to provide an updated Arboricultural Assessment of the trees and to indicate the health and condition issues that are apparent amongst the trees and which would render them unsuitable for TPO status.

The accompanying drawing C-TS-01 shows the locations of the individual trees and tree groups identified on the site during the survey.

This Survey has been prepared by:
John Morgan
Qualified Arborist
BSc (Hons), Tech Cert (Arbor A), M.Arbor. A

Our Lady's Cottage, Drummond, Rosenallis, County Laois, Ireland

2 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.

Climbing plants such as Ivy can obscure structural defects and some symptoms of disease, where such plants prevent a thorough examination it is recommended that the climber be cut at ground level and the tree re-inspected when it has died back.

Individual trees shown on the survey drawing were not plotted by topographic survey methods, their positions should be regarded as approximate.



Caragh Tree Report

Preliminary Tree Survey Report

3 METHODOLOGY

The survey has been carried out in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction – Recommendations.

The trees were accessed on foot and subject to preliminary assessment using Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) techniques only.

3.1 Tree, Tree Group and Hedge Number

Individual trees (prefix T), were allotted reference numbers to allow for identification and cross reference with the survey schedule and site drawings. Individual trees were not tagged on site.

3.2 Species

Refers to the specific tree species with both common and botanical names for individual trees.

3.3 Age Class

- Y: Young tree – yet to reach biological maturity
- SM: Semi-mature - tree now well established and developing
- EM: Early-Mature - tree not yet fully grown
- M: Mature – Tree fully grown and in full maturity
- LM: Late Mature – in the later stages of maturity
- OM: Over mature - tree now declining from natural causes
- Vet: Veteran - tree of value due to old age and ecological/cultural significance

3.4 Stem Diameter and Tree Height Measurements – All Estimated

- Ht: Total Tree Height in metres
- Dbh: Diameter (in mm) at breast height measured at 1.5m from ground level

3.5 Condition

Condition refers to both physiological condition (good, fair, poor, dead.) 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
- Dead: Tree now completely dead

3.6 Comments

Additional description/commentary on individual trees where appropriate.

3.7 Recommendations

Preliminary management recommendations are noted, these pertain to current site conditions unless otherwise stated.

Kildare County Council
Planning Department

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3.8 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 young trees with a stem diameter of below 150mm.
- 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.

3.9 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 (rad) in metres measured from the tree stem and is shown on tree survey drawings 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.

- 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 FINDINGS

The trees were initially assessed in April 2021, and were re-assessed during a site visit on the 18th November 2021. The field survey findings are recorded in the survey schedule appended to the report and include the data for 23 individual trees. Of the 23 individual trees assessed, 17 were graded category U (unsuited to long term retention) and 6 were graded category C (low quality). Photographs showing the significant defects identified on the trees are included below.

The survey included the two linked tree-lines to the north and east of the main field, which is open pasture. The northern tree-line is the longer and more dominant of the two and includes 15 significant individual trees. The eastern group is shorter and more sporadic, containing 6 significant individual trees. Two individual Ash trees to the southwest of the main groups were also included. Three remnant stumps of formerly large Beech trees were identified along the northern tree line.

Overall tree condition is poor, with the over-mature Beech trees being mostly in physiological and structural decline. Many of the Beech trees are showing clear signs of significant structural weaknesses and low physiological vitality. Several trees have already sustained major structural failures, including stem breakage. Many of the Beech trees were seen to be being colonised by species of fungi well known to cause significant wood decay and subsequent stem or root plate failure.

The decaying remains of three large trees (S1-S3) were also identified between the individuals recorded in the survey; these were evidently also Beech trees that have failed in the past due to basal decay associated with old age and decline. The three Oak trees were also showing signs of physiological stress, although the structural condition was not seen to be as poor as amongst the Beech trees. The two individual Ash trees were both showing signs of Ash dieback disease, with tree T22 also having significant basal decay, rendering it liable to collapse.

The Beech trees are all in full or late maturity and will continue to deteriorate over the coming years. Older Beech is especially vulnerable to wood decay, which when sufficiently well-advanced will cause the trees to succumb to structural failure. The Ash trees are both likely to die from Ash dieback disease or structural failure over the next few years.

Whilst the trees still provide some landscape and amenity value, these benefits will decline as the trees continue to deteriorate and collapse.

Given the poor physiological and structural condition of the trees, they should not be considered for coverage by a Tree Preservation Order on the basis that a TPO should not be applied to a tree that is dead, dying or dangerous.



5 SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Longer tree-line along northern edge of site (trees 1-15)



Final trees included in preliminary schedule in background (trees 18-21)



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Caragh Tree Report

Preliminary Tree Survey Report

	
<p><i>Ganoderma spp.</i> fungi at base of tree T1</p>	<p>Beech stump S1</p>
	
<p><i>Ganoderma spp.</i> fungi at base of tree T2</p>	<p>Beech stump S2</p>
	
<p>Fungal fruiting bodies on Beech tree T4</p>	<p><i>Ustulina deusta</i> fruiting bodies at base of tree T5</p>
	
<p>Beech stump S3</p>	<p><i>Meripilus giganteus</i> fungal fruiting bodies on Beech tree T8</p>
	
<p>Base of Beech tree T10</p>	<p>Base of Beech tree T11</p>

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Armillaria spp. fungi at base of Beech tree T13



Degraded remnants of Beech tree T14



Dieback of Oak tree T15



Base of Beech tree T16

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Meripilus giganteus fruiting bodies on Beech T18



Ganoderma spp. fungi on stem of tree T21



Cavity at base of Ash tree T22



Crown dieback of Ash tree T23

Caragh Tree Report
Preliminary Tree Survey Report

6 SCHEDULE OF TREES INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY

Type	No.	Species	Age	Ht m	Dbh mm	ERC	Phys Cond	Structural Condition/Comments	Preliminary Recommendations	RPA m	Cat
T	1	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Dieback in crown. <i>Ganoderma spp.</i> fruiting brackets on lower stem indicative of significant basal decay.	Not suited for long-term retention.	12	U
S	1	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM					Stump of old Beech tree that has collapsed due to basal decay.	No urgent works needed.		
T	2	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Dieback in crown. <i>Ganoderma spp.</i> fruiting brackets on lower stem indicative of significant basal decay.	Not suited for long-term retention.	12	U
S	2	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM					Stump of old Beech tree that has collapsed due to basal decay.	No urgent works needed.		
T	3	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	20	600	10+	Fair	Fair. Thick ivy covering stem.	Cut Ivy	7.2	C2
T	4	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Large decay cavity on stem. Fungal fruiting bodies emerging from cavity on main stem. Some sparseness of upper crown.	Not suited for long-term retention.	12	U
T	5	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Fair/Poor	Poor. <i>Ustulina deusta</i> fruiting bodies present at stem base indicating embrittled heartwood in stem.	Not suited for long-term retention.	12	U
S	3	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM					Stump of old Beech tree that has collapsed due to basal decay.	No urgent works needed.		
T	6	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Fair/Poor	Poor. <i>Ustulina deusta</i> fruiting bodies present at stem base indicating embrittled heartwood in stem.	Not suited for long-term retention.	12	U
T	7	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	21	1000	10+	Fair/Poor	Fair. Low vitality.	No urgent works needed.	12	C2
T	8	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	21	1000	<10	Fair/Poor	Poor. Low vitality. <i>Meripilus giganteus</i> fruiting brackets at stem base indicating degraded anchorage and stability. Some sparseness of upper crown.	Not suited for long-term retention.	12	U
T	9	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	21	1000	<10	Poor	Fair. Low vitality. Dieback in crown.	Monitor tree condition.	12	U
T	10	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Poor	Bad. Significant basal decay. Very large old tear-out wound at base of main stem.	Not suited for long-term retention.	12	U

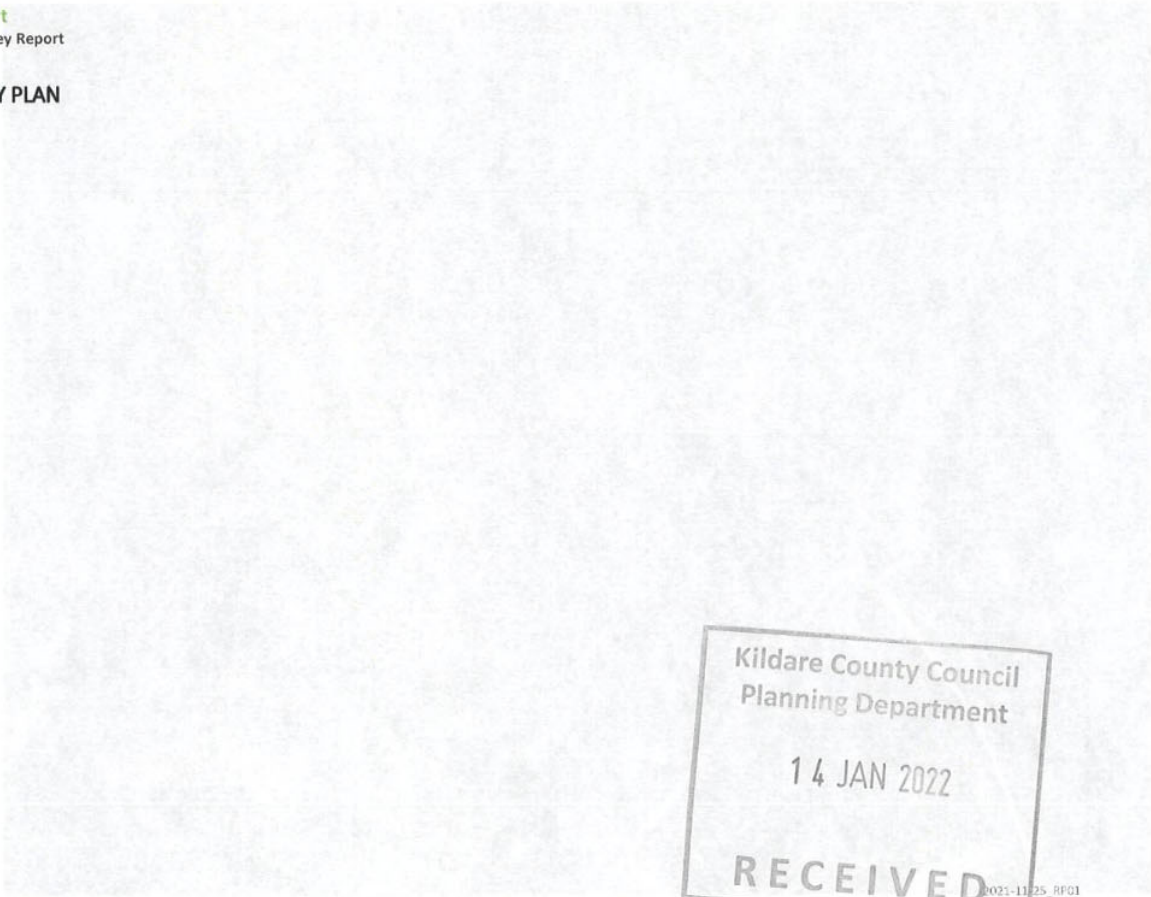


Caragh Tree Report
Preliminary Tree Survey Report

Type	No.	Species	Age	Ht m	Dbh mm	ERC	Phys Cond	Structural Condition/Comments	Preliminary Recommendations	RPA m	Cat
T	11	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	22	1250	<10	Poor	Poor. Large specimen tree. <i>Ganoderma</i> spp. fungal fruiting bodies on stem indicating internal wood decay.	Not suited for long-term retention.	15	U
T	12	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	21	1000	10+	Fair	Fair. Asymmetric form due to group competition.	No urgent works needed.	12	C2
T	13	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Dieback in crown. <i>Armillaria</i> spp. Fungal fruiting bodies at stem base indicative of degraded roots and anchorage.	Monitor tree condition. Not suited for long-term retention.	12	U
T	14	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	10	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Significant basal decay. Formerly large old tree that has suffered catastrophic failure of main stem at 4m in the past.	Not suited for long-term retention.	12	U
T	15	Quercus robur (Common Oak)	M	17	800	<10	Poor	Poor. Significant dieback in crown.	Monitor tree condition. Not suited for long-term retention.	9.6	U
T	16	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	20	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Significant basal decay.	Not suited for long-term retention.	12	U
T	17	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	21	1250	10+	Fair	Fair. Large specimen tree.	Monitor tree condition.	15	C2
T	18	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Old tear-out wound on main stem. <i>Meripilus giganteus</i> fruiting brackets at stem base indicating degraded anchorage and stability. Sparse crown.	Not suited for long-term retention.	12	U
T	19	Quercus robur (Common Oak)	M	18	850	10+	Poor	Fair. Some dieback of upper crown.	Monitor tree condition.	10.2	C2
T	20	Quercus robur (Common Oak)	M	18	850	10+	Poor/Fair	Fair. Some minor dieback of upper crown.	Monitor tree condition.	10.2	C2
T	21	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1250	<10	Poor	Poor. Dieback in crown. <i>Ganoderma</i> spp. fruiting brackets on lower stem indicative of significant basal decay.	Not suited for long-term retention.	15	U
T	22	Fraxinus excelsior	M	15	600 est	<10	Poor	Poor. Large decay cavity at stem base. Epicormic growth and crown dieback indicative of Ash dieback disease.	Not suited for long-term retention.	7.2	U
T	23	Fraxinus excelsior	M	14	450 est	<10	Poor	Poor. Epicormic growth and crown dieback indicative of Ash dieback disease. Bark damage to stem base.	Not suited for long-term retention.	5.4	U



7 TREE SURVEY PLAN



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LEGEND

- Root Protection Area
- Tree Canopy
- Tree Stem & Canopy Colour
- Tree Tag Number & Category

- Category A Trees (High Value)
- Category B Trees (Moderate Value)
- Category C Trees (Low Value)
- Category D Trees (Poor Condition)

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

Independent Tree Surveys

Our Lady's Cottage
Dunmore
Rossmore
Co. Louth
017 9626197 - 087 1386667
info@itreesurveys.ie
www.independenttreesurveys.ie

Project Name: Caragh, Co. Kildare
Drawing Title: Preliminary Tree Survey
Drawing Number: C-TS-01
Client:
Agent:
Date: 12 April 2021, Updated 18 November 2021
Scale: Not to Scale

Kildare County Council
Planning Department

14 JAN 2022

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Senior Executive Officer
Planning Dept.
Kildare County Council
Aras Chill Dara
Devoy Park
Naas
Co. Kildare

12/01/2022

Re: **CP 105002/ag/sd**
Proposed Tree Preservation Order
at Caragh, Naas, Co. Kildare

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am instructed by Anne Crowe, Patricia Crowe and Elizabeth Crowe to formally object to the making of the above Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in accordance with Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for Trees described in the Proposed Tree Preservation Order.

I enclose report from Brady Shipman Martin setting out the detail of the objection to the proposed Tree Preservation Order.

I also enclose a Preliminary Tree Survey Report setting out the condition of the trees confirming that “ *Tree Preservation Order should not be applied to a tree that is dead, dying or dangerous*”.

In addition, I refer you to correspondence dated 19th. November 2021 from Byrne and O’Sullivan LLP (see copy attached).

My clients are adamant and clear the Notices were not received by them from Kildare Co. Council.

Yours faithfully,


John J Cross MSCSI, MRICS, MCIQB
Chartered Building Surveyor



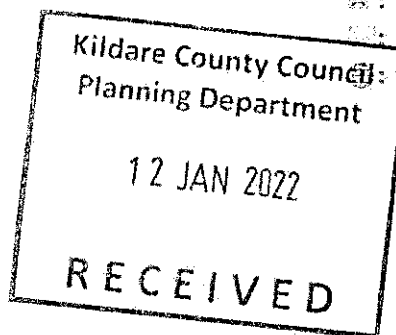
BYRNE & O'SULLIVAN LLP

Incorporating F.P. Byrne & Co.

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Senior Executive Officer,
Kildare County Council,
Planning Department,
Aras Chill Dara,
Devoy Park, Naas,
County Kildare.



19th November 2021

Our Ref: CRP105002/AMK/sd

Re: Our Clients: Anne Crowe, Patricia Crowe and Elizabeth Crowe
Draft Tree Preservation Order – Caragh, County Kildare.

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your correspondence of the 17th inst. together with enclosures therein.

We have taken our clients' instructions in relation to this matter and all three of our clients are adamant the Notification as referred to in your correspondence of 11th October 2021 was not received.

You indicate in your correspondence that the registered post was acknowledged by An Post as being delivered on 12th October 2021. You might please furnish evidence of the said delivery and identify of the person who signed for the documentation.

Again, we reiterate our clients did not receive Notification as is the obligation of Kildare County Council pursuant to Section 205(3)(a)(i) of the Planning & Development Act 2000.

Yours faithfully,

Anne-Marie Kelleher,
BYRNE & O'SULLIVAN SOLICITORS LLP.
annemarie.kelleher@byrneosullivan.ie



**Brady Shipman
Martin.**

**Built.
Environment.**



Planning Department,
Kildare County Council
Naas
County Kildare

Date: 19 November 2021

Re: Proposed Tree Preservation Order at Caragh, Naas, County Kildare

To: The Planning Department, Kildare County Council

This response has been prepared in objection to a proposed making of Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in accordance with Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for trees described in the Proposed Tree Preservation Order report (KCC, Oct 2021) as:

"for a group of 20 no. Beech trees in Caragh, Naas, County Kildare"

The Proposed Tree Preservation Order Report (TPO Report) further identifies the trees as follows:

"This Proposed TPO refers to 20 no. mature beech trees on lands to the east of the R409 (opposite the Church) in Caragh Village, Kildare. The 20 trees comprise of 12 no. trees forming a treeline along the northern field boundary, 6 no. trees forming a tree line along the eastern site boundary, 1 no. tree on the southern site boundary and 1 no. free standing tree set back from the R409."

This objection is being made on a number of grounds, all of which highlight that the TPO should not be confirmed, and if confirmed, will be on unsound basis placing unworkable restrictions on the lands, unworkable conditions for the management of the trees and in effect make void the TPO.

This objection is supported by a detailed survey of the condition of the trees, initially prepared in April 2021 and updated in November 2021 (copy attached). The survey has been prepared by qualified arborist Mr. John Morgan of Independent Tree Surveys, in accordance with 'BS5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction – Recommendations'.

1. Basis for Proposing the Tree Preservation Order

The proposed TPO is being made without full and proper regard to an assessment of the trees and their condition. This is clearly evident in the errors contained in the TPO Report (including the Assessment of Amenity), which records 20 no. Beech trees, when in fact there are 23 no. trees



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comprising 18 no. Beech trees, 3 no. Oak trees and 2 no. Ash trees and no detailed assessment of the condition of the trees was undertaken.

The attached Tree Survey provides a detailed assessment of the trees, with photographs, highlighting the poor and deteriorating condition of the trees – an issue, which due to their advanced age has been taking place for some time and will continue to their eventual loss.

In this regard the Tree Survey notes:

“Overall tree condition is poor, with the over-mature Beech trees being mostly in physiological and structural decline. Many of the Beech trees are showing clear signs of significant structural weaknesses and low physiological vitality. Several trees have already sustained major structural failures, including stem breakage. Many of the Beech trees were seen to be being colonised by species of fungi well known to cause significant wood decay and subsequent stem or root plate failure.

The decaying remains of three large trees (S1-S3) were also identified between the individuals recorded in the survey; these were evidently also Beech trees that have failed in the past due to basal decay associated with old age and decline. The three Oak trees were also showing signs of physiological stress, although the structural condition was not seen to be as poor as amongst the Beech trees. The two individual Ash trees were both showing signs of Ash dieback disease, with tree T22 also having significant basal decay, rendering it liable to collapse.

The Beech trees are all in full or late maturity and will continue to deteriorate over the coming years. Older Beech is especially vulnerable to wood decay, which when sufficiently well-advanced will cause the trees to succumb to structural failure. The Ash trees are both likely to die from Ash dieback disease or structural failure over the next few years.”

Of the 23 trees, 17 are graded category U (unsuited to long term retention) and 6 are graded category C (low quality). Due to their poor condition, none of the trees are of moderate or high quality or value. The Tree Survey also provides a series of photographs highlighting the poor physiological and structural condition of the trees.

Therefore, confirming this TPO would only lead to a situation where such confirmation would not apply under sub-section 11 of Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, as the trees are in a declining and dangerous condition. Sub-section 11 states that:

(11) Without prejudice to any other exemption for which provision may be made by an order under this section, no such order shall apply to the cutting down, topping or lopping of trees which are dying or dead or have become dangerous, or the cutting down, topping or lopping of any trees in compliance with any obligation imposed by or under any



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enactment or so far as may be necessary for the prevention or abatement of a nuisance or hazard.

2. No requirement for Proposed Tree Preservation Order

Not only should the proposed TPO not be confirmed for reason of poor and dangerous conditions of the trees, but the making of the TPO is also unnecessary for the protection of the trees, if this was merited.

As set out in the TPO Report the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 already contains appropriate provisions for the protection and retention of the trees where appropriate and merited. In this regard, the TPO Report specifically notes Objectives NH1 and RD1, which state that it is an objective of the Council to:

(NH1) "Survey the trees illustrated by the appropriate symbol on Map V2-2.5 and to seek to protect trees deemed to be of sufficient amenity value."

(RD1) "existing trees and vegetation on the site shall be retained and integrated into any new development if merited."

3. Errors in the TPO Report

As previously noted the TPO incorrectly describes the trees as 20 no. Beech trees, when in fact there are 23 no. trees, comprising 18 no. Beech trees, 3 no. Oak trees and 2 no. Ash trees. Errors continue to **Assessment of Amenity** (pages 9 & 10 of 11 and Appendix 1), which appears to form the basis for the proposed TPO.

It is noted that the trees *"appear to be in good condition"*, which is clearly incorrect having regard the attached detailed Tree Survey.

The Assessment notes that *"Two individual trees are also included which stand proud of this treeline for their individual merit and their visual relationship with the tree stands."* However, as noted in the Tree Survey these are *"two individual Ash trees both showing signs of Ash dieback disease, with tree T22 also having significant basal decay, rendering it liable to collapse."*

The Assessment notes in terms of 'future amenity potential', that *"the adjacent land is zoned for residential purposes therefore there is potential for residential development in close proximity to the trees and an opportunity for the trees to be integrated into a new development and opened up for greater public and private view. The trees are deemed to have a 'high' level of amenity potential"*

However, given the size, condition and dangerous nature of the trees, this statement and rating is clearly incorrect. Large trees in poor condition, which are liable to collapse (and some have



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previously fallen), cannot be considered suitable for integration into a proposed residential or public amenity / open space development.

Likewise Appendix 1 of the Assessment of Amenity (TPO Report) indicates that the future Amenity Potential of the trees is rated as 4 (high value), however, given the age and condition of the trees, this rating can be no more than 1 (Fully realised), if not zero.

The Appendix provides no rating / scoring for 'condition', which given the TPO legislation must be of critical consideration.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion it is submitted that the proposed TPO is being made on the basis of inaccurate information, which excludes the poor, declining and dangerous condition of the trees. Such condition would in effect render any such TPO void in accordance with sub-section 11 of Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Burns
for
Brady Shipman Martin
6891_Letter.doc

Encl. Tree Survey





Independent Tree Surveys

Preliminary Tree Survey Report

Development Lands
Caragh
Co. Kildare



12 April 2021

DOCUMENT:
Preliminary Tree Survey Report

This document has been issued and amended as follows:

Issue	Revision	Description/Status	Date	Prepared by	Checked by
01	00	Tree Survey Report	18/11/2021	JM	JM



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1 TABLE OF CONTENTS

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1 INTRODUCTION

Kildare County Council has issued notification of a proposal to apply a Tree Preservation Order to mature trees on lands at Caragh, Naas, Co. Kildare.

Many of the trees identified for inclusion in the TPO have been recorded as being of poor health and condition (in a preliminary tree survey carried out in April 2021), which would render them unsuited for inclusion in a TPO. This report has been prepared to provide an updated Arboricultural assessment of the trees and to indicate the health and condition issues that are apparent amongst the trees and which would render them unsuitable for TPO status.

The accompanying drawing C-TS-01 shows the locations of the individual trees and tree groups identified on the site during the survey.

This Survey has been prepared by:

John Morgan

Qualified Arborist

BSc (Hons), Tech Cert (Arbor A), M.Arbor. A

Our Lady's Cottage, Drummond, Rosenallis, County Laois, Ireland

2 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.

Climbing plants such as Ivy can obscure structural defects and some symptoms of disease, where such plants prevent a thorough examination it is recommended that the climber be cut at ground level and the tree re-inspected when it has died back.

Individual trees shown on the survey drawing were not plotted by topographic survey methods, their positions should be regarded as approximate.



Caragh Tree Report

Preliminary Tree Survey Report

3 METHODOLOGY

The survey has been carried out in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction – Recommendations.

The trees were accessed on foot and subject to preliminary assessment using Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) techniques only.

3.1 Tree, Tree Group and Hedge Number

Individual trees (prefix T), were allotted reference numbers to allow for identification and cross reference with the survey schedule and site drawings. Individual trees were not tagged on site.

3.2 Species

Refers to the specific tree species with both common and botanical names for individual trees.

3.3 Age Class

Y: Young tree – yet to reach biological maturity
SM: Semi-mature - tree now well established and developing
EM: Early-Mature - tree not yet fully grown
M: Mature – Tree fully grown and in full maturity
LM: Late Mature – in the later stages of maturity
OM: Over mature - tree now declining from natural causes
Vet: Veteran - tree of value due to old age and ecological/cultural significance

3.4 Stem Diameter and Tree Height Measurements – All Estimated

Ht: Total Tree Height in metres
Dbh: Diameter (in mm) at breast height measured at 1.5m from ground level

3.5 Condition

Condition refers to both physiological condition (good, fair, poor, dead.) 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
Dead: Tree now completely dead

3.6 Comments

Additional description/commentary on individual trees where appropriate.

3.7 Recommendations

Preliminary management recommendations are noted, these pertain to current site conditions unless otherwise stated.



3.8 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 young trees with a stem diameter of below 150mm.
- 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.

3.9 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 (rad) in metres measured from the tree stem and is shown on tree survey drawings 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.

- 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:

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



Caragh Tree Report

Preliminary Tree Survey Report

4 FINDINGS

The trees were initially assessment in April 2021, and were re-assessed during a site visit on the 18th November 2021. The field survey findings are recorded in the survey schedule appended to the report and include the data for 23 individual trees. Of the 23 individual trees assessed, 17 were graded category U (unsuited to long term retention) and 6 were graded category C (low quality). Photographs showing the significant defects identified on the trees are included below.

The survey included the two linked tree-lines to the north and east of the main field, which is open pasture. The northern tree-line is the longer and more dominant of the two and includes 15 significant individual trees. The eastern group is shorter and more sporadic, containing 6 significant individual trees. Two individual Ash trees to the southwest of the main groups were also included. Three remnant stumps of formerly large Beech trees were identified along the northern tree line.

Overall tree condition is poor, with the over-mature Beech trees being mostly in physiological and structural decline. Many of the Beech trees are showing clear signs of significant structural weaknesses and low physiological vitality. Several trees have already sustained major structural failures, including stem breakage. Many of the Beech trees were seen to be being colonised by species of fungi well known to cause significant wood decay and subsequent stem or root plate failure.

The decaying remains of three large trees (S1-S3) were also identified between the individuals recorded in the survey; these were evidently also Beech trees that have failed in the past due to basal decay associated with old age and decline. The three Oak trees were also showing signs of physiological stress, although the structural condition was not seen to be as poor as amongst the Beech trees. The two individual Ash trees were both showing signs of Ash dieback disease, with tree T22 also having significant basal decay, rendering it liable to collapse.

The Beech trees are all in full or late maturity and will continue to deteriorate over the coming years. Older Beech is especially vulnerable to wood decay, which when sufficiently well-advanced will cause the trees to succumb to structural failure. The Ash trees are both likely to die from Ash dieback disease or structural failure over the next few years.

Whilst the trees currently still provide landscape and amenity value, these benefits will decline as the trees continue to deteriorate and collapse.

Given the poor physiological and structural condition of the trees, they should not be considered for coverage by a tree preservation order on the basis that a TPO should not be applied to a tree that is dead, dying or dangerous.



5 SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



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Planning Department
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Preliminary Tree Survey Report



Ganoderma spp. fungi at base of tree T1



Beech stump S1



Ganoderma spp. fungi at base of tree T2



Beech stump S2



Fungal fruiting bodies on Beech tree T4



Ustulina deusta fruiting bodies at base of tree T5



Beech stump S3



Meripilus giganteus fungal fruiting bodies on Beech tree T8



Base of Beech tree T10



Base of Beech tree T11

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Caragh Tree Report
Preliminary Tree Survey Report



Armillaria spp. fungi at base of Beech tree T13



Degraded remnants of Beech tree T14



Dieback of Oak tree T15



Base of Beech tree T16



Meripilus giganteus fruiting bodies on Beech T18



Ganoderma spp. fungi on stem of tree T21



Cavity at base of Ash tree T22



Crown dieback of Ash tree T23

Caragh Tree Report

Preliminary Tree Survey Report

6 SCHEDULE OF TREES INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY

Type	No.	Species	Age	Ht m	Dbh mm	ERC	Phys Cond	Structural Condition/Comments	Preliminary Recommendations	RPA m	Cat
T	1	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Dieback in crown. <i>Ganoderma</i> spp. fruiting brackets on lower stem indicative of significant basal decay.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	12	U
S	1	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM					Stump of old Beech tree that has collapsed due to basal decay.	No urgent works needed.		
T	2	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Dieback in crown. <i>Ganoderma</i> spp. fruiting brackets on lower stem indicative of significant basal decay.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	12	U
S	2	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM					Stump of old Beech tree that has collapsed due to basal decay.	No urgent works needed.		
T	3	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	20	600	10+	Fair	Fair. Thick Ivy covering stem.	Cut Ivy	7.2	C2
T	4	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Large decay cavity on stem. Fungal fruiting bodies emerging from cavity on main stem. Some sparseness of upper crown.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	12	U
T	5	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Fair/Poor	Poor. <i>Ustulina deusta</i> fruiting bodies present at stem base indicating embrittled heartwood in stem.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	12	U
S	3	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM					Stump of old Beech tree that has collapsed due to basal decay.	No urgent works needed.		
T	6	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Fair/Poor	Poor. <i>Ustulina deusta</i> fruiting bodies present at stem base indicating embrittled heartwood in stem.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	12	U
T	7	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	21	1000	10+	Fair/Poor	Fair. Low vitality.	No urgent works needed.	12	C2
T	8	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	21	1000	<10	Fair/Poor	Poor. Low vitality. <i>Meripilus giganteus</i> fruiting brackets at stem base indicating degraded anchorage and stability. Some sparseness of upper crown.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	12	U
T	9	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	21	1000	<10	Poor	Fair. Low vitality. Dieback in crown.	Monitor tree condition.	12	U
T	10	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Poor	Bad. Significant basal decay. Very large old tear-out wound at base of main stem.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	12	U



Caragh Tree Report
Preliminary Tree Survey Report

Type	No.	Species	Age	Ht m	Dbh mm	ERC	Phys Cond	Structural Condition/Comments	Preliminary Recommendations	RPA m	Cat
T	11	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	22	1250	<10	Poor	Poor. Large specimen tree. <i>Ganoderma spp.</i> fungal fruiting bodies on stem indicating internal wood decay.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	15	U
T	12	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	21	1000	10+	Fair	Fair. Asymmetric form due to group competition.	No urgent works needed.	12	C2
T	13	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Dieback in crown. <i>Armillaria spp.</i> Fungal fruiting bodies at stem base indicative of degraded roots and anchorage.	Monitor tree condition. Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	12	U
T	14	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	10	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Significant basal decay. Formerly large old tree that has suffered catastrophic failure of main stem at 4m in the past.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	12	U
T	15	Quercus robur (Common Oak)	M	17	800	<10	Poor	Poor. Significant dieback in crown.	Monitor tree condition. Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	9.6	U
T	16	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	20	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Significant basal decay.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	12	U
T	17	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	M	21	1250	10+	Fair	Fair. Large specimen tree.	Monitor tree condition.	15	C2
T	18	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1000	<10	Poor	Poor. Old tear-out wound on main stem. <i>Meripilus giganteus</i> fruiting brackets at stem base indicating degraded anchorage and stability. Sparse crown.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	12	U
T	19	Quercus robur (Common Oak)	M	18	850	10+	Poor	Fair. Some dieback of upper crown.	Monitor tree condition.	10.2	C2
T	20	Quercus robur (Common Oak)	M	18	850	10+	Poor/Fair	Fair. Some minor dieback of upper crown.	Monitor tree condition.	10.2	C2
T	21	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	OM	21	1250	<10	Poor	Poor. Dieback in crown. <i>Ganoderma spp.</i> fruiting brackets on lower stem indicative of significant basal decay.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	15	U
T	22	Fraxinus excelsior	M	15	600 est	<10	Poor	Poor. Large decay cavity at stem base. Epicormic growth and crown dieback indicative of Ash dieback disease.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	7.2	U
T	23	Fraxinus excelsior	M	14	450 est	<10	Poor	Poor. Epicormic growth and crown dieback indicative of Ash dieback disease. Bark damage to stem base.	Not suited for long-term retention within a new development.	5.4	U



7 TREE SURVEY PLAN

Kildare County Council
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LEGEND

- Category A Trees (High Value)
- Category B Trees (Moderate Value)
- Category C Trees (Low Value)
- Category U Trees (Poor Condition)

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

Independent Tree Surveys

Our Lady's Cottage
Diamond
Rosenallis
Co. Lifford
057 8628597 • 087 1300587
jmoran@independenttreesurveys.ie
www.independenttreesurveys.ie

Project Name: Caragh, Co. Kildare

Drawing Title: Preliminary Tree Survey

Drawing Number: C-TS-01

Client:

Agent:

Date: 12 April 2021,
Updated 18 November 2021

Scale: Not to Scale

Kildare County Council
Planning Department

12 JAN 2022

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Appendix 4 - Independent Arborist Report by Lawlor Landscapes on behalf of KCC
(19th May 2022)

LAWLOR LANDSCAPES

URBAN DESIGN & ARBORICULTURE

Bridgetown, Co Wexford

lawlorlandscapes@gmail.com



Association
of Landscape
Contractors
of Ireland

www.lawlorlandscapes.com

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Size Visit / Inspection

Location Caragh, Co. Kildare
Client Kildare County Council
Contact Jane
Date 19th May 2022

Arborist Report 05.22.006VTA

Tree Mapped @ 1:500 scale on Plan No. 05.22.006



Arborist Report by Consultant Arborist Kevin Lawlor (Dip. Arboriculture, Level 4)

Ph: 087 1354130

E: lawlorlandscapes@gmail.com

Note: *Inspections carried out from ground level observation. This inspection does not include any root inspection unless exposed, any issues internal to trees that are not visible or any issues in the crown that are not visual.*

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Location of Trees north of Caragh Village, Co. Kildare



Site Context

The location of the trees is along a hedgerow bank heading East from the R409 accessed by field gate opposite Caragh Church. The hedgerow turns 90 degrees at after approx. 180m. The trees are currently surrounded by a working dairy farm with access to the trees possible by grazing animals. There is also a farm lane 2-3m north of the northern hedgerow and 4m east of the eastern hedgerow.

The trees were tagged with aluminium tags on the side facing the lane for ease of access.



Above: Looking at trees 0601 – 0615 from the field to the south

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare				
Tree number:	0601	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	22	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	1060	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					6	8	6	7
1. Context		Large Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Good specimen tree in Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1.						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		<i>Ganoderma</i> bracket fungus on the north-east face of the root flair indicating internal decay that needs further investigation. South buttress is not visible due to scrub cover.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Stock proof fence fixed to the lower trunk. Heavy Ivy cover from 2m high to 5m high						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Significant branches 6m up the main stem. Minor dead branches, branch stubs on the north at 3.5 & 5m height.						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		Main stem separates in to 3 ascending stems at 11m and 12m high						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		Split hanging branch on the north side						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Good, full canopy with good leaf cover						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove the stock proof fence - Investigate decay fungus 					Priority (timescales)		Medium	
					Re-inspection		Annual	
					Today's date		19/05/22	

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare



Fagus sylvatica (beech) Tree 0601



Opportunistic Decay Fungus on *Fagus sylvatica* (beech) Tree 0601

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council			Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare					
Tree number:	0602	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	22m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	1030	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					8	8	7	5
1. Context		Large Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Good specimen tree in Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1. Agricultural fencing fixed to tree						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		<i>Ganoderma</i> bracket fungus on the north & east sides of the root flair indicating internal decay that needs further investigation. South buttress is not visible due to scrub cover.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Agricultural fence fixed to lower trunk. Significant bulge in the trunk at 2-3m high on the north and west sides. Ivy present.						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Main stem divides into 5 large limbs at 6m high						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		4 main ascending stems						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		Main branches appear intact with good unions						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Good, full canopy with good leaf cover						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove the stock proof fence - Investigate decay fungus 					Priority (timescales)		Medium	
					Re-inspection		Annual	
					Today's date		19/05/22	

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare



Opportunistic decay *Ganoderma* fungus on *Fagus sylvatica* (beech) Tree 0602

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare				
Tree number:	0603	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	18m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	580	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					7	5	2	4
1. Context		Large Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Good specimen tree in Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1. Agricultural fencing fixed to tree						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		Significant Ivy cover on the west. Some main roots visible along the hedgerow bank.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Not visible due to heavy Ivy cover						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Main stem splits into 2 main ascending stems at 3m high						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		Not visible due to heavy Ivy cover						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		Broken branch stub at 7m high						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Reasonable leaf cover. In the shade of the Tree 0604						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required: - Remove the stock proof fence					Priority (timescales)	Medium		
					Re-inspection	Annual		
					Today's date	19/05/22		

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare



Trees **0605, 0604, 0603** viewed from the north-west

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare				
Tree number:	0604	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	21m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	1100	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					8	6	6	8
1. Context		Large Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Good specimen tree in Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1. Agricultural fencing fixed to tree						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		Good root flair at ground level. Main anchor roots visible along the hedgerow bank.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Significant swelling of the trunk at 3-4m on the North East. Ivy cover on the south						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Main stem fans out to main branch scaffold at 6m high						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		2-3 main ascending stems from 9m upwards						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		Minor broken branches and branch stubs in canopy						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Full canopy with good leaf cover						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required: - Remove the stock proof fence					Priority (timescales)		Medium	
					Re-inspection		Annual	
					Today's date		19/05/22	

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare			
Tree number:	0605	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature
Height (m)		Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
1. Context		Large Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Good specimen tree in Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1. Agricultural fencing fixed to tree					
General assessment, target, tree location/importance							
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered.					
Cracking, heave, compaction							
3. Buttresses		Good root flair at ground level. Main anchor roots visible along the hedgerow bank.					
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity							
4. Trunk		Heavy Ivy cover from 2m upwards					
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness							
5. Main Union		Divides into main scaffold branches and 2 main ascending stems at 5m					
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity							
6. Primary Ascending Stems		2 main ascending stems at 5m					
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity							
7. Main Branches		Hazard beam branch broken on the North East. Heavy Ivy cover preventing good view					
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity							
8. Twigs & Leaves		Full canopy with good leaf cover					
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density							
Work required: - Remove the stock proof fence					Priority (timescales)	Medium	
					Re-inspection	Annual	
					Today's date	19/05/22	

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare			
Tree number:	0606	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature
Height (m)	23m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	890	Crown spread (m)	N 5	S 5	E 7 W 3
1. Context		Large Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Good specimen tree in Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1. Agricultural fencing fixed to tree					
General assessment, target, tree location/importance							
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered. Inkcap mushrooms present at the root plate on the north.					
Cracking, heave, compaction							
3. Buttresses		Good root flair					
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity							
4. Trunk		Heavy ivy cover to the south. Clear main stem.					
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness							
5. Main Union		Scaffold branches of the canopy start from 10m up the main stem					
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity							
6. Primary Ascending Stems		Single ascending stem until 14m					
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity							
7. Main Branches		Main branches high in the canopy - limited view					
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity							
8. Twigs & Leaves		Full canopy with good leaf cover					
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density							
Work required:					Priority (timescales)	Medium	
- Remove the stock proof fence					Re-inspection	Annual	
					Today's date	19/05/22	

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare



Mushrooms at the base of T0606



Mushrooms at the base of T0606

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council			Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare				
Tree number:	0607	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature
Height (m)	0607	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
				5	5	5	2
1. Context		Large Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Good specimen tree in Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1. Agricultural fencing fixed to tree					
General assessment, target, tree location/importance							
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered. Inkcap mushrooms present at the root plate on the north.					
Cracking, heave, compaction							
3. Buttresses		Good root flair					
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity							
4. Trunk		Single main stem in good condition					
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness							
5. Main Union		Single main stem in good condition					
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity							
6. Primary Ascending Stems		Single main stem in good condition					
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity							
7. Main Branches		Branches appear good. Some clusters on the east at 5m					
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity							
8. Twigs & Leaves		Full canopy with good leaf cover					
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density							
Work required: - Remove the stock proof fence				Priority (timescales)	Medium		
				Re-inspection	Annual		
				Today's date	19/05/22		

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare				
Tree number:	0608	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	24m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	870	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					6	6	4	5
1. Context		Large Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Good specimen tree in Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1. Agricultural fencing fixed to tree						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		Good root flair at ground level. Main anchor roots visible along the hedgerow bank.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Bulge on the north at 2m						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Main stem splits into canopy scaffold approx. 13m up						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		Main stem splits into canopy scaffold approx. 13m up						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		Multiple branch unions at the north and south sides at 5m and north side at 7m.						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Full canopy with good leaf cover						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required:					Priority (timescales)	Medium		
- Remove the agricultural wire					Re-inspection	Annual		
					Today's date	19/05/22		

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council			Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare					
Tree number:	0609	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)		Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m		Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
1. Context		THIS TREE IS DEAD. THE TREE HAS BEEN TAGGED AS THE HEAD IS LOST IN THE CANOPY OF 0608 AND 0610 AND MAY APPEAR ALIVE TO THE UNTRAINED EYE						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground								
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses								
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk								
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union								
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems								
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches								
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves								
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required:					Priority (timescales)	Medium		
					Re-inspection	Annual		
					Today's date	19/05/22		

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare



Dead tree 0609 in the centre lost in canopy of neighbouring trees

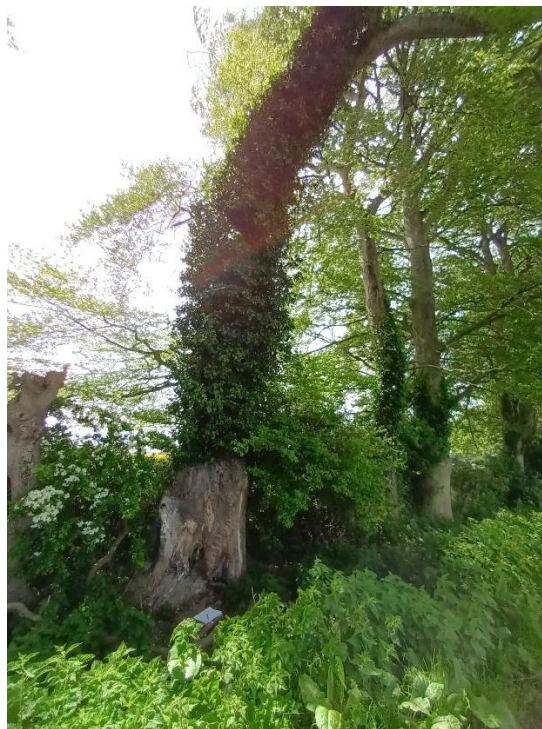
Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council			Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare					
Tree number:	0610	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	23m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	1120	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					9	2	6	5
1. Context		Large Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Tree in Category C of BS5837:2012 Table 1. Agricultural fencing fixed to tree						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		Significant damage to the buttress and lower trunk. The wound is approx.. 2m high and 1.5m wide. Decay in the centre. No wound wood being put on by the tree as would be expected.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Trunk is generally leaning East and affected by the wound described above. Significant Ivy cover						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Significant Ivy cover. Main union 6m up						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		Divides into 2 main ascending stems at 6m up						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		Cracking on the underside of a large branch on the north side at 7m up						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Good leaf cover						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove the agricultural wire - Remove branch 7m up on north side - Monitor and assess damage on trunk / buttress 					Priority (timescales)	Medium		
					Re-inspection	Annual		
					Today's date	19/05/22		

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare



Significant Damage at the buttress of 0610



0610 leaning east

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council			Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare					
Tree number:	0611	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	22m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	1340	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					10	7	9	5
1. Context		Quite Large Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Good specimen tree in Category B of BS5837:2012 Table 1. Agricultural fencing fixed to tree						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		Good root flair with some flutes close to ground level. Some decayed matter in the flutes, unidentified.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Compression Fork at 2m to 5m. Obscured by ivy but included bark union suspected.						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Poor union at 2 to 5m high with possible included bark making a weak union. Crack may be forming from compression fork but obscured by ivy.						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		2 main stems ascending from 5m						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		Heavy ivy cover obscuring view						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Good leaf cover						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required:					Priority (timescales)	Medium		
- Remove the agricultural wire					Re-inspection	Annual		
- Monitor and inspect compression fork					Today's date	19/05/22		

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare				
Tree number:	0612	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	26m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	930	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					10	4	9	3
1. Context		Large Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Good specimen tree in Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1. Agricultural fencing fixed to tree						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		Good root flair at ground level. Main anchor roots visible along the hedgerow bank.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Ivy cover on trunk. Tree leans to the North-east after 6m up main stem						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Large branches to the south 6m up. View obscured by Ivy						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		Branches to the south @ 6m ascend to canopy with main stem						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		View obscured by Ivy						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Good leaf cover						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required: - Remove the agricultural wire from lower trunk					Priority (timescales)		Medium	
					Re-inspection		Annual	
					Today's date		19/05/22	

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council			Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare					
Tree number:	0613	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)		Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m		Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
1. Context		Large Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Good specimen tree in Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1. Agricultural fencing fixed to tree						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		Overgrown with ivy to the south. Root flair with some crevices.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Significant Ivy cover from 2m up.						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Main stem divides East @4m, West @6m and North @11m						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		Branches split from main stems to form a good canopy scaffold						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		Ivy covered at the base of most branches. Dead branch stubs at 6m on east and 7m on south.						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Good leaf cover						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required:					Priority (timescales)	Medium		
- Remove the agricultural wire from lower trunk					Re-inspection	Annual		
					Today's date	19/05/22		

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare				
Tree number:	0614	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)		Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m		Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
1. Context		Tree on the north face of a small hedgerow embankment. The hedgerow divides 2 agricultural fields. There is a heavily compacted stone laneway to the 2-3m north of the tree. Tree would be Category C of BS5837:2012 Table 1. Agricultural fencing fixed to tree. Significant damage and poor overall form.						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted stone lane 2-3m to the north of the tree over the RPA. Ground somewhat compacted from livestock around the base of the tree and grass covered.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		Good root flair at ground level. Main anchor roots visible along the hedgerow bank. Tree is split with significant decay present on the east						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Significant damage from splitting, possible from compression fork or poor union. Decay is present. Significant vertical split present on the north side of the tree. Some wound wood to the south of the damage.						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Main union 3m up on the north side						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		2 main ascending stems from the union at 3m up						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		Generally poor form with crossing limbs causing damage						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Leaf cover ok						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required:					Priority (timescales)	Medium		
- Monitor this declining tree					Re-inspection	Annual		
- Shorten limbs to lessen load on decayed stem					Today's date	19/05/22		
- May be safer to remove given the farm road is a target								
- Remove agricultural wire								

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare



Damage to *Fagus sylvatica* (beech) 0614



Damage to *Fagus sylvatica* (beech) 0614

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare				
Tree number:	0615	Tree species:	<i>Quercus robur</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	18m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	650mm	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					2	2	0	3
1. Context		This is near an agricultural gate at the end of a hedgerow embankment. There is a stone farm roadway of heavily compacted stone to the north and east of this tree. The gateway ground is compacted from farm traffic and livestock. Generally the ground around the tree is compacted by livestock. Some veteran features including upper canopy deadwood however possibly AOD (Acute Oak Decline) from compaction / stress.						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		The gateway ground is compacted from farm traffic and livestock. Generally the ground around the tree is compacted by livestock. Road to the north and east is approx. 2m away from the main stem.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		Difficult to inspect with wire, scrub, galvanise sheeting and ivy all present.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Heavy Ivy cover from 1m up the main stem						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Main union is obscured by ivy and whitethorn						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		2 main ascending stems from 5m up the main stem. Appear in reasonable condition. Some dead minor branches. Main stems extend to deadwood in the tips.						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		Mostly ascending limbs ending in deadwood typical for a veteran tree. This should be monitored however standing Oak deadwood can be valuable saproxylic habitat.						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Lower canopy appears good with good flushes of leaves. Less leaves and more deadwood the further up the canopy.						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor for Acute Oak Decline and fungi or pest colonisation - Remove the wire from this tree 					Priority (timescales)		Medium	
					Re-inspection		Annual	
					Today's date		19/05/22	

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare				
Tree number:	0616	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	25m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	890mm	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					7	6	9	6
1. Context		Beside agricultural gateway in frequent use. Quite large tree with a compacted stone farm roadway along the east side. Tree is on an embankment between 2 agricultural fields. Tree would be Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Heavily compacted by livestock. Some main anchor roots visible along the embankment, these have been undermined and are quite exposed.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		Ground is lower to the east side of the embankment. Root flair extends along the embankment to the north west. Decaying gash / wound to the buttress on the east @ 1m high extending up to approx. 6m high.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Main stem in straight up to 6m high. Discolouration along part of the east side of the stem, possibly coming from the main union. Source is unclear from ground level.						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Tree separates into ascending stems on the west @ 6m and several more @ 9m high						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		Several ascending stems from 9m high. These all appear in good condition from the ground.						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		A mix of good branches and some decaying minor branches						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Good full leaf cover through the canopy						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required:					Priority (timescales)	Medium		
- Inspect the source of discolouration on main stem					Re-inspection	Annual		
- Remove agricultural wire					Today's date	19/05/22		

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare



Lower main stem of *Fagus sylvatica* (beech) 0616

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare				
Tree number:	0617	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	22m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	1060mm	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					6	6	6	8
1. Context		Hedgerow tree on the east of an embankment between agricultural fields. Heavily compacted farm road 4m to the east of the tree. Tree would be Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Ground to the east and west compacted from livestock. No visual signs of heaving or cracking.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		Roots visible along the embankment. Root flair good and some flutes in the main stem at the root flair. Some minor splitting of the root flair also.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Straight main stem up to 5m with some ivy cover						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Main union of 2 stems at 5m high and separates again into 2 on the north ascending stem						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		5m high and separates again into 2 on the north ascending stem						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		Dense minor lower branches and a full dense upper canopy overall						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Good leaf cover and a dense canopy						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required: - Remove the agricultural wire					Priority (timescales)		Medium	
					Re-inspection		Annual	
					Today's date		19/05/22	

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare				
Tree number:	0618	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	24m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	1040mm	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					2	7	7	7
1. Context		Hedgerow tree on the east of an embankment between agricultural fields. Heavily compacted farm road 4m to the east of the tree. Tree would be Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1						
General assessment, target, tree location/importance								
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Ground to the east and west compacted from livestock. No visual signs of heaving or cracking. Significant deadwood on the ground at the eastern base of the tree.						
Cracking, heave, compaction								
3. Buttresses		Roots visible along the embankment. Root flair good and some flutes in the main stem at the root flair.						
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity								
4. Trunk		Large decaying tear on the east where a main branch has ripped away from the main stem. Tear from approx. 5m up to 7.5m vertically on the east of the main stem.						
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness								
5. Main Union		Splits into multiple ascending limbs from 8m high						
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity								
6. Primary Ascending Stems		Splits into multiple ascending limbs from 8m high						
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
7. Main Branches		Possible decay on the North-east ascending stem and a dead branch under this ascending limb.						
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity								
8. Twigs & Leaves		Generally goo leaf cover						
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density								
Work required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor the decay and deadwood - Remove the agricultural wire 					Priority (timescales)	Medium		
					Re-inspection	Annual		
					Today's date	19/05/22		

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare



Main stem of *Fagus sylvatica* (beech) 0618

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare				
Tree number:	0619	Tree species:	<i>Quercus robur</i>			Age:	Mature	
Height (m)	21m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	890mm	Crown spread (m)	N	S	E	W
					6	7	7	6
1. Context								
General assessment, target, tree location/importance		Hedgerow tree on the east of an embankment between agricultural fields. Heavily compacted farm road 4m to the east of the tree. Tree would be Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1						
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground								
Cracking, heave, compaction		Ground to the east and west compacted from livestock. No visual signs of heaving or cracking.						
3. Buttresses								
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity		Straight stem down to ground level. All sides appear intact – difficult to inspect west side with scrub / hedgerow / ground level change						
4. Trunk								
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness		In good condition with a straight main stem. Heavy ivy cover from 2m up.						
5. Main Union								
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity		Main union at 5m high separating into several main scaffold branches						
6. Primary Ascending Stems								
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity		Main ascending stem in the centre of the canopy extending to canopy. Significant ivy cover						
7. Main Branches								
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity		Some decaying and dead minor branches present. Hazard beam at 3m high on the west side.						
8. Twigs & Leaves								
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density		Full crown with good leaf cover						
Work required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor condition and extent of dead minor limbs - Remove the agricultural wire 					Priority (timescales)		Medium	
					Re-inspection		Annual	
					Today's date		19/05/22	

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare			
Tree number:	0620	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature
Height (m)	24m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	760mm	Crown spread (m)	N 7	S 4	E 7 W 5
1. Context		Hedgerow tree on the east of an embankment between agricultural fields. Heavily compacted farm road 4m to the east of the tree. Tree would be Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1					
General assessment, target, tree location/importance							
2. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Ground to the east and west compacted from livestock. No visual signs of heaving or cracking.					
Cracking, heave, compaction							
3. Buttresses		Straight stem down to ground level. All sides appear intact – difficult to inspect west side with scrub / hedgerow / ground level change					
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity							
4. Trunk		In good condition with a straight main stem					
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness							
5. Main Union		Separates into 3 main ascending stems at 7m high. Heavy Ivy cover					
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity							
6. Primary Ascending Stems		3 stems ascending upwards with main branches forming a full scaffold for canopy					
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity							
7. Main Branches		Good canopy of main scaffold branches					
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity							
8. Twigs & Leaves		Full canopy with good leaf cover					
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density							
Work required: - Remove the agricultural wire					Priority (timescales)	Medium	
					Re-inspection	Annual	
					Today's date	19/05/22	

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Client: Kildare County Council				Site Address: Caragh, Co Kildare			
Tree number:	0621	Tree species:	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>			Age:	Mature
Height (m)	21m	Diameter (mm) @ 1.5m	760mm	Crown spread (m)	N 7	S 4	E 7 W 5
9. Context		This is a large and attractive Oak tree. A hedgerow tree on the east of an embankment between agricultural fields. Heavily compacted farm road 4m to the east of the tree. Tree would be Category A of BS5837:2012 Table 1 given its specific value both alive or decaying					
General assessment, target, tree location/importance							
10. Roots & Surrounding Ground		Ground to the east and west compacted from livestock. No visual signs of heaving or cracking. Agricultural gateway with high usage to the south of the tree and compacted farm road made of stone to the east.					
Cracking, heave, compaction							
11. Buttresses		Ground level lower on the east of the tree. Significant scrub to the west side of the buttress making inspection not possible. Hollows and some flutes present on the main buttress at the ground level Multiple <i>Ganoderma</i> bracket fungi present. Newest bracket fungi present on the root plate at east/ south east side.					
Decay, physical damage, structural integrity							
12. Trunk		Older <i>Ganoderma</i> fungi present on the main stem up to approx. 3 m. Multiple wound wood joins from previous sealing of wounds by the tree					
biotic/abiotic damage, exudates, structural integrity, slenderness							
13. Main Union		Large branches in all direction from 7m up the main stem					
decay, other plants, exudates, structural integrity							
14. Primary Ascending Stems		Main stem weaves to the west and continues to the top of the canopy					
Biotic/abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity							
15. Main Branches		Good canopy of main scaffold branches. Limited visibility.					
Biotic /abiotic factors, deadwood, structural integrity							
16. Twigs & Leaves		Full canopy with good leaf cover. Some minor dead branches present in canopy.					
Biotic/abiotic factors, size, colour, density							
Work required:					Priority (timescales)	Medium	
- Investigate <i>Ganoderma</i> / internal decay					Re-inspection	Annual	
- Remove the agricultural wire					Today's date	19/05/22	

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare



New *Ganoderma* fungi on 0621 *Quercus robur* (Oak)

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare



Old *Ganoderma* fungi on 0621 *Quercus robur* (Oak)

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare



Lower Main Stem of 0621 *Quercus robur* (Oak)

Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

Conclusion

The tree assessment covered a total of 21 no. *Fagus spp.* and *Quercus spp.* trees in varying states. For the majority trees are currently in a mature and stable condition. Some trees had endured physical damage, possibly from storms, and had decaying wounds as a result of the damage. This can particularly be observed in the case of 0614 for example.

It is also worth noting that along the western line of the trees from 0601 onwards heading east there are a number of decayed stumps of trees that appear to have failed 1-2m above ground level. It is difficult to say how or why but this should be noted given the presence of opportunistic decay fungi on trees in the neighbouring area being considered for TPO. Regardless, there is no such thing as a completely 'Safe' tree anyway.

Trees generally fell into the Category A of Table 1 of BS5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction' however this may change over time and may change if internal investigations were called for. The Oak trees with some decay issues or dieback are given Category A status in the inspection due to their value as saproxylic habitat where standing deadwood is present.

Fagus sylvatica 0614 is a tree with some risk of mechanical failure and might be worth considering for removal by the tree owner. 0609 is dead and should be removed for safety reasons as the farm lane is a target.

The trees with *Ganoderma* fungus need to be monitored. Fungi on Trees; An Arborists Field Guide (published by the Arboricultural Association) explains *Ganoderma* decay fungus as a localised white rot that can spread along the horizontal rays of the timber and result in the delignification of the wood. This is significant as the cell walls of wood are made up of lignin giving timber strength. Advanced decay can result in the mechanical failure of the mainstem or root plate. Where there is compensatory wood forming this can prolong the acceptable tolerance of the tree to live with the decay but all of this depends on many other factors of the tree, setting; change of land use and other health issues.

Part of the requested work from Kildare Co Council involved 2 no. *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash) trees observed at a distance as they are on lands without permission for access from the landowner. They were showing possible signs of *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* commonly known as Ash Dieback, however trees were in early leaf flush and bark was unable to be inspected for other signs confirming the presence of the disease.

Generally these are important trees and worth protecting. The value of large trees to the environment and as habitat is really quite significant. Decaying oak trees with veteran features are known to be a very valuable habitat for saproxylic insects that require deadwood.



Arborist Report by Consultant Arborist Kevin Lawlor (Dip. Arboriculture, Level 4)

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Visual Tree Inspection at Caragh, Co. Kildare

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Tree No.	Unique number corresponding to a number on a plan
Species	Botanical name followed by common name of the tree
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
Size (m)	Height in metres
Condition	Comment on the physiological and structural condition of the tree
Action	Works to be taken to the tree
Priority	When works should be carried out in order to prioritise risk reduction or when further monitoring is required

Immediate = as soon as practically possible

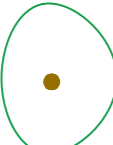
High = within 1 year


Medium = within 2 years

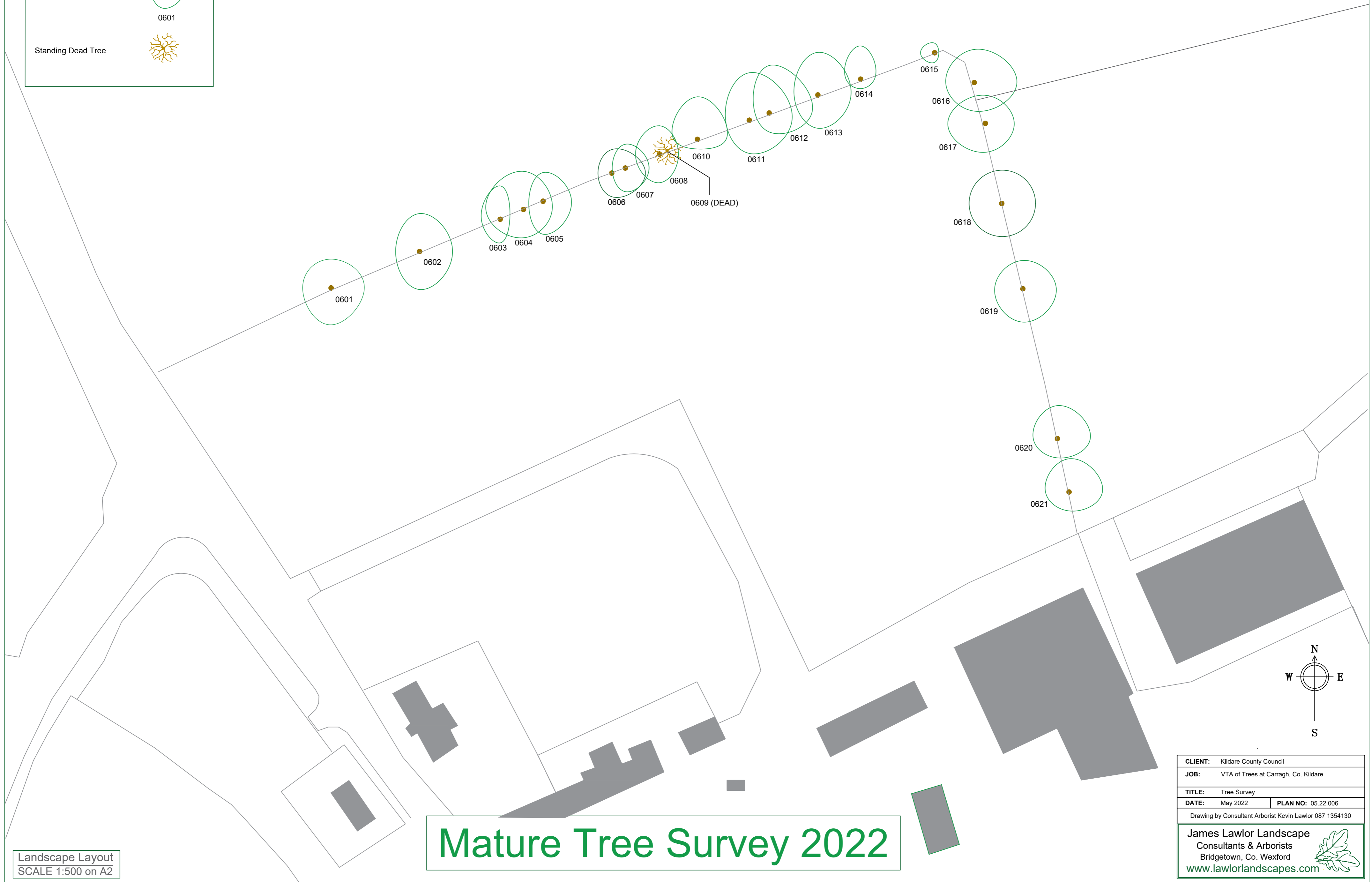
Low = within 3 – 5 years

Deadwood	Minor	=	< 23mm diameter
	Moderate	=	26mm-150mm diameter and < 1m in length
	Major	=	26mm-150mm diameter and > 1m in length
			Or > 150mm diameter

SURVEY KEY

Existing Tree & Tag No.  0601

Standing Dead Tree 




Landscape Layout
SCALE 1:500 on A2


Mature Tree Survey 2022

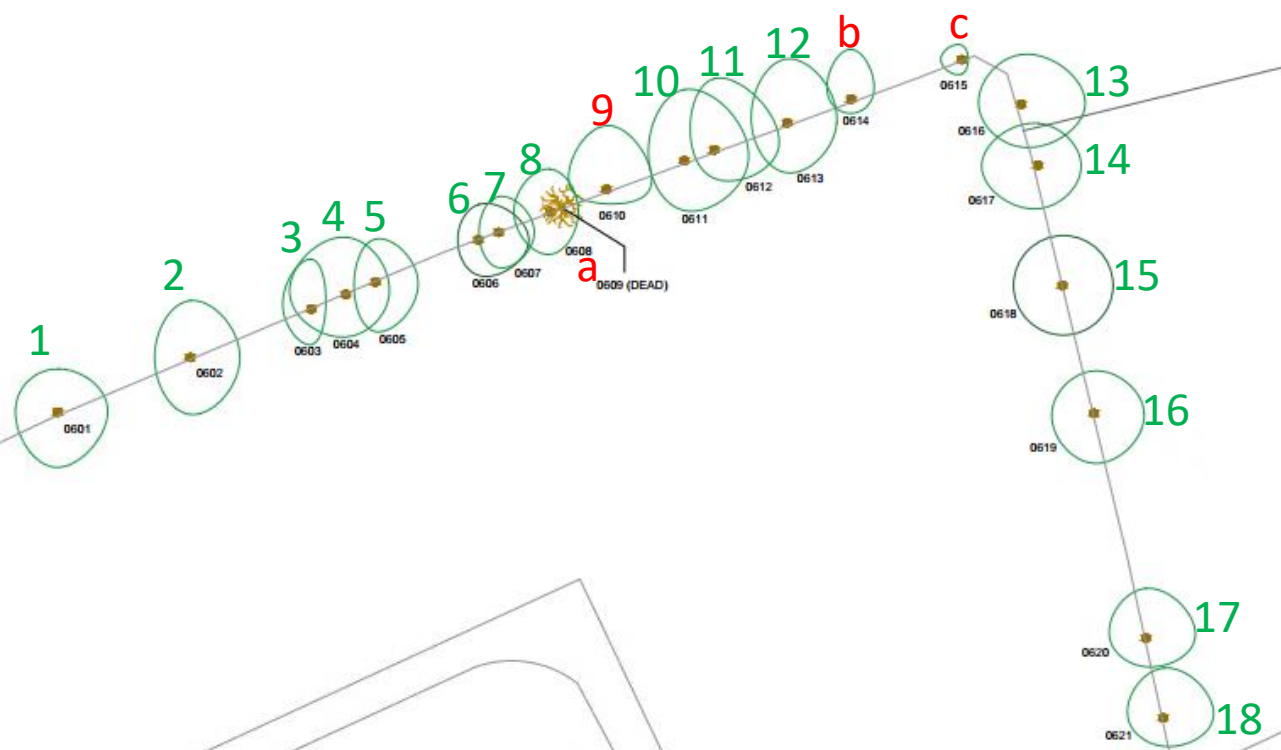
CLIENT:	Kildare County Council		
JOB:	VTA of Trees at Carragh, Co. Kildare		
TITLE:	Tree Survey		
DATE:	May 2022	PLAN NO:	05.22.006
Drawing by Consultant Arborist Kevin Lawlor 087 1354130			
James Lawlor Landscape Consultants & Arborists Bridgetown, Co. Wexford www.lawlorlandscapes.com			

Appendix 5 – Annotated Map of amended proposed TPO, KCC (July 2022)

SURVEY KEY

Existing Tree & Tag No.  0601

Standing Dead Tree 



The following trees numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 are recommended to be a TPO.

Tree No. 9 should not be part of this TPO kept as it is too damaged.

Tree Nos. 19 and 20 both have Ash Dieback and therefore should also not be part of this TPO.

Tree listed as letters were not part of the original TPO and it is not proposed to add any of these trees to this TPO.

- a – This tree is dead
- b and c – These trees are too damaged



CLIENT:	Kildare County Council
JOB:	VTA of Trees at Ceragi, Co. Kildare
TITLE:	Tree Survey
DATE:	May 2022
PLAN NO:	05.22.009
Drawing by Consultant Arborist Kevin Lawlor 087 1354130	
James Lawlor Landscape Consultants & Arborists Bridgetown, Co. Wexford www.lawlorlandscapes.com	

Mature Tree Survey 2022