

**Arboricultural Assessment**  
(Tree survey)

To assess the trees

On the site at

Newtowngore  
Co. Leitrim

**February 2024**

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## **PART ONE – ARBORICULTURAL ASSESSMENT**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to set out the findings following the inspection of trees on site at, **Newtowngore, Co. Leitrim** and set out their condition. The survey work was undertaken 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 by the undersigned a qualified arboricultural consultant. The term of reference for the report is a submission as part of a planning application on the site. The following categories have been used within the tree report tables and, where appropriate, the criterion used to define each category is defined.

- **Tree No.** : refers to the identification tag attached to a tree [also identified as such on the accompanying survey drawings]
- **Species** : refers to the common and scientific name given to the tree.
- **Stem diameter** : refers to the diameter of the tree stem in millimetres, as measured at 1.5 metres above ground level and above the root flare for multi-stemmed trees.
- **Height** : refers to the total height of the tree in metres. ( Heights measured with a TruPluse® 200)
- **Crown spread** : refers to the width of the crown in metres, measured at each cardinal point on the compass. [Dimensions marked with # are estimates as per 4.4.2.6 c) – BS 5837:2012]
- **Condition** : refers to the physiological condition of the tree as a whole described as:
  - Good** – Full healthy canopy but possibly including some suppressed or damaged branches
  - Fair** – Slightly reduced leaf cover, minor dead wood or isolated major dead wood
  - Poor** – Overall sparse leafing or extensive dead wood
- **Age** An estimation of the age of the tree described as;
  - V- Veteran, trees, which by recognized criteria, show features of biological, cultural or aesthetic value that are characteristic of, but not exclusive to individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species concerned.
  - OM – Over Mature, trees reaching the end of their life, in decline and senescent.
  - M – Mature, fully grown, with only small annual increments.
  - EM – Early Mature, one-third to two thirds of total life expired.

Y – Young, recent planting, with up to one third of total life expired.

- **Remarks:** Descriptive comments about the health (physiological) or form (structural) of the tree, its environment or external influences and may include preliminary management recommendations.

**Category grade**

- **U** -Those trees in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10years and which should be in the correct context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.
  - **A** –Those trees of a high quality and value in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution.
  - **B** - Those trees of a moderate quality and value in such a condition as to be able to make a significant contribution.
  - **C**- Those trees of a low quality and value currently inadequate condition to remain until new planting could be established, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm
- 
- **Estimated remaining contribution in years (ERC):** Expressed as less than 10, 10+, 20+, more than 40

**Glossary of terms used:**

**Basal:** The base of the tree close to the ground, (basal shoots are those emanating from the base).

**Crown (canopy):** The leaves and branches of a tree.

**Co-dominant:** Stems or branches of near equal diameter, often weakly attached.

**Decay:** Degradation of wood by fungi and/or bacteria.

**Defect:** Any feature of a tree which detracts from the uniform distribution of mechanical stress, or which makes the tree mechanically unsuited to its environment.

**Dieback:** The death of part of a plant, usually starting from a distal point and often progressing in stages.

**Epicormic** : Pertaining to shoots or roots, which are initiated on mature woody stems; shoots may form in this way from dormant buds or they may be adventitious.

**Dysphotic zone** : A zone within the canopy which does not have enough light to carry out photosynthesis.

**Included Union**: bark and cambium of adjacent parts of a tree's stem (usually in forks, acutely angled branches or basal flutes), which is in face-to-face contact, so that there is weakness due to the lack of a woody union.

**Lean**: Departure of the trunk from the vertical.

**Scaffold limbs**: The branches, which form the main framework of the crown of a tree with a decurrent growth habit.

**Shoot**: A shoot derived from a dormant or adventitious bud on the main stem or branch.

**Stub/peg**: A short section of a branch, which may have, been left after previous pruning or storm damage.

**Wound**: Injuries on the surface of a trunk or branch.

**Full**: A canopy, which extends to the ground or nearly to the ground

**Natural suppressed deadwood**: Deadwood in conifers, which died as the crown height extended and the lower branch no longer have a function in the production of foliage.

**Pathogens**: Fungal and /or bacterial infections, which degrade the wood and render trees liable to failure

**Wound wood**: Wood with atypical anatomical features, formed in the vicinity of a wound or the occluding tissue around a wound

**Hazard Limb**: An upwardly curved part in which strong internal stresses may occur, cause wood to crack

**Burr**: Woody protuberances, especially those derived from the mass proliferation of adventitious buds.

**Root protection area (RPA)** : layout design tool indicating the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability, and where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority.

**Survey Results**

Tree no.	Species	Height (m)	Stem dia. (mm)	Spread (m)	Condition	Age	ERC	Remarks	Grade
6962	Lawson cypress <i>Chamaecyparis lawsonina</i>	23.3	1000	N4.0 S8.0 E4.0 W4.0	Poor	M	10-20	This trees stem bifurcates, it has multiple scaffolds in the upper crown. It has a tall drawn up stem. It has moderate ivy and scattered deadwood in its dysphotic zone.	C
6963	Lawson cypress <i>Chamaecyparis lawsonina</i>	2.5	900	N3.0 S11.0 E7.0 W1.0	Poor	M	10-20	A tree with a leaning stem, which bifurcates, it has two tall drawn up stems. It has an asymmetric crown. It has a high crown leader with scattered deadwood. It has lost its apical leader.	C
6964	Lawson cypress <i>Chamaecyparis lawsonina</i>	20.7	900	N9.0 S3.0 E9.0 W3.0	Poor	M	10-20	A tree with two main stems forming an asymmetric canopy. It has a suffered a catastrophic limb failure and has lost its apical leader.	C
6965	Lawson cypress <i>Chamaecyparis lawsonina</i>	20.3	1000	N7.0 S3.0 E8.0 W6.0	Poor	M	10-20	A tree with multiple scaffold branches, it has broken branches hanging in its crown. The canopy is one side to the adjoining field. It has moderate ivy on its distorted stems.	C

To the west of this group are five suckers, two are moribund and the other three have dense ivy. They have slender stems with tall drawn up canopies.

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Tree no.	Species	Height (m)	Stem dia. (mm)	Spread (m)	Condition	Age	ERC	Remarks	Grade
								Further west along the northern boundary are a group of Hawthorn , Blackthorn and Willow growing around an old shed.	
								The western boundary is a remnant hedge with dense bramble and Willow scrub.	
6966	Lawson cypress <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	12.5	200-400	N4.0 S4.0 E4.0 W4.0	Poor	EM	10-20	A group of three trees, originally planted as a screen hedge. They have multiple scaffolds branches , tall drawn up asymmetric crown with scattered deadwood.	C
6967	Leyland cypress <i>X Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	19.0	900	N2.0 S9.0 E3.0 W3.0	Poor	M	10-20	This tree has a main stem and a sub dominant stem. It has a one side crown, it has a tall drawn up high canopy with suppressed deadwood.	C
6968	Leyland cypress <i>X Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	22.0	1350	N9.0 S6.0 E5.0 W5.0	Poor	M	10-20	A tree with multiple stems, it has recently been topped it has poor form and has suppressed deadwood.	C
6969	Leyland cypress <i>X Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	20.9	600	N4.0 S5.0 E6.0 W3.0	Poor	M	10-20	A tree with a single stem with a one sided crown with moderate ivy cover.	C



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Tree no.	Species	Height (m)	Stem dia. (mm)	Spread (m)	Condition	Age	ERC	Remarks	Grade
6970	Leyland cypress <i>X Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	19.5	1100	N11.0 S4.0 E8.0 W8.0	Poor	M	10-20	A large specimen with very dense ivy cover. It has been topped. It has multiple stems with a wide base.	C
6971	Horse chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	6.6	2.0	N2.0 S2.0 E2.0 W2.0	Good	Y	40+	A recently planted tree with good form.	C
6972	Cherry <i>Prunus serrulata</i>	6.8	250	N4.0 S2.0 E4.0 W2.0	Poor	M	10-20	The base is grafted, it has poor form and is infected with bacterial canker. It has truncated branches stubs and deadwood. . it has a dense canopy with crossing and rubbing branches.	C
6973	Norway maple <i>Acer Platanoides</i>	5.5	80	N1.0 S1.0 E1.0 W1.0	Good	Y	40+	A recently planted tree which still has its support stake.	C
6974	Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	6.5	90	N2.0 S2.0 E2.0 W2.0	Good	Y	40+	A recently established tree with good form, it is free from defects.	C

TREE SURVEY | SITE AT NEWTOWNGORE, CO. LEITRIM.

Tree no.	Species	Height (m)	Stem dia. (mm)	Spread (m)	Condition	Age	ERC	Remarks	Grade
6975	Cherry plum <i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	6.4	100	N2.0 S2.0 E2.0 W2.0	Good	Y	20+	A recently planted tree, the support stke is still attached and has caused damage to the stem. It has an open crown with very minor deadwood.	C



### **Assumptions and Limitations**

This tree survey was carried out from the ground, no invasive or destructive evaluation techniques were used; all findings observations and recommendations are based on the knowledge and experience of the undersigned a qualified Arboriculturalist. Information contained in this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the condition of those items at the time of the inspection.

Findings are based on a visual report from ground level only and it should be borne in mind it is subject only to faults visible at the time of inspection, certain pathogens only produce seasonal fruiting bodies and consequentially may not have been noted during this assessment. All trees should be monitored on a regular basis for signs of defects and should be reported to a person qualified to diagnose them and to recommend treatment.

In the event of adverse weather conditions, there is the possibility of any tree, despite having a good report, falling over or suffering crown damage. In the event of a falling tree causing damage to residential or non residential buildings in their proximity, or to any person, any property public or private, or any mechanical vehicle or otherwise no liability will attach to this firm.

There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the trees in question may not arise in the future. The author takes no responsibility for any actions taken by the landowner or their agents by reasons of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made.

This report is intended solely for the benefit of the parties to whom it is addressed and no responsibility is extended to any third party for the whole or any part of its contents. All trees mentioned in this report should be subject to reassessment every two years to assess physiological and environmental changes.

## **PART TWO - ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

### **General Description of Site and Surroundings**

The site is an enclosed field. To the west and north of the site is open pasture. To the south are houses and to the east is the public road defined by a stone wall with some recently planted trees and a mature Cherry. Along the northern boundary is a stand of Cypress trees, they are unmanaged and some have suffered storm damage and some have been topped.

### **Description of Proposed Development**

The development comprises of the construction of 7 no. residential units which comprises of (a) Type A- 2 no. two storey 3 bed semi-detached houses (b.) Type B - 3 no. two storey 3 bed terraced houses. (c.) Type C – 2 no. single storey 2 bed semidetached houses. The proposed development will also consist of removal of existing site entrance, and construction of new site entrance, demolition of existing stone wall and construction of new low level boundary stone clad wall to the east facing existing road, demolition of existing derelict shed, new access road, footpaths, removal of existing trees to allow construction of boundary wall and fence, public & private open spaces, , hard & soft landscaped areas, planting of new native trees, hedges and shrubs, car parking spaces, electric car charging points, street lighting, ducting for utilities and formation of new connections to existing foul/surface water drainage and existing utilities.

### **Designations Relating to Trees**

There are no Tree Preservation Orders on the site. There is no objective in the County Development plan to protect and preserve trees and Woodlands at locations within the site.

### **Implications of Proposed Development**

The current proposal under consideration has the following impact on the existing trees.

**(1) Direct Loss of Trees**

The following trees will have to be removed due to a direct impact; 6962, 6963, 6964 and 6965 for the houses, 6971 and 6972 for access road. Summary Table of survey trees

Grade	Total No.	No. to be removed	% of all trees (14)
U (worst – remove)			

Grade	Total No.	No. to be removed*	% of grade	% of all trees (14)
'V' Veteran				
'A' (best quality)				
'B' (moderate quality)				
'C' (low quality)	14	11	78.57%	78.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>		

**(2) Indirect Impacts**

Changes in Ground Level / Changes in Ground Surface within Root protection area (RPA).

Tree. 6966, 6967, 6968, 6969 and 6970 are not suitable for retention within the rear gardens of the proposed residential development due to their condition, size and species type. In addition to their characteristic they are so close to the proposed development that the roots would be damaged, which would compromise their stability.

The Norway maple, 6973 is young and can be relocated.

Services

No retained trees are impacted by proposed services.

### Condition

There are no trees on the site which need to be removed due to their current condition if no development takes place.

### **Change in Site Use and Tree Management Implications**

#### Above ground constraints

The retained trees 6973 and 6974 are in locations where they will not be affected by the proposed buildings.

#### Potential Root Damage to Infrastructure

Modern construction techniques, soil types together with the species and age of the retained trees and their location make damage to infrastructure unlikely.

#### Construction Implications

General precautions in storage or mixing of materials that may be injurious to trees will need to be taken. All toxic materials, (cement, mortar, bitumen, diesel, bonding agents, etc) will be stored 10m from root protection areas. (See on attached drawing) No wash out facilities will be provided for ready mix concrete/mortar deliveries. All fuels stored on site will be banded to prevent spillage or leakage.

#### Proposals for tree management

All retained trees will have necessary remedial tree surgery to ensure there are no hazard branches, deadwood and weak limbs. All retained trees will be subject to regular inspections.

## **PART THREE - ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT**

### **Introduction**

This document sets out the methodology for all proposed works that affect trees on and adjacent to the site. Compliance with this method statement will be a requirement of all relevant contractors associated with the development proposals. Copies of this document will be available for inspection on site. The developer will inform the local planning authority within twenty-four hours if the arboricultural consultant is replaced.

The contractor shall take all precautions to ensure that any trees, which are to be retained, shall remain undisturbed and undamaged.

All works to trees and all operations adjacent to trees should be undertaken in accordance with the Method Statement. The contractor shall undertake no works to trees unless instructed by the Contract Administrator. All works within or close to the protected tree zones are to be supervised by the appointed Consultant Arboriculturalist. Two working days notice of intention to undertake such works to be given prior to any works commencing.

### **Root Protection Area**

In accordance with the Method statement and as per the issued drawings protective fences shall be erected before the commencement of building works any works on site (other than remedial tree works and erection of the boundary fence). The area within the tree fencing should be clearly identified with signage as the 'Protected Tree Zone'. The local planning authority will be notified in writing once the fencing is in place. Strictly no access should be permitted to this zone unless instructed by the CA. The appointed Consultant Arboriculturalist should be notified of any works or access to this zone. The fencing will remain in place until completion of the main construction phase and then only removed with the consent of the local planning authority to permit completion of the scheme.

Other than works detailed within this method statement or approved in writing by the local planning authority, no works including storage or dumping of materials shall take place within the exclusion zones defined by the protective fencing. No fires should be lit close to or within 20 metres of the trunk of any tree that is to be retained. No materials that are likely to have an adverse effect on tree health such as oil, bitumen or cement will be stored or discharged within 10 metres of the trunk of a tree that is to be retained.

### Code of Practice for the preservation of trees

The following code of practice is intended for the preservation of existing trees. These guidelines will help sustain vigour and minimise adverse growing conditions, for trees set out for retention.

This code will be brought to the attention of all site personnel including Main Contractor, sub-contractors and engineering specialists associated with the project. As appropriate this method statement should be translated. All operations are to be in accordance with BS 5837: 2012, *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction*. The main contractor should purchase and make available on site a copy of the above.

### Prior Notice and Tree removal

All necessary tree works are to be undertaken prior to the commencement of any other works on site. Trees must only be removed with the necessary licenses (*Forestry Act 2014*)<sup>1</sup> or permits. All necessary licenses and permits should be inspected by the appointed Consultant Arboriculturalist prior to commencement of works.

### The Arboricultural Consultant will:

- Liaise with the relevant authorities during the project.
- Constantly monitor the project with regard to tree health to ensure that no damage is caused to the subject trees during the operational works.
- Report any negligent damage to trees, which will prejudice their health.
- Monitor works carried out by the Arboricultural Contractor and Main Contractor within the 'Root Protection Area'.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that under the Forestry Act 2014, no felling licence will be required on receipt of planning permission.



### Soft Landscaping within Exclusion Zones

Preparation of ground in these areas will be carried out under the supervision of the arboricultural consultant.

### Guidelines for Root Pruning:

- Roots smaller than 25mm diameter may be pruned back, roots with a diameter greater should only be cut following consultation with an arboriculturist.
- Roots should be cut cleanly after excavation to promote callus formation and wound closure.
- Exposed roots to be protected where an area of work is to be left open, particularly along the face of the excavation for the underground car parking. In winter, exposed roots are to be wrapped with dry sacking overnight.
- In summer, exposed roots are to be covered with damp sacking at all times. A suitable irrigation / drip feed system should be installed to keep sacking wet at all times.
- Back filling materials used around roots are to be of a fine granular material with no toxins and not susceptible to frost heave.

### Offences and Penalties

Any damage whatsoever, caused to the protected trees shall be notified to JM McConville + Associates, so that the damage can be assessed and rectified and the main contractor subject to financial penalty as per the Conditions of Contract. Value of damaged tree will be assessed using the 'Helliwell System'.

### Supervision and Monitoring

The arboricultural consultant will be responsible for monitoring of all arboricultural works and issuing a certificate of practical completion. In addition, the arboricultural consultant will inspect the protective fencing and monitor any works within exclusion zones.

A record of site visits will be maintained for inspection on site and copies forwarded to the developer / agent and to the local planning authority. The Contractor shall not fell any trees under any circumstances. All works within the protected tree zones are to be supervised by the arboricultural consultant.

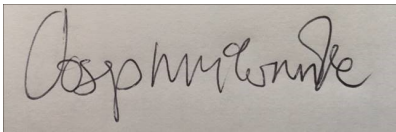
### Tree Protection Barrier Fencing

Tree protection barriers are to be in accordance with BS 5837:2012, clause 6.2. Barrier fencing to be 2.0 m high, comprising of 'Herras' style fence, each panel to be secured to the adjoining panel fixed to scaffold poles in with a minimum of 2 anti-tamper couplers, installed so that they can only

**TREE SURVEY | SITE AT NEWTOWNGORE, CO. LEITRIM.**

be removed from inside the fence. The panels are to be supported by stabilizers struts on the inside. Barrier fencing is to be installed to an agreed alignment. The Alignment is to be marked out on site and approved by the arboricultural consultant prior to erection of the barrier fencing. 'Construction Exclusion Zone' signage to be securely attached to the fence. Barrier fencing is to be maintained by the main contractor for the duration of the contract. All damage to be reported immediately to the Arboricultural consultant. Damaged fencing is to be repaired within 2 hours of the damage occurring to the satisfaction of the Arboricultural consultant.

All site operations in the vicinity of the damaged fencing are to be suspended until the fencing is repaired. During site inspections the Arboricultural consultant reserves the right to authorise the cessation of all works in proximity to the protected zones with immediate effect. A breach of such an instruction will be deemed to be a dismissible offence for the employee. As contract work progresses the protective barrier fence can only be adjusted under the supervision of the arboricultural consultant.



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