

# **Arborist Associates Ltd.**

## **An Arboricultural Assessment of the Hedgerow Vegetation within the Site Area at 'Redgap', Rathcoole, Co. Dublin.**

**Prepared for: Mr. Pearse McKiernan (Planning Applicant)**

**Prepared by: Felim Sheridan F. Arbor. A, RFS Dip, Nat. Dip & NCH in  
Arboriculture**

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022**

**94 Ballybawn Cottages, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow.**

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## 1.0 Instructions

- 1.1 I have been instructed by Mr. Pearse McKiernan (planning applicant) to assess the site area at 'Redgap', Rathcoole, Co. Dublin and report on the following:
- a. To assess the present condition of the tree and hedge vegetation on this site area.
  - b. To assess the impact of the proposed works on the tree vegetation. See 'Section 4' of our report and drawing 'No.RG001' for detail.

## 2.0 Report Limitations

- 2.1 The inspection has been carried out from ground level only and is a preliminary report. It does not include climbing inspections or below ground investigations. Should a more detailed inspection be thought necessary on any tree/s, then this will be highlighted within my recommendations.
- 2.2 The assessment is based on what was visible at the time and recommendations made are subject to the knowledge and expertise of the qualified Arboriculturist that carried out the above inspections.
- 2.3 Before undertaking any work to these trees, it would be advisable to check whether any planning or tree preservation controls are in operation, if there are it will be necessary to obtain consent before undertaking any works (pruning or felling).

## 3.0 Site Assessment

- 3.1 Arborist Associates Ltd. has been commissioned to provide a condition assessment of the existing tree and hedge vegetation within this site area at 'Redgap', Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, to prepare an arboricultural implication assessment and to recommend tree protective measures for the tree and hedge vegetation for retention within the proposed development.
- 3.2 The site area is rectangular in shape and it is located on the northern side of the public road. It forms part of a large open field which has been subdivided into a number of smaller size paddocks by fencing and a sand gallops runs through this site area which will be relocated further north outside the site area. The site is elevated and slopes down to the north.
- 3.3 **Hedge No.1** is located on the site side of the original boundary hedge along the southern boundary with the public road. The bulk of the original hedgerow has been removed/lost over the years to leave one clump of Hawthorn at the western end with some pockets of Bramble and Gorse.

Planted on the inside of the original hedgerow soil bank is a line of Leyland Cypress (*Cupressocyparis leylandii*) trees of an early-mature age class in fair condition both physiologically and structurally. This has been regularly trimmed to maintain as a formal hedge with a height on average of 3 meters (m) and a crown spread of 4m. It forms a good screen barrier along this road and has been given a category grade scoring of 'C2' as per the cascade chart in BS5837 2012.





**Photograph No: 1:** Shows Hedge No.1 looking eastwards along the boundary with the public road.

- 3.4 **Tree No.1** is located at the western end of Hedge No.1 to the right of an existing field entrance. This is a Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) of an early-mature age class in fair/good condition both physiologically and structurally. It most likely established itself here from seed and was allowed to grow up into a tree. It subdivides into two stems at a height of c.1.7m with a slightly acute union formation between stems and the lower branches have been removed previously in order to raise up its crown over Hedge No.1 and the surrounding surfaces. This tree is of good quality with the potential to provide medium to long-term tree cover and as a result, it has been given a category grade scoring of 'B1' as per the cascade chart of BS5837 2012. It has a trunk diameter of 520mm, a crown spread on average of 8m diameter, a total tree height of 11m and crown clearance over the surrounding surfaces of 3.5m.



**Photograph No. 2:** Shows Tree No.1 at the western end of Hedge No.1.



- 3.5 **Tree Line No.1** runs at ninety degrees to Hedge No.1 and extends down along the western boundary. It is located on the adjoining property side of the stud rail fence and may be located on the adjoining property side of the boundary. It consists of a double line of Leyland Cypress of an early-mature age class in fair/good condition physiologically and in fair condition structurally. They have grown up together to form part of the one group canopy formation and provide support/shelter to one another. They have a total tree height of c.12m with a trunk diameter on average of 200mm and a crown spread of 6m diameter. They have received cutting in the past of their lower branches on the site side to a height of c.5m and this has helped to maintain their lower foliage to ground level and to form a good dense screen barrier. This tree line has been given a category grade scoring of 'C2' as per the cascade chart in BS5837 2012.



Photograph No.3: Shows Tree Line No.1 along the western boundary.

#### 4.0 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

- 4.1 It is proposed to develop this site area for a new residential dwelling with an entrance proposed off the public road through Hedge No.1 which will require the removal of a c.8m section to accommodate this. This section of hedge for removal has been shown as 'Hatched Red' on the accompanying drawing (No. RG001) with the remaining hedge vegetation to be retained shown as 'Hatched Green'.
- 4.2 The remaining tree and hedge vegetation around this site area will not be impacted upon by the proposed development and can easily be incorporated into this completed development. To ensure no impacts from the construction works, it will be important to ensure that tree protection fencing is erected as per drawing 'No. RG001' for the duration of the works. This is to be erected in order to cordon off the root zone of the vegetation being retained.
- 4.3 This existing tree and hedge vegetation will require ongoing maintenance to maintain within this area, and in particular Hedge No.1 will require regular trimming to maintain its formal hedge structure.



- 4.4 The incorporation of this vegetation into the completed landscaped development will need to retain the existing ground levels within their root zones and these existing levels will need to be graded/incorporated into the surrounding levels. Any retaining structures and grading in ground levels will need to be positioned outside the root zones of the tree and hedge vegetation being retained.

All soft and hard landscaping within the RPA of the tree and hedge vegetation being retained will need to be carried out manually and the soil levels are not to be lowered or raised resulting in root damage to the trees. All surfaces are to be porous to allow the free movement of air and moisture to the roots below. Recommendations of 'Section 8' of BS5837 2012 are to be adhered to during the landscaping within the RPA's of these trees.

## 5.0 Vegetation Retention and Protection

- 5.1 Prior to works commencing on the site area, tree protection fencing will need to be erected to protect the tree and hedge vegetations root zone from impacts by the construction works. See drawing 'No.RG001' for position of the tree protection fencing.

- 5.2 The fencing needs to be 2.3m high and constructed in accordance with 'Figure 2' of BS 5837 2012 (see fencing detail on drawing 'No.RG001' using vertical and horizontal scaffold bars well braced together with the verticals spaced out at a maximum of 3m centres. Onto this, weld mesh panels are to be securely fixed with wire or scaffold clamps.

Signs need to be attached to these fences warning people to 'keep out'. See detail on drawing 'No.RG001'.

- 5.3 It will be important that good housekeeping is in place at all times so that the site does not become congested. All construction works are to be well planned in advance so as not to put pressure on the protective zone around the vegetation. All works are to occur from outside the protective zones.

Where work space between the building lines and the protective fence lines is limited/ restricted, alternative work methods will need to be looked at so as to keep the work areas to their minimum in order to reduce the extent of soil and root damage occurring to the vegetation proposed for retention. See 'Section 6.2.3' of BS5837 2012 for detail on working within the RPA and ground protection. For light access works within the work exclusion zone, the installation of suitable ground protection in the form of scaffold boards, woodchip mulch or specialist ground protection mats/plates may be acceptable. These are to be reviewed with the project Arboriculturist and installed to their recommendations.

Care should be taken when planning site operations to ensure that wide or tall loads or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights can operate without coming into contact with retained vegetation. Such contact can result in serious damage to them and might make their safe retention impossible.

Materials, which can contaminate the soil, e.g. concrete mixings, diesel oil and vehicle washings, should not be discharged within 10m of a tree stem.

Fires should not to be lit in a position where their flames can extend to within 5m of foliage, branches or trunk. This will depend on the size of the fire and the wind



direction.

Notice boards, wires and such like should not be attached to any trees. Site offices, materials storage and contractor parking should all be outside the work exclusion zone.

- 5.4 The existing ground levels within the RPA of the tree and hedge vegetation are to be retained and incorporated into the finished landscaped development. Where changes in levels occur, these are to be either graded into the finished levels starting outside the RPA or alternatively, retaining wall structures are to be used differentiating between the different levels.

All soft and hard landscaping within the RPA of the trees to be retained will need to be carried out manually and the soil levels are not to be lowered or raised resulting in root damage. All surfaces are to be porous to allow the free movement of air and moisture to the roots below. Recommendations of 'Sections 8' of BS5837 2012 are to be adhered to during the landscaping within the RPA's of these trees.

## 6.0 Post Construction Works

- 6.1 This project is not to be considered complete until the retained tree and hedge vegetation has been re-examined by the project Arboriculturist and the remedial works necessary to ensure its health and the immediate safety of the end user of this development are implemented.

This report has been produced as part of a planning application for this site area and is for the sole use of the above named client and refers to only those trees and hedgerows identified within. Its use by any other person(s) in attempting to apply its contents for any other purpose renders the report invalid for that purpose.

Signed *Felim Sheridan*  
**Felim Sheridan**

Date 1/09/2022

F. Arbor. A, RFS Dip, Nat. Dip & NCH in Arboriculture

### **Felim Sheridan's qualifications:**

Fellow of the Arboricultural Association (F. Arbor. A), Professional diploma Arboriculture (RFS), National diploma Arboriculture (ND) and National certificate Horticulture (NCH).



# Arborist Associates Ltd

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1<sup>st</sup> September 2022

**For Attention of Mr. Pearse McKiernan**

Hillcrest House  
Redgap  
Rathcoole  
Co. Dublin

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

**Re: An Arboricultural Assessment of the Hedgerow Vegetation within the Site Area at 'Redgap', Rathcoole, Co. Dublin.**

I inspected the proposed house layout drawings forwarded to me for the above site area as requested and am pleased to submit the attached arboricultural assessment.

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact us, and we will do our best to be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,  
For Arborist Associates Ltd.

*Felim Sheridan*

Felim Sheridan

F. Arbor. A, RFS Dip, Nat. Dip & NCH in Arboriculture

**Felim Sheridan's qualifications:**

Fellow of the Arboricultural Association (F. Arbor. A), Professional diploma Arboriculture (RFS), National diploma Arboriculture (ND) and National certificate Horticulture (NCH).