ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

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TREE PROTECTION PLAN

Location: -
Church of Scientology & Community Centre of Dublin, Firhouse Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Prepared for: -
Church of Scientology & Community Centre of Dublin

Prepared by: -
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20th January 2023

Contents

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Regarding a planning application for the installation of a vehicular entrance gate, Veon have been instructed by Church of Scientology & Community Centre of Dublin to provide the following information in accordance with BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations.

1. A survey of the tree and hedge vegetation
2. An Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)
3. A Tree Protection Plan (TPP)

1.2 The site area was assessed on the 5th January 2023. Trees were visually assessed from ground level and the information recorded is in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction.

1.3 A plan of the site provided by Church of Scientology & Community Centre of Dublin has been used as the basis for the TPP attached.

1.4 The principal aim of the AMS and TPP is to detail construction control measures to protect trees within and adjacent to the site area.

2.0 Summary of findings

2.1 The site area is a small section along the northern boundary of the grounds of Church of Scientology Dublin where there is a proposed access gate to be installed.

2.2 The only tree proximal to the site area is Tag No.0805: -

- Species = sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*
- Height = 18m
- Stem diameter at 1.5metres above ground level = 1430mm
- Crown spread, North = 7m, South = 8m, East = 9m, West = 6m
- Crown height = 4m south, 1m north
- Age class = Mature veteran
- Physiological condition = Poor
- Structural condition = Poor
- Useful life expectancy = <10 years
- Category grade = U

2.3 There is a hedge extending along the outside of the northern boundary fence

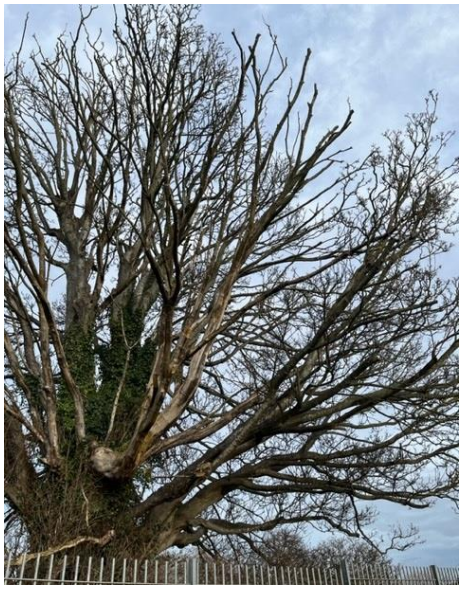
- Species = hawthorn *(Crataegus monogyna)*
- Height = 2.5m

- Stem diameter at 1.5metres above ground level = A.50mm
- Crown spread, North = 0.5m, South = 0.5m
- Age class = Young
- Physiological condition = Good
- Structural condition = Fair
- Useful life expectancy = 40+ years
- Category grade = C2

2.4 Tag No.0805 has a large bark wound at base on its western side that equates to c.40% of the trunk circumference and to a height of c.3m. The wound is infected by brittle cinder fungus *(Kretzschmaria deusta)*, with extensive decay developing into the underlying timbers and large size dead wood in the crown, some of which has already fallen into the adjoining car park.

I would recommend that this tree be reduced to a 2.5m tall stump and retained for its ecological value whilst addressing the apparent risk towards the car park and proposed new entrance.

Tree No.0805 from the car park



Large dead wood in Tag No.0805 overhanging the car park

Extensive basal decay in Tag No.0805

3.0 Arboricultural Method Statement

3.1 Trees For Retention

3.1.1 The hedge along the northern boundary is to be retained, with the exception of the 3.5m gap that needs to be removed to facilitate the new entrance gate.

3.2 Trees For Removal

3.2.1 Tag No.0805

3.3 Precise location and specification of protective barriers/boxes

3.3.1 Protective fencing will be erected in the position indicated by solid blue lines in the TPP attached.

3.3.2 The fencing will be in accordance with section 6.2.2 of BS 5837: 2012.

3.4 Extent and type of any ground protection required

3.4.1 The existing car park will provide ground protection on the site side.

3.5 Dimensions of the Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ)

3.5.1 The CEZ will be around the Root Protection Areas (RPA's) of the retained hedge - see TPP attached for precise dimensions and location.

3.6 Any temporary access requirements inside the CEZ

3.6.1 There will be no need to enter the CEZ throughout the course of the works. If this changes, the project arboriculturist will be consulted so that a protection plan can be put in place.

3.7 Any proposed tree works

3.7.1 The tree removal will take place prior to any other work on site, apart from any clearance works necessary to facilitate access to those trees.

3.8 Site access

3.8.1 Access to the site will be via the existing entrance to the grounds via Firhouse Road.

3.9 Working space

3.9.1 The TPP has allowed 1.5m of working space between the proposed gate and the Tree Protection Fencing line, so working space will be limited in this area but sufficient.

3.10 Storage of materials

3.10.1 Storage of materials will be in the existing car park within the site area, at least 10m away from the CEZ.

3.11 Contractors car parking

3.11.1 There will be sufficient space for parking in the existing car park.

3.12 Site huts and any other temporary arrangements/structures

3.12.1 It is unlikely that any temporary structures will be necessary, as the existing building has facilities provided. If they are deemed necessary, they will be positioned in the existing car park.

3.13 Service runs

3.13.1 Services will not be required for the proposed works.

3.14 Any proposed landscaping – hard and soft

3.14.1 3.5m of the hedge will need to be removed to facilitate the proposed works, this section of hedge will be replanted where there are gaps along the boundary hedge – these plants are of a young age class so transplanting should not be an issue.

3.15 The effects of slopes on spillages

3.15.1 Ground levels are such that no trees should be threatened. In any case, materials will be mixed in the existing car park, on sheets of plywood covered in polythene sheets, and spill kits will be used in the event of spillages.

3.16 Responsibilities of the various parties involved

3.16.1 I am not in a position to comment precisely on who will be responsible for which aspect of the proposal, but it is presumed that local council will undertake assessments of the situation with regard to tree protection measures.

4.0 Limitations of Survey

The tree survey was carried out from ground level, without the use of decay detection equipment. All findings, observations and recommendations are based on the knowledge and experience of the surveyor. 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. Trees are dynamic living organisms, whose health and condition can be subject to rapid change, depending on multiple external and internal factors. The conclusions and recommendations contained in this report relate to the trees at the time of inspection. 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.

At your request we are providing you with AutoCAD drawings. Because the CAD information stored in electronic form can be modified by other parties intentionally or otherwise, without notice or indication of said modifications, Veon reserves the right to remove all indices of its ownership and/or involvement in material from each electronic medium not held in its possession. This material shall not be used by you or transferred to any other party for use in any other projects, additions to the current project or for any other purpose for which the material was not strictly intended by Veon without our express written permission. Any unauthorized modification or reuse of the material shall be at your sole risk, and you agree to defend, indemnify, and hold Veon harmless for all claims, injuries, damages, losses, expenses, and solicitors' fees arising out of the unauthorized modification or use of these materials. The recipient understands that the use of any project related computer data constitutes acceptance of the above conditions. On this basis, Veon is pleased to be able to provide CAD files related to the project.

5.0 Terminology

Tag No: Tag fixed to tree for reference
Species: Both scientific and common name are provided
Height.: The height of the tree in metres
m: Metres
mm: Millimetres
Stem diameter: diameter of the main stem in millimetres measured at 1.5m. This measurement forms the basis of the Root Protection Area calculation – that being the equivalent to a circle with a radius of 12 x the stem diameter
Crown spread: The radial spread of the crown from the centre of the tree, indicated at four cardinal points, north, south, east and west.
C.Ht: Clearance between the crown and ground level
A: Average
C.: Circa

Age classes:
Young: In the first fifth of its life expectancy
Semi-Mature: In the second fifth of its life expectancy
Early-Mature: In the third fifth of its life expectancy
Mature: In the penultimate fifth of its life expectancy, reached maximum height
Veteran: A mature tree with the physical wounds of an ancient tree
Ancient: In the final fifth of its life expectancy, in natural decline
Dead wood diameter sizes:
Small: <50mm
Medium: Between 50 – 100mm
Large: >100mm
Physiological condition: an assessment of the tree's overall health –
Good: no problem noted
Fair: slightly impaired
Poor: significantly impaired
Structural condition: noting any structural defects – *Good, Fair, Poor* as above
Category grade: Category grade in terms of quality and value, see BS 5837 cascade chart below

TREES FOR REMOVAL				
Category and Definition	**Criteria** Veon BS5837 Report – Church of Scientology Dublin – January 2023			**Identification on Plan**
Category U Those in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years, and could, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.	Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other U category trees (i.e., where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning). **Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate and irreversible overall decline.** **Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby (e.g., Dutch elm disease), or very low-quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality.** (**NOTE**: Habitat reinstatement may be appropriate (e.g., U category tree used as a bat roost: installation of bat box in nearby tree).			DARK RED
TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION				
Category and Definition	Criteria – Subcategories **1.Mainly Arboricultural Values**	**2. Mainly Landscape Values**	**3. Mainly Cultural Values, including Conservation**	Identification on Plan
Category A **Those of high quality and value:** in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested).	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual, or essential components of groups, or of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g., the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue).	Trees, groups or woodlands which provide a definite screening or softening effect to the locality in relation to views into or out of the site, or those of particular visual importance (e.g., avenues or other arboricultural features assessed as groups).	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g., veteran trees or wood-pasture).	**LIGHT GREEN**
Category B Those of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested).	Trees that might be included in the high category but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g., presence of unsympathetic past management and minor storm damage).	Trees present in numbers, usually as groups or woodlands, such that they form distinct landscape features, thereby attracting a higher collective rating than they might as individuals, but which are not, individually, essential components of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g., trees of moderate quality within an avenue that includes better. A category specimens), or trees situated mainly internally to the site, therefore individually having little visual impact on the wider locality.	Trees with clearly identifiable conservation or other cultural benefits.	**MID BLUE**
Category C Those of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.	Trees not qualifying in higher categories.	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater landscape value, and/or trees offering low or only temporary screening benefit.	Trees with very limited conservation or other cultural benefits.	**GREY**
	NOTE: Whilst C category trees will not be retained where they would impose a significant constraint on development, young trees with a stem diameter of less than 150mm should be considered for relocation.			