AUSTEN ASSOCIATES

Planting Management Plan

Lidl Newcastle

CLIENT: Lidl Ireland GmbH

November 2022

Planning reference SD22A/0312

Austen Associates
Renishaw House
Ballyguile Beg
Wicklow Town
A67 XH92
Tel: 0404 66827
designdesk@austenassociates.ie
www.austenassociates.ie

Contents

1.0 Introduction

This report is a response to item 2 of the Clarification of Further Information request dated 09 Jan 2023.

2. '*The Applicant should provide a detailed Planting Management Plan which clearly demonstrates how any proposed hedgerow removal and replacement planting would be carried out in such a way that does not compromise the integrity of the ditch and bank beneath the Burgage Hedgerow, which forms a key component of this important heritage feature. Prior to providing a Planting Management Plan, the Applicant is advised to liaise with the Heritage Officer of South Dublin County Council in this regard.*'

Eunan O'Donnell of Austen Associates and Kevin Fenlon of Lidl met with Rosaleen Dwyer SDCC Heritage Officer and Laurence Colleran SDCC Senior Executive Parks Superintendent on Thursday 9th February on site and reviewed the Burgage plot boundaries.

Rosaleen Dwyer and Laurence Colleran are in agreement with

- the most recent site layout and landscape proposals that are submitted as part of the response to the CFI. These see a wider green buffer adjacent to the western burgage plot boundary.
- The removal of the large Leyland Cypress trees on the eastern boundary.
- The retention of the culverted water course on the western boundary, as daylighting it would result in the removal of trees and significant damage to the hedgerow on the western boundary.
- Changes to the planting mix were agreed.

2.0 Burgage Plot Boundary Planting Proposals

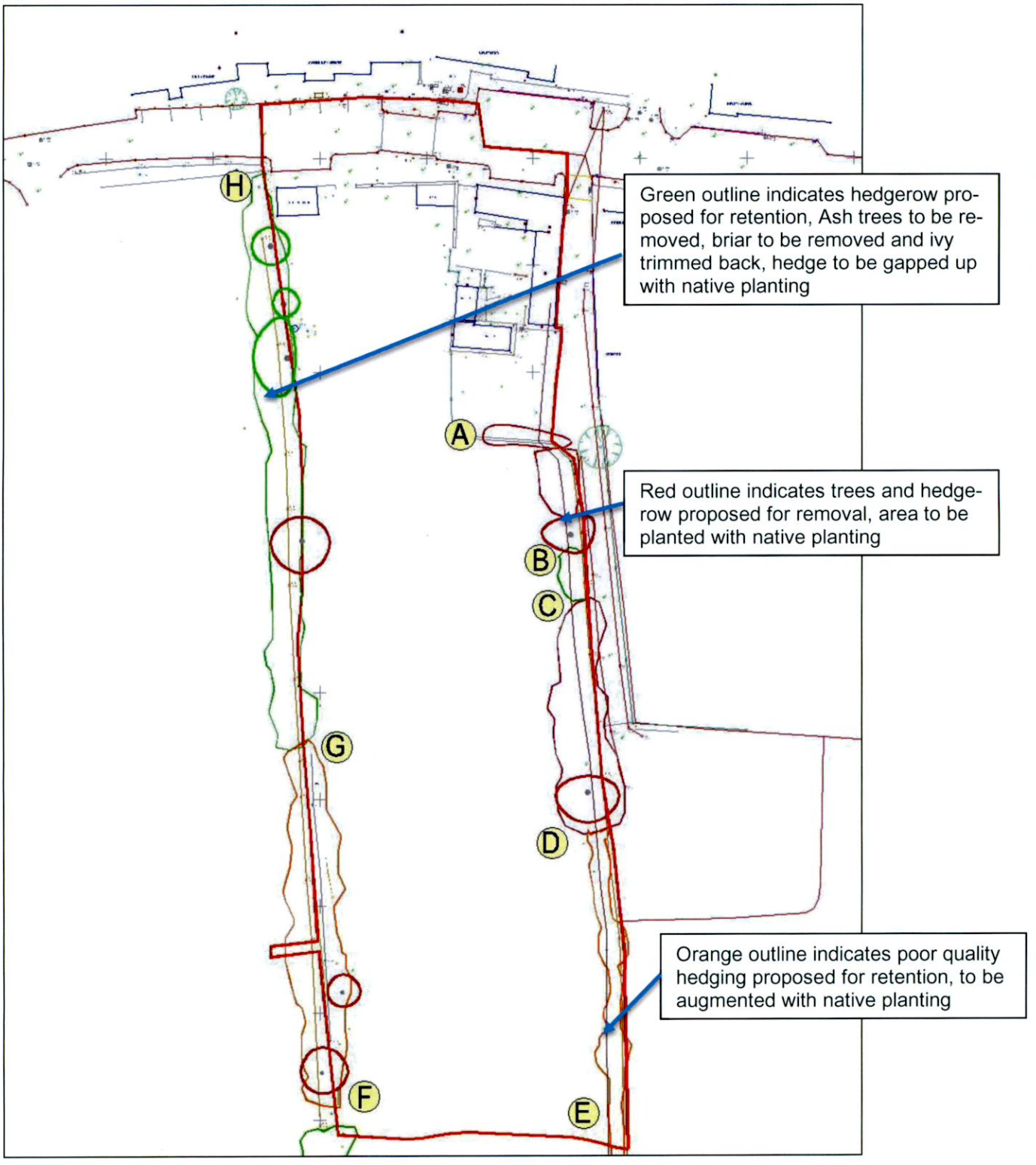

Figure 1; Areas of vegetation to be removed from the burgage plot boundaries are shown in with a red out line, retained in green, orange indicates weaker boundaries to be retained and augmented with native planting

A to B

Existing Boundary:

The boundary vegetation from A to B consists group of self-seeded Sycamore, *Acer platanoides* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* extend inwards to the site, at almost a right angle to the eastern boundary. The trees are juvenile and are growing along the base of the rear wall of Kelly's Estate Agents. A small group of Leyland Cypress *X Cuprocyparis leylandii* form part of this group and is located in the footprint of the burgage plot boundary to the south of the self-seeded Sycamore, *Acer platanoides* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior.* The Leyland Cypress *X Cuprocyparis leylandii* are mature, poor-quality trees. The crowns are in the process of breaking up and starting to drop branches, as is characteristic for this species when they mature. One of the trees has already fallen over.

These trees are considered incompatible with the retention of good quality boundary hedgerow vegetation as is characteristic in the area, as they will continue to deteriorate over the short to medium term.

Proposed Treatment: Remove Leyland Cypress *X Cuprocyparis leylandii* and self-seeded Sycamore, *Acer platanoides* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior.*

A 3.25 m wide planting be is proposed. This will be planted with a native screen mix.

This mix shall consist of:

Crataegus monogyna, 1+1, 60-90cm,	1/m²,	10%
Corylus avellana, 1+1, 60-90cm,	1/m²,	10%
Euonymus europeaus, 1+1, 60-90cm,	1/m²,	5%
Ilex aquifolium, CG 2L, 40-60cm,	1/m²,	20%
Prunus spinosa, 1+0, 60-90cm,	1/m²,	5%
Rosa canina, 1+1, 40-60cm,	1/m²,	5%
Salix caprea, 0+1, 60-120cm,	1/m²,	5%
Sambucus nigra, 1+1, 60-90cm,	1/m²,	5%
Viburnum opulus, 1+1, 60-90cm,	1/m²,	5%

Cornus sanguinea, 0+1, 40-60cm,	1/m²,	5%
Lonicera periclymenum, CG 2L,	1/m²,	5%
Ligustrum vulgare, CG2L,	1/m²,	20%

B to C

The boundary vegetation from B to C consists of a small thicket of self-seeded of juvenile Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna.* This planting is proposed for retention.

Proposed treatment: Retain and protect with tree protective fencing during construction.

Carry out minor remedial pruning works as may be necessary.

C to D

The boundary vegetation from B to C consists of a line of poor-quality mature to over mature Leyland Cypress *X Cuprocyparis leylandii*. This species is non-native and poor from an ecological point of view. It is considered that this planting does not represent the important historical heritage of the Burgage plot boundaries. It is proposed that this planting be removed, as they will to deteriorate over the short to medium term. It is proposed that they are replaced with more appropriate native species.

Figure 1: Mature/over mature Leyland Cypress on the eastern boundary to be removed

Proposed Treatment:

Remove Leyland Cypress *X Cuprocyparis leylandii.*

A 3.25 m wide planting be is proposed. This will be planted with a native screen mix as detailed above.

D to E

The boundary vegetation from D to E consists of a hedgerow. Species are *Fraxinus excelsior* Ash and *Crataegus monogyna* Hawthorn and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. The hedge is quite sparse in places with views through to the neighbouring site. There is plenty of Briar *Rubus fruticosus* present in the hedgerow.

Proposed treatment: retain hedgerow and protect with tree protective fencing during construction.
Remove briar and dead, damaged and diseased branches.
Strengthen with native screen mix.

F to G

The boundary vegetation from F to G consists of a mature mixed native hedgerow with a ditch located to the front of the boundary for its entire length. The hedge appears to be a typical field boundary construction; where a ditch has been excavated, soil placed on one side of the ditch and the soil planted with native hedgerow species. Species are *Fraxinus excelsior* Ash and *Crataegus monogyna* Hawthorn with some *Sambucus nigra* Elder, present. The hedge is quite overgrown with *Rubus fruticosus* Briar and *Hedera helix* Ivy. A dilapidated timber post and wire fence is intermittently located on the boundary, in places secured to the vegetation. There are 2 number Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* trees located within this hedgerow. These trees have Ash Die Back disease *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus.* These trees will die over the next few years regardless of development. Recent pruning works have been carried out to this boundary by a third party.

Proposed Treatment: remove Ash *Fraxinus excelsior.*
Retain hedgerow and the ditch, protect with tree protective fencing during construction.
Remove briar and dead, damaged and diseased branches.
Strengthen with native screen mix.

G to H

The boundary vegetation from G to H consists of a mature mixed native hedgerow. Species are *Fraxinus excelsior* Ash and *Crataegus monogyna* Hawthorn

and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. The hedge is quite overgrown with *Rubus fruticosus* Briar and *Hedera helix* Ivy. There are a number Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* trees located within this hedgerow. These trees have Ash Die Back disease *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus.* These Ash trees will die regardless of development. There is a large Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* tree growing as part of this hedgerow. This tree has been severely pruned on the eastern side.

Proposed Treatment: remove Ash *Fraxinus excelsior.*
Retain hedgerow and the ditch, protect with tree protective fencing during construction.
Remove briar and dead, damaged and diseased branches.
Trim ivy.
Strengthen with native screen mix, in particular where Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* has been removed.

3.0 Burgage Plot Boundary Planting Specification

Timing of Planting/Phasing:

All planting will take place after building works in a single phase at the first available time of planting. Whips and transplants must be planted in the dormant season only i.e., from October to March; root-balled trees from October to April, container grown and air-pruned trees all year round.

Watering:

All planting is to be well-watered on planting and ongoingly until practical completion. For whips and transplants this will involve the application of 5L of water per plant weekly in the growing season. Additional waterings will be carried out in dry periods, where there has been no significant rainfall in a two week period.

Planting areas:

Topsoil supplied to the project shall be of multipurpose to BS: 3882:2015. It shall be kept separate from subsoil at all times. It shall be weed free at the time of placement. Prevent compaction and contamination throughout the works. Remove all hardcore from all planting areas and dig through compaction pan before placing topsoil. Include for 10% addition of proprietary green waste compost into the topsoil at the time of planting (thoroughly mixed into the top layer of soil.

Topsoil for shrub and perennial planting areas and hedging: 450mm depth

Planting amongst retained Burgage Plot hedgerow planting:

Existing planting is to be protected. Some minor pruning of existing planting may be permitted to allow access.

All planting pits will be excavated by hand to minimise damage to the roots of existing retained planting.

Larger roots, greater than 25mm diameter will not be severed during planting.

Planting of whips and transplants: Where planting is being carried out within 1m of retained existing planting, whips and transplants will be slit planted. Where planting is being carried out further than 1m from retained existing planting, whips and transplants will be pit planted. If roots greater than 25mm are encountered when pit planting, these roots shall not be severed and the planting pit is to be relocated to the nearest spot free of larger roots.

Protection of retained Burgage Plot hedgerow planting:

Existing planting is to be protected. Tree protective fencing will be in place during the construction period. This will be placed along the alignments shown in the tree protection drawing 077622_TP_01 Lidl Newcastle Tree Protection.

No construction materials, machinery, washings or other construction activities shall take place within the root protection areas of the trees and hedgerow.

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* trees will be removed from the Burgage plot boundaries. The trees will be sectionally felled and the stumps ground out. Care will be taken not to damage adjacent retained planting. Machinery shall be set up outside of the RPA of the retained trees and hedgerow.

The existing hedgerow will be lightly trimmed, ivy will be trimmed. Trimming shall take place outside of the bird nesting season (Bird nesting season is from 1st March-31st August).

4.0 Burgage Plot Boundary Maintenance

The Contractor shall be responsible for aftercare of the completed works for 3 years from the date of completion of planting, including adequate watering of vegetation during dry periods of weather.

- Firm any plants loosened by frost, wind, or cultivation at each maintenance visit. Plants to be re-dug and planted where required.
- In year three, the entire hedge will be trimmed to encourage lateral growth. This will be carried out outside of the bird nesting season.
- The hedgerow will be kept litter and debris free.
- New planting will have a weed free circle of 1m maintained around the planting. Hand weeding operations will be carried out. Weeds shall not be allowed exceed 200mm in height.
- The plants will be thoroughly watered on planting and will be watered regularly until practical completion. Apply water to moisten full depth of root run of each tree or plant. Avoid washing or compaction of the soil surface.
- After practical completion, a minimum of 12 no. watering's year 1 will be required for nursery stock planting. More frequent watering's may be required for tree planting. If there is a period of 2 weeks without rainfall, then all of the planting must receive a watering of a minimum of 5 litres per plant.
- The Contractor shall report to the Landscape Architect any outbreak or build-up of insect pest, fungus disease or disorder affecting the plants,

as soon as it is noticed. The Landscape Architect shall issue instructions for the treatment of the outbreak.

- At planting the whips will be tip pruned to encourage bushiness.
- Any tree or shrub found to have died from any cause except as provided below or the work of other Contractors shall be replaced by the Contractor at his own expense. Replacement planting shall conform in all respects with this Specification, including all specified excavation, provision and incorporation of all fertilizers and ameliorants.

- Failures will not be charged to the Contractor in the following cases: -

    - Damage by hares or rabbits, where protection by fencing or shelters was not originally specified.
    - Damage by livestock, where protection by fencing was not originally specified.
    - Failure solely due to prolonged dry weather, except where the Contractor will be responsible for watering.
    - Losses due to theft, vandalism or disturbance by other Contractors.
    - Persistence of weeds in planted areas will be regarded as a contributory cause of failure due to drought.

General maintenance guidelines on an annual basis as per contract specifications 3-year maintenance programme in total from month of commencement i.e., 36 months													
Operation			Date by month starts January										
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Yearly maintenance to trees and shrubs													
Weed control to base of plants				x		x			x				
Pruning				x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Hand weed				x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Litter removal	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Watering				x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Check stakes and ties			x										
Leaf/debris removal	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Trim new hedging to encourage lateral growth					x								

5.0 Conclusions

The Burgage Plot boundary hedgerows are an important part of the heritage of Newcastle Village. They contribute to the local ecology and visual amenity.

They Burgage plot boundaries on this proposed development site have been identified by the design team as an important factor in the site design and have been evaluated in this report. Their protection, reinstatement and management are detailed in this report.

This approach will see an improved plot boundary with greater amenity, ecological, and green infra-structure value. Retaining a beneficial green resource into the future.