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The Square, Main Street, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, R56 KA62

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Tree Condition Report

For Selected Trees At,

Airton Road,

Tallaght

Co. Dublin

Prepared By: William Ryan (Dip. Hort.)

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Introduction

This report relates to selected trees located close to the front boundary of the subject site. The objective of this survey was to gather information regarding the condition of these trees on the site and assess how these along with other trees may be impacted by construction and development of the site.

Arboricultural Method Statement

The arboricultural method statement provides information about how to protect trees and hedgerows, their crowns, stems and root systems during the construction process. Recommendations for the protection of trees during construction work is based on BS 5837: 2012. The stages described below should be used as reference by the main contractor in order to prepare a site-specific method statement for the construction works. The method statement is to be used in conjunction with the Tree Protection Plan which details the extent of root protection areas and is included at the back of this report..

Stage 1: Pre-construction stage

The developer will appoint an Arboriculturist who will oversee tree protection measures for the duration of the project. The arboriculturist will make regular site visits to ensure continued compliance, as well as to respond to project specific issues as they arise.

Tree work: The developer will appoint a qualified arborist to undertake pruning and felling works as specified in the tree survey recommendations detailed elsewhere in this report. All works carried out must conform to BS3998: 2010 Tree Work. Recommendations. Any damage caused to a tree during the construction phase should be reported immediately to the site manager so that inspection and/or remedial works can be undertaken.

Protective fencing: On completion of the initial tree works, protective fencing should be erected where required, as specified in the tree protection plan, in accordance with BS5837:2012. Fencing is intended as a precaution to prevent accidental damage to the rooting area of retained trees. Hedgerows, and trees remote from construction can be protected using a lower specification of barrier such as Euromesh.

Ground protection for construction access routes: Where construction or temporary construction access is considered necessary, the alignment of the protective barrier may be set back, under supervision of the project arboriculturist. Temporary ground protection within the Root Protection

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Area must be capable of supporting the load of any persons or traffic using the site without affecting or compacting the underlying soil. The ground protection must comprise as described in BS5837:2012. In all instances, the objective is to prevent soil compaction where possible, which can occur from the passage of a single vehicle, especially in wet conditions.

Installation of hard surfacing in proximity to trees: Construction of hard surfaces can impact the surface roots of nearby trees and prevent soil gases exchanging if porousness and load spreading is not incorporated into the design. In order to prevent root damage, excavation, soil stripping or grading must not be conducted within the Root Protection Area of retained trees and hedgerows. Hard surfaces will need to be installed using a 'no dig' method of construction, using a cellular confinement system as necessary.

Three cardinal principles apply when avoiding damage to trees during construction:

- Roots must not be severed.
- Soil must not be compacted.
- Oxygen and water must be able to diffuse into the soil beneath the engineered surface.

Installation of underground Services: Installation of underground cabling must comply with the National Joint Utilities Group 'Guidelines for the planning, installation, and maintenance of utility services in proximity to trees' and with BS 5837:2012. The excavation of open trenches by machine is unacceptable within the Root Protection Area of any of the retained trees, and wherever possible, services should be routed outside of any retained trees Root Protection Area. Where this is not possible cables should be routed together in a common duct and any inspection chambers sited outside the Root Protection Area.

Roots, and in particular fine roots, are vulnerable to desiccation on exposure to air. The roots are at greatest risk when there are rapid fluctuations in the air temperature around them. It is vitally important that the roots are covered with sacking whilst the trench is open.

Landscape works: New planting of trees and hedgerows shall be undertaken in accordance with BS5837:2012 and supervised by the project arboriculturist or landscape architect. The existing ground levels within the Root Protection Area must be retained and not subjected to compaction or alteration. Manual tools should be used where possible for planting within RPAs in order to minimise root disturbance and damage.

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Stage 2: Construction Works stage

Protective fencing: During the construction phase, protective fencing must be kept in place, remain upright and rigid as intended, and checked daily for any damage. The fencing must remain in place, and not be removed until all site works are completed.

Excavations: Excavation works can commence once the protective fence line is in place. In advance of excavation, the project manager, site foreman and project arboriculturist will identify and determine the extent of the impact of the proposed works and identify any additional mitigation measures to protect retained trees and hedgerows.

The project arboriculturist will supervise the pruning of roots which are exposed and damaged during excavation works. The excavated face is to be covered with soil in order to prevent drying out and death of further root material.

Working within Root Protection Areas: If any works are to take place within the Root Protection Area, the project arboriculturist must be informed so that mitigation measures are agreed upon to limit impact on root, stem and crown of tree.

Site considerations: Throughout the development stages the following must be observed:

- No materials, chemicals, machinery or vehicles are to be stored within the Root Protection Area.
- No materials are to be rested against the trunk of trees.
- Burning of rubbish is not permitted within 10m of RPA or hedgerows. Wind direction should be factored when locating a fire, and it must not be unattended.

Stage 3: Post Construction Works stage

On completion of construction works, retained trees are to be re-examined by the project arborist in order to identify any additional remedial works required to ensure tree health and site safety.

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BS5837: REPORT ON IDENTIFIED TREES & TREE SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Ref	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Spread	General Observations	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements	Recommendations
01	Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	Group 3 trees	Height (m): 6	3N, 3E, 2S, 2W	Group of birch	C2	Area: same as Group - 25 sq m.	Physiological Cond: Good Structural Cond: Good	Pre construction: Phased thinning to remove damaged and suppressed tree. During construction: Protect unaffected trees with protective barriers - as shown on plans. Post construction: No action required
02	Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	Group 3 trees	Height (m): 6	3N, 3E, 2S, 2W	Group of birch	C2	Area: same as Group - 25 sq m.	Physiological Cond: Good Structural Cond: Good	Pre construction: Phased thinning to remove damaged and suppressed tree. During construction: Protect unaffected trees with protective barriers - as shown on plans. Post construction: No action required
03	Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	Group 3 trees	Height (m): 7	2N, 2E, 1S, 1W	Group of birch	C2	Area: same as Group - 25 sq m.	Physiological Cond: Fair Structural Cond: Fair	Remove tree
03	Wych Elm (Ulmus glabra)	Tree	Height (m): 6	1N, 1E, 1S, 0W	Elm disease present throughout crown.	C2	Radius: 1.8m. Area: 6 sq m.	Physiological Cond: Poor Structural Cond: Fair	Remove tree

Replanting:

The trees identified above are generally of small stature, and as such they offer minimal visual importance. The planned replanting of a replacement native trees will mitigate losses sustained during the development of the site as well as mitigating expected future losses due to diseased planting. The impact on retained trees, tree groups and hedgerows will be minimal.