LOUTH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

APPENDIX 5

Tree Surveys of Drogheda & Dundalk

1. TREE SURVEY OF DROGHEDA

This survey was commissioned to identify the numbers, age and species of trees and woodlands to be protected within the Drogheda Borough Council Development Plan 2005 - 2011 and to identify those trees growing in lands controlled by Drogheda Borough Council. This survey, which was carried out and report compiled by Dr. Philip Blackstock, was commissioned by Drogheda Borough Council.

METHODOLOGY

Trees growing on the above lands were subject to a brief visual inspection carried out from the ground. No methods for establishing the condition of these trees were used.

LOCATION & VISUAL IMPACT OF THE TREES: The most significant trees and woods in Drogheda are located close to or south of the River Boyne. This linear woodland feature extends west along the river to connect to very significant woods close to the Mary McAleese Boyne Valley Bridge on the M1. This area of woodland is also connected eastward and downstream through areas of scrub at the Ramparts walk and St Dominic's Park to the large area of recently planted woodland at Highfield. From there, areas of mature trees (retained within the grounds of the grand houses that once dominated the southern banks of the river) extend along the Dublin Road towards the Demesnes around Bettystown. Other groups of trees continue the eastward theme along both banks of the river, before connecting to Demesnes and parkland towards Termonfeckin and Mornington.

There are fewer mature trees in the north of Drogheda; however, most of the housing estates in this part of the town (and elsewhere) have been abundantly landscaped. These young and maturing trees growing in public greens, in particular, are beginning to form a distinctive feature of the urban landscape of Drogheda.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF DROGHEDA'S URBAN WOODS: Almost all of the large, mature trees still growing within urban Drogheda are associated with eighteenth or early nineteenth century buildings. In most cases these were private residences, the largest of which appear to have been built on the southern banks of the River Boyne. These, mainly private, residences continued to provide most of the urban trees up until about fifty years ago, when the first of the urban parks were planted. Most of the younger trees that are already beginning to dominate urban Drogheda are associated either with urban parks (particularly around Highfield) or have been planted within the many housing estates that have been built around the town.

It is clear that these publicly owned trees will increasingly dominate the urban landscape as they mature over the next one hundred years.

TREE CONDITION & RECOMMENDATIONS.

Because of their age, some of the oldest trees in Drogheda are now becoming over-mature, with crown dieback and disease evident. Sites of this nature include the North Strand and the front of Greenhills College and, to a lesser extent, trees at Poorhouse Lane and the south eastern boundary of Stameen. Many of the remaining mature trees are, however, in a relatively good condition and are likely to continue to provide amenity to the town. Of the younger trees, the Norway maples have an almost universally poor form, with included bark and very weak forks. This feature appears to be common in all Norway maples planted within the last forty years and is associated either with poor nursery practice or with clonal selections that are inappropriate for Irish conditions.

There will be an ongoing need for formative pruning with these trees, to encourage the development of a single dominant leader.

Failure to carry out the tree works will lead to an increasing risk and an increasing management cost as these trees mature.

When compared to large housing estates in Northern Ireland, the public trees in Drogheda have suffered remarkably little vandalism or damage from grass cutting equipment carelessly used. If this can be encouraged, it is very likely that Drogheda will develop much more of a continental, rather than a UK, urban landscape, with its housing set within and behind areas resembling urban woods. Such a landscape tends to increase the value of private housing and, for this reason, it should be encouraged. It is recommended that some priority is given to public trees by (1) training grounds maintenance staff in simple young tree management, (2) providing more specialist management to their stock of Norway maple and (3) establishing dedicated funding for the timely replacement of dead or damaged trees in its public areas.

A SURVEY OF TREES IS AVAILABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

1. Anneville Cresent
2. Ashfield
3. Ballsgrove Hill
4. Broadmeadows
5. Brookville
6. Bully's Acre
7. Boyne Valley Hotel
8. Boyne View House
9. Church Lane
10. College Rise
11. Cromwells Lane 1
12. Dublin Road Railway Bridge
13. Fishermans Warf
14. Fountain Hill
15. Glenmore Drive
16. Greenhills College
17. Harmony Heights
18. Hospital Dublin Road
19. Leonard's Cross
20. Marley's Lane
21. Matsons Lodge
22. Marsh House Pub
23. Moneymore
24. Mill Lane
25. Mount Sandford
26. North of Quarry
27. Newfoundwell Road
28. Northstrand
29. Oaklawns
30. Peters Hill
31. Poor House Lane 1
32. Presbytery Poor House Lane
33. Ramparts Walk
34. Rugby Club
35. Sienna Convent
36. Stameen
37. Stameen Roadside 1
38. St Dominics Park
39. St Marys Church
40. Waterunder Cottage
41. Weirhope
42. Watery Hill
43. Westcourt
44. Wheaton Hall

2. Tree Survey of Dundalk

Survey of Trees in Dundalk and Environs 2004
Report and Database, Prepared by Tom Kilkenny, 26 May 2004

This report on the survey of the trees of Dundalk town and environs was prepared to identify those trees in the area which would be suitable subjects for Tree Preservation Orders because of their outstanding appearance or rarity of occurrence in the district. Dundalk has many fine old trees, mainly survivors of the plantations in the estates on which the town is built.

The majority of these trees are now in the range of 100 to 160 years old and appear to be in a reasonably healthy condition. As such, they contribute greatly to the appearance of the town and add to the amenity and relaxed atmosphere that the town enjoys. The advancing years bring their own problems, with increase in size, competition from other plants, invasion by parasites, farming practices, competition for space for building, installation of services, road traffic and vandalism. Instances of all these problems have been recorded and will be dealt with under separate headings.

The Town Council, formerly the Urban District Council, has always had a programme of tree planting, which gained some momentum in the 1960s with the coming into being of the Parks Committee. Later, with the employment of qualified staff, programme of maintenance and replacement were implemented, the results of which are to be seen today.

In some of the earlier programmers', the fashion for Flowering Cherries was followed. These spectacular, (but short season flowering trees), rarely give satisfaction as street trees and are prone to many problems which increase their maintenance and can reduce their life expectancy. For these reasons, they have been excluded from later programmers'. Emphasis today is on planting more durable species, which will act as replacement for the older trees whose time must inevitably come.

The trees listed in the earlier survey carried out in 2000 have been reviewed for changes in their development or for replacement. The area surveyed has been increased, and covers from Red Cow on the Newry Road to Haggardstown and Blackrock. The new list is recorded here as an appendix to this report, and has also been converted to a database to provide a ready access to the information and a means of updating records of changes and new plantings.

NOTES ON THE REPORT

Where trees are planted on streets a base point has been identified and the trees are numbered by reference to this point. This method has also been adopted in St. Helena Park, Fairgreen and Demesne. Where trees are planted in groups or stand in mixed plantations an effort has been made to give the number of a particular species in those groups.

In the case of outstanding trees an estimate of age is given. Where trees are in groups an average age is estimated. It should be noted that this estimate is no more than an approximation, calculated from measurement of the girth of the tree. To achieve a more accurate dating would require increment boring and cross-dating with known samples from the area showing the effects of environment change, the slowing of growth as the tree moves into maturity and the almost negligible growth as the tree becomes older. Girth measurement alone does not account for this.

Trees are described as young, semi-mature, mature and senescent. Maturity is reached at different stages in different species. The ornamental trees could be mature at twenty years while oak, beech, sycamore, lime and chestnut would still be young or semi-mature at that stage. Mature trees in good growing conditions can continue in that state for many years before showing signs of senescence.

Senescence is normally recognised by a deterioration of the crown of the tree. It can be brought about by change of environment, invasion by disease or simply old age. All three conditions are noticeable in the trees in the area surveyed. Most of the groups of trees examined have now reached the stage of maximum canopy development, and are restricted by competition from their neighbours for light, root run and food source. As far as can be ascertained from visual inspection, they are in a condition that will allow them to continue in the "mature" category for many years.

In some areas surveyed, the main condition limiting the life of trees is invasion by fungi. The most common of these is Armillaria Root Disease, of which there are many strains, and which is also known as Honey Fungus, from the colour of the fruiting bodies, or Shoestring Fungus from the appearance of the rhizomorphs which spread up under the bark or through the soil. Spread of the disease is mainly by means of the shoestrings travelling underground from a diseased tree or dead stump to make contact with a new host. A useful indicator is the condition of the crown of the tree, although other factors may also contribute to failure of the crown. When the roots have been destroyed the tree is likely to fall victim to strong winds. Most of the trees seen to have been affected are close to roadsides or in areas frequented by the public, it would be important to carry out a root examination to assess their true condition. Where appropriate, tree surgery or other treatment or action has been recommended.

TWSAV 45 St. Helena Park

A complete survey of St. Helena Park has been reviewed. A Chestnut and a Lime (numbered 14 and 15 in the open plot) are excellent trees, and should be protected.

TWSAV 46 Marist Ground/Grounds of Old Library/St. Leonard's Park

Seventy mature trees surrounding the recreation grounds. The group is worth protecting.
Seatown Grounds of Old Library: **Lime and Sycamore worth protecting.**
St. Leonard's, Tree of Heaven*:* This tree might be protected as a memorial to John Martin.

TWSAV 47 Derryhale, Carrick Road

Trees senescent

TWSAV 48 Fairhill, Ardee Road

Hedgerows of Ash, of little value.

TWSAV 49 Rath, Knockbridge/Ardee Road

Group similar to TP 18, 19, 20 and 21, ranging up to 160 years old. Very tall, with good crowns, extending over the roadway.

TWSAV 50 Lisnawully House, Carrick Road

Roadside group consisting of mature Beech, Chestnut, Lime Oak, Sycamore, Pine, and one copper Beech. There are also young trees that will provide succession. A visually pleasing amenity, spreading over the roadway, which may be considered a drawback.

TWSAV 51 Brookfield, Ardee Road

Group of tall mature trees, Beech, Copper Beech, Sycamore and Lime, up to 140 years old, in good condition, extending over the roadway. These trees at a private entrance will probably be retained.

TWSAV 52 Hilltop, Ardee Road

Group of tall mature trees with good crowns.

TWSAV 53 St. Oliver's Shrine, Ardee Road

Group of Beech, Chestnut, Oak, mature, extending over the roadway. Good condition

TWSAV 54 Carrick Road: Rucky Hill

Group of mature Ash, Sycamore, not of special interest

TWSAV 55 Lisnawully

Large mature specimens of Ash, Beech and Oak under good care.

TWSAV 56 Entrance to McArdle's Brewery

Row of mature Lime in good condition. Cedar in grounds. Both are worth preserving.
Cambrickville*:* Group of mature to senescent trees mainly in good condition with good crowns. Very tall and extending over the roadway.

TWSAV 57 CRESCENT PARK

Three Cedars, mature, perhaps 120 years old, and other semi-mature plantings under the control of Town Council.
"Kearney's Park" Three mature Sycamore on an island. Trees worth preserving, also historic connection.

TWSAV 58 GRAMMAR SCHOOL

School grounds contain mature Beech and Lime. Grounds of the old Louth Hospital contain four Acer, two of which are semi-mature having been planted when the building was refurbished. Preserve for impact on streetscape.

TWSAV 59 P.J. CARROLL, DUBLIN ROAD

Willow hedgerow forming a windbreak is an original feature of the landscape and is worth retaining. Also three semi-mature Beeches planted in the grounds.

TWSAV 60 HOEY'S LANE AND DISTRICT PARK.

Nothing outstanding.

TWSAV 61 BLACKROCK ROAD

Group consisting of mature Beech, Ash, Oak, and Pine as close planted shelter. Nothing outstanding but worth protecting in an exposed area.

TWSAV 62 ST. MALACHY'S SCHOOL, ANNE STREET

Nothing outstanding.

TWSAV 63 ICEHOUSE HILL

Trees in the park at ***Icehouse Hill*** are mature and are in generally good condition. The main species are Beech, Lime and Oak, estimated to be between 130 and 170 years old. Most of the older trees show the effects of having been damaged by fires and animals, which occurred before the park was enclosed. There are some instances of invasion by fungus, particularly in Beech, with some deterioration of the crown. The stump of a semi-mature Ash (Fig. 4), invaded by fungus, should be removed to prevent further spread. There are also new plantings of semi-mature Ash and Lime. These trees have the protection of the Park but should be placed on the list of protected trees.
Pearse Park - The Cedar of Lebanon may be older than the 216 years calculated from the girth. A special calculation for this tree, taking account of the formative period, the mature stage and senescence when the girth is expanding but slowly, would suggest that it is nearer to 280 years old, which would place it in the period in which Lord Limerick laid out his Demesne.
New leaf growth was recorded on this tree in the survey carried out in 2000. So far this year, no new growth has been observed.

TWSAV 64 BROOK STREET/ARDEE TERRACE

Row of Poplar some affected by canker. Of little value.
Ardee Terrace Sycamore and Ash, not of great interest.

TWSAV 65 MOUNTHAMILTON HOUSE, CARRICK ROAD

Cedar and Chestnut in grounds are not likely to be disturbed.

TWSAV 66 NEW FOREST

These trees were planted with Spruce to occupy a site that was difficult to drain. At this stage they should have reached their commercial harvest, but, not having been thinned as would be forest practice, they have not realised their potential. The area is not frequented by the general public. As an amenity it has little value.

TWSAV 67 AVENUE ROAD: ESB

Ninety semi-mature Alder making a significant contribution to the area should be protected.

TWSAV 68 LADYWELL SHRINE, DUBLIN ROAD

Four Chestnut, senescent, affected by Armillaria

TWSAV 69 LADYWELL, DUBLIN ROAD

Mature Sycamore and Lime in private gardens and hedgerow trees in new estate. Not outstanding but worth retaining.

TWSAV 70 BAYVIEW HOUSE, DUBLIN ROAD.

Senescent Sycamore, mature red Acer, Chestnut and some young Sycamore and Oak as replacements. The group has significant visual effect in this area.
Teagasc Weeping Ash, Weeping Beech, Copper Beech, Deodar, Manna Ash and Notofagus are unusual and should be protected.

TWSAV 71 MUIRHEVNA

Nothing outstanding.

TWSAV 72 DKIT, DUBLIN ROAD

Shares the Willow hedgerow with P. J. Carroll.

TWSAV 73 THE LAURELS

Trees on the pedestrian pass should be preserved as long as possible. So far there is little sign of crown failure although all are senescent.
Laurel Brook Gardens: Trees in this area are affected by Armillaria and will not survive.

TWSAV 74 GREEN CHURCH, CHURCH STREET

Two Limes on the street and Limes in the churchyard are in good condition, should be protected

TWSAV 75 CARROLL VILLAGE

Oak in supermarket car park is senescent but shows a good crown this year. It is fenced off from the car park. As one of the oldest trees in town it is worth protecting.

TWSAV 76 LONG WALK



Trees on the Long Walk are of the same age as those in Demesne but are under greater stress and showing loss of crown. Deterioration here is caused by roadwork's and the installation of services.
Replacements have already been planted. It would also be possible to gain some recovery by reducing the heads of these trees. They would not justify a Preservation Order and eventual replacement should be the aim.

TWSAV 77 DEMESNE



The trees in ***Demesne*** are generally mature and in good condition. They would appear to have improved since this area was protected and prevented from becoming a car park. The plantation consists mainly of Sycamore and Lime, with an outstanding Chestnut, **(centre of Fig. 1).**

New plantings of Acer, Sweet Chestnut, Copper Beech, Hornbeam and Lime have been made to provide replacements. This area in the centre of the town is a priceless asset to Dundalk. No other town on the east coast has such an amenity. This area must be protected.

The trees at ***Market Square,*** Arts Office, and Markethouse Square are semi-mature and in good condition. Some may need to be removed if the decision is taken to rebuild the Markethouse.
Four Limes and one Sycamore at ***Courthouse Square*** were planted in the early years of the last century.
They are in good condition and lend grace to a bleak streetscape. They are worth preserving.

The group of trees at the Kelly monument and the Acer at the Library gate in ***Roden Place*** are worth preserving, as are also the Chestnuts in ***Douglas Place***.
The well-shaped Limes on the north side of ***Jocelyn Street*** and ***Seatown Place*** are worth consideration.

TWSAV 78 PARK VIEW

Protect the excellent White Beam. There are some very poor Cherries in this area.

TWSAV 79 MOUNT AVENUE

Nothing of special interest.

TWSAV 80 DE LA SALLE

Nothing of special interest.

TWSAV 81 CASTLETOWN

Toberona Corner Beech showing some loss of crown. Senescent.
Rugby Club Two Beech, mature, senescent, worth protecting.

TWSAV 82 GREY ACRE, CASTLEBLAYNEY ROAD

Small group of trees, becoming senescent, containing one Chestnut of value.

TWSAV 83 CASTLETOWN CEMETERY

Four Sycamores, senescent, two of which show signs of invasion by Armillaria. Not suitable for preservation. An Irish Yew does not seem to be affected.



TWSAV 84 ST. LOUIS CONVENT

Cedar of Lebanon in similar condition to that in Pearse Park. Estimated to be in the region of 270 years old. Two Copper Beeches, which may be 200 years old, are being well maintained. These trees would be worth preserving.

TWSAV85 THE PADDOCK

One Sweet or Spanish Chestnut, mature, approaching senescence but in good condition. Worth preserving.

TWSAV 86 FARNDREG ESTATE

Nothing of special interest.

TWSAV 87 CASTLE PARK

Castle Park has an impressive stand of Beech at the entrance and further groups within the estate. All show loss of crown and many are in an advanced stage of invasion by Armillaria. They are not suitable for preservation.

TWSAV 88 NEWRY ROAD: RED COW

Mature Beech, Lime Sycamore some overhanging the road. Preserve if possible.

TWSAV 89 DOWDALLSHILL

A single Sycamore on Dowdallshill and a row of Beech nearby are worth protection.

TWSAV 90 MOTTE AND BAILEY DOYLESFORT ROAD / BRICKFIELDS / NEWRY RD.

Newry Road: Row of nine mature Limes should be protected.
Motte and Bailey Doylesfort Road: No great value.

TWSAV 91 RIVERSIDE CRESCENT

Acers and White Beams are making good progress in this area, and are worth protecting.

TWSAV 92 FAIRGREEN

Mature and semi-mature trees developing well, should be protected.
Fairgreen Row: A row of mature Lime trees worth protecting.

TWSAV 93 POINT ROAD

The Towers and adjacent properties. Group of mature Beech, Sycamore, Chestnut and Lime. A group of trees in a very exposed area should be protected.
Sycamore (No. 1 from East) is a good specimen and should be protected.

TWSAV 94 BOTHAR MAOL/BLACKROCK ROAD

Group of Sycamore, Ash, mature, fair condition. No great value.

TWSAV 95 BUNKER LODGE

Group of Sycamore**,** Ash, mature with good crowns, worth protecting.

TWSAV 96 FIELD HOUSE, SANDYMOUNT

Mature Sycamore, many senescent.

TWSAV 97 SANDYMOUNT/ROCKMOUNT

Mature Sycamore, many senescent.

TWSAV 98 THE CRESCENT

Macrocarpa, mature, fair condition. Better to plant a replacement at this stage. Good Sycamores in garden.

TWSAV 99 CHURCH, BLACKROCK.

Group of Sycamore on the coast is mature, sparse because of exposure, but should be protected. Lime trees in church grounds are good and should be protected.

TWSAV 100 HAGGARDSTOWN HOUSE / BELLFIELD, DUBLIN ROAD

Two Copper Beech worth protecting.

TWSAV 101 CHURCH ROAD, HAGGARDSTOWN

Semi-mature Beech at Parochial House.

TWSAV 102 MARL HOUSE, CHURCH ROAD, HAGGARDSTOWN

Group consisting of Chestnut, Sycamore, Ash and Spanish Chestnut. Mature, vigorous and worth protecting.

TWSAV 103 SEAFIELD HOUSE, SEAFIELD ROAD

Group consisting of senescent trees and young interplants which should replace them. The group should be worth protecting.

TWSAV 104 SEAFIELD ROAD, EAST SIDE.

Good plantation of Beech, Ash, and Sycamore, worth protecting.

TWSAV 105 Fairymount, Seafield Road

As TP 45.

TWSAV 106 Cockle Hill Road

(Coast Road) Senescent trees on the bend of the road are being replaced.

TWSAV 107 Cú Chulainn Castle (Castletown Mount)

Good group of Beech and Sycamore with some Oak, all at advanced mature stage, and at least one sycamore showing signs of invasion by fungus. Worth preserving as a group.