

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Grange Road
Rathfarnham
Dublin 14

Project No.	Project name	Date	Revision
TGRA001	Grange Road	30/11/15	A

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Summary

The proposed development of the cycle scheme along Grange road will necessitate the removal of 43 trees. The numbers to be removed and the locations of these trees are as follows:

Location	Number
Grange road	14
St Enda's park	9
Public open space (The Priory)	20

The quality of trees to be removed is mixed however there are a number of high value trees in terms of their contribution to the visual amenity of the area. All of the mature oak and chestnut within the central median at the southern end of Grange road will be retained as will two trees adjacent to the current cycle lane within the central area of Grange road. The majority of the trees within the carpark of St Enda's park will be retained and though a large number of trees within the open space at the Priory will be removed a large number of trees not included within the tree survey report but located adjacent to the site boundary will be unaffected by the proposed works.

Tree protection for retained trees in compliance with BS5837 (2012) Trees in relation to design demolition and construction will be installed and monitored for the duration of the works. An assessment of the retained trees will be undertaken post construction with all recommendations made within that report with be undertaken by an arboricultural contractor.

Proposed planting and mitigation

An extensive replanting programme is included within the design of the proposed scheme, resulting in an overall increase in the number of street trees along the route. A mature feature tree is proposed within the new plaza space at Sarah Curran Ave. All of the tree species will be in accordance with South Dublin County Council's Tree Management Policy.

1. Introduction

This report was commissioned by AECOM Infrastructure & Environment Ireland Limited. It is designed to outline the impact of the proposed development of the Grange road cycle scheme on existing trees on Grange road, St Enda's park and the open space at the Priory housing estate. The details within the report are based on the tree survey report undertaken by CMK Hort + Arb between the 28th and 30th of September 2015.

This report should be read with reference to the following drawings and reports:

Tree Survey Report
Tree Protection Strategy Report
TGRA01 101 Tree Survey drawing
TGRA001 102 Arboricultural Impact drawing
TGRA001 103 Tree Protection drawing
TGRA001 104 Tree Protection Details drawing

1.2 General description of trees

A total of 79 trees were surveyed and included within the tree survey report. They are located within a number of distinct locations on Grange road, the Priory housing estate and St Enda's park. The condition of the trees is mixed though generally good with a small number of very poor specimens in need of removal.

The survey commenced at the bottom of Grange road where a number of mature trees are located within the central median. These trees are mature horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and common oak (*Quercus robur*) and they are in mixed condition. The pathogen known as bleeding canker (*Pseudomonas syringae var aesculi*) is present on a number of the chestnut trees to varying degrees but is not at an advanced stage at present. Along the mid to upper sections of Grange road there has been tree planting over stages within the grass verges and roadside margins. The older trees are cherry cultivars (*Prunus avium* cv) with a Norway maple cultivar (*Acer platanoides* cv) planted more recently adjacent to the road. In general they have developed well though the cherry are generally nearing the end of their life expectancy.

The section of the carpark at St End's Park where trees were surveyed contains Norway Maples (*Acer platanoides*), birch (*Betula pendula*) and a number of mature beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). A number of poorer value trees are also located in this area. The maples have developed well but limited formative pruning has led to the development of areas of structural weakness in a number of trees. The large mature beech trees on the boundary with Grange road are in good condition for their age though decay was noted in tree number 522.

2. Arboricultural Impact

The proposed development of the cycle scheme along Grange road will necessitate the removal of 43 trees. The location and numbers to be removed are as follows:

Location	Number
Grange road	14
St Enda's	9
Public open space (The Priory)	20

The quality of trees to be removed is mixed however there are a number of high value trees in terms of their contribution to the visual amenity of the area. These include the better quality specimens on Grange road (Cherry), those within the open space at the Priory housing estate (Norway maple) and a high value mature beech (#520) and a well developed birch (#516) in St Enda's park.

All of the mature oak and chestnut within the central median at the southern end of Grange road will be retained. Two cherry trees adjacent to the current cycle lane within the central area of Grange road will be retained, the majority of the trees within the carpark of St Enda's park will be retained and though a large number of trees within the open space at the Priory will be removed a large number of trees not included within the tree survey document but adjacent to the site boundary will be retained.

3. Tree Protection

The location of retained trees and tree protection measures to retain these trees free of adverse impacts during construction are outlined within the Tree Protection drawings and the Tree Protection Strategy report. Tree protection will be monitored for the duration of the works and a post construction report on the condition of the trees will be provided by the site arborist.

4. Conclusion

A large number of trees will be removed to facilitate the proposed cycle scheme. The initial visual impact will be negative particularly on sections of Grange road and within the open space at the Priory housing estate however this will be mitigated over time by the replacement trees and additional landscaping. In overall terms the combination of the improved streetscape and new landscaping will have a positive visual impact on the street.

From an arboricultural perspective the value of the trees with two notable exceptions are moderate. The exceptions are the beech (#520) and birch (#516) within St Enda's park. The former has high landscape value and is an integral element of the tree scape within the park and the latter is a well developed specimen with no visible defects. The opportunity exists to retain these trees within the design of any internal changes to the park and it is recommended that the retention of the beech in particular is considered.

The quality of the planting along Grange road to date has been variable in terms of the suitability of the trees chosen to grow within paved areas and in close proximity to traffic. New tree planting of species / cultivars within appropriate locations and within viable planting pits will provide a new generation of trees with long-term potential.

Retained trees will be monitored for the duration of the works and a post construction report will be provided by the site arborist.

Proposed planting and mitigation

An extensive replanting programme is included within the design of the proposed scheme, resulting in an overall increase in the number of street trees along the route. A mature feature tree is proposed within the new plaza space at Sarah Curran Ave. All of the tree species will be in accordance with South Dublin County Council's Tree Management Policy. It is recommended that the mature category A beech (**#520**) and birch (**#516**) be retained within a revised path layout within St Enda's Park.