



Arboricultural site appraisal for the proposed new Tourist
information Centre at Eyre Square Galway City.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Instruction:

Beith Tree Consultancy has been instructed by Michael Ppike of GKMP Architects to carry out a tree survey in line with BS 5837:2012 trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction – recommendations for the proposed new Tourist information Centre at Eyre Square Galway City.

The purpose of the survey is to provide the following information,

- A schedule of the relevant trees to include basic data and a condition assessment including.
- Tree species
- Height, Trunk diameter, spread.
- Age
- Index of Physiological condition (good/fair/poor)
- Index of Structural condition
- Notable damage, infections, defects & weaknesses etc.
- Tree categorisation in line with BS 5837:2012 A, B, C, or U.
- Recommended root protection area.

1.2 Relevant guidance:

The British Standard BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction-Recommendations provides a framework for considering trees in the planning process. It gives guidance on categorising the qualities of trees in order to enable decisions to be made as to which trees are appropriate for retention within the development. It then advises on options for protecting retained trees during all phases of the development.

1.1 Overview:

The overview of the project is to demolish the existing toilet block and kiosk facilities and to design a new multipurpose facility that will include a tourist information office of 70sq feet, a public convenience block with changing place facility, an external performance space convenient for buskers and other performances and a facility for pop up uses such as the Christmas market ticket office etc to include landscaping of the surrounding area.

1.2.2 The site is not within a designated Conservation Area and no trees on site are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).



2 TREE SURVEY

2.1 **Site visits:** I undertook the survey on Monday 28th April 2025. The weather at the time of the survey was sunny, blue skies with good visibility, enabling clear observations of the trees. Eyre Square is a busy park in the heart of Galway City officially known as the John F Kennedy Memorial Park. The park is a popular meeting place for tourists and local people due to its location and the park provides open maintained grass areas, picnic benches and a playground for relaxing. The park is also known the Christmas market and summer festivals.

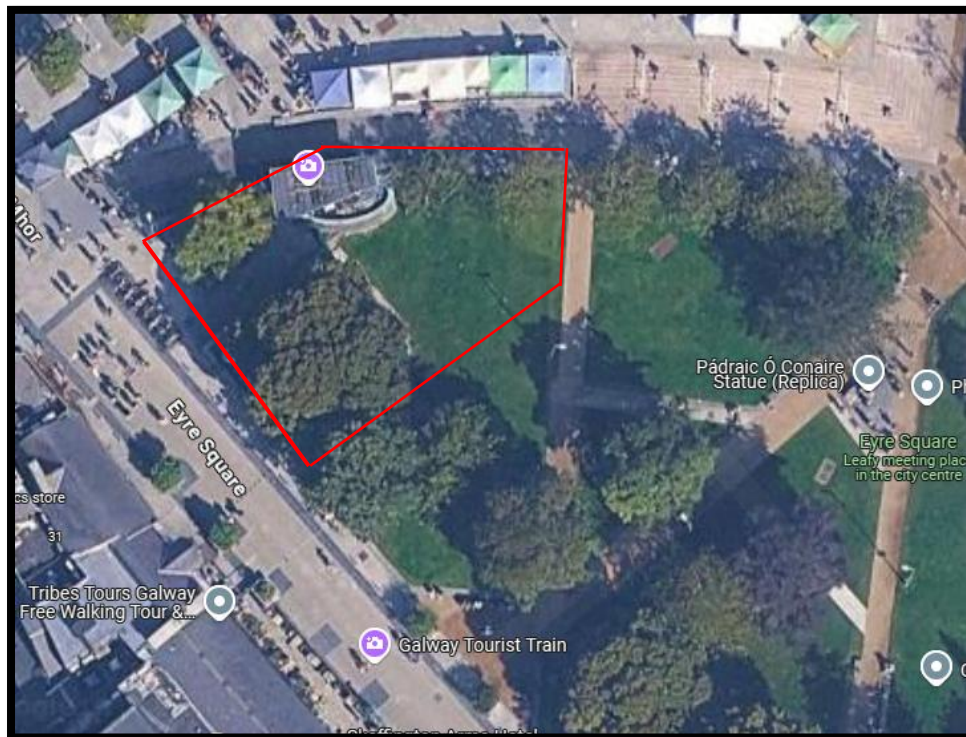


Image: Map courtesy of Google maps. Surveyed area outlined in red.

- 2.2 **Surveyed trees:** The tree survey schedule along with its accompanying explanatory notes, Appendix 1, provides details of single trees and hedgerows present on or immediately adjacent to the proposed development.
- 2.4 **Tree root protection areas:** The measurements for the tree root protection areas are included within the tree survey schedule and provide details of the extent of area required around retained trees to provide adequate protection.
- 2.6 **Limitations:** My survey was of a preliminary nature and did not include any detailed tree safety inspections. All my observations were taken from ground level. Where there is restricted access to the base of a tree, its attributes are assessed from the nearest point of access.



3 Methodology

3.1 **Method:** Trees and hedgerows were surveyed in accordance with British Standards Publication, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations (BS 5837:2012).

3.2 **Collection of basic data:** I collected measurements and recorded observations of the trees and hedgerows from ground level.

3.3 **Categorisation of trees:** The Survey Schedule and Tree Protection Plan detail my recorded measurements and observations. In addition, trees and hedgerows were awarded one of the following four categories, based on their quality, value and suitability for retention:

Category A – high

Category B – moderate

Category C – low

Category U – unsuitable for retention

Trees categorised 'U' should be removed due to their condition and/or short life expectancy. 'C' trees should be retained where possible or where it suits a development layout but there is a general presumption that they can be removed to facilitate development. These trees can be adequately replaced with suitable landscaping.

Trees in categories A, B or C were also awarded a subcategory to indicate the significance or value of their presence:

1. Mainly arboricultural qualities.
2. Mainly landscape qualities.
3. Mainly cultural values, including conservation.



Findings of the survey

Tag 4649

The photo below depicts a prominent mature Lime tree (*Tilia Cordata*) with a broad crown, that overhangs the convenience facility by approx. 4m, located on the north west border of Eyre Square, the tree is growing in a raised bed approximately 800mm in height, the dimensions of the bed radiating out from the stem of the tree are 6m north, 6m east, 5.3m south and 2m west to the boundary of the convenience facility block. There are Daffodils (*Narcissus*) growing sporadically in the bed with a border of box (*Buxus sempervirens*) hedging. See photo below.



Mature Lime tree growing on the western border of Eyre Square.



No Tag

In the far northwest corner of Eyre Square is a middle-aged beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica*), this tree is growing in a raised bed of its own, the dimensions radiating out from the stem of the tree are north 3m east 2.6m south 2.6m and west 2.6m. The raised bed is on a slope, lower to the south at approximately 640mm and higher to the north at approximately 860mm. Further south of this tree is the convenience facility block at 7m, the tourist information kiosk 7m to the east and bicycle rack 6m to the west. The raised bed is surrounded by hard surfacing. See image below.



Untagged beech tree growing in a raised bed. Convenience facilities in the background to the south.



Tag 9433

To the east of the tourist information kiosk is the first Cherry tree (*Prunus* sp) of a linear feature containing 11 trees that align the southern aspect or the footpath that runs from the kiosk in the northwestern aspect of Eyre Square to Station Road in the southeast. The tree is approximately 3m east of the kiosk and 1.6m south of the tarmac footpath. This is a tree that is growing at ground level with 500mm of fresh mulch around the circumference of the stem before maintained grass begins. See photo below.



Tag 9433view looking west, kiosk in background.



Tag 9434

This is the second Cherry tree (*Prunus* sp) in the linear feature. The stem of the tree sits 1.6m south of the tarmac footpath that runs from the kiosk in the northwestern aspect of Eyre Square to Station Road in the southeast and 2.5m from west of an internal footpath crossing the maintained grass within the park. There is also a manhole cover 2m northwest of the stem suggesting there are some underground utilities close to the tree. See photo below.



View of the second Cherry tree looking north.



Appendix 1: Tree schedule and explanatory notes

Key; Category A trees, Category B trees, Category C trees & Category U trees. Trees to be removed in red text

Tree No.	Species	Tree Height (m)	Stem dia (mm)	Crown spread (m)				Height & Direction of 1 st Branch (mm)	Min. Crown Clearance (m)				Life stage	Physiological condition	Structural condition/ Preliminary management recommendations	Remaining contribution	Retention category	RPA R (m)
				N	E	S	W		N	E	S	W						
Tag 4649	Lime	20m	South 498 North 452 West 385	6	6	6.7	5#	South 2m	4	4	3	4	M	Good	700mm above ground level the main stem divides into two co dominant ascending stems at a bark included union approx. 600mm in length, union east to west direction small amount of detritus within the union. At 1.2m above ground level the northern stem divides again into two further stems. Stem abrasion at 1m above ground level, 500mm in length. Rot pocket on eastern aspect at 1.4m probed to 200mm in depth.	40+	A1	10m
No Tag	Beech	18m	327	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.3	South West 1.5m	2	2	2	2	MA	Good	Asymmetrical crown due to prevailing westerly winds.	40+	A2	3.9m
Tag 9433	Cherry	9m	206	4	3	2	3	East 3m	4	2	2.5	3	MA	Fair	Main leader dead approx. 1.5m in length.	20+	B1	
Tag 9434	Cherry	9m	229	4	2.9	3	2	North 2.5m	3	2	3	3	MA	Fair		20+	B1	

Appendix 1: Explanatory Notes

- **Suffix #:** Estimated dimensions
- **Tree No:** Prefix T= individual tree, G= group of trees, S= stump, H= Hedge No. = allocated tree number.
- **Species:** A tree's common name with its botanic name given below in italics. Where a positive identification cannot be made Unknown will be stated.
- **Tree Height:** Height in metres, recorded to the nearest half metre for dimensions up to 10m and the nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m.
- **Stem Diameter:** Stem diameter in millimetres, measured in accordance with BS 5837:2012, rounded to the nearest 10mm.
- **Spread:** The crown spread measured from the centre of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches and rounded up to the nearest half metre for dimensions up to 10m and the nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m, N= north, S= south, E= east and W=west.
- **Height & direction of 1st branch:** Is the height in meters of the first significant branch and its direction of growth (N, S, E, W). Note: this is not recorded if there is a uniform crown and no significant 1st branch.
- **Minimum Crown Clearance:** Is the height in meters from ground level to lowest branch at each cardinal point (N, S, E, W).
- **Life Stage:** Age is an estimated range based on visual indicators; it should only be taken as a provisional guide. NP= Newly planted (planted within the last 5 years); Y= Young (1st 1/3 of life expectancy, MA = Middle aged (2nd 1/3rd of life expectancy), M = Mature (final 1/3rd of life expectancy), V= Veteran (of special conservation value)
- **Physiological Condition:** G= Good – no significant health problems F= Fair – minor symptoms of ill health P= Poor- significant ill health
- **General Observations / Preliminary Management Recommendations:** Information based on visual observations that may influence management proposals or BS 5837 categorisation, where appropriate recommendations are offered. Key information and management recommendations in bold.
- **Remaining Contribution:** An estimate of the tree's remaining life span and contribution to site amenity, in years.
- **Retention Category:** The category and subcategory awarded the tree; it is an indication of a tree's condition and value. U– Unsuitable for retention A – High quality and value B – Moderate quality and Value C – Low quality and value. Subcategory: 1 – Mainly arboricultural values 2 – Mainly landscape values 3 – Mainly cultural values including conservation
- **RPA R:** Root Protection Area Radius, the radius (R) of circle (measured from centre of trunk) required to achieve the protection area (A), in metres. Annex D of BS 5837:2012.
- **RPA A:** Root Protection Area, the calculated area (A) required to protect root system, in m². Annex D of BS 5837:2012
- **Notes:** Only relevant features relating to physiological or structural condition and low branches that may help clarify the categorisation are recorded. If there are no notes, then the presumption should be that no relevant features were observed.



Tree categorisation Plan





Root protection areas



Summary

In summary, this report has identified and classified 4 trees that can be accessed on or adjacent to the proposed new Tourist Information Centre at Eyre Square Galway City. The trees have been classified in accordance with BS 5837:2012 - Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations as trees of High quality and Moderate quality and the relevant root protection areas (RPA's) have been provided for each tree.

Preliminary recommendations are to retain all the trees on site. Consultation has taken place and at this stage no remedial works have been recommended for access facilitation pruning as much of the components will be modular and constructed off site.

Further consideration will be given to any ground protection needed if work inside the root protection areas (RPA's) of the trees is required during demolition of the existing kiosk or the construction of the new facility, to protect the underlying soil medium and protect the root structure of the trees from mechanical damage. This will be done through an arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIS) and an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS). If or when this is required ground protection should be installed prior to commencement of operations in accordance with section 7.3.3.

Additionally, where trees are adjacent to structures that are to be removed the demolition should be undertaken inwards within the footprint of the existing building as per section 7.3.4.

Should any adjustment to the dimensions of the raised plant beds for the mature Lime tree Tag 4649 and the beech tree, no Tag, advice from the arboriculturist should be sought prior to any works and periodical site visits would be appropriate.

In accordance with BS5837:2012 recommendations, the design should not require excavation into the soil including the lowering or raising of soil levels other than the removal of any turf layer. Section 7.4.2.1.

Permeable surfacing has been agreed upon, and it is recommended that a geotextile should be used at the base of construction to help prevent pollution contamination of the rooting area below. Section 7.4.2.5.

Due to the high level of targets within close proximity of these mature trees and to ensure the trees stay within tolerable levels of safety for the site I would recommend tree inspections are carried out every 18 months-2years.

All measurements are approximate.