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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Tree Survey Report

Nash's Boreen Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme

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1. Introduction

The following is a tree report of trees associated with the route of the proposed Nash's Boreen Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme. This report presents a record of those trees existing within or adjacent to the study area that may potentially be impacted by the proposed development. Trees that may be removed due to construction works for the proposed route were recorded. Hedgerow composition on boundaries were also recorded. The survey was conducted in September 2023 by an experienced ecologist. The findings of this survey will contribute to deepening the understanding of the potential impacts of the proposed route and will help producing recommendations for the landscape design.

Details of the survey findings are outlined below.

2. Route outline

The route is located in the north side of Cork City, approximately 3km from the city centre. The existing route extends west and southwards from Upper Fairhill to David McCarthy Road (adjacent to Apple Computers) and is approximately 2.1 km in length. The eastern most point of this project is at Grid ref.: 51.91617, -8.49149 and its western most point is at Grid ref.: 51.90864, -8.51313. The route is bounded to the east by residential dwellings, and it is bordered by agricultural grasslands for the majority of the route, with a short section flanked by a Sitka spruce plantation and a small birch immature woodland. Waxyleaf Privet hedgerows are scattered throughout the length of the route, with a treelines, grassy verges and stone walls fringing the existing road. Nash's Boreen is also used as an amenity walk as part of the Cork City Northwest Slí na Sláinte loop.

The purpose of this scheme is to upgrade Active Travel (walking and cycling) infrastructure within the project area. The purpose of this scheme is to upgrade Active Travel (walking and cycling) infrastructure within the project area. The facility will be complete with raised traffic calming ramps and drop kerbs at strategic points, as well as accommodation works for vehicle access and a dedicated vehicle turning facility. Traffic management bollards and appropriate signage will also be installed where necessary.

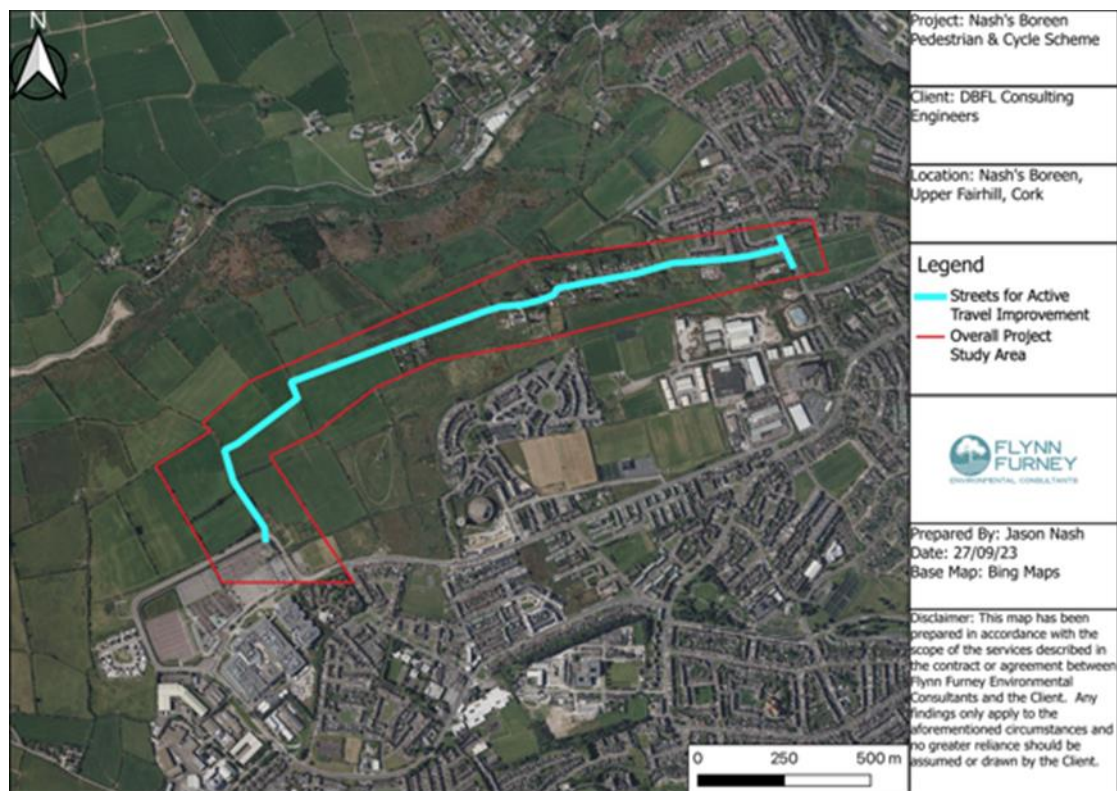


Figure 1. Overview of proposed works area.

3. Results



Figure 2. Details of survey findings

The key areas are detailed in table 1 below.

Table 1. Details of findings

	Description	Latitude	Longitude	Species and Maturity	Impact
1	Hedgerow	51.90899	-8.51331	Sycamore briar hawthorn blackthorn. Semi mature	Part of area to be landscaped. Retain where possible.
2	Hedgerow	51.90902	-8.51343	Hawthorn. Mature	Part of area to be landscaped. Retain where possible.
3	Tree	51.90935	-8.51381	Sycamore. Mature	To be retained where possible.
4	Tree	51.90973	-8.51407	Elder	To be retained where possible.
5	Tree	51.90982	-8.5143	Sycamore. Mature	Light pole installation indicated at this chainage. May be removed.
6	Tree	51.91004	-8.51437	Elder. Mature	Light pole installation indicated at this chainage. Retain tree where possible.
7	Hedgerow	51.91012	-8.5146	Hawthorn and Elder	Retain where possible.
8	Hedgerow	51.91043	-8.51479	Hawthorn	Light pole installation indicated at this chainage. Retain tree where possible.
9	Hedgerow	51.91022	-8.5136	Hawthorn. Mature	Likely to be retained.
10	Tree	51.9111	-8.51388	Elder	Likely to be retained.
11	Tree	51.91133	-8.51365	Hawthorn and Elder	Boundary to be set back to accommodate 3m wide greenway at this chainage trees likely to be lost.
12	Tree	51.91143	-8.51346	Elder	Boundary to be set back to accommodate 3m wide greenway at this chainage. Tree likely to be lost.
13	Hedgerow	51.91365	-8.50745	Sycamore and Cherry Laurel	Likely to be retained. Cherry Laurel may be removed.
14	Tree	51.91376	-8.50729	Crab Apple	Light pole installation indicated at this chainage. Retain tree where possible.
15	Tree	51.9138	-8.5069	Crab Apple	Light pole installation indicated at this chainage.

					Retain tree where possible.
16	Tree	51.91414	-8.50571	Willow	Light pole installation indicated at this chainage. Retain tree where possible.
17	Scrub	51.91408	-8.50527	Gorse	Likely to be retained.
18	Tree	51.91435	-8.50464	Hawthorn	Light pole installation indicated at this chainage. Retain tree where possible.
19	Tree	51.91466	-8.50304	Cypress and Cherry Laurel	Light pole installation indicated at this chainage. Cherry Laurel may be removed.
20	Tree	51.91447	-8.50282	Cypress and Cherry Laurel	Likely to be retained, but Cherry Laurel may be removed.
21	Treeline	51.91465	-8.50204	Cypress with 2 sycamore	Likely to be retained
22	Treeline	51.91474	-8.50205	Cypress	Light pole installation indicated at this chainage. May be removed.
23	Treeline	51.91482	-8.50146	Cypress	Light pole installation indicated at this chainage. May be removed.
24	Tree	51.91495	-8.5011	Cypress and Cherry Laurel	Likely to be retained
25	Hedgerow	51.91504	-8.50099	Cherry Laurel, Holly, Elder, Privet, Hawthorn, Dog Rose	Light pole installation indicated at this chainage. Retain hedge where possible. Cherry Laurel may be removed.
26	Hedgerow	51.91504	-8.50058	Sycamore and Hawthorn	Likely to be retained
27	Hedgerow	51.91511	-8.50056	Blackthorn and Bramble	Likely to be retained
28	Hedgerow	51.91506	-8.50039	Cherry Laurel	Likely to be retained, but can be removed.
29	Hedgerow	51.91509	-8.50009	Privet	Likely to be retained
30	Tree	51.91517	-8.4994	Sycamore	Likely to be retained
31	Tree	51.91525	-8.49943	Ash and Privet	Likely to be retained
32	Treeline	51.9152	-8.49915	Sycamore	Likely to be retained
33	Hedgerow	51.91525	-8.49889	Privet, Cherry Laurel and Fuchsia	Likely to be retained

Summary and recommendations

The majority of trees, treelines and hedgerows are likely to be retained; however at sites 11 and 12 the boundary will be set back by 3m to accommodate the green way, hence likely leading to a loss of hedgerows at this location. Hedgerows here are composed of Elder and Hawthorn at this site. Given the scale of the hedgerow loss at this location, impacts are deemed to be minimal where these trees removed, however care should be taken to retain them if possible.

Sites 5,6,8,14,15,16,18,19,22,23, and 25 are in proximity of the location marked for the installation of light poles. Of these site a few are composed of native tree species (eg. Sites 8 and 18 are Hawthorn, site 6 is Elder, sites 14 and 15 are Crab Apple, and site 16 is Willow). These shall be retained where possible. The remaining sites are composed of non-native species such as Sycamore, Cypress and Cherry Laurel and may be removed.

It is recommended that native trees are retained where possible. There is scope to mitigate any loss to the hedgerows at sites 11 and 12. Linear planting along the new path boundary offers a lot of scope. This planting may include some standards such as Oak, Hawthorn and Crab Apple. Linear planting of hedgerows should be made up of a native species mix, and saplings should only be of local provenance. This will help form a wildlife corridor that will benefit species such as songbirds and bats. Root protection of trees to be retained will be considered. Damage to more than ¼ of a tree's root zone is to be avoided. Any large tree roots exposed by works will be left with a clean cut. Exposed roots will be covered with hessian prior to back filling.