TREE STRATEGY 2024 - 2029

FOR CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT

JULY 2024

Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Foreword by the Mayor of Clonmel: A Tree Strategy for a Sustainable Future

As Mayor of Clonmel, I am proud to present our comprehensive Tree Strategy, a cornerstone of our commitment to sustainability and the enhancement of our town's natural beauty. Trees are more than just a picturesque backdrop to our daily lives, they are vital assets that contribute significantly to the health and well-being of our community, our environment and our economy.

Our town and its surrounding villages are blessed with a rich natural heritage, and it is our duty to protect and enhance these green treasures for future generations. This strategy outlines our vision and the steps we will take to ensure that trees continue to play a central role in the sustainable development of Clonmel.

Trees offer numerous benefits that are often overlooked. They improve air quality by absorbing pollutants and producing oxygen, mitigate the effects of climate change by sequestering carbon, and reduce urban heat islands by providing shade.

They also play a critical role in supporting biodiversity, offering habitat and food for countless species of birds, insects and other wildlife. Furthermore, trees have been shown to provide significant mental and physical health benefits, from reducing stress to encouraging outdoor activity.

In our towns and villages, trees help to create a sense of place and identity, enhancing the aesthetic appeal of our streets, parks and public spaces, They contribute to the economic vitality of our communities by attracting visitors, supporting local businesses and increasing property values.

Our Tree Strategy is not just about planting more trees, although that is a significant component. It is about ensuring that we plant the right trees in the right places, and that we manage and care for our existing tree stock effectively.

It is about fostering community engagement and stewardship, educating our residents about the value of trees, and encouraging everyone to play a part in protecting and nurturing our urban forest.

We will work closely with local schools, businesses, community groups and I residents to implement this Strategy. Together, we can create a greener, healthier, and more resilient Clonmel. I invite you all to join us on this journey and contribute to a legacy of sustainability that will benefit ourtown and its people for generations to come.

I would also like to thank the outgoing Mayor Cllr Richie Molloy who supported this endeavour from its infancy and showed commitment in bringing this Strategy for adoption before the Clonmel Members.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr. Michael Murphy
Mayor of Clonmel

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1. Introduction

1.1. A Tree Strategy for Clonmel

Trees provide us with benefits that we have only just started to fully understand and measure. We know they give us life as they produce the oxygen that we breathe. Playing around trees helps us create memories. We plant trees when our children are born. We plant trees to remember the loved ones that are gone. Trees signal the change of seasons, provide habitat and resources to wildlife, who then provide us with a healthy ecosystem and pollination. They reduce stress, improve our wellbeing and mental health. Adequate and good tree cover can transform the quality and image of an area. The value and presence of trees have long been accepted.

The 2024-2029 Tree Strategy aims to guide Clonmel Borough District's approach to trees throughout Clonmel and surrounding areas, encourage public amenity, tree preservation, and improve the efficiency of tree management by enhancing healthy, safe and rich tree covers, ultimately contributing to the reduction of the impacts that lead to the climatic change.

The 2024-2028 tree vision sets out principles relating to how Clonmel Borough District will deal with trees with an aim to developing a specific approach.

1.2. Why have a Tree Strategy

Clonmel Borough District considers that benefits arising from a Tree Strategy will future proof the wellbeing of the residents, visitors and wildlife alike. More specifically the Tree Strategy is expected to bring the following benefits:

Urban Forestry Management: A tree strategy provides a structured framework for managing and maintaining the urban forest within the Clonmel Borough District. It helps identify the current state of the tree population, sets goals for future tree planting and maintenance, and establishes clear guidelines for sustainable management practices.

Public Safety: Trees within urban areas can pose safety risks if they are not properly managed. A tree strategy enables the council to identify and address potential hazards, such as diseased or structurally compromised trees, to ensure the safety of residents, pedestrians, motorists, and property.

Environmental Benefits: Trees play a crucial role in enhancing environmental value by improving air and water quality, reducing urban heat island effects, and providing habitat for wildlife. A tree strategy helps maximise these benefits by promoting tree planting, preservation, and sustainable management practices.

Urban Green Infrastructure: Trees contribute to the overall green infrastructure of urban areas, providing valuable ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, stormwater management, and noise reduction. A tree strategy integrates trees into broader urban planning efforts, ensuring their inclusion in infrastructure projects and development plans.

Community Well-being: Trees enhance the aesthetic appeal of neighbourhoods, provide shade and recreational opportunities, and contribute to the overall health and well-being of communities. A tree strategy fosters community engagement and participation in tree-related activities, promoting a sense of pride and ownership among residents.

Climate Resilience: Trees play a critical role in mitigating the impacts of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, moderating temperatures, and enhancing resilience to extreme weather events. A tree strategy helps Clonmel Borough District adapt to climate change by prioritising climate-resilient tree species and management practices.

1.3. The importance of trees, environmental benefits & climate change

Trees are a vital environmental and social resource and are integral to the character, visual amenity and distinctiveness of Clonmel Borough District. The presence of trees has been noted to:

- Enhance mental and physical health and well-being.
- Provide towards recreation, shade and shelter.
- Reduce wind speeds and functions as buffers.
- Reduce flooding.
- Enhance biodiversity.

Clonmel Borough District boasts a wealth of mature trees, adding timeless beauty and character to its landscape. These majestic giants contribute not only to a visually-pleasing environment but also serve as living screens, gracefully concealing any less attractive elements. By softening the built environment and providing pockets of greenery like tranquil woodlands and parks, these magnificent trees are a vital part of what makes Clonmel Borough District so special, a legacy that is to be enjoyed by current youth and future generations

Mature trees have been shown to have a positive impact on mental and physical health and well-being and studies have found that the presence of a mature tree environment has a positive impact on stress, blood pressure and heart rate.

Mature trees contribute to recreation as features of interest and through the provision of a soothing environment or setting whilst providing a comfortable shade in the summer days making the ground surface and structures cooler.

Trees reduce wind speeds across the landscape. In their role as buffers, trees can enhance the likes of noise reduction by absorbing roadway noise and they may enhance some aspects of road safety perception by enticing drivers on Irish roads to changed attitudes and slower driving to the benefit of all road users.

Trees can reduce the effects of flooding by intercepting rainfall and storm-water runoff and also filter particulate pollution and nutrients that may be harmful.

Retaining mature trees can enhance biodiversity and wildlife by creating habitats, shelter and food for wildlife invertebrates and detritivores and by providing an environment for woodland flora.

1.4. Challenges of managing trees

While trees enhance the urban environment, urban growing conditions are often less than ideal. Trees are frequently forced to find and compete for good ground and healthy root development in footpaths and roadside margins, containing utility networks or engineering foundations. Meanwhile, the above ground growth has to contend with a variety of pollutants such as car fumes, salt and de-icing agents.

Physical damage and disturbance to trees roots is a frequent consequence of road and footpath reconstruction or trenching works by utility companies. Vandalism and vehicular damage, particularly by skips and high-sided vehicles, can damage trees causing death or disfigurement resulting in a misshapen or weakened specimens. There is also an increasing trend by car users to park their vehicles on verges, causing rutting and soil compaction, resulting in significant damage to tree roots as well as leaving the verge in an unsightly and unsafe condition.

Poor management of trees, incorrect pruning, and failure to remove tree stakes and tree ties can also negatively affect tree growth. Despite all of this, trees can and do survive, albeit with a more limited life expectancy. However, these challenges demonstrate the need for a strategic approach to tree management, planting and maintenance.
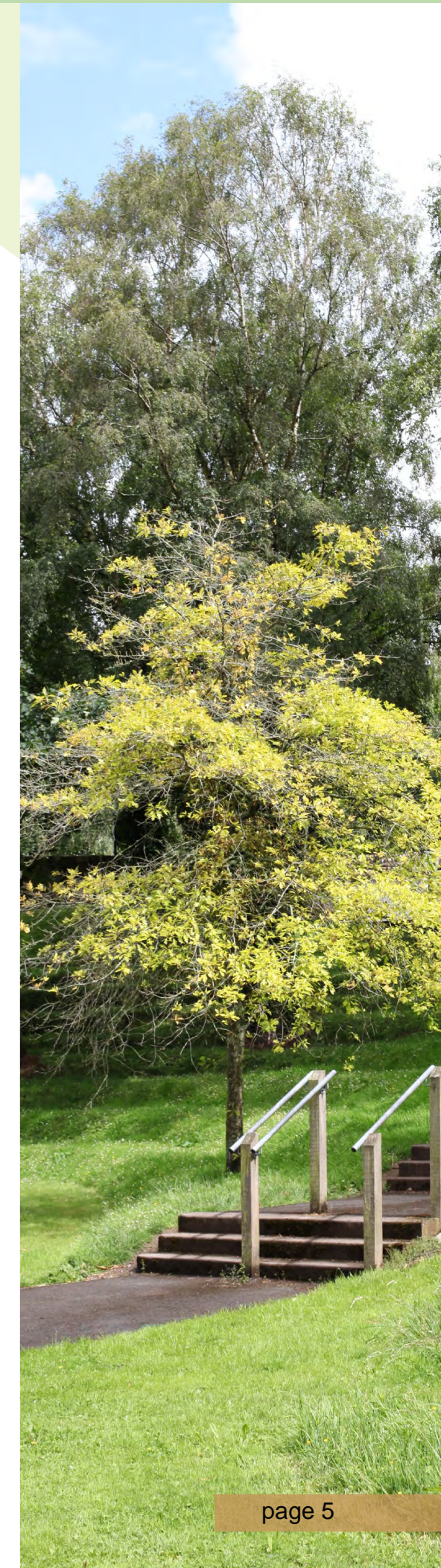
1.5. Aims and Objectives of the Tree Strategy

The aim of this tree strategy is to ensure that the trees of Clonmel are preserved, new trees are planted and the full tree capital is managed in accordance with good arboriculture practice, with regard to their contribution to the local habitats, amenity and the landscape, for the benefit of both current and future generations.

The policy will provide a framework to support the district in not only meeting, but going beyond its statutory legal obligations. Key to this is the adoption of risk-based approach to the management of tree stock.

Clonmel Borough District Council has many legal obligations to manage the risks associated with trees including:

- Occupiers Liability Act
- Health and Safety at Work Act
- Roads Act

An adopted Tree Strategy will provide support and guidance to officers and the public decision making around trees, thus ensuring a consistent and transparent approach. Much of what is included within the policy is already common practice adopted by the council, but by formalising it as a council agreed policy, it will facilitate the effective raising of awareness, management of public expectations and collaboration in relation to tree management.

The objectives that will help us achieve these aims are as follows:

Strategic objective 1: Tree Preservation and Protection

- Action 1: Establish criteria and guidelines for evaluating tree removal requests, considering factors such as tree health, structural integrity, safety hazards, and development impacts.
- Action 2: Require property developers and landowners to submit tree preservation plans as part of development applications, outlining measures to protect existing trees, regardless if they are under a TPO or other statutory protection, and mitigate impacts on the urban tree canopy.
- Action 3: Conduct site assessments and tree surveys to identify significant or heritage trees worthy of preservation and develop strategies for their protection and conservation.
- Action 4: Implement tree protection zones and construction fencing around existing trees to prevent damage to root systems and ensure their survival during construction activities.
- Action 5: Require mitigation measures, such as replacement planting or monetary contributions to tree funds, for any trees approved for removal to offset the loss of canopy cover and ecosystem services.

Strategic objective 2: Tree Management and Maintenance

- Action 6: Develop and implement a systematic tree maintenance schedule, including pruning, fertilisation, and pest management, to promote the health and vitality of urban trees.
- Action 7: Provide training and continuing education opportunities for municipal arborists and tree care professionals to ensure compliance with industry best practices and standards.
- Action 8: Establish guidelines and protocols for tree preservation during construction and development activities to minimise damage to existing trees and root systems.
- Action 9: Implement a tree inventory and management database to track the location, species, size, condition, and maintenance history of urban trees and facilitate data-driven decision-making.

Strategic objective 3: Community Engagement and Education

- Action 10: Engage with community stakeholders, such as neighborhood associations and tree advocacy groups, to solicit input and feedback on tree management priorities and practices.
- Action 11: Promote public awareness and understanding of the importance of proper tree care and maintenance through educational workshops, outreach materials, and social media campaigns.
- Action 12: Educate property owners, developers, and the general public about the value of trees, the benefits of tree preservation, and the importance of sustainable urban forestry practices through outreach campaigns and educational materials.

Strategic objective 4: Habitat Enhancement and Biodiversity

- Action 13: Enhance habitat diversity and promote biodiversity by selecting tree species that support local wildlife, providing food, shelter, and nesting sites for birds, insects, and other organisms.

Strategic objective 5: Utility Coordination and Emergency Response

- Action 14: Collaborate with utility companies to minimise conflicts between trees and infrastructure, such as overhead power lines and underground utilities, through strategic pruning and vegetation management.
- Action 15: Develop and implement emergency response protocols and procedures for addressing tree-related incidents, such as storm damage and hazardous tree removal, in a timely and efficient manner. Tree Management
- Action 16: Clonmel Borough District will continue to survey all Council owned and managed trees, so that the collected information can be used to manage the tree resource in a planned and efficient way, which allows for the development and implementation of long term management plans, work schedules and the prioritisation of tree work.

1.6. Tree Stock

For Clonmel Borough District, which encompasses both urban and rural areas, including parks, streets, and agricultural land, it's reasonable to estimate the following:

Number of Trees: Depending on the size of the urban area and the presence of parks, streets, and green spaces, there could be several thousand trees within the borough. In urban areas, there may be street trees, trees in parks, and trees in private gardens. In rural areas, there may be trees in hedgerows, woodlands, and agricultural areas. A rough estimate could range from several thousand to tens of thousands of trees.

Length of Hedgerows: Trees within hedgerows are common features in rural areas and agricultural landscapes. The length of hedgerows can vary significantly depending on factors such as the size of agricultural holdings, the density of farm boundaries, and the presence of roads and waterways. A rough estimate for the length of hedgerows in Clonmel Borough District could range from hundreds to thousands of kilometers.

These estimates are approximate and can vary based on factors such as land use patterns, historical land management practices, and environmental conditions. For more precise data, it would be necessary to conduct a comprehensive survey or assessment of the area's tree stock and hedgerows. Following these surveys, protections should extend to hedgerows and applied in planning applications and construction.

1.7. Current Tree Management practices in Clonmel Borough District

Clonmel Borough District recognises the need to conserve existing tree cover. Tree retention must always be favoured where a reasonable alternative to felling is available. For arboricultural or health and safety reasons, pruning works on some trees are necessary from time to time.

Where tree works could affect protected species or their habitat due regard will be given by Clonmel Borough District to relevant legislative and biodiversity requirements, and works (if any) will be undertaken in a way that eliminates and minimises impact with the aforementioned. Ecological advice must be sought in this regard in advance of works (if any).

Ivy must normally be retained except if it is adversely affecting tree health. Ivy is a plant of huge importance to wildlife and provides nesting sites for birds and its nectar is of huge value to insects which depend on it for survival during off summer.

All tree waste is mulched on site where possible.

- Where street trees up to 150mm diameter cannot be retained they have to be felled and stumps no greater than 1m are retained at the bottom for later removal. Trees greater than 150mm diameter that cannot be retained must be felled to ground level. Where possible and considered appropriate by Clonmel Borough District, we will endeavour to replace any removed trees.

Under no circumstances must tree waste and saw dust, be left uncollected where tree works have been carried out.

In the interest of amenity, Clonmel Borough District will support resident's initiatives for appropriate tree planting in public and amenity green areas and the likes, subject to prior Council approval.

Up-lighting of trees in civic open spaces will be considered to lead to an improvement in local civic amenity.

1.8. Tree Maintenance Service

Clonmel Borough Districts tree maintenance service will aim to provide a professional and reliable service to the public, Council members and other Council services. The key roles of the Clonmel Borough Districts tree maintenance service are to:

- Manage inspections and surveys of trees under Council ownership and management.
- plan and monitor all planned and reactive tree works.
- compile and deliver a five-year programme of tree maintenance works.
- deal with public enquiries and complaints on tree related matters.
- provide professional advice to other Council services and Council members.

1.9. Cyclical Programme of Planned Tree Maintenance

To ensure 'Best Value' service delivery, Clonmel Borough District will continue to work on a planned cyclical programme of tree maintenance pruning entire roads or whole estates. Having a planned approach also reduces the risk of tree failure and nuisance to residents, and will help to pre-empt complaints and meet the majority of customer requirements for tree works. This planned programme of tree maintenance will be made available to the public through various Council Committees and voluntary groups. In addition to the rolling programme of planned works, some works will arise from unplanned events such as severe weather conditions or insurance claims. Trees which threaten public safety and property will always be given the highest priority which may lead to plans for programmed works having to be delayed.

1.10. Reactive and Emergency Works

Reactive and emergency works on trees refer to actions taken in response to immediate or unforeseen situations to address potential risks, hazards, or urgent issues concerning trees. Reactive works typically involve proactive maintenance or management tasks aimed at addressing ongoing concerns or issues identified during routine inspections or assessments.

These may include pruning to remove dead or diseased branches, tree removal to mitigate safety risks, or tree planting to replace lost or damaged trees. Reactive works are often planned and scheduled based on regular monitoring and assessment of tree health and condition.

On the other hand, emergency works on trees involve urgent actions taken in response to sudden or unexpected events that pose an immediate threat to public safety, property, or infrastructure. These events may include storm damage, tree failure, or sudden onset of tree-related hazards such as limb failure or uprooting. Emergency works prioritise rapid response and mitigation to prevent further damage or injury.

Examples of emergency works include the removal of fallen trees blocking roads or pathways, stabilisation of hazardous trees to prevent collapse, or clearing of debris following severe weather events. Emergency works require prompt coordination and collaboration between arborists, emergency services, and relevant authorities to ensure swift and effective response to tree-related incidents.

1.11. Public Awareness, Education & Engagement

Clonmel Borough District will engage with the general public, schools, resident groups and environmental non-governmental organisations to promote a better understanding of the management, care and value of trees and to increase public awareness of their importance in promoting well-being, environmental sustainability and improving quality of life. Where practicable, Clonmel Borough District will promote awareness and appreciation of trees through encouraging and facilitating the involvement of local communities, schools and other stakeholders in tree planting, management and educational activities. This will include organising events for National Tree Week in March and Tree Day in October, particularly in association with schools and community groups throughout the District. Social Media campaigns will be undertaken to highlight the value of trees and increase public awareness.

SuirCAN a Clonmel based enviromentalist group with active tree planting programmes like the "Squeeze One In"; a programme that aims not to miss an opportunity for tree planting, has expressed interest in supporting the principles of this Tree Strategy. These partnerships will prove crucial in the lachievement of the longterm goals and monitoring.

1.12. Trees in Parks & Open Spaces

Trees in Parks and Open Spaces are integral components to the amenity and environmental services offered to Clonmel's communities and wildlife. Environmental benefits include improved air quality, shade provision, and reduction of urban heat island effect.

Socially, trees enhance the aesthetic value of parks, provide opportunities for recreation and relaxation, and promote community well-being.

Ecologically, they support biodiversity, provide habitats for wildlife, and contribute to soil health and erosion control. Economically, they increase property values, attract tourists, and support local economies.

Parks and open spaces should maintain a diverse range of tree species, protect heritage trees, recognise champion trees, and conserve rare and endangered species. Existing invasive species should be replaced with native and non-native, non-invasive species that are preferably included in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Management practices should include planning and design, planting and establishment, maintenance and care, risk management, community engagement, education and outreach. Implementation of the policy requires clear responsibility, monitoring and evaluation, and periodic review and revision to ensure its effectiveness and relevance over time.

1.13.   Autumn Leaf Fall Management

Clonmel Borough District street cleaning operations includes leaf sweeping during the autumn period. Leaves are removed from public roads and footpaths throughout the District. This usually begins in September and extends to the end of January each year. Residents are responsible for dealing with leaf-fall on their private property. Leaves from private gardens, drives or pathways should not be swept into the road but should be disposed of in a responsible manner.
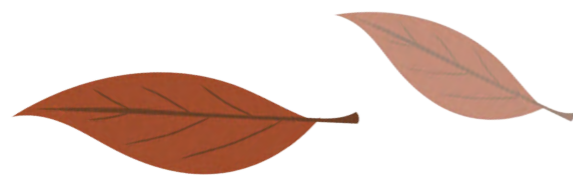
Options may include:

- Home composting
- Collection from your home through the brown bin collections
- Taking them to the Civic Amenity sites for recycling. Resident Associations, Tidy Towns Committees and Community Organisations may also wish to compost leaves, in appropriate locations approved in advance by the Council, to create beneficial leaf mould which is a valuable resource and can be used to enrich soils.

1.14. Street Trees

Street trees refer to trees planted along roadsides, sidewalks, and in other urban settings, typically within the public right-of-way. These trees serve multiple purposes, including enhancing the aesthetic appeal of streetscapes, providing shade and cooling effects, improving air quality, and creating habitat for urban wildlife.

Street trees can pose various challenges to ongoing tree management, cables, and highway safety. One significant challenge is the potential for root damage to underground infrastructure such as water pipes, sewage systems, and electrical cables. Additionally, trees with large canopies or overhanging branches may interfere with overhead utilities such as power lines, telephone cables, and street lighting, posing safety hazards and increasing maintenance costs.

In urban environments, access for ongoing tree maintenance can be challenging, particularly in areas with dense infrastructure and limited space. Furthermore, street trees planted near highways or roadsides can obstruct sightlines, create hazards for drivers, and contribute to signage obstruction, increasing liability risks for municipalities. Addressing these challenges requires proactive planning, coordination between relevant stakeholders, and the implementation of appropriate management strategies. This may include careful selection of tree species, regular maintenance and pruning to manage tree size and structure, coordination with utility companies to minimize conflicts with infrastructure, and the use of innovative techniques to promote healthy root growth while protecting underground utilities and minimizing signage obstruction. By addressing these challenges effectively, cities and municipalities can maintain safe and sustainable urban tree canopies that enhance the quality of life for residents while minimizing risks to infrastructure and public safety.

1.15. Public Realm

Public realm trees include trees planted in squares, town centres, and other publicly accessible spaces. They play a crucial role in enhancing the urban environment, creating distinct vistas and promoting the well-being of residents.

1.16. Woodland Trees

Woodland trees, found in forests, woodlands, and natural landscapes, have distinct management requirements compared to street and public realm trees. Unlike urban trees, woodland trees typically grow in natural ecosystems with less human intervention.

Management of woodland trees often focuses on maintaining biodiversity, ecological integrity, and habitat quality. Practices such as selective thinning, coppicing, and natural regeneration are commonly used to promote healthy forest ecosystems and sustainable timber production. Additionally, woodland management may involve considerations for wildlife habitat, soil conservation, and carbon sequestration, aligning with broader conservation and environmental objectives.

Unlike street and public realm trees, which may require regular pruning, irrigation, and pest management, woodland trees rely more on natural processes and ecological dynamics for their maintenance and health.

Overall, effective management of woodland trees requires an understanding of forest ecology, silvicultural practices, and conservation principles to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of forest ecosystems.

2. Tree Planting

The careful selection of appropriate tree species and planting location is essential to minimise future nuisance issues and unecessary maintenance costs. Potential sites for tree planting will be inspected by the Council to assess their suitability for new trees, considering factors such as services, sight lines, warning signs, traffic signals, sufficient space for future growth, and so on.

2.1. Right Tree, Right Place

"Right tree, right place" is a guiding principle in urban forestry and landscaping that emphasises the importance of selecting appropriate tree species for specific environmental conditions and locations. The concept recognises that not all trees are suitable for every site and that careful consideration must be given to factors such as soil type, climate, available space, and potential hazards.

By selecting the right tree for the right place, several benefits can be achieved:

Healthy Growth: Matching tree species to their preferred growing conditions helps ensure optimal growth and vitality. Trees planted in suitable environments are less likely to experience stress, disease, or stunted growth, resulting in healthier and more resilient urban forests. Reduced Maintenance: Well-suited trees require less maintenance, such as watering, pruning, and pest management, compared to species that are poorly adapted to their surroundings. This can reduce long-term maintenance costs and efforts while promoting sustainable urban forestry practices.

Improved Aesthetics: Choosing trees that complement the surrounding landscape and architectural features enhances the visual appeal of urban environments. Properly placed trees can soften harsh urban elements, provide shade and screening, and contribute to the overall beauty and character of streetscapes and public spaces.

Safety and Longevity: Planting trees appropriate for their location helps minimise potential risks such as root damage to infrastructure, overhanging branches obstructing utilities, or tree failures during storms. This promotes public safety and extends the longevity of urban trees, reducing the likelihood of costly damage or accidents.

Ecosystem Services: Trees planted in the right locations can provide valuable ecosystem services, such as air purification, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat. Maximising the ecological benefits of urban trees requires thoughtful selection and placement to optimise their environmental contributions.

Overall, the "right tree, right place" principle underscores the importance of informed decision-making and thoughtful planning in urban forestry and landscaping. By considering site conditions and selecting appropriate tree species, cities and municipalities can create healthier, more sustainable, and aesthetically pleasing urban environments for residents and visitors to enjoy.

2.2. Tree Planting

When planting trees based on best horticultural practice, several key guidelines should be followed to ensure successful establishment and long-term health. Firstly, it's essential to plant trees that will perform well in the conditions of the site they are desired to grow in. This is critical especially in locations where there is limited space for root growth, where drainage is problematic and soil conditions are not favouring plant growth.

When planting, dig a hole that is slightly wider than the root ball or extents of the roots when loosened in the case of bare root trees. Backfill it with preferably local, unpolutted soil, ensuring good root-to-soil contact. Mulching around the base of the tree helps conserve soil moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature. Proper watering is crucial, especially during the tree's establishment period, to promote root growth and avoid drought tolerance.

Support newly planted trees with stakes and ties, especially in windy or exposed locations, but avoid over-tightening the ties to prevent damage to the bark. Pruning should be limited to the removal of broken or diseased branches, with minimal pruning in the first few years to allow the tree to focus on root development. Following these guidelines will help ensure that newly planted trees establish successfully and thrive, enhancing the beauty and sustainability of urban landscapes for years to come.

Type	Dimension of excavation W x W x D mm	Depth of cultivation at the base of pits or trenches mm
Semi mature trees	Measurement of rootball plus 400 in each direction	200
Extra heavy standard and Heavy standard trees	1800 x 1800 x 750	200
Selected standard trees Tall standard trees Standard trees	1000 x 1000 x 600	200
Light standard trees Half standard trees Feathered trees	700 x 700 x 600	200
Whips, Transplants, Shrubs (where pit-planting is specified)	300 x 300 x 300	150
Hedging (where specified)	* x 600 x 300	150
Cell-grown plants	150 mm greater than W and D of root-plug	

* length of hedging

Table 2-1: Planting Pits, Beds and Trenches
(Adapted from Table 30/1 in SHW Series 3000 Landscape and Ecology - May 2008, Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works, Volume 1 Specification for Highway Works)

2.3. Species Selection

The species selection process for trees should take in to consideration the location they are in and their purpose. Selection of urban trees within the public realm demands a careful approach, prioritising visual amenity while navigating the challenges posed by unfriendly soil conditions and limited underground space due to services. In such settings, tree species resilient to urban stressors, such as pollution and compacted soil, are favoured. Additionally, species with compact root systems that can thrive in confined spaces without causing damage to infrastructure are sought after. Moreover, the selection process places emphasis on species that contribute to biodiversity and ecosystem services, enhancing the overall health and resilience of urban environments.

Proposed Standard Tree

600mm radius, min. 50mm depth bark mulch ring

Tree rootball

2000 x 7.5mm Stakes secured with 2no. 50mm rubber belt and spacer ties, fixed with 2no. 40mm galvanised clout nails. Stakes to sit min. 450mm above the ground either side of tree parallel to slope

Good quality multi-purpose BS3882:2015 Topsoil / backfill mix to tree pits with slow release fertiliser

Tree root barrier if required; water/foul/gas underground services within 6 metres; to 1000mm depth

Presence of u/g water/foul services (indicative)

Watering/aeration system, perforated pvc watering & aeration system. Capped, pipe to be located within mulch ring and finished flush with ground level

Sand mix to tree pits

150mm clean stone drainage layer wrapped in geotextile membrane

Sides scarified to remove smearing

Bottom thoroughly broken up to a minimum depth of 400mm

Min. 500

Min. 550

300

150

1200

Min 400

Figure 2-1: Standard Tree Pit Detail with Double Stakes

Wind direction

Stake to be positioned on windward side of tree

Tree stake to be round pressure treated softwood. 50mm diameter and 1.5m length. To be staked into firm ground, positioned into prevailing wind

Organic Bark Mulch Top Dressing of min. 50mm

Tree rootball

Good quality with BS3882:2015 Topsoil / backfill mix to tree pits, including slow release fertilizer 20g for 6-8cm trees

River washed gravel / crushed stone, 0-25mm where ground is not free draining

Base of Tree Pit to be cultivated to a depth of min. 200mm

"TOM" tie 25mm. wide standard nylon reinforced rubber strap to be fixed to the stake with two galvanised nails

Root-barrier to be used where trees are in 2m proximity to underground services and an appropriate relocation is not feasible

1200

200

200

Figure 2-2: Standard Tree Pit Detail with a Single Stake

Conversely, in open spaces like parks, the species selection process strikes a balance between ecological benefits and visual amenity. Ornamental species, prized for their aesthetic appeal, are considered alongside native species known for their ecological value. Optimal soil conditions in parks facilitate the growth of a diverse range of tree species, enhancing the ecological network while providing recreational and aesthetic benefits to visitors. Management practices in parks focus on maintaining the health and vitality of trees while ensuring they integrate harmoniously with the surrounding landscape.

Woodland trees, on the other hand, are predominantly native species selected for their ability to positively contribute to wildlife habitats and ecosystem functions. The emphasis lies on promoting biodiversity and creating robust ecological networks within woodland area as well as creating links with near by habitats. Management strategies for woodlands prioritise habitat enhancement, including practices such as selective thinning and understorey management to create diverse habitats for flora and fauna.

In contrast, street trees face unique challenges, including restricted space for root growth, overhead cables, and the need to avoid interference with road signage. Species selected for street planting must possess shallow and non-invasive root systems, enabling them to thrive in confined spaces without causing damage to infrastructure. Additionally, the species must be tolerant of urban pollutants and resilient to urban stressors. Management of street trees focuses on regular pruning to maintain clearance from overhead cables and signage, as well as monitoring for signs of structural weakness or disease to ensure public safety.

By tailoring species selection to the specific requirements of each location, this Tree Strategy is aiming to enhance the health, resilience, and aesthetic appeal of the landscapes of Clonmel while promoting sustainable maintenance practices, public safety, biodiversity and ecosystem services.

2.4. Replacement Tree Planting

Where trees have been identified to be performing poorly, posing a threat to the public or offering very littile to the local wildlife networks, it is this strategy's aim to replace them with an appropriate tree. The replacement of the trees should follow a phased approach that will align with the principles of the species selection, the available funding and the impact to the location's amenity the replacement works might have.
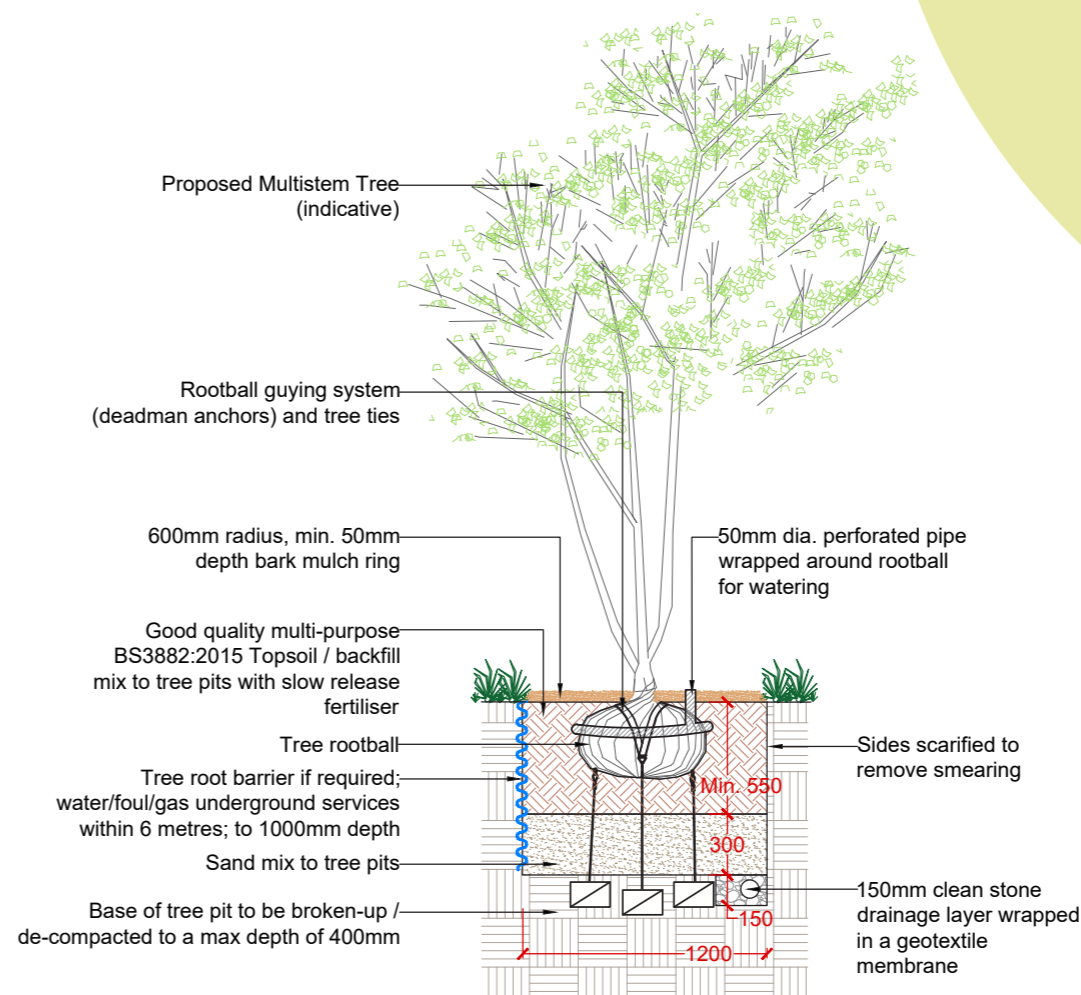
Figure 2-3: Standard Tree Pit Detail with an Anchor System

2.5. Post Planting Maintenance Programme

Following best horticultural practices, a comprehensive post-planting maintenance programme for trees is essential to ensure their long-term health and vitality. This programme typically includes regular watering, especially during dry periods, to promote root establishment and mitigate transplant shock. Mulching around the base of the tree helps retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature. Additionally, pruning may be necessary to remove dead or damaged branches and promote structural integrity and proper growth. Monitoring for signs of pests, diseases, and nutrient deficiencies is also crucial, with prompt intervention as needed to address any issues that may arise. Finally, ongoing assessment of the tree's growth and health allows for adjustments to the maintenance programme as necessary, ensuring that the tree continues to thrive in its environment for years to come.
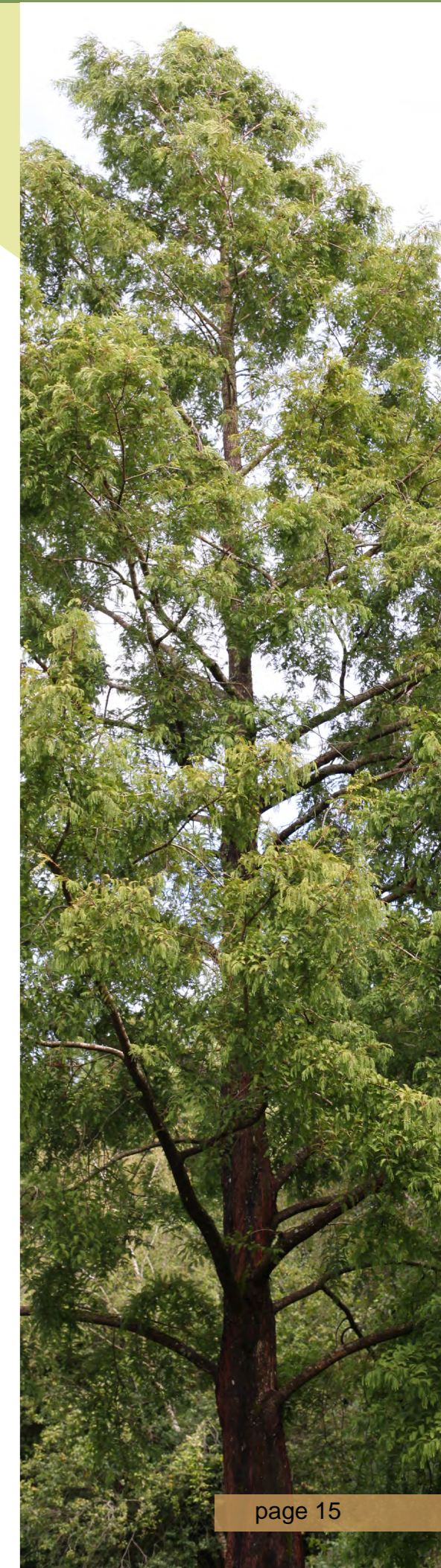
3. Tree Maintenance

Clonmel Borough District will maintain trees on public spaces, streets, parks and open spaces when carrying out arboricultural works to ensure all trees are in a safe condition and not causing actionable nuisance or foreseeable danger.

3.1. Quality of Work

All staff undertaking tree works will be competent with appropriate training, experience and qualifications. Any tree surgery contractors engaged to work on Council owned trees will be competent and adequately qualified, trained, experienced and appropriately insured. Excluding planned and emergency tree removal works by Clonmel Borough District, any work carried out should be essential to the long term retention of the tree in its current position rather than simply for appeasement reasons. Clonmel Borough District will aim to maintain a natural silhouette to a tree unless it can be shown to be in the best interests of the long term health of the tree to do otherwise.

3.2. Public Information on Tree Works

Clonmel Borough District will present its Annual Tree Maintenance Programme to Council members at the district meeting.

The planned removal of trees can be a particularly emotive and contentious issue. When a tree becomes a removal candidate, and the works are not emergency works, steps will be taken to provide public notice prior to any trees being removed. Trees that are removal candidates are identified by requests from residents or public representatives or through routine survey work.

Public notification of any proposed tree removals will consist of a variety of methods that may include posting a list of trees on the Council's website, emailing known residents associations, notices being attached to trees, and / or letter drops to adjacent properties.

Timescales for notice will vary according to the type of work, whether it is urgent and the local significance of the tree but wherever practical, the period of notice will be at least 10 working days before any scheduled tree removals. We will not usually give notice where works involve the felling of dead trees or those in imminent danger of failing

3.3. Reasons for Tree Pruning and Felling

Clonmel Borough District will undertake tree works to fulfil its legal obligations to ensure the safety of the public and properties.

Tree works will be undertaken on a case by case basis and will consider the following:

- Where an inspection has identified visible decay, fungal brackets indicating possible root and trunk decay or any other defect that would lead to the tree failing.

- A tree is dead or visibly in decline.

- To abate an actionable nuisance, where branches are touching buildings, for example, physical contact with walls, windows and gutters.

- Where road signs, traffic signals, street lights, and sightlines for vehicles and pedestrians are obscured.

- Evidence has been provided that the tree is a contributing factor in causing structural damage that cannot be reasonably addressed by an alternative solution and proactive tree management has had no mitigating effect.

Tree removal or pruning will not be undertaken where:

- Trees are perceived to be too large.

- Satellite dish TV reception is interrupted.

- Sunlight may be blocked from reaching properties or gardens.

- Views are obstructed.

- Seasonal or naturally occurring events happen, for example, falling leaves, fruit, seeds or berries, honeydew sap, bird droppings, pollen allergies.

- Insects or other non-hazardous wildlife are present.

3.4. Tree Pruning

The type of pruning works undertaken depends on the tree's location and its species. Bad or unnecessary pruning can do more harm than good since each cut has the potential to change the growth of a tree, cause damage or allow the entry of wood decaying organisms, therefore no branch should be removed without a good reason.

Older trees do not tolerate pruning as well as younger trees and substantial pruning can be very damaging. The effect of pruning also varies between species and some are not naturally tolerant of cutting.

In general, minimal pruning works will be undertaken in order to sufficiently manage a tree. This may often only involve removing the lower branches to increase clearance for pedestrians and vehicle traffic and / or cutting back the branches from adjacent buildings.

Crown reduction causes large wounds, exposing trees to decay pathogens and causing their longterm decline, as well as being unsightly and potentially unsafe. Crowning is therefore only considered where trees have serious defects, that cannot be reasonably addressed otherwise, and their short-term retention is essential or highly desirable. It is often the view of residents that removing the crown of a tree or trees will improve light levels or views or improve reception to TVs, satellites and so on. Whereas this may be true in the short term, any pruning, but especially crowning, will cause decline in some species or rapid growth in others. Regrowth resulting from crowning will often be denser than the original crown and be weakly attached to the branches it develops from.

Wounds associated with topping are often large and are more likely to be colonised by wood decaying fungi. Crowning is not good practice and can lead to dangerous trees in the future. For these reasons, Clonmel Borough District will not crown trees unless in exceptional circumstances.
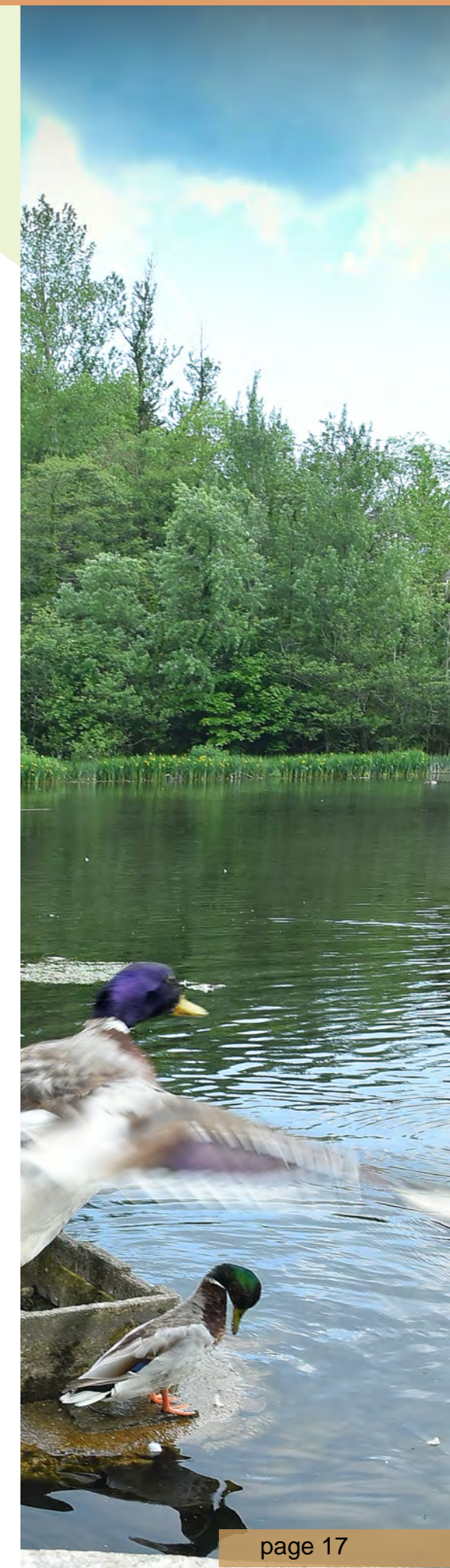
3.5. Removal of Trees

Trees are removed only when necessary as a last resort. The criteria for tree removal are as follows:

- Tree is dead, dying or is considered hazardous due to its poor structural or biological condition. Hazardous conditions may exist above and/or below ground and may include significant root, trunk or crown decay, split trunks and crotches, and large dead limbs.

- The tree has declined beyond the point of recovery and is no longer meeting the functional or aesthetic requirements of a street tree. Typically, a tree with 30 percent or less of its foliage remaining would meet this criterion.

- Fatally diseased trees (for example, Ash dieback, Fireblight Disease) may be removed before they reach the primary threshold in order to prevent the spread of disease to healthy trees.

- To allow space for development of nearby trees that may be more desirable for retention

- To make way for any approved engineering or building works when unavoidable construction work will immediately compromise the stability or viability of the tree.

- Tree proven to be causing significant structural damage that cannot be reasonably addressed by an alternative solution and proactive tree management has had no mitigating effect.

Where tree removal is unavoidable, it is recommended by Clonmel Borough District that three trees are planted in an appropriate location for every tree that is identified to be removed; Think: "Three for a Tree!"

Species selection should be suitable for the location and context, as described in Chapter 2 - Tree Planting.

3.6. Unauthorised Pruning, Removal or damage to Council Owned Trees

The unauthorised removal of trees affects the amenity of an area and destroys the many positive benefits of trees in a locality.

All Tipperary County Council staff operate from vehicles displaying the Council's logo.

If a person is observed pruning, removing or causing damage to a Council owned tree and it is suspected that the action is being carried out without the Council's consent, the matter must be reported by the observer to An Garda Síochána in the first instance and the Council notified.

Unauthorised damage, pruning or removal of a Council owned/managed tree may be prosecuted by An Garda Síochána under the Criminal Damage Act 1991.

Unauthorised works or damage to Council-owned trees may result in a charge being levied. This charge will reflect the amount of damage sustained and where the life/safety of the trees is undermined, it will include the cost of total tree replacement and compensation for loss of tree value. These charges will be drawn up by professional Council staff and each case will be assessed on an individual basis, with the involvement of a tree specialist where deemed appropriate by Clonmel Borough District.

3.7. Stump Removal

When a tree is felled by Clonmel Borough District, it is not always possible to remove the stump immediately. Stump removal may be delayed at least six months after tree removal. Under these circumstances a short tree stump is left as a temporary measure. The stump is usually left at around one metre high so it does not constitute a trip hazard in the intervening period. Tree stump removal is normally undertaken during the winter months between November and February or may be done when there are a sufficient number for their removal to be economical.

3.8. Nesting Birds

The Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended 2000) is the principle legislation protecting nesting birds in Ireland. The Act makes it an offence to kill, injure or take any wild bird and to take, damage or destroy any nest that is either in use or being built. Section 40 of the Act prohibits cutting of vegetation on uncultivated land between 1 March and 31 August. However, it is accepted in practice that street trees are cultivated and as such, this allows for tree maintenance works to be carried out during the closed period subject to compliance with best practice protocols in regard to pre-works assessment of trees for active nests or nesting birds.

Where an active nest or nesting birds are observed, no tree works should be carried out.

The primary reason for a year round programme of street tree maintenance is to ensure public safety and minimise tree hazards. Phenological and biological research also indicates that a number of tree species including cherry and walnut are best pruned in mid-summer to avoid introduction of disease while maple and horse chestnut will bleed sap extensively if pruned during early season growth.

Clonmel Borough District Tree Maintenance crews or contractors engaged by the Council, will be required to thoroughly check trees for nesting birds during the nesting period (1 March - 31 August) and take appropriate measures to prevent disturbance prior to the commencement of routine works.

3.9. Pest and Disease Control

In the last few years, several new pests and diseases have emerged in Europe as significant risks to tree health and plant biosecurity. Due to Ireland's island status, there is a better chance of remaining free of many pests and diseases not currently found on the island. However, the growth of global trade in plants and the increasing movement between countries of plant material increases the risk of new pests and diseases entering Ireland. There is also a risk of exotic pests arriving in dunnage and timber packaging through our ports.

The predicted changes in climate may increase the risk of these pests and diseases spreading. Small changes in temperature or weather patterns, due to climate change, can enable organisms to become established in areas where previously they would have struggled to survive.

3.10. Ivy on Trees

Clonmel Borough District acknowledges the considerable value of ivy (*Hedera helix*) as a habitat and food source for wildlife. Unless ivy has established on young or weak trees, where it may compete for water and nutrients and suppress healthy growth, it causes little harm. However, where ivy has taken hold on mature trees, especially those close to roads and public areas, judgements must be made on its retention based on the health of the tree and the possibility of cavities or defects being hidden from view as well as its increased vulnerability to wind damage. In these situations, removal of ivy may be deemed necessary for risk management purposes. Therefore, if ivy is not deemed damaging during its assessment, it should be retained due to its ecological benefits.
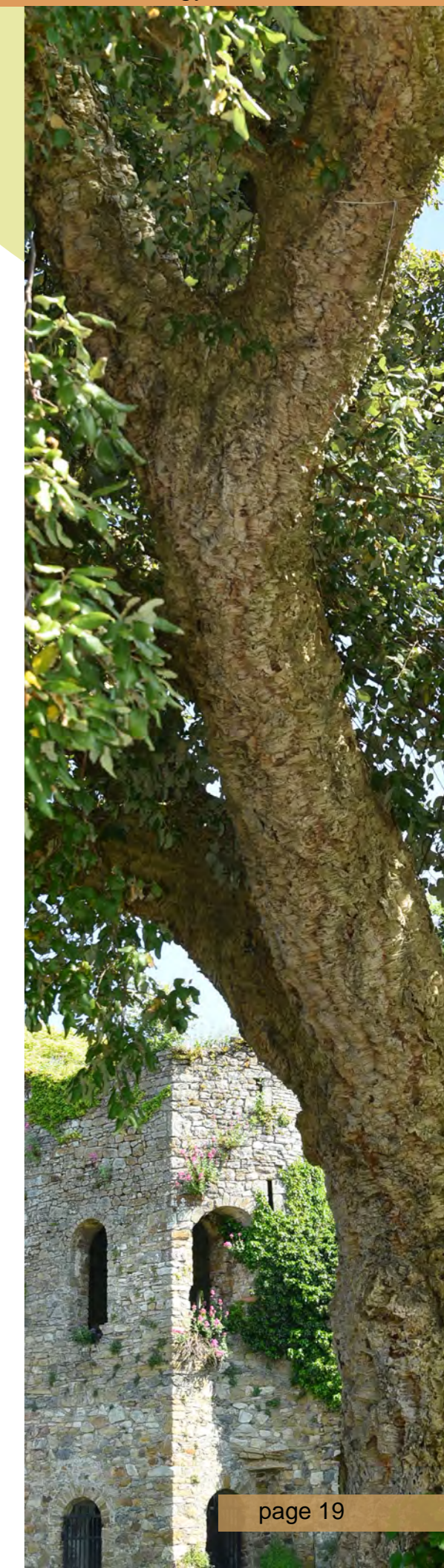
4. Prioritising Tree Work

It is recognised that residents' views on trees can vary greatly and a tree that is of great beauty and value to one person can be perceived as an unsightly nuisance to another.

People rarely contact the Council when they are happy about local trees. Only when trees become an apparent problem are comments made, and therefore a distorted picture of peoples' perception of trees develops. It is important to seek alternatives to felling or severe pruning when conflicts arise, so that the trees can remain for the silent majority who value them.

Clonmel Borough Districts role is to try to achieve a compromise, which is acceptable to the community at large but not necessarily to every individual within the community and to safeguard the tree population for the future, within available resources.

4.1. Response to Queries

Tipperary County Council's Customer Services System is usually the first point of contact for enquiries and complaints from the public, including those relating to trees. Any tree-related emergencies are referred for immediate action in accordance with the Council's emergency procedures. An emergency is defined as a tree that is in immediate danger of collapse or a tree that is causing an obstruction requiring urgent attention. For non-emergency tree enquiries, customers will be informed in due course of receipt of an enquiry. If a site inspection is considered necessary, this will be listed and any required works will be scheduled.

4.2. Inspections

Tree inspections, following the British Standard for arboricultural works, involve careful examinations to identify any potential hazards, diseases, or structural weaknesses present in the trees.

Trained arborists conduct visual assessments, closely examining the tree's overall structure, the health of its canopy, the stability of its roots, and any signs of decay or damage. They may also employ specialized tools and techniques, such as sonic tomography or resistography, to gain deeper insights into the tree's internal condition. Throughout the inspection, the arborists will document their findings, noting any areas of concern or potential risks.

These inspections are typically conducted on a regular basis, usually annually or biennially, to ensure that any issues are identified promptly and appropriate action can be taken to address them, thereby safeguarding the safety of the public around trees.

4.3. Tree Risk Management

Effective tree risk management involves a proactive and systematic approach to identifying, assessing, and mitigating risks associated with trees. Key steps include:

Hazard Identification: Identifying potential hazards associated with trees, such as structural defects, disease, or environmental stressors, through regular inspections and assessments.

Risk Assessment: Evaluating the likelihood and potential consequences of tree-related hazards, considering factors such as tree health, location, and proximity to people and property.

Risk Mitigation: Implementing measures to reduce or eliminate identified risks, which may include pruning to remove dead or unstable branches, structural support systems like cabling or bracing, or tree removal in severe cases.

Monitoring and Maintenance: Regularly monitoring tree health and stability, conducting ongoing maintenance activities such as pruning and soil management, and reassessing risks as conditions change.

Communication and Engagement: Communicating risk information to relevant stakeholders, including property owners, local authorities, and the public, and engaging in dialogue to address concerns and promote understanding of tree risk management practices.

Emergency Response Planning: Developing protocols and procedures for responding to tree-related emergencies, such as storm damage or hazardous tree failures, to ensure timely and effective intervention.

Compliance with Standards and Regulations: Adhering to applicable industry standards, guidelines, and regulations governing tree risk management practices, to ensure consistency and effectiveness in risk mitigation efforts.

4.4. Priority Rating System for Tree Works

A memorable way to prioritise tree work is to think "PRIORITY", which stands for:

P - Public Safety: Assessing the risk to public safety posed by the tree or trees in question. Trees with significant hazards that pose an immediate danger to people or property typically receive the highest priority for works.

R - Risk to Property: Evaluating the risk to property, including buildings, infrastructure, and utilities, posed by the tree. Trees that threaten to cause damage to structures or disrupt essential services may also be prioritized for works.

I - Importance: Considering the importance of the tree within its context, such as its ecological value, heritage significance, or contribution to the landscape. Trees deemed to have high ecological or cultural value may receive priority for preservation or management.

O - Operational: Assessing logistical considerations, such as access, resources, and scheduling constraints, that may affect the feasibility and timing of tree works. Practical factors that impact the efficiency and effectiveness of tree management activities are taken into account.

R - Regulatory: Compliance with legal requirements, regulations, and standards governing tree management practices. Ensuring that tree works are carried out in accordance with applicable laws and guidelines is essential for maintaining legal and ethical integrity.

I - Individual Tree Assessment: Conducting detailed assessments of individual trees to determine their health, condition, and specific management needs. Tailoring tree works to address the unique characteristics and requirements of each tree optimizes outcomes and minimizes risks.

T - Tree Species: Considering the characteristics and requirements of the tree species involved, including growth habits, longevity, and susceptibility to pests and diseases. Understanding the specific attributes of different tree species helps inform appropriate management strategies.

Y - Yield: Assessing the potential benefits or drawbacks associated with different management options, including the short-term and long-term impacts on tree health, ecosystem services, and community well-being. Striking a balance between immediate needs and future outcomes is key to prioritizing tree works effectively.

This priority rating system provides a structured framework for assessing and prioritising tree works based on a range of considerations, ensuring that management decisions are informed, transparent, and aligned with overarching objectives such as public safety, environmental stewardship, and community well-being.

The BS 5837:2012 categorisation of trees should be used in conjunction with PRIORITY.

Category A (Green): Trees of exceptional quality and value, typically those with high amenity, ecological, or cultural significance. These trees are considered irreplaceable and should be retained whenever possible.

Category B (Blue): Trees of moderate quality and value, which contribute positively to the site but may be more readily replaced or supplemented. Preservation of Category B trees is desirable, but their removal may be justified in certain circumstances.

Category C (Red): Trees of lesser quality and value, which may have limited contribution to the site or are more easily replaced. Preservation of Category C trees is considered less critical, and removal may be acceptable if justified by development needs.

Category U (Grey): Trees that are of minor quality or are of limited value to the site. These trees may be suitable for removal without significant loss to the overall site.

This categorisation incombination with the urgency of the works can inform the level of intervention to the most effective method to make the public spaces safe. For example, a Category C tree that poses risks to public safety could be taken down if that is an effective way of resolving the emergency in the most effective and sustainable possible way. On the other hand, if a Category A tree poses a threat to public safety, a more detailed plan should be proposed that would aim to retain or translocate the tree to a different appropriate location.

Finally, the priority codes P0, P1, P2, P3, and P4 are used to categorise the urgency and importance of tasks or actions within a prioritisation system.

P0 (Priority 0): Critical or Emergency Priority - Tasks or actions classified as P0 are of the highest priority and require immediate attention. These are typically urgent situations that pose significant risks or threats to safety, security, or operational continuity. P0 tasks often involve emergency response, crisis management, or situations where delays could result in severe consequences.

P1 (Priority 1): High Priority - Tasks or actions classified as P1 are important and require prompt attention, although they may not be as urgent as P0 tasks. P1 priorities are typically critical to the successful operation or completion of projects, initiatives, or services and may have significant impacts if delayed. Timely action is necessary to prevent escalation or adverse outcomes.

P2 (Priority 2): Medium Priority - Tasks or actions classified as P2 are moderately important and should be addressed in a timely manner, but they are not as time-sensitive or critical as P0 or P1 priorities. P2 tasks may include routine maintenance, minor repairs, or non-critical operational activities that contribute to overall efficiency and effectiveness.

P3 (Priority 3): Low Priority - Tasks or actions classified as P3 are of lower importance and can be addressed with lower urgency compared to higher priority tasks. P3 priorities may involve non-critical tasks, administrative duties, or activities that have minimal immediate impact on operations or objectives. These tasks can often be deferred or scheduled based on available resources and priorities.

P4 (Priority 4): Lowest Priority - Tasks or actions classified as P4 are of the lowest importance and can be addressed at the lowest urgency level. P4 priorities typically involve non-essential or discretionary activities that can be deferred or completed as time permits without significant impact on overall goals or outcomes.

4.5. Emergency Works (P0 Priority 0)

Emergency tree works typically involve immediate, unplanned actions taken to address urgent safety concerns or mitigate imminent risks posed by trees. These works are necessary to prevent harm to people, property, or infrastructure due to factors such as tree failure, structural instability, disease, or storm damage. Examples of emergency tree works may include:

Tree Removal: Removing trees that pose an immediate danger of falling onto roads, buildings, or utility lines, thereby threatening public safety or causing property damage.

Tree Pruning: Pruning or trimming branches that are at risk of falling and causing injury or property damage during high winds or severe weather conditions.

Tree Stabilisation: Installing temporary supports, braces, or cables to stabilise trees with structural weaknesses or compromised root systems, reducing the risk of failure.

Hazard Mitigation: Addressing hazardous conditions such as leaning trees, cracked trunks, or uprooted root plates to minimise the risk of tree failure and potential accidents.

Clearance Operations: Clearing fallen trees, branches, or debris blocking roads, pathways, or access points following storms, hurricanes, or other natural disasters.

Emergency Response: Responding to tree-related incidents, such as road closures, power outages, or property damage caused by fallen trees, to restore safety and normalcy to affected areas.

4.6. High Priority Works (P1 Priority 1)

High-priority tree works typically involve planned actions aimed at addressing significant risks or issues associated with trees, albeit not as urgent as emergency works. These works are prioritised based on factors such as safety considerations, tree health, and the potential impact on the surrounding environment. Examples of high-priority tree works may include:

Hazardous Tree Assessment: Conducting assessments to identify and evaluate trees posing potential risks to public safety or property, such as those with structural weaknesses, disease, or decay.

Pruning for Clearance: Pruning trees to clear branches obstructing roads, footpaths, utilities, or signage, thus improving visibility, accessibility, and safety for pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists.

Tree Health Treatments: Implementing treatments such as fertilisation, pest control, or disease management to improve the health and vitality of trees and mitigate potential risks associated with weakened or stressed trees.

Structural Support Installation: Installing permanent structural supports, braces, or cables to stabilise trees with structural defects or prevent branch failure, enhancing their longevity and safety.

Root Management: Undertaking root pruning or barrier installation to mitigate damage to infrastructure, utilities, or nearby structures caused by tree roots while preserving the health of the tree.

Tree Preservation Planning: Developing and implementing tree preservation plans for development sites to retain significant trees, integrate them into site design, and mitigate potential impacts on the urban tree canopy.

Public Engagement and Education: Engaging with the community through educational programs, workshops, or outreach initiatives to raise awareness about tree care, management, and the importance of urban forestry.

High-priority tree works are proactive measures aimed at managing tree-related risks, promoting public safety, and enhancing the health and resilience of urban trees and green spaces. These works are prioritised based on their potential impact and the resources available to address them effectively. They should be typically completed within one to two weeks to from identification.

4.7. Medium Priority Works (P2 Priority -2)

Medium-priority tree works typically encompass planned actions that address less urgent but still significant issues related to tree management, maintenance, and enhancement. These works are prioritised based on factors such as the potential impact on public safety, environmental considerations, and resource availability. Examples of medium-priority tree works may include:

Routine Pruning: Conducting regular pruning to maintain tree health, shape, and appearance, and to remove dead, diseased, or damaged branches that may pose future risks if left unattended.

Tree Planting: Implementing tree planting programs to enhance green spaces, improve aesthetics, and increase canopy cover in urban areas, parks, or streetscapes, focusing on suitable species selection and site preparation.

Tree Inventory and Assessment: Establishing or updating tree inventories and conducting periodic assessments to monitor tree health, growth, and condition, and to identify potential risks or maintenance needs.

Tree Protection Measures: Implementing protective measures such as fencing, mulching, or signage to safeguard trees during construction or development activities and minimise damage to roots, trunks, or branches.

Root Zone Management: Implementing soil improvement techniques, such as aeration, fertilisation, or mulching, to enhance root health, promote nutrient uptake, and improve soil structure around trees.

Community Engagement: Engaging with local residents, community groups, or stakeholders to solicit feedback, address concerns, and promote community involvement in tree planting, maintenance, and conservation efforts.

Tree Monitoring and Research: Monitoring tree health, growth, and performance over time and conducting research to better understand the factors influencing tree vitality, resilience, and adaptability in urban environments.

Community Outreach Activities: Organising educational events, workshops, or outreach programmes to raise awareness about the importance of trees, encourage community involvement in tree care, and promote environmental stewardship.

Medium-priority tree works play a crucial role in proactive tree management, supporting the long-term health, sustainability, and resilience of urban trees and green spaces. These works are essential for maintaining and enhancing the urban forest while balancing competing demands and priorities within limited resources.

4.8. Low Priority Works (P3 Priority -3)

Low-priority tree works typically involve planned actions that address minor issues or are deemed less urgent in terms of immediate impact on safety, tree health, or environmental quality. These works are prioritised based on considerations such as resource availability, budget constraints, and the overall management objectives of the tree strategy. Examples of low-priority tree works may include:

Cosmetic Pruning: Undertaking minor pruning or shaping to improve the aesthetic appearance of trees, focusing on removing small branches, deadwood, or minor defects that do not pose immediate safety risks or affect tree health.

Mulching and Fertilisation: Applying mulch or fertiliser around trees to enhance soil fertility, moisture retention, and root health, promoting tree vitality and growth over the long term.

Tree Inventory Updates: Periodically updating tree inventories with new plantings, removals, or changes in tree condition, ensuring that management data remains accurate and up-to-date for informed decision-making.

Tree Planting Maintenance: Providing routine care and maintenance for newly planted trees, including watering, mulching, and pruning, to support establishment and enhance survival rates.

Minor Tree Inspections: Conducting visual inspections to assess general tree health, growth, and condition, identifying any minor issues or maintenance needs that may require attention in the future.

Tree Preservation Planning: Developing long-term management plans for preserving significant trees or woodlands, integrating them into development projects, and mitigating potential impacts on the urban forest.

Low-priority tree works play a supportive role in overall tree management and contribute to the long-term sustainability and resilience of urban trees and green spaces. While less urgent in nature, these works are essential for maintaining the health, beauty, and ecological value of the urban forest and enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

4.9. No Action/Unnecessary Works (P4 Priority -4)

There are situations where tree works may be considered unnecessary or where no tree works are required in a public tree planting scenario. These circumstances may include:

Adequate Existing Tree Canopy: In areas where there is already a sufficient canopy cover provided by existing trees, additional tree planting may not be necessary and could potentially overcrowd the space or lead to competition for resources among trees.

Preservation of Natural Habitat: In environmentally sensitive areas such as protected woodlands, wetlands, or wildlife habitats, tree planting may not be appropriate as it could disrupt the natural ecosystem or habitat of native flora and fauna.

Site Limitations: In locations with physical constraints such as limited space, poor soil conditions, or underground utilities, tree planting may not be feasible or practical due to the lack of suitable planting areas or the potential for tree root conflicts with infrastructure.

Aesthetic Considerations: In areas where the visual impact of trees may not align with the desired aesthetic or design goals, such as certain urban or architectural settings, tree planting may be deemed unnecessary to preserve the intended landscape character or architectural features.

Maintenance Concerns: In instances where there are insufficient resources or capacity for ongoing tree maintenance, such as watering, pruning, or pest control, tree planting may be deferred to avoid potential issues related to tree health and safety.

Community Preferences: In cases where there is strong opposition or lack of community support for tree planting initiatives, such as concerns about tree species selection, maintenance responsibilities, or perceived negative impacts on property values, tree works may be deemed unnecessary or inappropriate.

In these situations, along with specialist consultation, careful consideration should be given to the specific site conditions, environmental factors, community preferences, and management objectives to determine whether tree planting or tree works are warranted and to ensure that any actions taken are in the best interests of the local environment and community.

5. Felling & Pruning Policies

To ensure that requests for tree works are dealt with efficiently and consistently, Clonmel Borough Districts policy in relation to the more common types of request is outlined below.

5.1. Obstruction of Street Light

Tree pruning will be undertaken where reasonably feasible to address obstruction of a streetlight. In circumstances where the long-term life of the tree, if retained in its location, would be compromised by a requirement for ongoing maintenance in order to maintain the effectiveness of the adjoining streetlight, the tree may be removed.

Alternative public lighting solutions should also be explored for areas of existing mature and established trees. Where a tree is removed from a roadside verge, due to proximity to a public lighting column, a replacement tree will not normally be planted back into the same verge.

5.2. Obstruction of Road Traffic Sight Lines, Traffic signals or Street Signs

Where an ongoing pruning requirement arises as a result of sightlines, road signs or traffic signals being obscured by tree growth or regrowth, consideration will be given to the removal of trees to minimise ongoing repeat maintenance costs.

5.3. Obstruction of Road Traffic Sight Lines, Traffic signals or Street Signs

Tree pruning to achieve the following height clearance is considered appropriate where reasonably practical and where it can be achieved without harming tree health or form:

- Pedestrian areas: 2.5 metres
- Cycleways: 3 metres
- Distributor roads / streets: 4.5 metres

Any works necessary to prevent an obstruction in the width of a public footpath due to the presence of a Council owned tree will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If a privately owned tree or other vegetation is causing an obstruction to a footpath or road, powers exist under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 which enable the Roads Authority to deal with the matter. The section allows for the serving of notice on the landowner setting out remedial works to be carried out.

Failing action by the landowner, the Roads Authority can arrange to have the necessary works carried out and seek to recoup the cost of the works from the landowner concerned.

5.4. Trip Hazard

The roots of trees exploit the soil in various ways dependent on species, local conditions, and history of site disturbance. Pressure exerted by the radial growth of roots can deform the surfaces of footpaths, roads or other light structures, especially in the close confines of the urban setting. Damage occurs most commonly close to the tree and will diminish rapidly with distance.

To constitute a trip hazard the deformation will be assessed by Clonmel Borough District. Where a hazard exists and is attributable to tree roots, engineering and landscape options, incuding circular benches, will be explored before root pruning or tree removal is undertaken. It is often possible to repair paths to take account of adjacent trees and tree roots.

Where roots protrude they can be root pruned, or the path can be re-laid around the tree with flexible material such as asphalt to provide a smooth surface or using reinforced concrete or other engineering solutions.

Where trees are considered to be causing damage to paths or footpaths, Clonmel Borough District will not normally consider tree removal except where there is a risk to public health which cannot otherwise be mitigated.

Removal of the tree will usually be the last resort, accepting that in some circumstances where the tree is of low value or easily replaced, removal may be the most appropriate solution.

Clonmel Borough District will seek to explore engineering options through internal consultation between the Public Realm and Roads Maintenance sections to reduce trip hazards before root pruning or tree removal. Clonmel Borough District will develop a protocol for resolving issues where tree roots are in conflict with public areas under hard surfacing.

5.5. Trees in Conflict with the Built Enviroment

Trees in an urban environment will inevitably conflict with people, building and structure foundations and infrastructure which creates pressures for trees to be pruned or felled.

The perceived threat of damage by tree roots is sometimes a worry people have about trees near to buildings or built structures. Much of this concern is unwarranted as most trees growing near buildings cause no damage. Tree roots are unlikely to directly penetrate sound footings. Lightly loaded structures, if they have inadequate foundations, may be affected by pressure exerted by tree roots or trunks but in such cases trees are not the primary cause of damage.

Clonmel Borough District recognises that trees under its ownership/management may be implicated in damage to nearby built structures but is also aware that trees are not always the causative agent and that nearby trees often get blamed for damage before a thorough investigation is carried out. Some other reasons for structural failure are inadequate foundation design, general structural failure, poor quality construction, nearby excavations or major works to adjacent properties.

In circumstances where structural damage can be repaired or reasonably resolved by appropriate engineering solutions, Clonmel Borough District will not normally consider removal of a tree, except where the tree is considered to be of poor structural or physiological condition. Property owners will, at their own expense, be expected to provide evidence from an appropriately qualified professional that a particular tree is or has caused damage to their property and that all reasonable engineering alternatives have been explored before felling will be considered. Where evidence is provided which demonstrates a Council owned tree is the cause of damage, Clonmel Borough District will take appropriate action on a case by case basis.
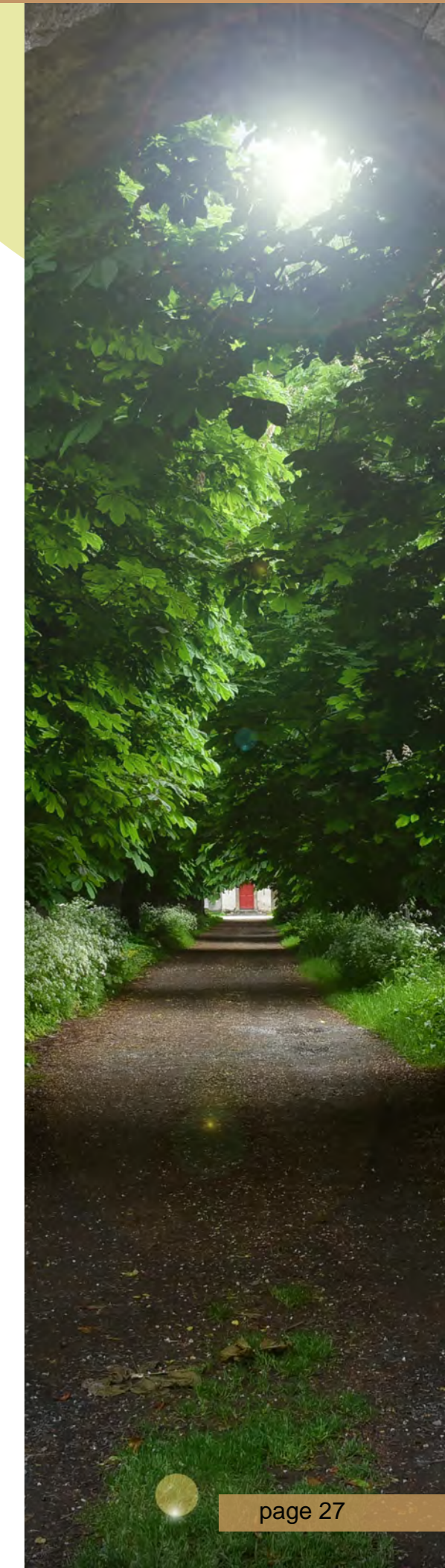
5.6. Trees and Drains

Clonmel Borough District will not normally take action in response to complaints that Council trees are damaging drains. Tree roots do not have the capacity to break into a sound drain but typically they will invade drains that are already broken or damaged. Trees themselves very rarely break or damage the drain in the first place. Tree roots found in a drain are usually symptomatic of an underlying problem requiring repair of the broken pipe.

The Council's presumption is that the appropriate way to deal with tree root blockage of drains is to ensure that the drains are watertight. Any concerns about the condition of public drains should be reported to Uisce Eireann. Householders are usually responsible for the maintenance of the drains within their own property.

5.7. Trees Riverbanks and watercourses

Clonmel Borough District will develop a protocol for maintenance and management of trees along riverbanks and watercourses in consultation with relevant internal Council Departments and fisheries authorities. Similar to other habitats of national and international importance, the Lower River Suir SAC objectives take precedence and should strictly inform all actions taken towards tree planting, including species, location, method used, as well as vegetation removal. Where existing trees increase the Flood Risk baseline, this should be taken into consideration and specialist surveys should inform the decision making process.

5.8. Trees & Utilities

Utility companies have certain legal rights to carry out works to public or privately owned trees to address health and safety problems and to maintain a clearance between trees and their apparatus. This may sometimes involve the loss of trees or removal of large parts of a tree leaving a misshapen and unbalanced crown and reducing the amenity value of the tree. Excavation works near to street trees brings considerable potential disturbance within the root zone of trees, often reducing their stability and long-term throughbility.

Where works to trees are necessary because of proximity or conflict, Clonmel Borough District will encourage utility operators to adopt the most appropriate long-term solution, giving consideration to tree health, local tree cover and visual amenity.

Utility companies must consult with the Clonmel Borough District of Tipperary County Council in advance of any pruning, trenching or other works likely to affect Council owned trees, and will refer to the procedures and conditions of the Council's Roadmap system.

5.9. Telephone Wires

In the event of mature trees encroaching upon overhead wires it will be necessary for Clonmel Borough District to contact the relevant Authorities.

5.10. Street Trees Overhanging Neighbouring Garden Properties

Clonmel Borough District has no legal obligation to prune overhanging trees unless they are causing direct damage to an adjacent property or are imminently dangerous. This reflects the Council's position as an owner of thousands of trees and the resources available. Given that many thousands of Council trees overhang boundaries, it is not an effective use of resources to prune every overhanging limb.

Tree roots in gardens are a natural occurrence and root presence is unlikely to be affected by tree pruning. However, situations where a tree is genuinely generating root encroachment to an exceptional, severe, and unreasonable degree are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Adjacent landowners are entitled to prune encroaching tree branches or roots back to the boundary of their property.

5.11. Trees Overhanging Private Property from Neighbouring Private Property

If a tree is growing on privately owned land, then the maintenance rests entirely with the landowner. Wherever possible however, we would advise that the best way to resolve problems with trees or hedges growing in adjacent properties, is for property owners to talk to their neighbours and to try to come to an amicable agreement.

5.12. Dangerous Trees in private Ownership

Owners of trees and woodlands have a statutory duty under the Occupiers Liability Act 1995 and the Roads Act 1993 to maintain their trees to ensure they are not dangerous or in a hazardous condition and that they do not pose a threat to the public.

Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 obliges landowners and occupiers of land to take all reasonable care to ensure that the trees, hedges, and other vegetation growing on their land are not, or could not become, a danger to people using or working on a public road.

Examples of hazards might include dead or dangerous trees, or trees and hedges overhanging roads, blocking footpaths, or obscuring road signs or sight lines such as the view of the road ahead. Under this section, Tipperary County Council can serve a written notice on a landowner or occupier requiring the carrying out of specified works within a period stated in the notice to ensure the safety of those using or working on a public road.

An owner or occupier who fails to comply with a notice under this section will be guilty of an offence and the Council may take the action specified in the notice or such other action as it thinks fit, including prosecution.

Where Clonmel Borough District considers that trees, shrubs, hedging, or other vegetation presents an immediate and serious hazard to persons using a public road, it may take immediate action to reduce or remove the hazard and seek the costs from landowners where the Council must carry out the work. It should also be noted that the Communications Regulations Act 2002 and the Electricity Regulation Act 1993 give authority to utility suppliers to prune trees.

5.13. Trees Touching or Causing Direct Damage to Property

Clonmel Borough District will cut back trees to provide clearance from properties where they touch windows, walls, roofs, or gutters to avoid damage. In many cases the solution will be for the Council to prune the tree, but in some circumstances, it may be more appropriate to fell the tree. A balance will be struck between the nuisance experienced by individuals and the benefits offered by the tree to the wider community.

5.14. Trees Blocking Natural Light

A common complaint about urban trees is that they block light from properties or shade gardens. However, often the removal of the tree will have little effect on the amount of sunlight reaching the house or garden where the house is north facing.

There is no right to light under the law and therefore the Council has no legal obligation to abate this perceived nuisance. However, situations where a tree is genuinely blocking daylight from habitable rooms to an exceptional, severe and unreasonable degree are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

A habitable room is defined as residential living rooms, bedrooms, and kitchens (if they include a dining space and are larger than 12.6 metres squared). Bathrooms, toilets, landings, and lobbies are excluded. Each case will be evaluated having regard for balancing the severity of the nuisance to the individual with the benefits of the tree for the wider community. Pruning will normally only be carried out where the tree is a significant contributory factor and there is a reasonable chance that pruning will improve the situation.

Any decision to undertake tree works would consider the health and significance of the tree, its contribution to wider public amenity, the orientation of the house, and whether the tree was already present when the occupier moved into the property. Shading of habitable rooms of property will be given more weight than the shading of the garden.

5.15. Obstruction of View

There is no legal right to a 'view'. Vegetation and trees grow and, over time, contribute to the County's distinctive character. It would be impracticable to prune every tree that affected a view, and this would have a major negative impact on public amenity. However, where there are historic vistas or area defining views appropriate tree maintenance will be considered to preserve the landscape character.

5.16. Trees Considered too Large

Residents may feel apprehensive about the size of a tree and consider it dangerous. However, trees are not dangerous just because they are perceived as tall, too big for their surroundings or move in the wind. Tree movement in high winds is natural and one of the ways they can withstand strong winds. Other problems would need to be shown for the Council to consider the tree to be dangerous.

5.17. High Hedges

There is currently no legislation in Ireland regulating the height of trees and hedges. The Council does not get involved in issues regarding the height of hedges on private lands unless they are hazardous to public road users. Residents with issues in relation to trees and hedges on neighbouring properties are encouraged to try to resolve the issues between the two parties or seek independent legal advice. Involvement in resolving tree and hedge disputes between private landowners is not considered part of the remit of the Council.

5.18. Driveways and New Entrances

Planning permission is required if a property owner wishes to widen an existing access or create a new access to the public road. The Council's Environment Department should be consulted if the grass verge or any roadside trees are affected to get advice on the acceptability of a specific proposal and other technical requirements before any planning application is made.

A minimum clearance of three metres or 10 times the diameter of the

tree trunk at its base (whichever is greater) must be provided between the trunk of any street tree and the edge of the crossover unless the Council determines otherwise.

The Council's Roads Department should also be consulted if the roadside kerb is to be dished and a roadside concrete apron laid to provide vehicle access to car parking spaces in front of a house.

As part of the application assessment, the Council will apply a standard tree amenity valuation formula to fully determine the costs associated with the removal and or retention of specific trees associated with the development activity.

If the condition of the street tree is declining and its life expectancy is short, tree removal may be considered to allow for the installation of a new driveway crossover. Removal and replacement of trees will be at the cost of the applicant and a new tree will be replanted as close as possible to the original tree.

5.19. Trees and Solar Panels

Whilst Clonmel Borough District appreciates that there is a need to provide renewable energy resources, trees have an important role in maintaining and improving local amenity, in addition to contributing to local and national targets in tackling climate change. The presence of existing trees and how these trees will grow in the future must be fully appreciated when considering a suitable location for the placement of solar panels.

5.20. Trees affecting TVs and Satilite Reception

Clonmel Borough District acknowledges that television and satellite entertainment are important to residents. However, a balance must be found between these and the local environment. The Council will encourage residents to seek reasonable alternative solutions to improve television or satellite reception rather than requesting tree pruning or removal. When positioning a new satellite receiver, residents are recommended to carefully consider existing trees and their potential for growth to avoid problems in the future.

5.21. Trees affecting CCTV

Exceptions may include Garda CCTV, trees adjacent to CCTV cameras that monitor ATMs or within the field of view being covered to ensure that public security is not compromised. The installation of new CCTV cameras must take into consideration existing trees to prevent requests for unnecessary pruning works or the removal of trees to improve desired sightlines.

5.22. Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Where a tree is associated with criminal activity and / or anti-social behaviour, steps to reduce the problem will typically require the coordination of several agencies including the Gardaí. Pruning or felling a tree is not always the answer to the problem.

5.23. Leaf Fall

The loss of leaves from trees in the autumn is part of the natural cycle and cannot be avoided by pruning. The maintenance of gutters is the responsibility of the property / landowner and the Council is not obliged to remove leaves that may have fallen from Council owned trees. Where gutters are regularly blocked by fallen leaves, gutter guards may be fitted to provide a low maintenance solution. Clonmel Borough District organises a street cleaning service which will sweep leaves from most streets and residential roads during the autumn period. The composting of leaves is encouraged as a way of environmentally recycling this valuable resource and that can be enhance through public engagement and education.

5.24. Sticky Deposits from Honeydew

Certain species of tree, for example lime and sycamore, are susceptible to aphids or other leaf-feeding insects.

Honeydew is the sugary sap / sticky deposit which results from insects feeding and is subsequently colonised on surfaces by sooty mould fungi giving it a black appearance. Honeydew is a natural and seasonal problem and the severity varies from year to year depending on conditions.

A balance between the inconvenience of honeydew deposits and the wider benefits of trees must be achieved and as such there is unlikely to be justification for the pruning or removal of trees due to honeydew deposits. Residents are advised to make their own arrangements to minimise the problem; regular car washing, covering the car or parking in an alternative location. Where honeydew affects cars, warm soapy water will easily remove the substance.

5.25. Bird Droppings

Bird droppings can be unpleasant and a nuisance, but the problem is not considered a sufficient reason to prune or remove a tree. Roosting birds are a natural occurrence as is their production of droppings. Generally, felling a tree will not alleviate the problem as birds will relocate to another tree in the locality.

Pruning or felling of trees will not be considered as a way of resolving such matters. Warm soapy water will usually be sufficient to remove the bird droppings. Nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and Habitats Regulations 1997 - 2005.

5.26. Fruit/Berries/Nuts/Blossom

The Council will not fell or prune Council owned trees solely to mitigate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena such as fruit / berries, nuts or blossom which are legally outside their control.

Problems caused by falling fruit, berries, nuts or blossom are natural and seasonal occurrences and not something the Irish legal system recognises as a 'legal nuisance'. Whilst we appreciate these problems, they are judged as a relatively minor inconvenience when considering the many benefits of having trees within an urban environment.

Fruit trees such as apple, cherry and pear are welcomed in many locations for having the double benefit of spring blossom and autumn fruit. This makes fruit trees good for wildlife and a source of free food. However, where fallen fruit is leading to a significant anti-social behaviour problem, the Council will consider measures to reduce the problem including whether a phased removal and replacement with alternative species is reasonable. If there is a hazard on the public footpath the Council's Public Realm section should be notified of the problem to arrange clearance.

5.27. Wild Animals / Insect Pests

Clonmel Borough District will not prune or fell a Council owned tree to remove or reduce incidence of perceived pests such as bees, wasps, or wild animals.

5.28. Pollen

Clonmel Borough District will not prune or fell a Council owned tree to remove or reduce the release of pollen.

6. Valuing Trees and Compensating for Tree Damage

In recent years there has been increased interest in quantifying the benefits of trees and translating them into financial terms. Various Tree Valuation Systems have been developed to allow authorities to prepare a valuation of their tree stock which can then be used to justify managing the trees as if it were a financial asset of the community.

An amenity tree valuation system takes into account: tree size, longevity and condition, site suitability and other attributes to give a monetary value used to help guide management decisions. This is a major step forward as traditionally, the management of trees and woodlands by local authorities has been seen solely as a cost, with no acknowledgement of the financial benefits that trees bring.

It is important to place a monetary value on trees because of the contribution trees make to the economic, social and environmental landscape of the county. Assessing the value of each tree will enable a more effective and efficient level of understanding to be applied to a given tree or group of trees when deciding their future management or removal.

Using an internal Tree Valuation System, Clonmel Borough District will provide the basis for calculating the replacement value of any trees that have been significantly damaged or removed. Clonmel Borough District will seek this level of compensation from organisations found to be responsible for such damage.

6.1. Trees and Development

Mature trees can be an asset to a new development. They give a place a sense of character, as well as providing a ready-made landscape. Retaining trees is always desirable, though many trees are lost each year in the course of development. Some are removed due to their condition or because they are directly in the way of development. However, many are lost due to unsuitable protection during the construction phase.

6.2. Green Infrastructure, Tree Retention and aftercare on Development Sites

Clonmel Borough District will promote the replacement of trees that were removed to facilitate approved planning and development of urban spaces, buildings, streets, roads, infrastructural projects, and private development sites.

6.3. Green Infrastructure, Tree Retention and aftercare on Development Sites

Clonmel Borough District will ensure that tree planting on development sites is adequate and appropriate by requesting that landscaping proposals and plans to include tree planting proposals are submitted as part of a planning application. The design of roads and streets should be in accordance with Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets. The planting of trees should be considered as an integral part of street design.

APPENDICES KEY MAP

Clonmel Regional Sports Hub

Clonmel Racecourse

MAP 1

St. Patrick's Cemetery

Clonmel Town Football Club

MAP 2

MAP 7

MAP 6

C.B.S High School Clonmel

MAP 3

MAP 5

River Suir

MAP 4

Clonmel Greyhound Stadium

Mapped Tree Areas

Legend

- Prior Park Estate
- Clonmel Town Centre
- Denis Burke Park
- Areas along the Suir Blueway Walkway
- Mulcahy Park
- Powerstown Roundabout Area

0   0.1   0.2   0.3 km

Scale: 1:8,000 Original at A3

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APPENDIX A - Indicative Assessment Drawings

Appendix A includes the assessment carried out on the topics of Arboriculture, Ecology and Visual Amenity, represented on each Map area shown in the previous page.

Appendix A - Table of Content

Arboriculture
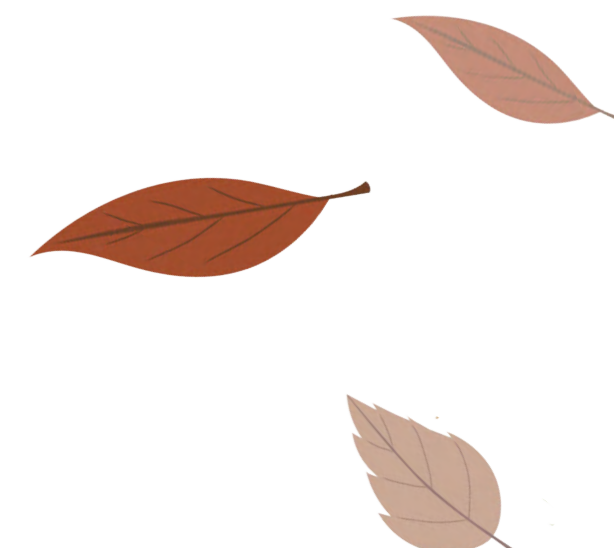
Arboricultural Assessment
Map_1_Arb
Prior Park Estate

Legend

Arboricultural Assessment
Tree Conditions

- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Arboricultural Assessment
Area Conditions

- Good
- Trees to be Removed

Scale: 1:500 Original at A3

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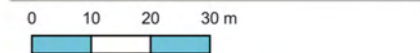
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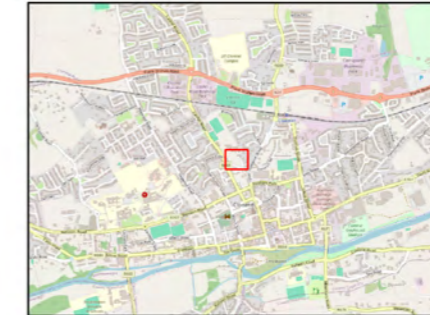
Arboriculture

Arboricultural Assessment
Map_2_Arb
Prior Park Estate

Legend

Arboricultural Assessment
Tree Conditions

Good

Recommended Tree
Preservation Orders

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Arboriculture

Arboricultural Assessment
Map_3.1_Arb
Clonmel Town Centre
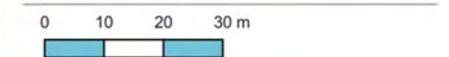
Legend

Arboricultural Assessment
Tree Conditions

Good

0   10   20   30 m

Scale: 1:1,000 Original at A3

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Arboriculture


Arboricultural Assessment
Map_3.2_Arb
Clonmel Town Centre

Legend

Arboricultural Assessment
Tree Conditions

Good

Fair
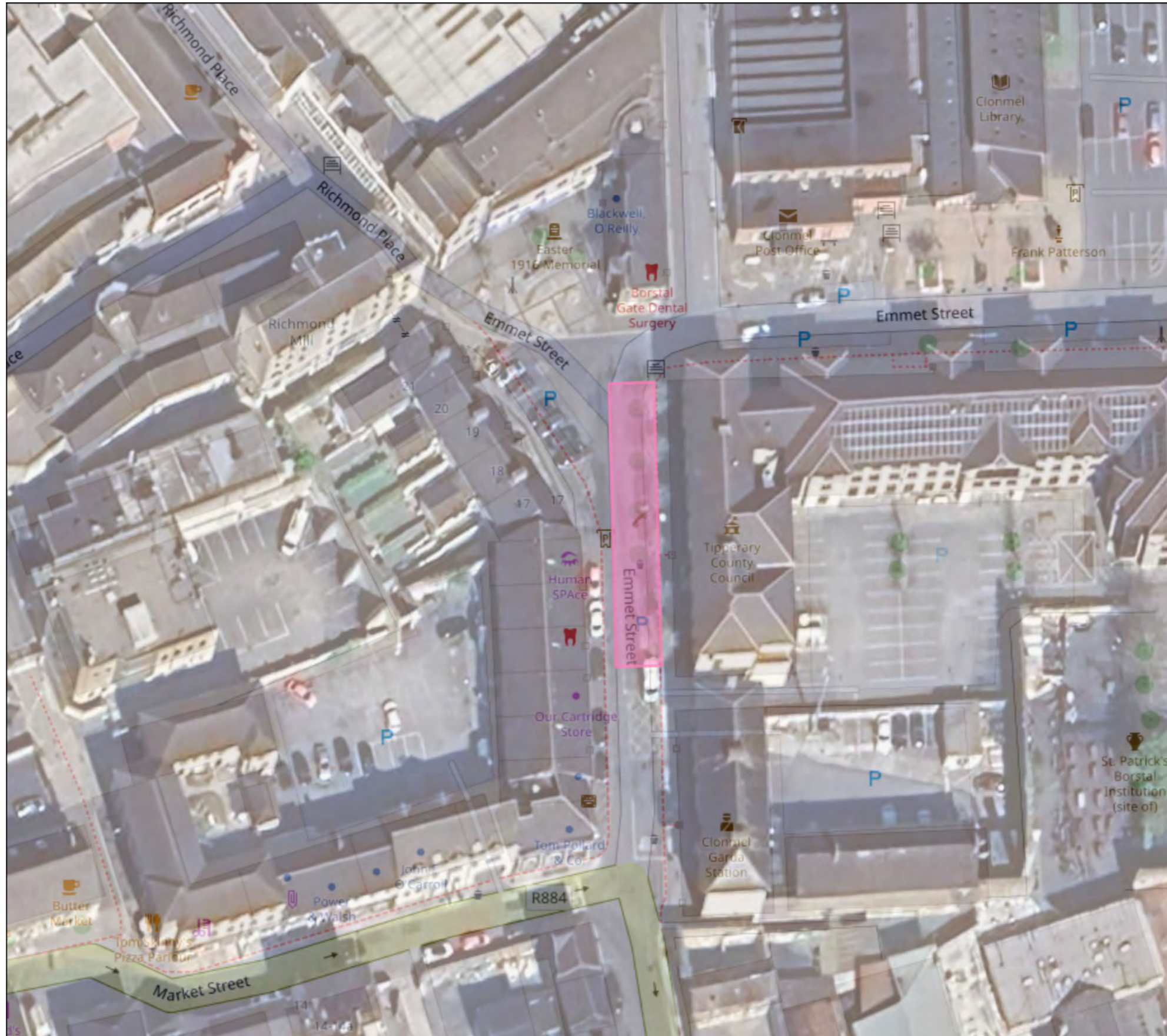
Poor

Trees to be Removed

0 10 20 30 m

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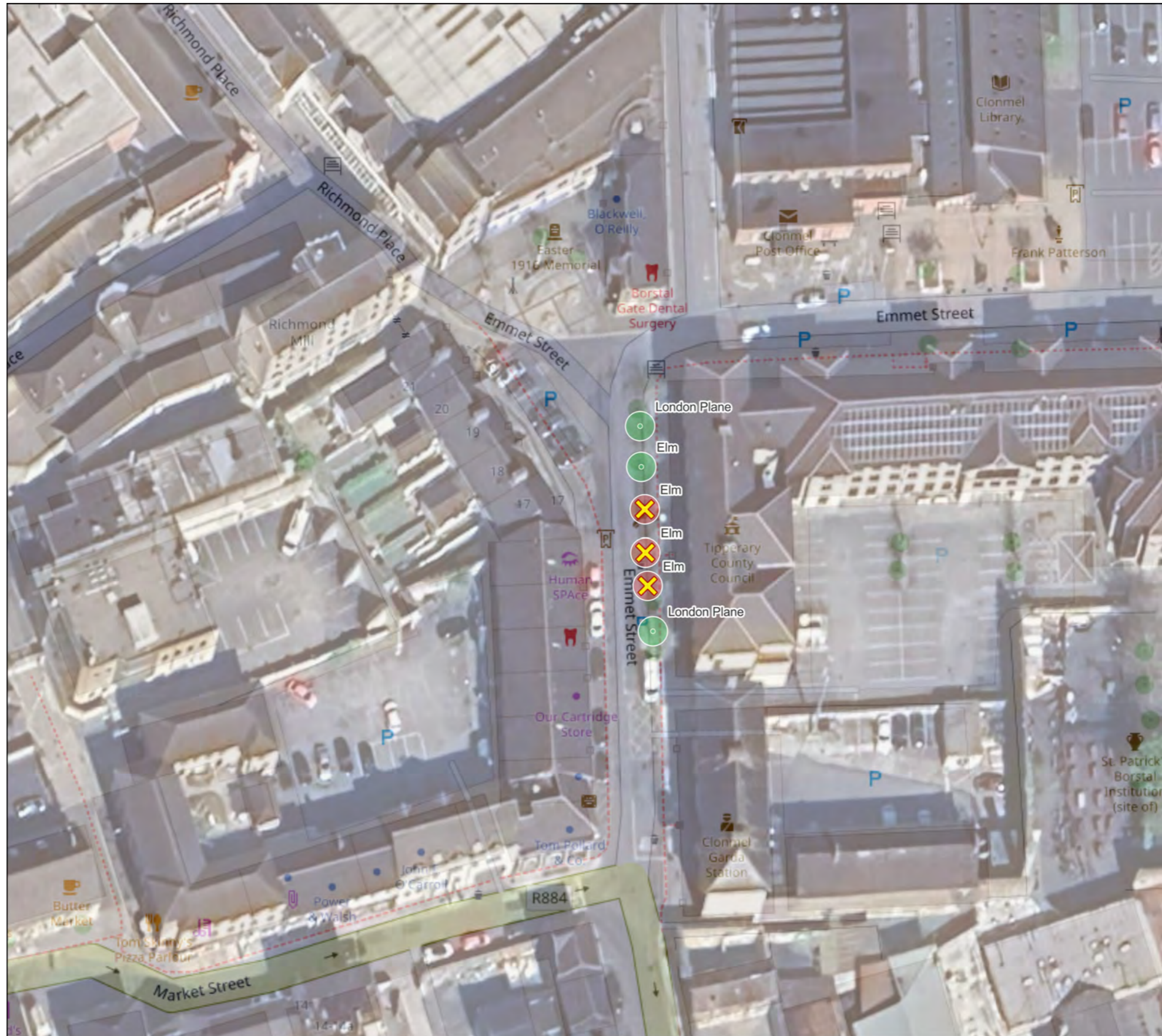
Arboriculture

Arboricultural Assessment
Map_3.3_Arb
Clonmel Town Centre

Legend

Arboricultural Assessment
Tree Conditions

● Good

● Poor

✕ Trees to be Removed
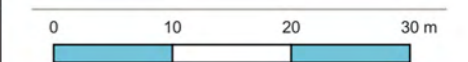
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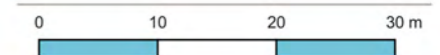
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Arboriculture

Arboricultural Assessment
Map_4_Arb
Riverside Park, Denis Burke Park

Legend

Arboricultural Assessment
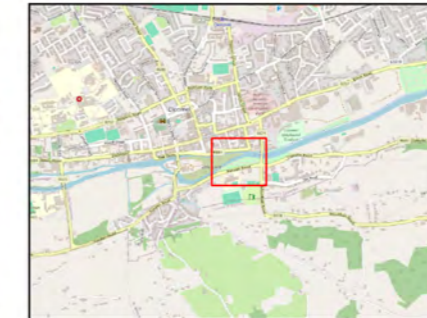Tree Conditions

- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Scale: 1:1,200 Original at A3

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Arboriculture

Arboricultural Assessment
Map_5_Arb
Areas along the Suir Blueway
Walkway

Legend

Arboricultural Assessment
Tree Conditions

⬤ Good

⬤ Fair

Arboricultural Assessment
Area Conditions

▭ Good

Scale: 1:1,500 Original at A3

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Arboriculture

Arboriculture

Arboricultural Assessment Map
_7_Arb
Powerstown Roundabout Area

Legend

Arboricultural Assessment
Tree Conditions

Poor

Trees to be Removed

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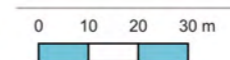Contains OSM data ©
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Ecology

Ecology

Ecological Priority
Map_2_EcoP
Prior Park Estate

Legend
Ecological Priority (Class)
- High
- Medium
- Low

Scale: 1:500 Original at A3

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Ecology

Ecological Priority
Map_3_EcoP
Clonmel Town Centre

Legend

SAC - Lower River Suir SAC

Ecological Priority (Class)

Low

Negligible

0   10   20   30 m

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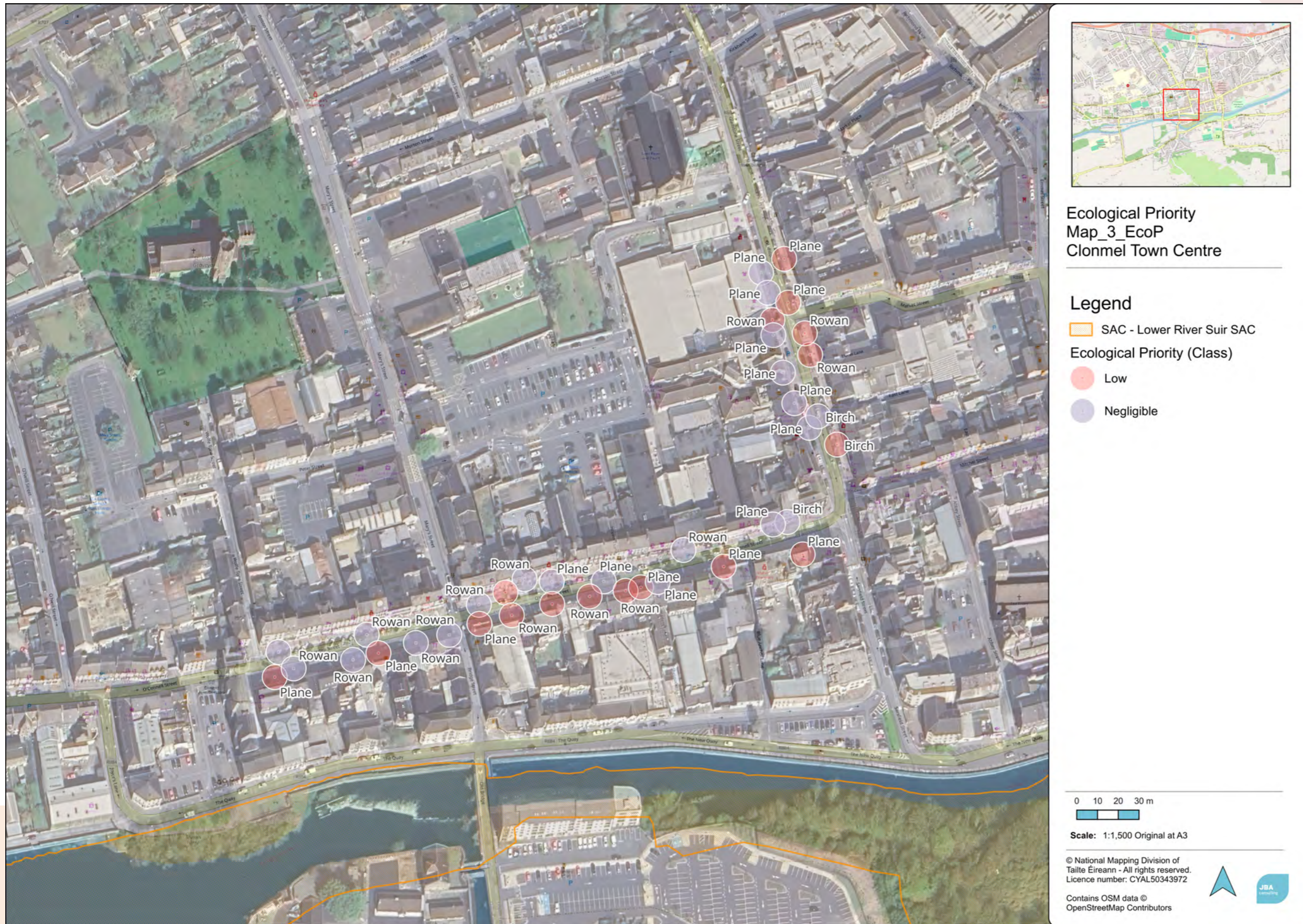
Ecology

Ecological Priority
Map_4_EcoP
Riverside Park, Denis Burke Park

Legend

SAC - Lower River Suir SAC

Ecological Priority (Class)
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Negligible

Ecological Priority Areas (Class)
- High
- Low

0   10   20   30 m

Scale: 1:1,200 Original at A3

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Ecology

Ecological Priority
Map_5_EcoP
Areas along the Suir Blueway
Walkway

Legend

☐ SAC - Lower River Suir SAC

Ecological Priority (Class)

● High

● Medium

● Low

0 10 20 30 m

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Ecology

Map_7_Arb - Powerstown Roundabout Area

Acer
Horse chestnut   Oak
Maple   Beech
Beech
Ash   Cherry. Mature
Horse chestnut   Horse chestnut
Horse chestnut   Oak   Silver maple

Lime Lime Lime
Lime Lime
Lime
Lime Lime
Lime Lime
Lime Lime
Lime Lime
Lime Lime
Lime

Ash Hornbeam

Liquidambra patch
Oak

Oak. Developing
Ulmo
Zelkova Poplar Poplar
Oak. Developing
Poplar
Walnut
Plane
Plane
Plane
Plane

Oak
Oak
Birch
Willow Willow
Birch
Willow birch beech   Willow

Ecological Priority
Map_6_EcoP
Mulcahy Park

Legend

☐ SAC - Lower River Suir SAC

Ecological Priority (Class)

● Medium

● Low

● Negligible

Ecological Priority Areas (Class)

☐ High

☐ Medium

☐ Low

0   10   20   30 m

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Ecology

Visual Amenity

Ecology and Visual Amenity
Map_1_EVA
Prior Park Estate

Legend

Ecological Priority 1
- Areas with high and medium
ecological value

Ecological Priority 2
- Areas that offer less to ecology
and more to visual amenity
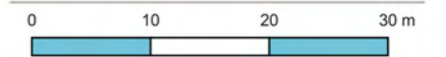
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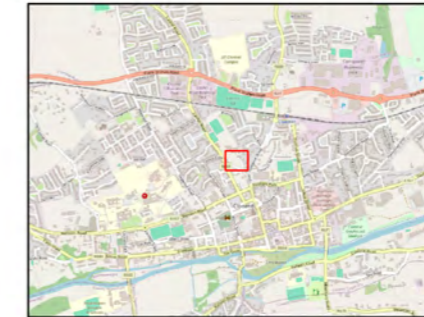
Visual Amenity

Ecology and Visual Amenity
Map_2_EVA
Prior Park Estate

Legend

Ecological Priority 1
- Areas with high and medium ecological value

Ecological Priority 2
- Areas that offer less to ecology and more to visual amenity
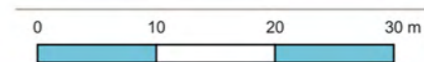
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Visual Amenity

Ecology and Visual Amenity
Map_3.1_EVA
Clonmel Town Centre

Legend

Ecological Priority 2
- Areas that offer less to ecology and more to visual amenity

0   10   20   30 m

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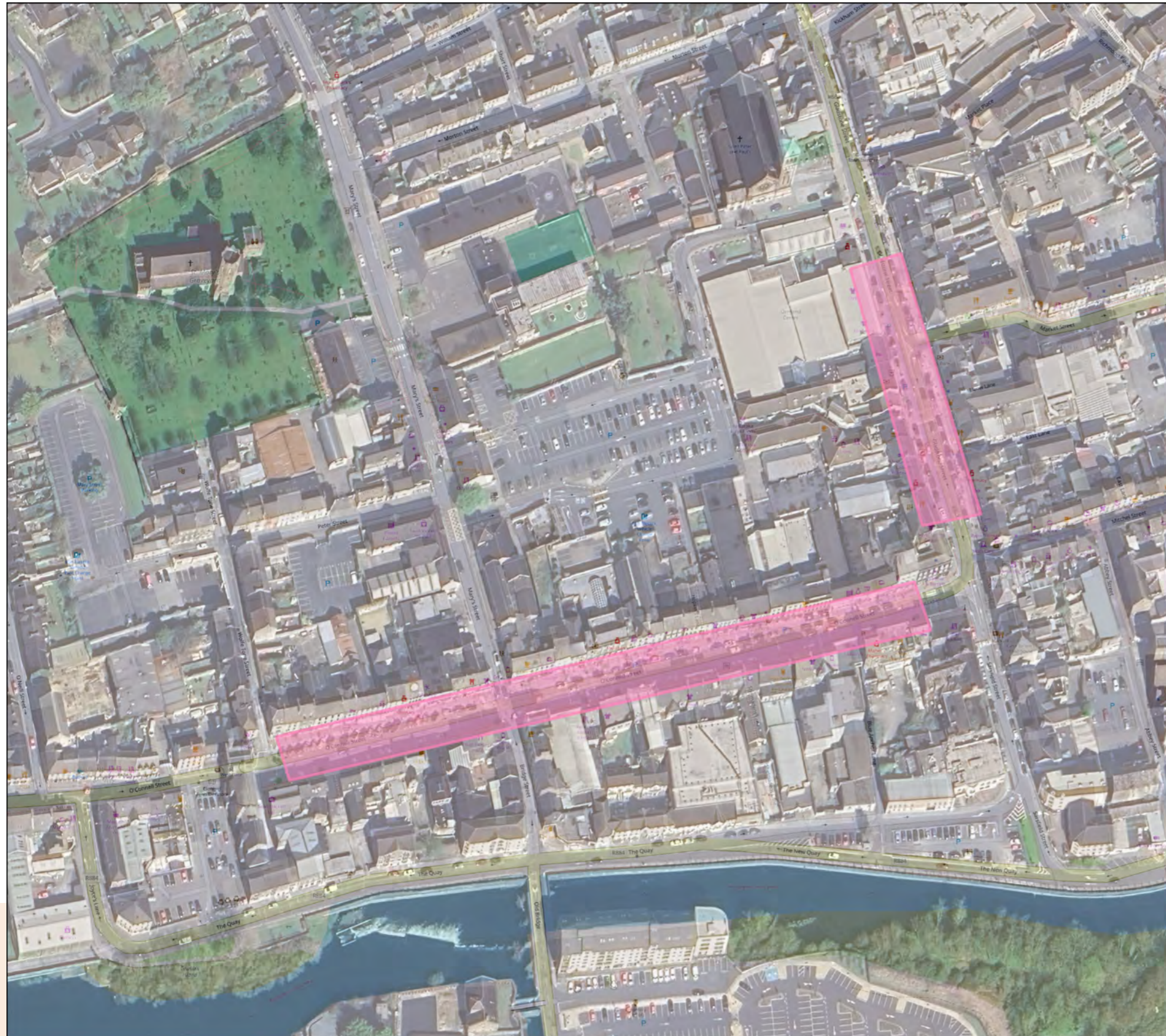
Visual Amenity

Ecology and Visual Amenity
Map_3.2_EVA
Clonmel Town Centre

Legend

Ecological Priority 2
- Areas that offer less to ecology
and more to visual amenity

0   10   20   30 m
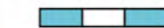
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Visual Amenity

Ecology and Visual Amenity
Map_3.3_EVA
Clonmel Town Centre

Legend

Ecological Priority 2
- Areas that offer less to ecology
and more to visual amenity

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Visual Amenity

Ecology and Visual Amenity
Map_4_EVA
Riverside Park, Denis Burke
Park

Legend

Ecological Priority 1
- Areas with high and medium
ecological value

Ecological Priority 2
- Areas that offer less to ecology
and more to visual amenity

0   10   20   30 m

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Visual Amenity

Ecology and Visual Amenity
Map_5_EVA
Areas along the Suir Blueway
Walkway

Legend

Ecological Priority 1
- Areas with high and medium
ecological value

0   10   20   30 m

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Visual Amenity

Map 7 - Powerstown Roundabout Area

Ecology and Visual Amenity
Map_6-7_EVA
Mulcahy Park & Powerstown
Roundabout Area

Legend

Ecological Priority 1
- Areas with high and medium
ecological value

Ecological Priority 2
- Areas that offer less to ecology
and more to visual amenity

0   10   20   30 m

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APPENDIX B - Indicative Strategy Recommendations
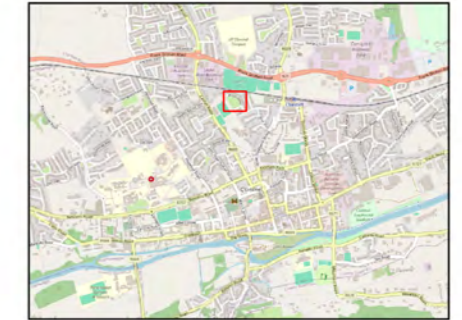
Tree Strategy Masterplan
Map_1_TS
Prior Park Estate

Legend

Ecological Priority 1
- Areas with high and medium ecological value to be retained, protected and enhanced with habitat appropriate planting

Trees to be Removed
- Trees deemed in poor condition by the Arboricultural Assessment. Trees to be replaced with native replacements or appropriate species deemed ecologically valuable.

Proposed Strategy

Crown lifting
- required for trees with low crowns that compromise intervisibility of spaces

Crown reduction
Crown to be reduced by 2m. Pruning to be repeated every 2-3 years

Height retention
Tree should be maintained at current height (8-10m) to avoid future conflicts. Trees located under overhead wires at Gladstone Street to be pruned at a lower suitable height

Remove basal growth
Basal growth to be removed to improve the lawn maintenance in open spaces and visual amenity of trees

Play
Opportunity for playful areas

Scale: 1:500 Original at A3

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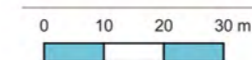OpenStreetMap Contributors
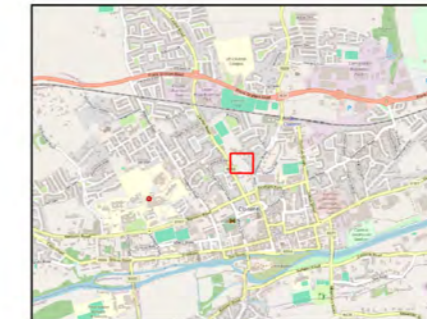
Tree Strategy Masterplan
Map_2_TS
Prior Park Estate

Legend

Ecological Priority 1
- Areas with high and medium ecological value to be retained, protected and enhanced with habitat appropriate planting

Recommended Tree Preservation Orders
- Trees identified as fantastic speciments in Arboricultural Assessment that are recommended for TPOs

Proposed Strategy

Protect
- Trees to be protected due to their high value ecological rating

Monitoring required
Due to tree signs of decay such as cracks or dieback, as recommended by Arboricultural Assessment

Remove basal growth
Basal growth to be removed to improve the lawn maintenance in open spaces and visual amenity of trees

Remove deadwood
- due to H&S hazard in open spaces. Deadwood on ground in densely vegetated areas with trees and hedgerow to be kept in Ecological Priority 1 areas.

Ring Ivy
- Ivy to only be removed from mature examplar trees if deemed damaging.
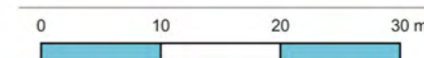
Scale: 1:500 Original at A3

0   10   20   30 m

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Indicative Strategy Recommendations

Arboricultural Assessment
Map_3.1_TS
Clonmel Town Centre

Legend

SAC - Lower River Suir SAC

Proposed Strategy

Tree pit surface replaced with permeable treatment
- Tree pits with hard surface up to tree trunk or with exposed soil to replace finish with a suitable permeable surface to protect trees from compaction

0   10   20   30 m

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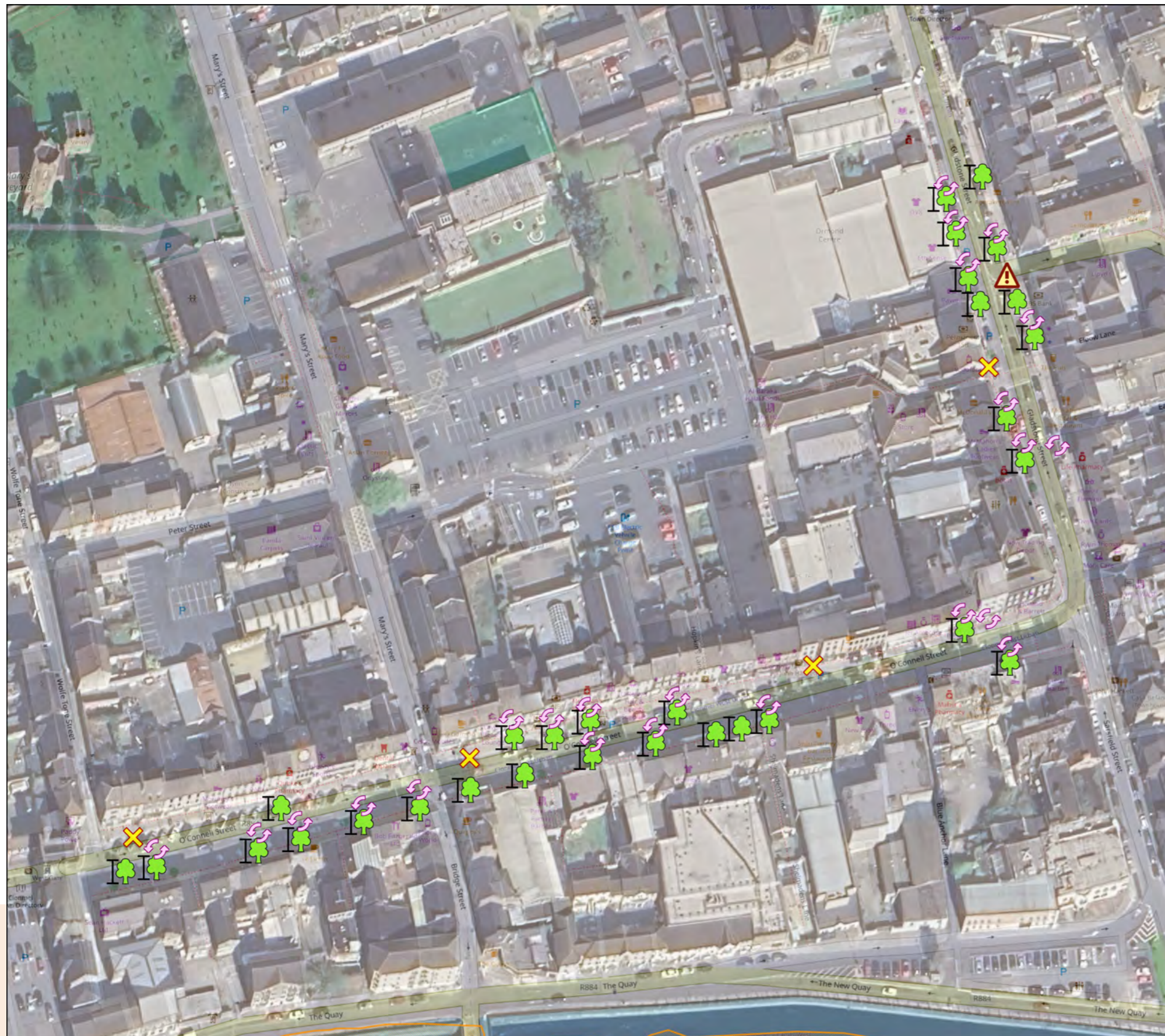
Tree Strategy Masterplan
Map_3.2_TS
Clonmel Town Centre

Legend

Trees to be Removed
- Trees deemed in poor condition by the Arboricultural Assessment. Trees to be replaced with native replacements or appropriate species deemed ecologically valuable.

Proposed Strategy

Height retention
Tree should be maintained at current height (8-10m) to avoid future conflicts. Trees located under overhead wires at Gladstone Street to be pruned at a lower suitable height

Replace
- Trees of low ecological value, recommended to be replaced within a 5 to 10 year period with appropriate trees to each location and higher ecological value

Warnings

Overhead wires
- Presence of overhead wires at Gladstone Street will require trees to be kept at a lower height (no higher than 4m)

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Indicative Strategy Recommendations

Tree Strategy Masterplan
Map_3.3_TS
Clonmel Town Centre

Legend

✕ Trees to be Removed
- Trees deemed in poor condition
by the Arboricultural Assessment.
Trees to be replaced with native
replacements or appropriate species
deemed ecologically valuable.

Proposed Strategy

● Tree pit surface replaced with
permeable treatment
- Tree pits with hard surface up to tree
trunk or with exposed soil to replace
finish with a suitable permeable surface
to protect trees from compaction

0   10   20   30 m

Scale: 1:500 Original at A3

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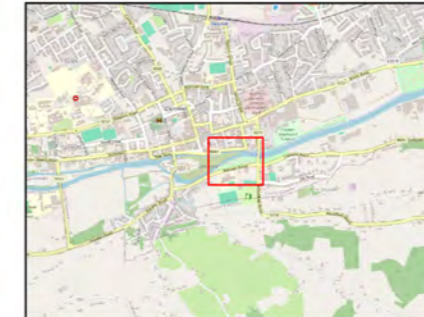
Tree Strategy Masterplan
Map_4_TS
Riverside Park, Denis Burke
Park

Legend

Ecological Priority 1
- Areas with high and medium ecological value to be retained, protected and enhanced with habitat appropriate planting

SAC - Lower River Suir SAC

Proposed Strategy

Protect
- Trees to be protected due to their high value ecological rating

Replace
- Trees of low ecological value, recommended to be replaced within a 5 to 10 year period with appropriate trees to each location and higher ecological value

Monitoring required
Due to tree signs of decay such as cracks or dieback, as recommended by Arboricultural Assessment

Remove metal wire
- to allow for tree to heal and grow
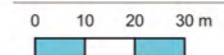
0   10   20   30 m

Scale: 1:1,200 Original at A3

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Indicative Strategy Recommendations

Tree Strategy Masterplan
Map_5_TS
Areas along the Suir Blueway
Walkway

Legend

Ecological Priority 1
- Areas with high and medium ecological value to be retained, protected and enhanced with habitat appropriate planting

SAC - Lower River Suir SAC

Proposed Strategy

Replace
- Trees of low ecological value, recommended to be replaced within a 5 to 10 year period with appropriate trees to each location and higher ecological value

Monitoring required
Due to tree signs of decay such as cracks or dieback, as recommended by Arboricultural Assessment

Remove deadwood
- due to H&S hazard in open spaces. Deadwood on ground in densely vegetated areas with trees and hedgerow to be kept in Ecological Priority 1 areas.

0 10 20 30 m

Scale: 1:1,500 Original at A3

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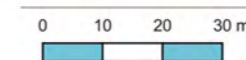
Map 7 - Powerstown Roundabout Area

Tree Strategy Masterplan
Map_6_TS
Mulcahy Park

Legend

Ecological Priority 1
- Areas with high and medium ecological value to be retained, protected and enhanced with habitat appropriate planting

Trees to be Removed
- Trees deemed in poor condition by the Arboricultural Assessment. Trees to be replaced with native replacements or appropriate species deemed ecologically valuable.

SAC - Lower River Suir SAC

Proposed Strategy

Replace
- Trees of low ecological value, recommended to be replaced within a 5 to 10 year period with appropriate trees to each location and higher ecological value

Remove bamboo / buddleia
- Bamboo and buddleia species to be removed due to their invasive behaviour

Remove tree stakes
- recommend all stakes be removed from mature trees in Arboretum, so these can establish their own rooting system

0   10   20   30 m

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Indicative Strategy Recommendations

Map 7 - Powerstown Roundabout Area

**Tree Strategy Masterplan
Map 6 & 7
Mulcahy Park & Powerstown
Roundabout Area**

Legend

▨ **Ecological Priority 1**
- Areas with high and medium ecological value to be retained, protected and enhanced with habitat appropriate planting

✕ **Trees to be Removed**
- Trees deemed in poor condition by the Arboricultural Assessment. Trees to be replaced with native replacements or appropriate species deemed ecologically valuable.

⟶ **Visibility Analysis** - Partial visibility from existing dwellings to open spaces

Proposed Strategy

Replace
- Trees of low ecological value, recommended to be replaced within a 5 to 10 year period with appropriate trees to each location and higher ecological value

📷 **Monitoring required**
Due to tree signs of decay such as cracks or dieback, as recommended by Arboricultural Assessment

✕ **Remove bamboo / buddleia**
- Bamboo and buddleia species to be removed due to their invasive behaviour

✕ **Remove tree stakes**
- recommend all stakes be removed from mature trees in Arboretum, so these can establish their own rooting system

0   10   20   30 m
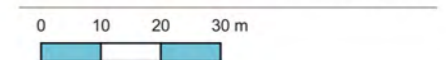
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Tree Strategy Masterplan
Map_7_TS
Powerstown Roundabout Area

Legend

✕ **Trees to be Removed**
- Trees deemed in poor condition by the Arboricultural Assessment. Trees to be replaced with native replacements or appropriate species deemed ecologically valuable.

Proposed Strategy

🔁 **Replace**
- Trees of low ecological value, recommended to be replaced within a 5 to 10 year period with appropriate trees to each location and higher ecological value

📷 **Monitoring required**
Due to tree signs of decay such as cracks or dieback, as recommended by Arboricultural Assessment

Warnings

⚠ **Overhead wires**
- Presence of overhead wires at Gladstone Street will require tree heights to be kept at a lower height
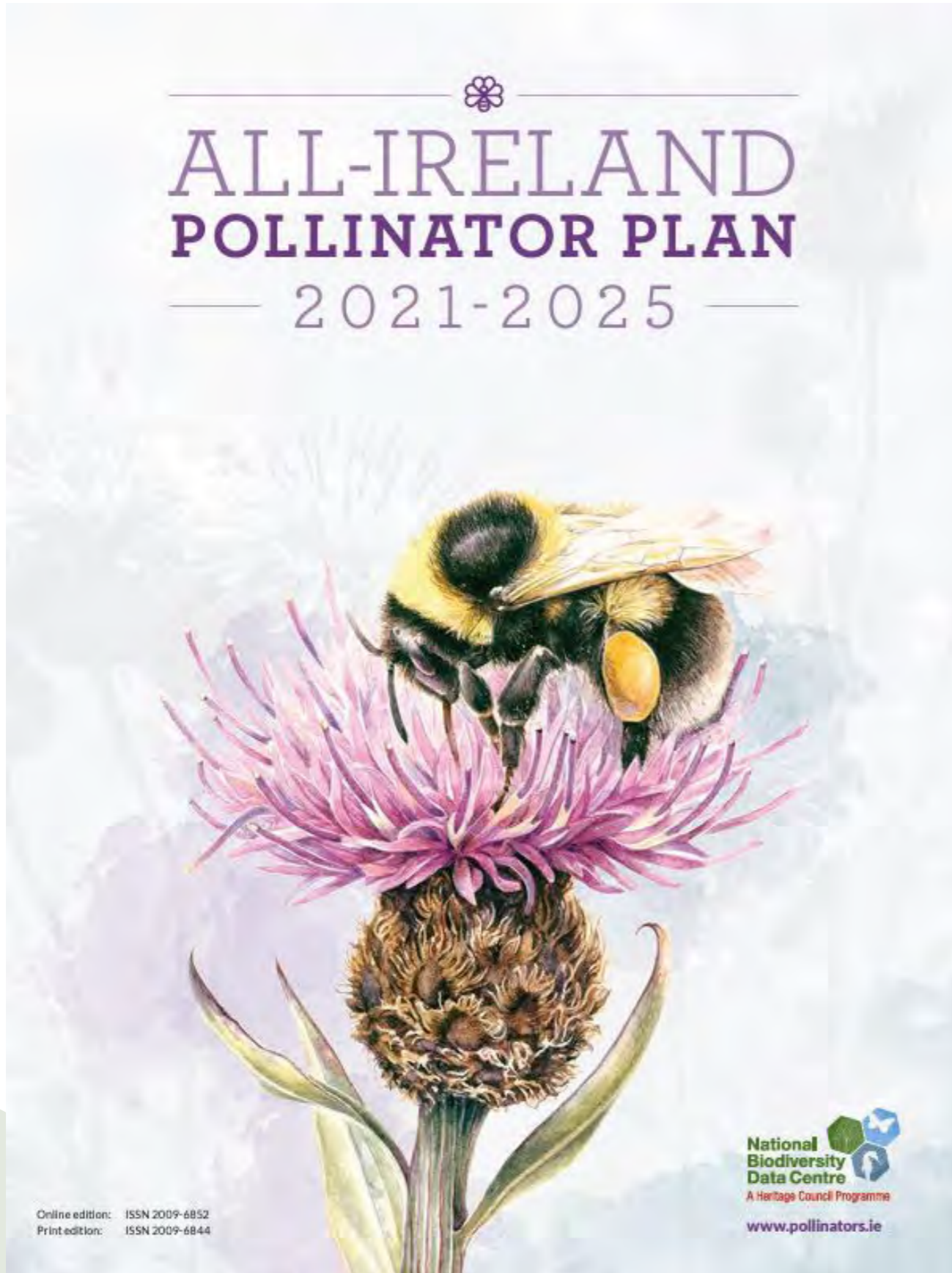
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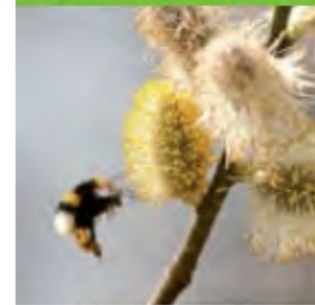© National Mapping Division of Tailte Éireann - All rights reserved. Licence number: CYAL50343972

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APPENDIX C - Indicative Species Recommendations -

ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN 2021-2025

Online edition: ISSN 2009-6852
Print edition: ISSN 2009-6844

National Biodiversity Data Centre
A Heritage Council Programme

www.pollinators.ie

Trees & Shrubs

Blackthorn
Bramble
Broom
Crab apple
Elder
Gorse
Guelder Rose
Hawthorn
Hazel
Honeysuckle
Ivy
Rowan
Whitebeam
Wild Cherry
Wild Privet
Wild Rose
Willow

Woodland, Hedgerow

Street Trees

Roadside margins can be difficult locations in which to establish trees. Those suggested are pollinator friendly, resistant to pruning and should not cause any structural damage or create health and safety issues.

Lime (Tilia) species have fragrant flowers and produce a lot of nectar, however care is needed in the selection of cultivars as many can grow to large tree size proportions that will exceed allotted roadside space. Some are also very attractive to aphids and can lead to honeydew drip onto cars below (e.g., *Tilia × europaea, T. platyphyllos*). Those suggested below are smaller and don't attract aphids, therefore producing no dripping.

Species	Flowering
Juneberry Tree *Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Robin Hill'*	Small white flower April. Good autumn colour
Upright Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna 'Stricta'*	White flowers May
Pillar crab *Malus tschonoskii*	Scented white flowers May. Can set fruit.
Callery pear *Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer'*	White flowers April-May. Can set fruit.
Rowan *Sorbus acuparia varieties*	White flowers May-June
Lime: *Tilia cordata 'Greenspire'; Tilia x europaea 'Euchlora'*	Pale yellow flowers June-July

Open Space Trees

While the range of trees favourable to pollinators capable of growing on open spaces is very large, actual selection is very much dependent on the situation thus **expert advice should be sought.**

Species	Flowering
Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*	White flowers May-June
Juneberry *Amelanchier species (not A. lamarckii which may be invasive)*	White flowers April
Indian bean tree *Catalpa bignonioides*	White flowers May - July

All-Ireland-Pollinator-Plan-2021-2025

Hawthorn Crataegus species	White flowers May – June
Apple Malus species/cultivars	White, pink, red flowers May
Foxglove tree Paulownia tomentosa	Lavender blue flowers May
Wild Cherry Prunus avium	White flowers April
Bird Cherry Prunus padus	White flowers April
Japenese flowering cherry Prunus serrulata 'Tai Haku' Japanese flowering cherries are available in a wide range of cultivars, those with single flowers most pollinator attractive, however the attractiveness of specific cultivars is unclear and not well documented	Large white flowers April
Pear Pyrus species and cultivars	White flowers May
Rowan Sorbus species/cultivars	White flowers May-June
Willow Salix are fast growing and are excellent trees for pollinating insects producing large quantities of nectar and pollen. However choice of an appropriate species/cultivar for the right situation requires careful consideration. Priority should always be given to native species, but recommended non-native species include: Salix aegyptiaca (early spring flowering) Salix alba (spring flowering) Salix alba 'Liempde' Salix alba var. vitellina	Flowers in catkins in spring
Lime Tilia can grow to very large trees, so careful selection is required. Although the range and diversity of Tilia is very large, only a small selection is recommended including: Tilia americana 'Redmond' Tilia cordata Tilia x europea Tilia platyphyllos Tilia tomentosa	White flowers in summer

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