

Tree preservation order requests for Newtownmountkennedy

Newtownmountkennedy features a wide number of mature trees plus biodiverse-rich areas that are important to preserve into the future. We have sought to identify some of the assets of the town which we hope that Wicklow Co. Co. would be able to protect via the assignation of tree preservation order status. The areas we have highlighted in the document below include a proposed riverine walk, which would run through the town and extend onwards.

We are proposing that in the tree conservation zone 1, that of the Riverine walk, all mature trees within 25 meters of each side of the streams and riverine walks are to be protected.

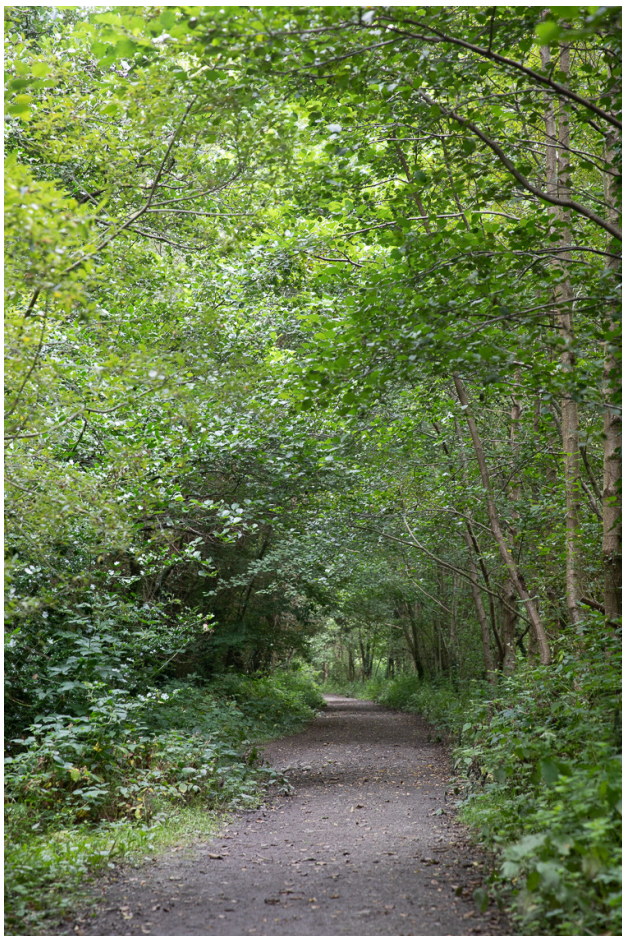
We are also seeking the preservation of the distinctive trees forming gateways (2) to the village, as well as a woodland at Season Park (3).

We also would request that individual trees numbered 5 to 15 shall be considered for preservation.

Details are as follows:

1. Riverine Walk: Protection for the trees on either side of proposed riverine walk. The entire riverine walk is part of a wildlife corridor running from the beach at Kilcoole up to the Uplands National Park. It is an objective of WCC to ensure that the Natural Heritage and biodiversity of this area is protected.

1.1 Upper forest: The upper and lower forests are possibly the most important amenity that the villagers have. Long before Covid struck it offered locals and visitors a tranquil walk with nature along the river. The path is suitable for wheelchair users and attracts parents and grandparents with buggies. It contains the Coillte Laboratory and the Dower House of the Mountkennedy Estate. Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Protection.



1.2 Lower forest: This cool-shaded forest adjacent to the Altidore River runs from the Dublin Road at Murrays Hill to Church Road. The river is a playground for paddling youngsters and is remarkable for the carpets of wild garlic and wildlife that it supports. It is also the location of The Mighty Oak.



1.3 Valle Pacis: The Jewel in the Crown of the riverine walk and potentially the location of a new park in the centre of the village. The woodland contains the ruin of a mill, and both are shown in OS maps drawn almost 200 years ago. Of considerable importance locally as a nature rich area and of historical interest





1.4 Old Flour Mill: Downstream of the Kilcoole Road crossing adjacent to the site of the 1798 Battle of Newtownmountkennedy is the second of the town's old mills. The mill is surrounded by many mature trees flanking the river. They are worthy of preservation and give context to the ruins of the mill. Of cultural and ecological value



1.5 Eastern valley: Below the Flour Mill the river runs east towards the sea through a valley with some mature trees remaining. The land is owned by Coillte and was harvested recently. It is part of a listed view in the Newtownmountkennedy LADP



1.6 Glendarragh River – Park View to Kilmurray Forest: The Glendarragh tributary joins the Newtownmountkennedy River in the heart of the village. The Kilmurray Valley through which it runs has been earmarked for a part of the riverine park offering the tantalising prospect of an off road path to the uplands. It is part of the Mountains to Sea wildlife corridor. Of biodiversity and amenity importance

2. Gateways: A distinctive feature of Newtownmountkennedy is its gateways. Entrances are guarded by tall mature trees and give the traveller the impression that they are entering a walled town. In preserving these we are preserving the essence of the village as a distinct settlement against the backdrop of the Wicklow mountains

2.1 Tunnel of trees in Season Park, on road between Church Road and Glendarragh: The road from the village to Glendarragh and Altidore, where it runs along the boundary wall of Mountkennedy House and the upper forest forms a tunnel. Trees on both sides of the road, including mature oak and two huge ash trees, produce a canopy for wildlife and a beautiful shaded route towards the uplands.





2.2 **Dublin Road** - Known locally as Murrays Hill, this part of the lower forest defines the village. Visitors 'enter' the sanctuary of the village like knights entering a castle.





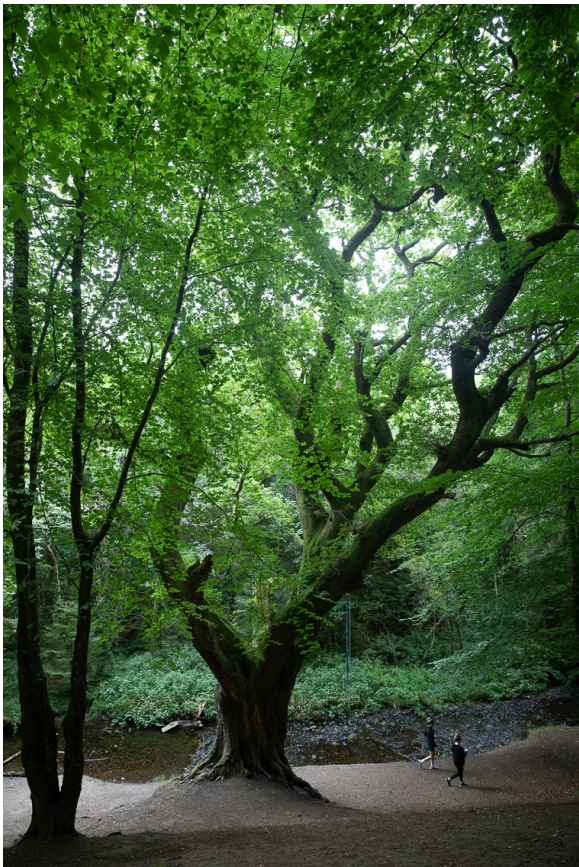
2.3 Killadreenan - The grounds of Newcastle Hospital to the south of village are surrounded by many tall Larch trees, all worthy of preservation. The ones in the photograph stand like the pillars to one of the gates to Killadreenan.



3 Seasonpark Woodland - This dense woodland occupies an area a little over two acres and is home to a number of important species. Bats circle overhead at dusk and pine martens have been spotted in the area. A formal ecological report has yet to be conducted.



5 The Mighty Oak - Of historical and cultural importance, in addition to its value as a home to a large number and variety of plants and insects. It has stood above the river in the 'little forest' since the 1700's. From its limbs generations of children have swung. Important for wildlife and part of our cultural heritage.



6 Copper Beech at St Mathews - This large and fully mature beech stands at the entrance to the church. Its spread extends over the courtyard providing protection for gatherings the year around. Magnificent.



7 Season Park Arboretum - The Old Rectory on Church Road, opposite St Mathews was set out as an arboretum and contains a number of specimen trees including a Giant Sequoia, a large Araucaria araucana (which is an endangered species), a rare Blue Maple and several other rare and mature trees.





8 Schoolhouse Larch - Another tree important to the village - its loss in the grounds of the Church of Ireland Church would alter the appearance and feel of the area significantly.



9 Larch at bottom of Church Rd (East) - The trees at the bottom of Church Rd have framed the view of the main street for decades. They are important in that they help to define what is distinctive about the village and sets it apart from other villages



10 Hutchinson's Larch - A large tree that overlooks Fishers Junction and is visible to cars travelling along the Main Street, it gives a sense of scale to the heart of the 'old village' with its locally important listed buildings and the Old School House



11 Oak Tree at The Corner House - This young 'Red Oak' occupies a prominent site on the corner of Main Street, in the grounds of one of the village's listed buildings. It provides shade and is an important benchmark for the village. Of value to the public realm.



12 Three Chestnut Trees on Main Street - These trees appear fully grown in photographs of 100 years ago. They dominate the northern end of the main street on the boundary between two listed buildings. They must be nearing the end of their natural lives. However, their loss would alter the entire character of the village. Value: Amenity and Public realm



13 Springfield House Beech Tree - This large and magnificent specimen is at the entrance to Springmount House and is a landmark, distinguishing Killadreenan from the village of Newtownmountkennedy. Estimated to be 180 years old and apparently in good condition.



15 A copse of mature larch and yew trees at Killadreenan Church - These trees form an important gateway to Killadreenan as well as a backdrop to the ruins of Killadreenan Church that dates to the 8th century. Their destruction would have a significant impact on the character of the area and cause a sense of great loss to many people. Of high biodiversity and heritage value







See overleaf for a map, and also here. <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1-ec3LyIQXOT0Q6jktiHog02cyv0L1jeB&hl=en&usp=sharing>

More precise locations of trees can be provided.



Legend

-  Settlement Boundary
-  Flood Zone A: High probability of flooding
Where the probability of flooding from rivers and the sea is highest (greater than 1% or 1 in 100 for river flooding or 3.5% or 1 in 200 for coastal flooding)
-  Flood Zone B: Moderate probability of flooding
Where the probability of flooding from rivers and the sea is moderate (between 0.1% or 1 in 1000 and 1% or 1 in 100 for river flooding and between 0.1% or 1 in 1000 year and 0.5% or 1 in 200 for coastal flooding)
-  TREE PRESERVATION ZONES

Disclaimer

These Indicative Flood Zones were based on information available at the time of drafting and amending this plan. Any new data and analyses should be used to update the flood zones shown on this map but should be used in conjunction with this map for development proposals. All information may be substantially altered in light of future data and analysis.

Full Disclaimer is included in SFRA

**DRAFT
WICKLOW COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027**

Wicklow County Council
Planning Department

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Scale 1:11,000 @ A3

