



SITE OBSERVATIONS

Site: Robinstown, County Westmeath
Client: Westmeath County Council
Ref: 23-310-03
Survey Date: Thursday 26th June 2025

The site comprises three separate fields north of Mullingar FC in the townland of Robinstown, which are dissected by the Brosna River and link road connecting the R394 and N54. Two fields are arable farmland now reverting to grassland with self-sown natural regeneration and the other field has recently been cut.

Five mature beech trees growing from an old field bank boundary in the most southern field provide high visual amenity in the local landscape. The remnants of a lapsed mixed species hedgerow which extends north towards the link road boundary forms an understorey, in part beneath these trees. The beech are fully mature and have considerable girths with the largest over 1.4 m diameter at breast height. Three of the beech were observed to have significant defects including large primary limb and stem failures, basal cavities, stem cavities, hollowing and decay fungi including *Kretschmaria deusta* and *Ganoderma australe*, and will require removal if the lands become accessible to the public. The other two beech are in fair condition but dense ivy that extends high into crowns is recommended for removal to allow a full visual inspection.

The two most northern fields are bound in part by the remnants of lapsed mixed species hedgerows and self-sown hawthorn with occasional elder and grey willow, behind post and barb wire stock proof fencing. The most intact hedgerow extends along the north western boundary of the site, with a number of fully mature hawthorn interspersed with good natural regeneration forming understorey succession.

On lands immediately north east of the site are several early mature Scots pine interspersed with self-sown hawthorn, elder and grey willow. The Scots pine are in good condition and beyond influencing distance of the site, being separated from the site by a deep field drainage ditch.

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Position: Arboricultural Consultant

Signed:

Date: 27th June 2025



Photographic Record



Figure 1. Mature beech in most southern field.



Figure 2. Remnants of lapsed hedgerow (H12) and self-sown natural regeneration from rank grass along field boundary.



Figure 3. Lapsed mixed species hedgerow (H23) with mature hawthorn and good natural regeneration from understorey.



Figure 4. Early mature Scots pine beyond field ditch on neighbouring land, beyond influencing distance of site.