

# Rathcoole Woodland

## Review of Existing Woodland

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# Rathcoole Woodland

## Context & Location



Rath Cúil, meaning "ringfort of Comhail or Cumhail") is an outer suburban village, south west of the city of Dublin



Area outlined in Red is the Area of the Woodland



The woodland is located South of the Village of Rathcoole and consists of pioneer woodland and emerging mature woodland.





## Rathcoole Woodland SDCC Proposal

Area outlined in red is the current area of the woodland.

Proposed Area of Woodland to remain



Proposed development by SDCC in their Draft Layout shows woodland to be almost entirely removed.

The remaining trees would be compromised; as trees grow as a unit, not individually.

The woodland as an entity would cease to exist.





## Rathcoole Woodland

# Analysis



Sample Areas were taken – 7 in total to give an indication of the range and type of woodland.

Area 1:

Salix spp. – Willow – 8m tall - multistem x 5 no

Area 2:

Salix spp. - Willow – 8m tall - multistem x 9 no  
Circium, Rubus fruticosus, Epilobium , Hedera Helix, Fern

Area 3:

Salix spp. - Willow – 8m tall x 2 no

Area 4:

Betula pubescens – Birch – 60cm girth x 1 no.  
Salix spp. - multistem x 7 no

Area 5:

Betula pubescens - Whips  
Salix spp. – Whips – mixed  
2 per m<sup>2</sup>

Area 6:

Salix spp. – 15m tall – x 9 no  
Girth 38 – 95cm

Area 7:

Hedgerow – Corylus avellana – Hazel – Mature  
Mature trees @2m girth –  
10 -12cm regenerating Hazel Hedge



## Rathcoole Woodland

# Methodology

### Method

1. Areas typical of the woodland were selected.
2. A 5m x 5m Quadrat was established. A square enclosed by twine to define, examine and count the trees and the species within the Quadrat –
3. Therefore an area of 25m<sup>2</sup> was used to calculate the number and the rate of existing trees.
4. The area was calculated through an Autocad programme, 112,023m<sup>2</sup> - 27.86 Acres



Fig. Area Showing Quadrat

Scrub Land - WS1 Scrub

Immature Woodland - WS2 Immature woodland

Maturing Woodland - WN6 Wet willow alder-ash woodland

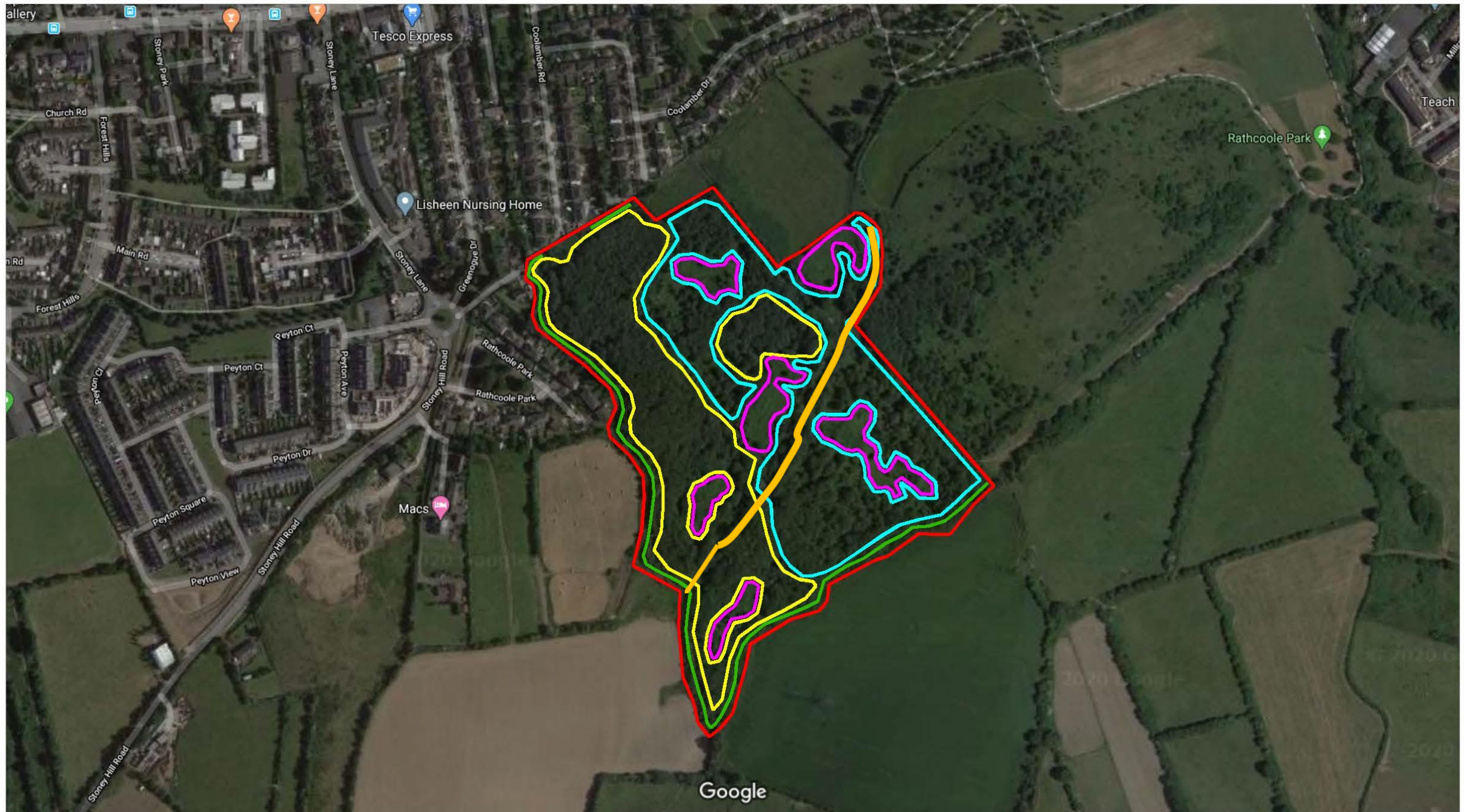
Hedgerow – WL1 Linear Woodland Scrub

5. Referencing the Fossitt Classification Codes and Descriptions of Habitats, Areas where characterised as, Scrub, Immature – Mature Woodland and Hedgerow.





# Rathcoole Woodland



-  Boundary
-  Scrub Land
-  Immature Woodland
-  Maturing Woodland
-  Hedgerow
- 



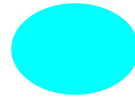


Scrub Land – Approx. area: 9,876.2m<sup>2</sup>





Immature Woodland – Approx. area: 36,595.5m<sup>2</sup>



Approximate Quantity of Trees –  $2 \text{ per m}^2 \times 36,595.5\text{m}^2 = 73,190$  no. Trees – 3m tall (Whips)  
Estimate on Maturity = 9661 Trees – Taking the maturing woodland average of 0.264 per m<sup>2</sup> of Trees





Maturing Woodland - Approx. area: 36,625.9 m<sup>2</sup>



Approximate quantity of Trees = Average of 6.6 trees per 25m<sup>2</sup> = 0.264 trees per m<sup>2</sup>  
Area: 36,625.9m<sup>2</sup> x .0264 = 9,687 Trees





Hedgerow – Length Approx. length: 948.3m – Mixed Mature Hedge



Approx. length: 948.3m – Mixed Mature Hedge - Approximate Area 4741.5m<sup>2</sup>



Approx. length: 410 m – Hawthorn (dominant) Hedge - Approximate Area 2050m<sup>2</sup> -





## Rathcoole Woodland

# Conclusion

### Conclusion

This report is an introduction to the woodland area in Rathcoole.

In brief it is a pioneer woodland which in part is maturing into a woodland.

The abundant presence of Willow, *Salix* spp (*Cinerea*) provides an indication that the field layer is impoverished and poorly-developed, however as time progresses other species may inhabit and grow in this habitat.

The southern Boundary is of great value with dominant species of Hazel, some with girth of 2m, trees of great age and very important as part of the native habitat.

It is worth noting that Oak, Ash and other large native species could establish in this location. The Large parkland trees would be the next generation of woodland, which would be enabled by the current habitat.

We estimate that there are approximately :

Scrub Land - WS1 Scrub - 9876.2m<sup>2</sup>

Immature Woodland - WS2 Immature woodland - 36,595.5m<sup>2</sup> = 73,190 no. tree whips

Maturing Woodland - WN6 Wet willow alder-ash woodland – 36,625.9m<sup>2</sup> = no. - 9687 Trees

Hedgerow – WL1 Linear Woodland Scrub – 6791.5m<sup>2</sup> - Estimate 2263 no trees

Conservatively there are currently 11,950 upwards to 12,224 mature trees. In the near future 5 – 10 years it would be expected that the number of trees that would reach maturity would be 9661 – 12,223 trees – making a total of 21,611 - 24,447 mature trees in the woodland

