



Part 3 Quality and Quantity of Fingal's Trees

An overview of Trees in Fingal

Part 3

Quality and Quantity of Fingal's Trees

3.1 Types of tree cover

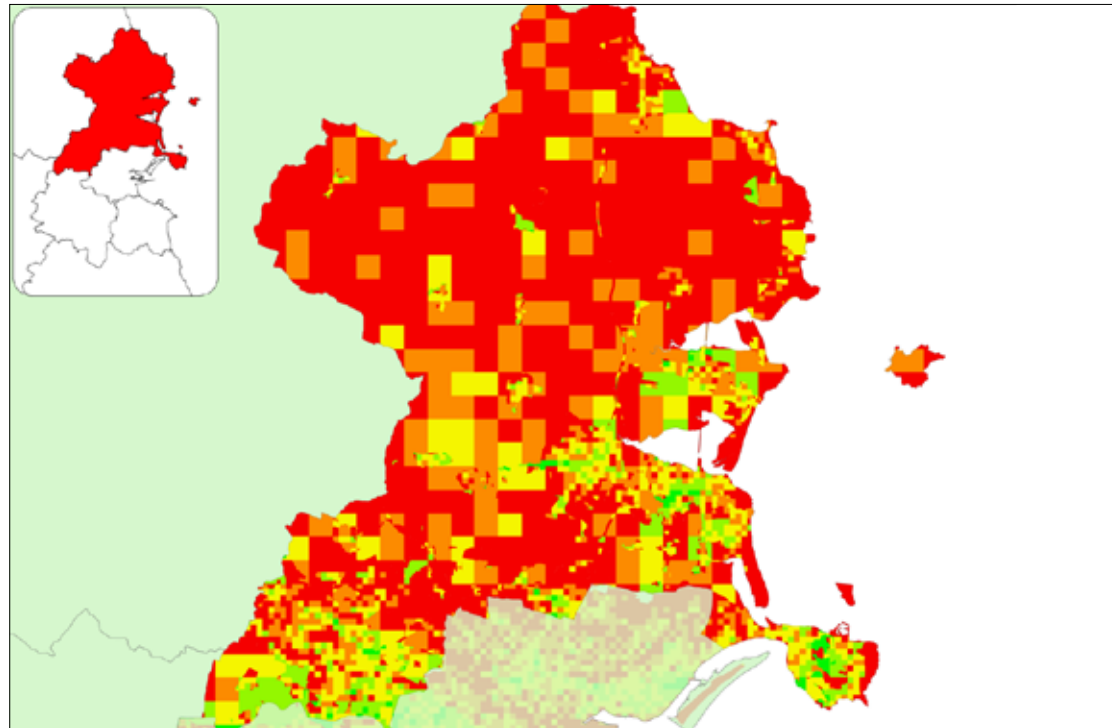
The variety of tree and vegetation cover within the urban forest of Fingal is vast depending on the variety of land use; mainly streets, parks, open spaces, woodlands, river embankments, motorways, campuses, and hedgerows. Most of the total tree canopy cover within urban Fingal is privately owned. None-the-less, the primary focus of this strategy and the actions recommended in it, is the public realm for which Fingal County Council has responsibility.

3.2 Current canopy cover - information from the Dublin Tree Canopy Study

The 'Dublin Tree Canopy Study' undertaken by the School of Geography, University College Dublin and published in March 2017 provides an analysis of data from an aerial survey of the tree cover for the Greater Dublin Region within the lands managed by the four Dublin local authorities and the Office of Public Works. The survey data is analysed in terms of the environmental services (biodiversity, air quality, water management) provided by the tree cover across the county.

The report indicates that 'A tree canopy cover of 15% would make Dublin comparable to other European cities. Currently cover across County Dublin is 10% but there are large variations between local authorities' With a predominantly rural landcover of 74%, Fingal is the least "leafy" in terms of proportion of canopy cover, though due to its large size it has the second largest amount of canopy in terms of area. Fingal's rural areas are used for large scale and productive agriculture activities, which may make afforestation incentives less effective compared to SDCC or DLR. Somewhat counterintuitively, Fingal's continued and fast paced urbanisation provides the authority with an opportunity to increase canopy by mandating street tree planting into the design of any new developments through the planning process. At present Fingal has 1,506 km of road suggesting space for a maximum of 75,328 street trees. In terms of areas to be prioritised, approximately two thirds of urban Fingal have below 10% canopy cover meaning most areas of Fingal would benefit from additional plantings. That being said, the more northerly towns in the county, i.e. Lusk, Rush, Donabate, Ballbrigginn and Skerries, could be said to be in particular need of additional tree planting.

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% Canopy cover

0 - 5	
5 - 10	
10 - 20	
20 - 40	
40 - 100	

Tree canopy cover across Fingal, which has predominantly rural landcover (74%) is estimated at 6.5%

Canopy cover breakdown in each of the four local authorities

Local Authority	Area (ha)	Canopy (ha)	Percent canopy	Percent urban
DCC	11,772	1,197	10.2	97.1
DLR	12,660	2,398	18.9	59.8
Fingal	45,806	2,996	6.5	25.7
SDCC	22,350	3,872	17.3	42.2
Total	92,588	9,284	10.0	43.4

3.3 Number of street trees, woodlands etc.

70,000 Council owned / managed trees
400 hectares of woodland which is approximately 20% of the publicly owned open space within the county.

3.4 How trees are currently managed

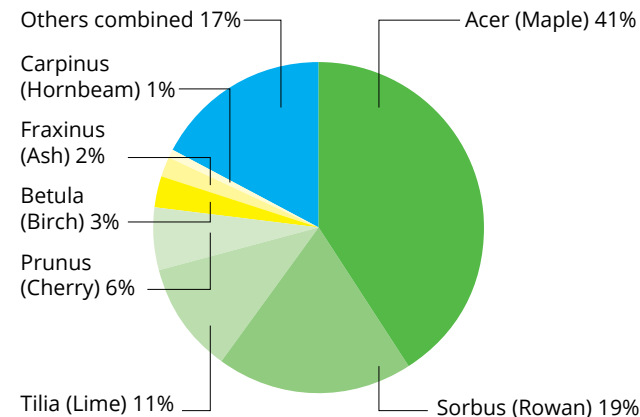
All the street trees within Fingal County Council are currently being resurveyed and uploaded onto a new tree management software system. All recommendations within this survey will assist with scheduling and

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prioritising future works. This is to assist with working to a planned schedule rather than a reactive works schedule. Residents may still ring or e-mail with concerns or requests for tree works, but these requests must be assessed and prioritised in line with the proposed works as detailed in Section 6

3.5 Current breakdown in terms of species:

According to our inventory of trees, over 70% of the population is comprised of 3 genus types: Acer - Maple (41%), Sorbus – Rowan (19%) and Tilia – Lime (11%). This highlights the need to greatly diversify our tree stock. Depending on such high quantities of similar genus and species could prove costly should future outbreaks of pests and diseases occur. The recommended approach for a resilient tree population in terms of pest and disease control, and climate change adaptability is to diversify the tree stock.



The council will use and promote the use of a wide variety of trees in terms of family, genus and species in future planting programmes and projects.

3.6 Protected Trees (TPOs)

Currently there are three locations with trees under TPOs in Fingal; The Vicarage, Church Road, Swords; Santry Demesne and Brackenstown/Brazil, Swords

3.7 Tree Trails

Fingal currently has Tree trails in public parks in Ardgillan Demesne and Glebe Park in Balrothery. The development of Tree Trails is a good way of introducing the public to tree identification and to increasing appreciation of our trees.

