

Land at Barrington Court Tree Document:

The Officer's Report on the previous application (2014/4270/P) noted:

Biodiversity and trees

6.27 *An Arboricultural Report has been submitted in support of the application. The report identifies a Silver Birch on Site B as category C1 (Unremarkable tree of very limited merit or such impaired condition that it does not qualify in higher categories) according to the classification of BS 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction' Similarly a small Hornbeam on Site B is categorised as C1..*

6.28 *Officers agree that the Silver Birch on Site B has reached a stage of decline and has a limited safe useful life expectancy. The Hornbeam on Site B is a small specimen with no significant visual amenity. Due to the condition of the Birch it is considered that this tree no longer provides an effective role in terminating the terraces. There is no objection to the removal of these trees. 6 new Cherry trees are to be planted elsewhere on the estate as part of a landscape improvement scheme being developed with local residents and this will be secured as a head of term in the S106 agreement. This new tree planting is considered to provide sufficient mitigation for the loss of the trees associated with this application.*

It was accepted that new cherry trees planted elsewhere on the Estate were sufficient mitigation for the loss of trees on site.

Nonetheless, the current application proposes 2 new trees in addition to this, complemented by biodiverse green roofs for all roof areas.



Example of Courtyard planting, Battersea. Undercurrent Architects

Silver birch focal tree, Acer decorative borders, Brick pavers

South Facing courtyard:

Focal tree: Silver Birch: *Betula pendula*

This tree has a number of attractive qualities for the proposed landscape:

- Medium height tree (6-20m) slightly higher than the proposed building with the bulk of its canopy at upper window height. This will help screen the outlook from the bedroom.
- Small leaves with diffuse canopy providing light shade to south facing courtyard. This facilitates underplanting and daylight to the lower level living spaces.
- Stable root system allows planting in closer proximity to building.
- Attractive winter bark and understorey.
- Attractive foliage from Spring to Autumn.
- Attractive Spring catkins.
- Good for nesting birds (see below)



Value to wildlife:

Birch have a light, open canopy, providing the perfect conditions for grasses, mosses, wood anemone, bluebells, wood sorrel and violets to grow.

Silver birch provides food and habitat for more than 300 insect species - the leaves attract aphids, providing food for ladybirds and other species further up the food chain, and are also a food plant for the caterpillars of many moths, including the angle-shades, buff tip, pebble hook-tip, and Kentish glory. Birch trees are particularly associated with specific fungi including fly agaric, woolly milk cap, birch milk cap, birch brittlegill, birch knight, chanterelle and the birch polypore (razor strop).

Woodpeckers and other hole-nesting birds often nest in the trunk, while the seeds are eaten by siskins, greenfinches and redpolls.

North Facing garden and entrance yard:

Native cherry: Prunus avium Plena

This tree has a number of attractive qualities:

- Medium height tree (6-15m) slightly higher than the proposed building with the bulk of its canopy at upper window height. This will help screen the outlook from the bedroom window.
- Small leaves with diffuse canopy providing light shade to the entrance area. Bronze tinged in Spring, later with long elliptical leaves
- Attractive winter bark and understorey.
- Masses of pure white, double flowers in Spring
- Attractive Chestnut bark with prominent horizontal lenticels. Becomes silvery with age.
- Good for nesting birds
- Sterile variety so produces no fruit



Value to wildlife:

Native cherry trees have high biodiversity value and all year round interest.

Their spring flowers provide an early source of nectar and pollen for bees, while the cherries are eaten by birds including the blackbird and song thrush, as well as mammals such as wood mouse, yellow necked mouse and dormouse.

The foliage is the main food plant for caterpillars of many species of moth, including the cherry fruit and cherry bark moths, the orchard ermine, brimstone and short cloaked moth.

Sedum roofs:

All roof areas are landscaped with sedum and native wildflowers allowing a wide range of species to colonise the roof, while also acting as a 5th façade for neighbours looking down on the roof of the building. This maintains the existing net open space of the brownfield site, so that surrounding views onto the site remain predominantly onto greenery. It also enhances the biodiversity and flood retention properties of the application site.



Integrated swift box

Swift box to be integrated into brickwork

