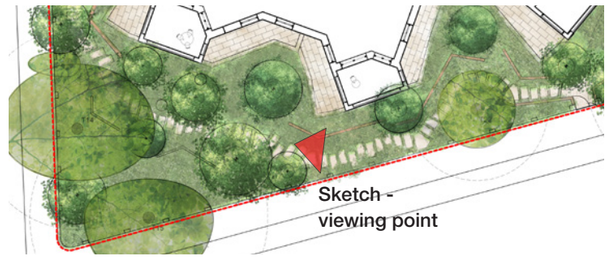
Sketch of the south corner of the Site

Supporting wildlife

Thinking about gardens as spaces we share with nature is important when it comes to improving biodiversity and protecting local species. In support to tacking the ecological emergency, our proposals align with Camden's initiative 'Creating space for nature' and aim to enrich the site but also add to the local wildlife and green network.

Species of importance for their wider conservation value and importance to London and Camden (BAP) that the proposals support:

- House Sparrow – Passer domesticus
- Black Redstart – Progenitures ochruros
- Swift – Apus apus
- Bats – Chiroptera spp
- Wild Bees – Bumblebees and Solitary Bees
- Stag Beetle – Lucanus cervus
- Varieties of butterflies such as the White - letter Hairstreak or the White Admiral
- West European Hedgehog - Erinaceus europaeus



Location plan

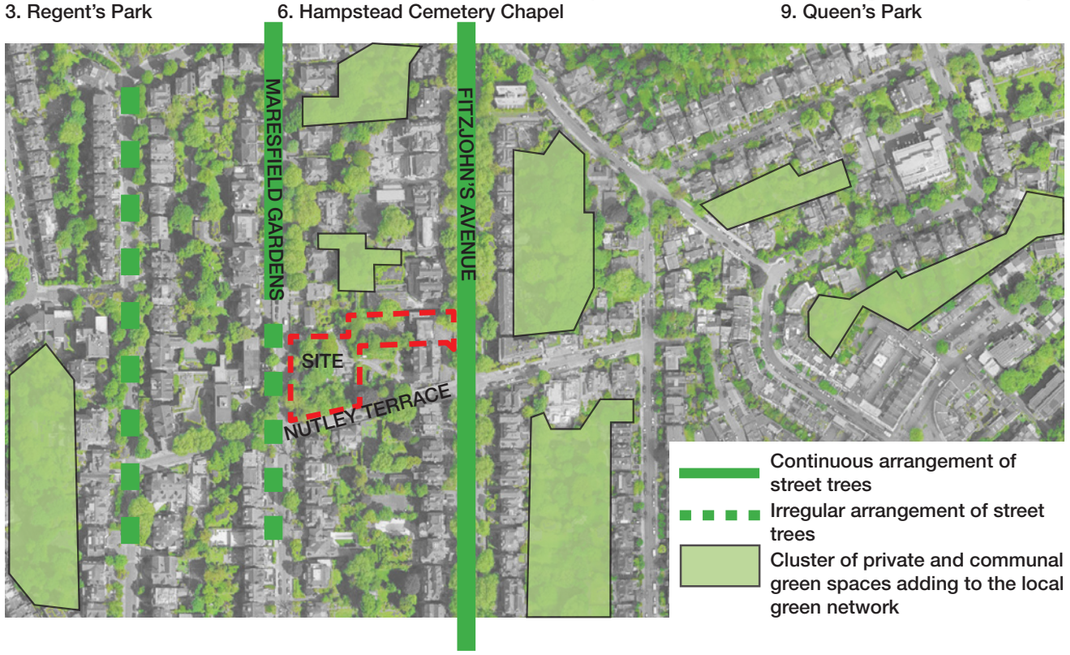
Tree stacks reusing felled trees from site to create nesting opportunities for wildlife
Image credit: Nigel Dunnett

Reinterpretation of stumpery by keeping elements from felled trees
Image credit: Michael Hayman

Landscape led master-plan
Local landscape

Green spaces plan

1. Hampstead Heath
2. Primrose Hill
3. Regent's Park
4. Talacre Gardens
5. Cumberland Lawn Tennis and Squash Club
6. Hampstead Cemetery Chapel
7. Kilburn Grange Park
8. Paddington Old Cemetery
9. Queen's Park



Local green network

Amenity green spaces in the local area

The landscape aspiration is to add continuity and cohesiveness to Fitzjohn's and Netherhall Conservation area. This can be achieved not only by improved connectivity but also making sure that the Site relates to its context and surroundings. Green spaces and planting play a central role in defining the character of the streetscape and the new Maresfield Gardens development.

A detailed study of the existing neighbouring green spaces, including tree species and planting typologies has been undertaken to create a carefully selected palette of vegetation that will not only be appropriate but will connect the landscape design to its context.

Drawing upon the locality, with Fitzjohn's Avenue as a main route through the Conservation Area lined with mature trees and Maresfield Gardens adding to the verdant character, the new development enhances the green footprint with more biodiverse friendly species supporting foraging, nesting and pollination habitats.

Examples of local trees that influenced the tree selection for site: (source: Camden.gov/trees)

- London Plane - Platanus x hispanica as an avenue tree
- Sycamore - Acer pseudoplatanus
- Hawthorn - Crataegus prunifolia
- Norway Maple - Acer platanoides
- Holly - Ilex aquifolium
- Cut-leaved Rowan - Sorbus aucuparia 'Asplenifolia
- Whitebeam - Sorbus aria
- Lime - Tilia europaea

1. Hampstead Heath

2. Primrose Hill

4. Talacre Gardens

3. Regent's Park

Landscape led master-plan
Trees strategy

Tree felling and retained diagram

Key:

- Existing tree retained (14no trees)
- Root protection area
- Existing tree /large shrub proposed to be removed (31no trees and a group of mixed shrubs)
- Tree approved for removal as part of previous planning application 2017/4654/P (5 in total)

Designing with existing trees

Arboricultural and ecological studies denote a poor condition of the current state of the Site with low quality trees. However it is acknowledged that the overall massing of the site's tree canopy contributes to the site's green character.

Recognising the importance of visual amenity to the surrounding street-scape, the landscape proposal was designed to retain the majority of trees along the boundary. Careful maintenance will be given to trees on site to improve their quality but also to ensure no damage will occur during site works. Details of how works will be carried out in RPAs are provided in the arboricultural report.

Within the Site, the trees that are to be felled are to make space for new residential buildings. These are predominantly ash trees, birches and fruit trees that fall in category C or U. By removing poor quality ash trees along the southern boundary and replanting in more dense numbers and species that reflect the woodland concept, the design future proofs the site for inevitable tree loss. Overall a large number of compensation trees are proposed that range in scale and will create a woodland landscape.

1. Maresfield Gardens corner view

3. View of private access road from Maresfield Gardens

2. 39A View from the tennis court of boundary

BOWLES & WYER

Landscape led master-plan
Trees strategy

Proposed trees diagram

Key:

- Private gardens trees mix - small trees restricted by building proximity and / or planted in containers (27no. trees)
- Ornamental trees mix - medium to small trees create a woodland landscape (40no. trees)
- Fruit trees mix (7no. trees)
- Boundary trees mix - large trees that provide screening and a leafy feel to the local area (10no. trees)

Proposed trees strategy

The green spaces aim to enhance the city's green infrastructure by including various types of planting and trees that help mitigate the effects of climate change by sequestering atmospheric carbon as part of the carbon cycle. These measures would contribute to London's natural capital by providing economic benefits to people, such as:

- Cleaner air
- Better health
- Contact with nature
- Access to attractive landscapes

The introduction of these measures would also align with the city's 'Urban Forest' initiative, which encompasses millions of trees and shrubs as part of London's green infrastructure. Increased tree planting would deliver multiple benefits including pollution reduction, cooling through tree cover, and carbon storage.

The landscape strategy groups the trees on Site into four typologies:

- boundary tree mix that will provide screening; located around the southern edge of the site and to the northern boundary
- ornamental tree planting - medium to small size trees depending on location that are used for providing privacy to flats and focal features into the landscape
- private gardens trees - small size trees located on terraces in planters
- fruit trees - recreating an orchard for residents to enjoy

The proposed trees include attractive species that provide seasonal interest as well as species that are beneficial to pollinators and other wildlife.

Layering diagram

Boundary trees

Betula pubescens, st, 18-20cm

Ilex castaneifolia, st, 20-25cm

Castanea sativa, ms, 4-5m high

Fagus sylvatica, st, 18-20cm

Sorbus aucuparia, ms, 3-4m high

Ilex aquifolium, st, 18-20cm

BOWLES & WYER

Landscape led master-plan
Trees strategy

Ornamental tree planting

Alnus glutinosa
mix of standard and multistem species

Corylus colurna, st, 18-20cm

Cornus sanguinea, ms, 2-2.5cm

Betula albosinensis 'Fascination', st, 18-20cm

Betula nigra, ms, 3-3.5m high

Mespilus germanica, ms, 2-3m high

Malus sylvestris, half stem, 2-2.5m high

Euonymus europaeus 'Red cascade', ms, 2-2.5m high

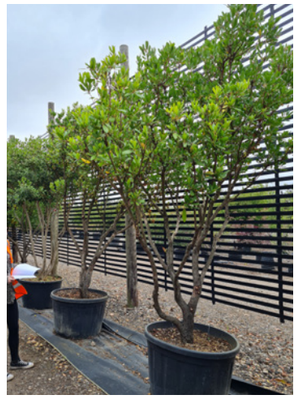
Prunus avium, ms, 2.5-3m high

Ilex aquifolium, st, 18-20cm

Cornus mas, ms, 2.5-3.5m high

Sorbus commixta 'Embley', st, 16-18cm

Private gardens trees



Arbutus unedo, ms, 2-2.5m high

Amelanchier lamarcki, ms, 2.5-3.0m high

Osmanthus aquifolium, ms, 2-2.5m high

Parrotia persica, MS, 2.5-3m high

Carpinus betulus, st, 18-20cm

Hamamelis intermedia 'Diane'
ms, 2.5 -3.0m high

Note:

Some woodland species like birch or hazel will be carried through to private gardens for enhancing the woodland connection.

All trees species indicative and subject to detailed design and nursery availability at the moment of sourcing / planting.

Fruit trees

Apple trees:

Malus domestica 'Braeburn'

Malus domestica 'Cox's Orange Pippin'

Pear trees:

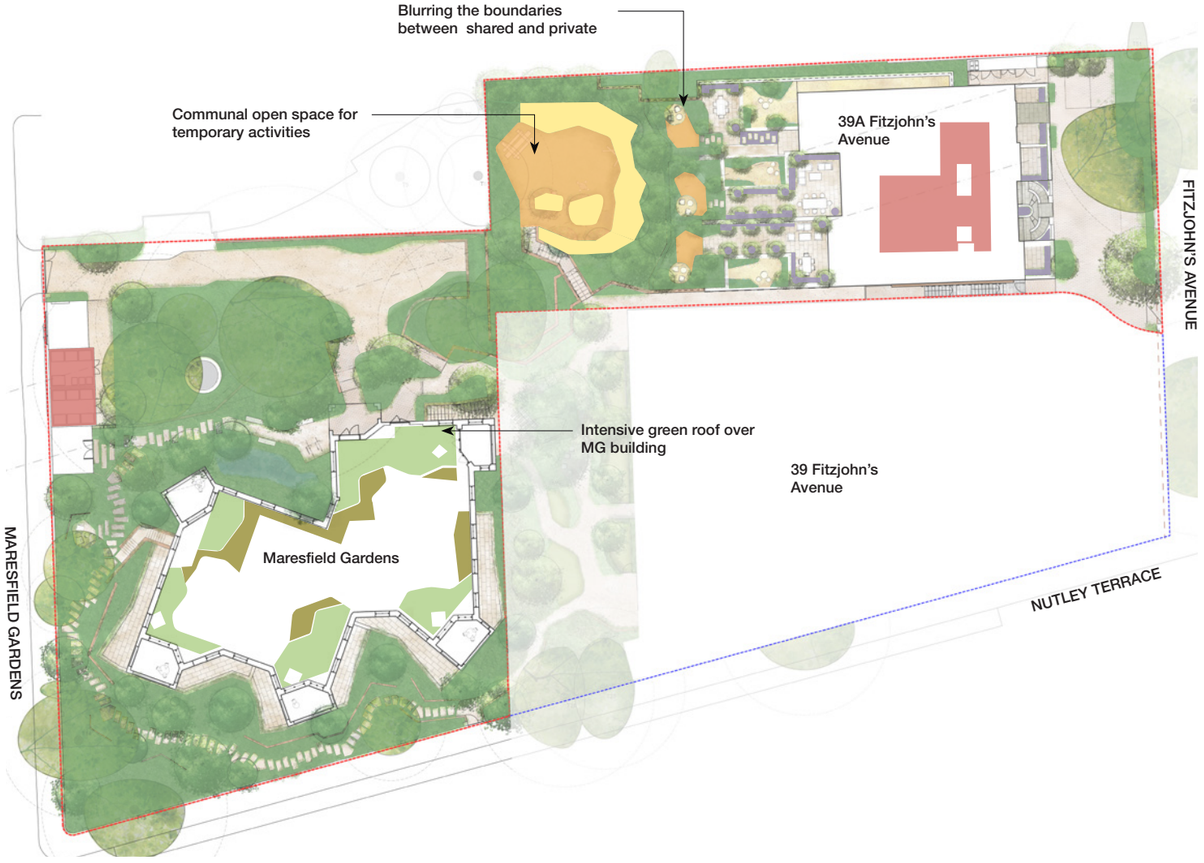
Pyrus communis 'Doyenne du Comice'

Pyrus communis 'Conference'

Quince trees:

Cydonia oblonga, self fertile variety

Landscape led master-plan
Planting scheme



Amenity planting diagram

Key:

- Woodland planting
- Naturalistic planting (mix of shrubs and herbaceous that offer interest all year round and provide food and pollen for wildlife)
- Species rich lawn
- Wildflower meadow / Long grasses
- Extensive green roof - sedum
- Intensive green roof - grasses and herbaceous mix on min 150mm growing media
- Intensive green roof - woodland planting mix on moundsm 300-400mm growing media

Layering of soft landscaping

Planting plays a vital role in defining the character of the Site. Key landscape drivers are derived from the Wider Site condition and the leafy ambience of Hampstead.

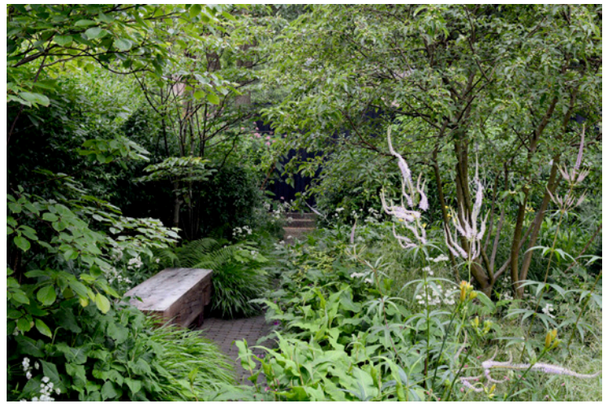
The soft landscape strategy consists of four main distinct planting typologies that highlight the character of the spaces and harmonise to create a natural space that feels emotive and thoughtful.

Maresfield Gardens has mainly a woodland character with a number of the mature trees being retained. New trees with understory layers of small trees, shrubs and herbaceous create a language with the architecture forming a tapestry of green. This language flows across the Wider Site and binds the landscape proposal to create a woodland nature retreat.

Naturalistic pollinator friendly planting with a focus on climate resilient species is proposed to private gardens in vicinity to buildings. This will provide interest through out the year and give residents opportunity to take ownership of the beds and introduce more ornamental or edible plants.

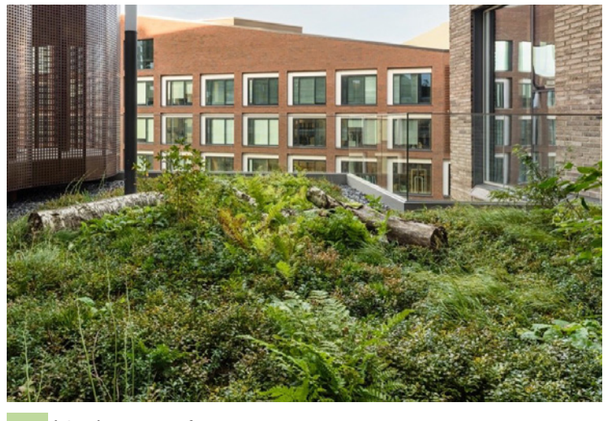
The communal area at the rear of 39A is to have a species rich lawn and wildflower mounds which allow residents to use the space as a multifunctional area.

Lastly, the roof on Maresfield Gardens building creates an opportunity for greening the site and integrating the building even more into the landscape. We are proposing an intensive green roof with a planting style that resembles the ground species. The bin store enclosures and the roof over 39A Fitzjohn's Avenue are to have a low maintenance sedum roof.



Woodland planting
Image credit: Rich Brothers

Naturalistic planting mix
Image credit: Rich Brothers



Intensive green roof
Image credit: Loci Landscape Architects Ltd

Sedum green roof
Image credit: Loci Landscape Architects Ltd

Long grasses and herbaceous planting mix to create a meadow look
Image credit: Eric Sander

Woodland planting mix - indicative palette


Sarcococca confusa


Mahonia 'Soft Caress'


Viburnum carlesii


Salix hastata 'Wehrhahnii'


Skimmia japonica 'Bowles' Dwarf Female'


Cornus flaviramea


Hakonechloa macra


Luzula nivea


Melica uniflora f. albida


Anthriscus sylvestris 'Ravenswing'


Boehmeria platanifolia 'Lushan'


Kirengeshoma palmata


Bistorta amplexicaulis 'Firetail'


Epimedium x versicolor 'Sulphureum'


Liriope muscari


Lilium martagon


Selinum wallichianum

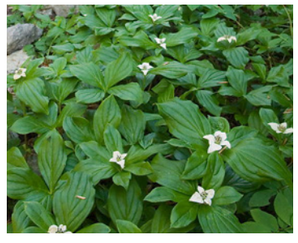

Polystichum polyblepharum

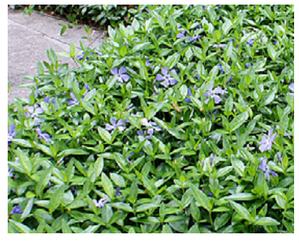

Dryopteris affinis 'Cristata'


Geranium macrorrhizum 'Ingwersen's Variety'


Helleborus argutifolius


Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost'


Cornus canadensis


Vinca minor


Matteuccia struthiopteris


Athyrium niponicum var. pictum


Molinia 'Transparent'


Actaea simplex 'Prichard's Giant'


Amsonia tabernaemontana var. salicifolia


Lamprocapnos spectabilis 'Alba'

Naturalistic planting mix - indicative palette


Salvia sylvestris


Taxus baccata


Sesleria autumnalis


Carex oshimensis 'Greenwell'

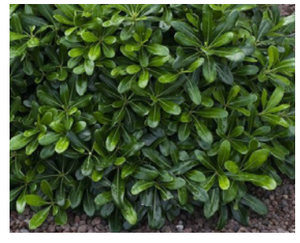

Alchemilla mollis


Euphorbia characias subsp. wulfenii


Nepeta racemosa 'Walker's Low'


Omphalodes nitida


Sanguisorba Tanna


Pittosporum tobira