

31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

## LANDSCAPE DESIGN RESPONSE TO 20 REDINGTON RD-PLANNING APPLICATION-2024/2871/P

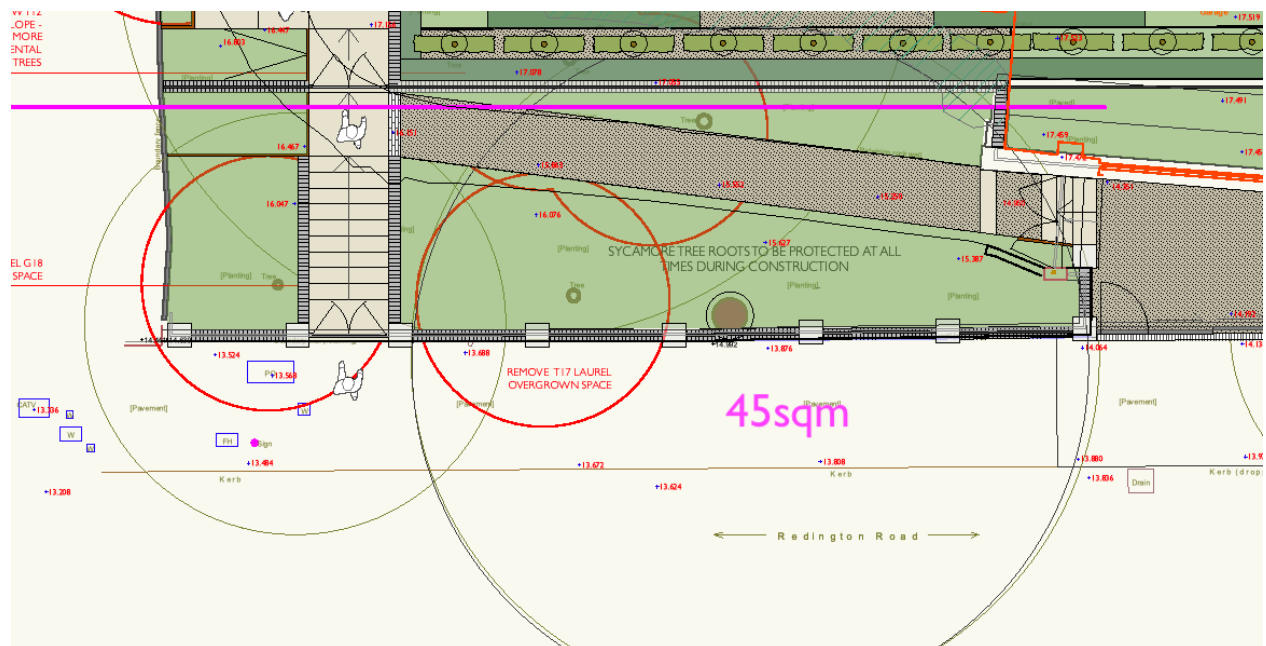
The client and Hunstmore Architects have asked us to comment in response to some of the feedback regarding the above planning application. We have been involved in the project for quite a while, especially with regard to improving the garden spaces and reintroducing soft landscaping to the gardens.

I would firstly like to say, we wholeheartedly agree and support the greening of spaces and applaud both the council and the Redington & Frognal Neighbourhood Forum's efforts to maintain these. I have spent many years researching sustainable practises and encouraging and increasing much needed bio-diversity within garden spaces, alongside our design work. It is essential that this important work continues and as an example, plants like *Prunus laurocerasus* (Cherry Laurel) are not allowed to thrive or spread, as they are non- native, invasive and poisonous to a lot of wildlife. <https://www.protect.earth/blog/cherry-laurel-may-not-be-the-best-choice-for-your-garden-and-heres-why>.

Regarding the location of the steps in relation to the tree roots of the Sycamore, it is essential to us to retain and protect this tree and to allow it to flourish with more space and light, as it is currently surrounded by invasive *Prunus laurocerasus*. It's also important, that a buffer zone of planting remains to the left of the steps, to ensure a softening effect between our clients' property and the neighbours at No 22., so we would prefer not to shift the steps to the left if this can be avoided.

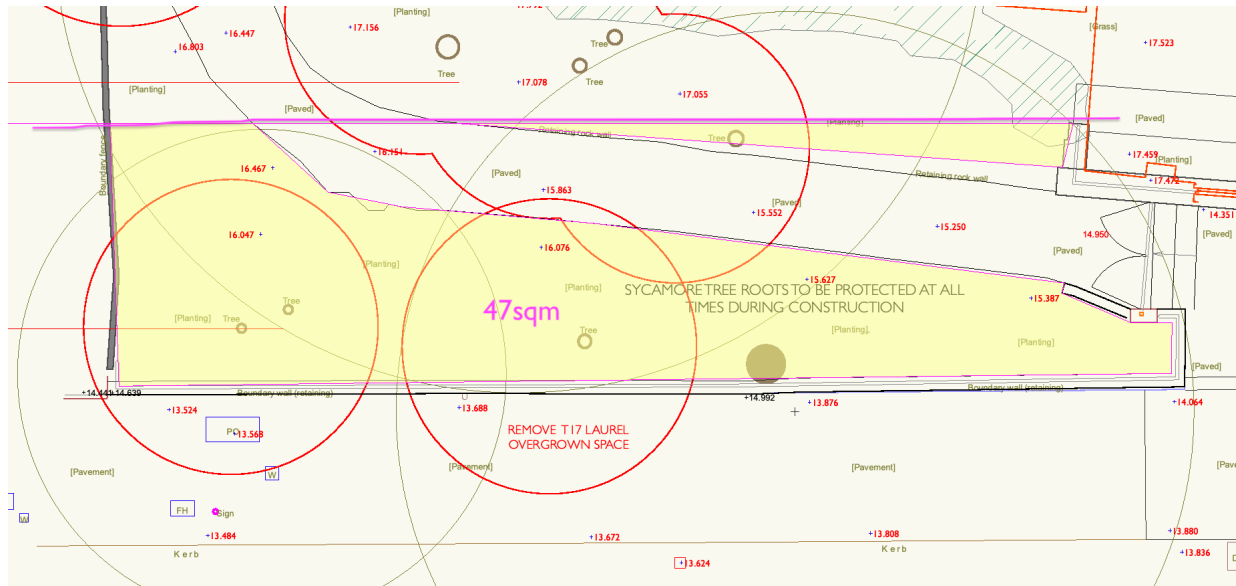
To immediately answer some of your queries I attach 2 comparable plans of the immediate area around the front boundary that is part of the planning application :

In the proposed design below the pink line, the new planted areas are 45sq m. We are losing just 2 sq m of planting, as we have made the access path from the existing garage area narrower to allow for deeper planting beds. Please refer to the next page for comparison :



With the current boundary planting the areas in yellow below the pink line account for 47sq m :

However, sadly there is very little planting of interest in the existing front garden, because the space is dominated by overgrown Cherry Laurel ( *Prunus Laurocerasus*), which is non- native, invasive and poisonous, allowing very little to survive below its canopy and offers almost zero bio-diversity compared to other more suitable species that we are proposing.



We have not yet done a detailed planting plan, for the area shown in green on our plan, and this will follow as part of the planning application should it be accepted. A comment from the Tree Officer, has suggested that the initial trees we proposed Amelanchier, Cornus and Acers, do not offer enough interest or bio diversity, I would argue otherwise, as only planting Native isn't always the answer, and a good bio-diverse planting scheme should be a balance of 40- 50% Natives with the rest made up of non-natives. With climate change our insects, bees and butterflies are adapting and often seeking out other non native species to survive and breed. However to satisfy everyone's comments I am happy to select Natives only, it will certainly be an improvement to the current Laurel, that you can see in the above photo dominates the frontage.

Our proposals for the loss of trees and laurel, will include a number of the following:

2 x Prunus Avium- <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/wild-cherry/>

2 x Sorbus Aucuparia- <https://www.deepdale-trees.co.uk/trees/information/Sorbus-aucuparia-fact-sheet.pdf>

2 x Crataegus Monogyna - <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/hawthorn/>

Additionally we will plant as shrubs, to further develop the understorey-

Virburnum opulus - <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/guelder-rose/>

Euonymus europaeus - <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/spindle/>

Ferns to be included

Polystichum setiferum- [https://www.rhsplants.co.uk/plants/\\_/polystichum-setiferum/classid.1842/#:~:text=This%20large%2C%20evergreen%20fern%20is,border%20or%20beneath%20deciduous%20trees.](https://www.rhsplants.co.uk/plants/_/polystichum-setiferum/classid.1842/#:~:text=This%20large%2C%20evergreen%20fern%20is,border%20or%20beneath%20deciduous%20trees.)

Blechnum spicant <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/plants/ferns/hard-fern/>

Asplenium scolopendrium- <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/plants/ferns/harts-tongue-fern/>

Dryopteris affinis-<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/plants/ferns/scaly-male-fern/>

There will also be a range of woodland plants, such as Geranium Phaeum, Polygonatum, Polemonium and other shade loving perennials.

Another consideration, that could perhaps be adopted as part of The Redington and Frognal Neighbour forum policy, is to ensure that **no peat** is used in the planting and supply of any trees and plants. I know that local councils are adopting this policy and account for less than 1% of peat use in the UK. The use of peat and its extraction is doing serious damage to our landscapes. Please see attached.

<https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/about-peatlands/peatland-damage/peat-extraction-horticulture>