

Netley Cottage, London NW3  
Garden design statement

The overall aim of the design has been to create an informal, unpretentious garden that is welcoming and relaxing and caters to the needs of a young family, encouraging biodiversity and enhancing the character and appearance of the Conservation Area in which it sits. In keeping with the history and character of the area the design conveys a sense of the countryside in the city.

The design complements the existing cottage by creating three distinct areas: traditional 'cottage garden' style herbaceous borders close to the cottage; a meadow of predominately native annual plants around the garden building; an area of informal woodland style plantings with an understory of shrubs and herbaceous plants that links through to the adjacent garden of Grove Lodge. A series of brick steps through a discrete and modest opening in the garden wall allows access between the two gardens.

Existing inappropriate elements such as a hot tub, imitation grass and plants, and trellis screens will be removed from within the garden.

Recovered York stone will be used for the area in front of the cottage. The steps and paths within the garden will be brick pavers.

Of the existing trees two Douglas Fir trees will be retained (trees 12 and 15). Although this species is not typical of the locality, these two specimens are a familiar sight in the area and form an important part of the treescape of the area. Also retained are a holly (tree 5) and a yew (tree 4).

Trees that will be removed are of poor quality or inappropriate to the treescape and are a Lawson cypress (tree no 14), a Norway Spruce (tree no16), a Japanese maple (tree no 11), a Laurel (tree no 13) and 3 x Holly (trees nos 7,8,10)

The proposed planting of new trees consists of:

five heavy standard size fastigate hornbeams, *Carpinus betulus* 'Frans Fontaine' along the eastern boundary,

a line of five heavy standard size *Cornus* 'Edie's White Wonder' (a compact, low growing flowering tree) along the path that leads from Grove Lodge,

two *Prunus x yedoensis*, a flowering cherry, within the garden,

four semi mature size hornbeams along the northern boundary,

a heavy standard size *Magnolia* 'Kobus' on the northern boundary. This cultivar is similar to the *Magnolias* growing on the boundary of Grove Lodge and Lower Terrace,

four standard size *Crataegus* (hawthorn) cultivars.

This represent a net gain of thirteen trees and a significant increase in the diversity of habitats.

Trees used in the scheme will be sourced from a British nursery, favouring plants propagated and grown in the UK. Imported plants will only be used where the nursery has held them in quarantine for a full growing season and regularly inspected them for pests and diseases.

The perimeter wall will be topped by a wooden trellis in the same style as the existing trellis running along the walls of Grove Lodge at Lower Terrace. Within the perimeter wall a narrow hornbeam hedge will be planted and clipped at three metres tall. Ivy and honeysuckle will be allowed to fall over the perimeter wall as at present to retain the informal, rustic ambience of the existing streetscape, particularly in Upper Terrace.

This, and the planting of new trees, will enhance the character and appearance of the Hampstead Conservation Area insofar as these are contributed to by trees. The proposed tree planting will also improve the diversity of species on site with added landscape and ecological benefits. Above all, the design will create and attractive, relaxed and informal landscape that is in line with the area's ambience of *rus in urbe*.