

Contractor's Yard

Highgate, London

Landscape Proposals

Introduction

The site is located in Highgate, London. It is accessed from the High Street via Townsend Yard. The plot is situated at the end of this lane in an area known locally as “Highgate Bowl”. Adjacent to the site on the southern boundary sits Whistler’s Cottage, on the eastern boundary is Omved Gardens.

The site is accessed via two large metal vehicular gates shared with Omved Gardens. As you enter the site there is an area which serves as a car parking area. The land then falls away some 9 metres to the boundary fence, this is dominated by a tarmac road which splits the area between Omved Gardens and The Contractors Yard.

There are several timber chalets, garden sheds situated in the main, on the edge of the site as well as several others randomly placed across the site. The existing hard standing is mainly tarmac with other areas of expansive concrete linked by steps. On the far upper southern boundary of the site there is timber decking steps, and platforms on the hillside. Areas between the trees are dominated by grass with no other plant species of note. On the western boundary there is a dense canopy of existing trees a mix of Sycamores and Ash trees.

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Inspirational images

The aim for the landscape proposals is to create an environment where the five proposed structures on the site will be integrated in a landscape that complements the neighbouring site at Omved Gardens. It offers an opportunity to create a landscape which increases the biodiversity of the site as a whole. Access to the site is through the large vehicular gates shared with Omved Gardens. The small car parking area will remain at the top of the site, allowance for disabled visitors and cyclists is provided via the service road running around the perimeter of Omved Gardens. There is also provision for cycle stands.

The proposal is to create a path that winds its way down the hill linking each individual building. Alongside the path is a rill collecting water along its route and discharging into the pond in Omved Gardens.

An amphitheatre and outdoor classroom will facilitate organised talks and presentations to take place as an extension of the Seminar building. School parties will have the opportunity to use a dedicated space to gather and learn about the environment surrounding them.

It is proposed that a large number of native trees are to be planted these will include mature and semi-mature tree species such as Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). Beneath this new tree canopy native understorey planting is to be established which will contain drifts of Butcher's Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*), and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Other native trees such as Birch (*Betulus pendula*) planted in large drifts to provide a different feel further down the site, allowing native plants such as soft shield ferns (*Polystichum setiferum*), sweet woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) to be planted below the light canopy. Towards the bottom of the site large sweeps of the native Willow (*Salix alba*) will benefit from the wet conditions and complement the planting around the pond to the North East.

The palette of the hard landscaping materials is minimal and has been chosen to complement the materials used at Omved Gardens responding to the woodland character of the site. Natural stone paving in a light grey colour will be used for the terrace near the Seminar building and a self-compacting gravel of a similar colour will be used for the paths. The new retaining elements will be clad in corten steel a material that has been used across the whole site.





Sculpture frieze



Ramped walks



Rill



Amphitheatre



Corten steel walls



Grass steps



Gravel path



Quercus robur / Common oak



Pinus sylvestris / Pine



Larix decidua / Larch



Carpinus betulus / Hornbeam



Fagus sylvatica / Beech



Salix alba / Willow



Amelanchier /Service berry



Prunus spinosa /Blackthorn



Ilex aquifolium /Holly



Viburnum lantana/ Wayfaring tree



Corylus avellana / Hazel



Crataegus monogyna /Hawthorn



Viburnum opulus / Guelder rose



Acer campestre /Field maple



Malus sylvestris /Crab apple



Cornus sanguinea / Dogwood



Ruscus aculeatus /Butcher's broom



Allium ursinum /Wild garlic



Hedera helix / Ivy



Dryopteris filix mas /Male fern



Cranesbill/ Geranium



Mercurialis perennis /Dog's mercury



Ligustrum vulgare / Wild privet



Asplenium scolopendriumHarts tongue fern



Galium odoratum /Sweet woodruff



Anemone nemorosa /Wood anemone



Luzula nivea / Snow rush