

BURGESS PARK TREE INFORMATION

A total of 331 new specimen trees will be planted, and these will be heavy standard trees up to 5m in height. The trees that will be planted will be more varied in species and will include more mature specimens with longer life spans.

167 specimen trees are being removed and replaced with a *minimum* of 331 specimen trees. Those are the figures that were given in the planning application and approved.

The original planning submission proposed removing 167 trees and replacing 211 trees.

The figure of 450 trees being removed has been created by taking this figure of 167 (the official planning application figure for specimen tree removal) and adding all the small saplings and whips that are to be found elsewhere in the scrub that was scheduled to go and marked on the planning application documents. (Total 283)

There was some debate about what constitutes a tree, and Southwark had to make a distinction somewhere (the park planners took a decision to use a 14-16cm girth to be their standard for classifying a specimen tree), hence the figure of 167. When scrub is surveyed, it is not usual to survey individual trees.

The ecologist who carried out the initial survey was instructed to follow guidelines set by the London Plan. The London Plan includes a policy specifically on trees (3D.15). That policy requires Boroughs to take account of the London Tree and Woodland Framework when preparing their plans.

The project had the support of the planners throughout, but it was only at the point of planning submission that the Mayors *Draft* Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for London, which was published as a draft for public consultation in February 2010, was flagged up as the most relevant guideline. The action that is pertinent to canopy cover is Action 19, which states, "**Action 19** - The Mayor will work with partners to increase tree cover across London by five per cent (from 20 to 25 per cent) by 2025."

To measure canopy cover, additional trees within scrub areas had to be included in the number, giving a total figure of 450.

The planning officer requested that another 120 trees be planted to compensate for this loss of canopy, bringing the total to 311.

No areas of established mature woodland, which is characterised by well established trees above 150cm diameter at breast height, will be removed.

Scrub is valuable habitat, but not only in terms of canopy- species mix and vegetation structure are as important.

TOTALS

Specimen trees: Removed: 167

To be planted: 331

Net gain: 164

Scrubland: Removed: 4,300m² Proposed: 6,600m² Net gain: 2,300m²

It is worth noting that while the scrubland does contain these whips and very immature trees and saplings (and so could be classified as trees by some) we are replacing this scrubland with a larger area (more than half again) of what was there to begin with.

Unfortunately to make the changes it is necessary to remove 167 open grown 'specimen trees' and a further 283 smaller, immature and lower amenity value stems found within scrub areas.

Where possible trees that are marked for removal will be transplanted.