

# Planning Application 19/02632/PB - Hengrove Park, Hengrove Way

## Development Control A Committee meeting

### Bristol Tree Forum Statement

Hengrove Park contains [545 mapped trees](#) comprising 37 species. There are many more unmapped trees also growing there. We calculate that these mapped trees have a [Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees \(CAVAT\)](#)<sup>1</sup> value of at least £5.2 million, but this figure is based on data that is at least ten years old. As the trees have since grown, this value will now be much higher.

In order to implement the Council's recent declaration of a climate emergency, increase net biodiversity and help double tree canopy cover, this development needs to be redesigned to fit around the existing trees, not remove them.

If it is nevertheless decided that trees must be felled, then compensatory planting should be undertaken in such a way that there is no net biodiversity or environmental loss.

The current documents submitted to support this application make incorrect and contradictory assertions of the numbers of trees to be lost and the calculations for replacements required under the Bristol Tree Replacement Standard (BTRS). The technical note dated 23rd September 2019 identifies 859 trees to be felled, to be replaced by 1,280 new trees. Elsewhere, a table lists the values given for each BTRS category, which come to a total of 181 trees to be felled with 294 replacements, not the totals shown. The table produced at paragraph 5.5.17 of the Environmental Statement Addendum gives different values again - 674 trees to be felled with 986 replacements.

The evidence we have analysed shows that only 228 trees are identified for felling with 298 to replace them. On this basis, if permitted, this plan will result in a net biodiversity/environmental loss of just over £3.65 million<sup>2</sup>.

Bristol City Council was the first UK local authority to declare a climate emergency. As Professor Corinne Le Quéré FRS<sup>3</sup> has said, "Actions to tackle climate change have to penetrate all the decisions that we take in society." Bristol also has ambitious plans to double its tree canopy by 2046.

Many trees that have been planted as a result of large schemes like this fail because they are not properly looked after. An obligation should be placed on the developer to replace trees which fail within, say, five years of planting.

If the Committee allows this proposal to proceed as proposed, we request that the following planning conditions be imposed:

1. No felling and replacement of any of the trees on the site should take place unless and until an updated survey is undertaken and the actual numbers and DBH values of all the trees (both individually and in groups) identified for felling are ascertained.
2. The BTRS replacements required are agreed with the Bristol Tree Forum and a Planning Arboricultural Officer.
3. All tree planting conforms with British Standard BS8545:2104 (*Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape*).
4. A condition of the development includes a clear obligation on the developer to replace trees which fail within five years of planting.

For further detail, the full version of this Statement which can be read here -

<https://bristoltreeforum.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/19-02632-pb-hengrove-park-btrs-comments-final-ver.pdf>. Our Analysis of the evidence submitted in support of this application can be downloaded here: <https://bristoltreeforum.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/hengrove-tree-survey-data-1.xlsx>.

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<sup>1</sup> One of a range of tools recommended by The Trees and Design Action Group ([TDAG](#)) for valuing trees and green infrastructure

<sup>2</sup> Our CAVAT valuation of the trees potentially lost to this development is nearly £3.8. If the figures for tree felling relied on by the Council are accepted, then the figure will be much higher.

<sup>3</sup> Professor Corinne Le Quéré FRS is Professor of Climate Change Science at the University of East Anglia and former Director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.