

# THE LONDON TREE AND WOODLAND AWARDS 2018

## CASE STUDY - THE TREES AND DEVELOPMENT AWARD

### WINNER - TRAFALGAR PLACE, ELEPHANT & CASTLE



The London Tree and Woodland Awards celebrate the work of individuals, communities and professionals to protect, improve and expand the capital's tree and woodland cover.

The Trees and Development Award is sponsored by Derwent London and recognises the importance of integrating trees into developments and highlighting the valuable role that trees play.

Winners of the 2018 award were Lendlease, Treework Environmental Practice and the London Borough of Southwark for the Trafalgar Place development at Elephant & Castle. The project was nominated by Treework Environmental Practice.

#### **Trafalgar Place:**

Trees are a fundamental part of Lendlease's regeneration programme at Elephant & Castle, which aims to be one of the most sustainable urban regeneration projects in the world. The project will deliver 3,000 homes, 50 new shops, and a brand new park by 2025.

Lendlease's vision for Trafalgar Place was to deliver high-quality homes within an open, mature landscape, defined by its trees. An extensive and ambitious tree strategy for the scheme has been developed in direct response to local community feedback, first with the retention of over 140 mature trees from the previous Heygate Estate and then the planting of more than 1300 trees across the development and in the surrounding area.



Trafalgar Place was the first phase of the regeneration programme and has set the bar high for tree integration across the rest of the development.

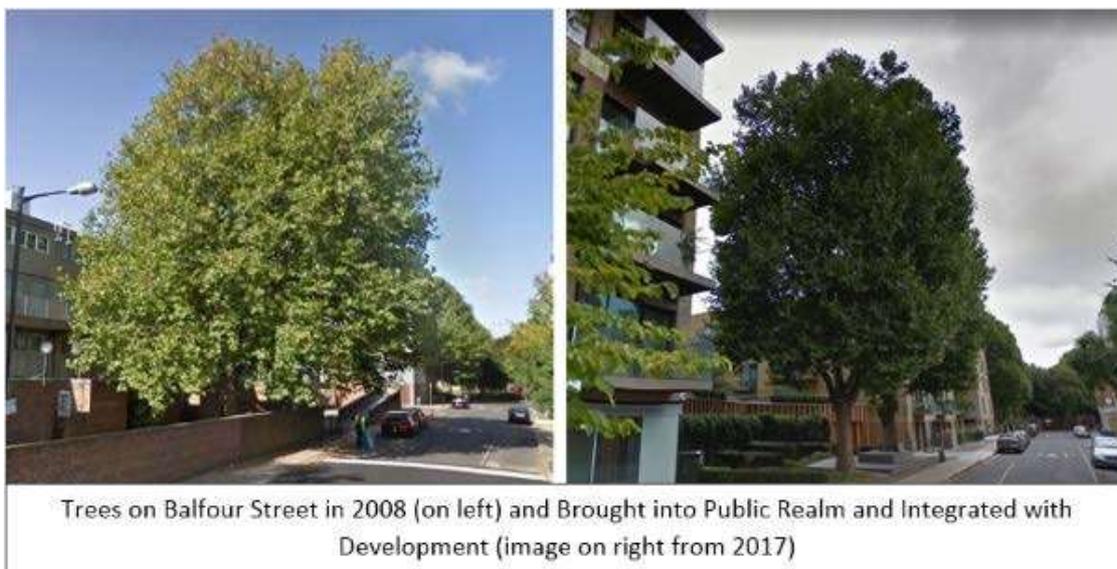
**Activities:**

The design team, which was led by Lendlease with technical guidance from Treework Environmental Practice, collaborated to ensure that mature trees could be retained throughout construction and then allowed to thrive following project completion.

This was in the context of a very constrained site in which planning policy dictated a requirement for much greater density of housing (from 104 homes on the previous site to 235 new homes). The team worked by gathering evidence, including using ground penetrating radar and exploratory excavation to identify where tree roots were. They also shared knowledge and adjusted infrastructure, design and logistical processes during construction so that retention and integration of trees could succeed. This enabled the retention of trees close to and in harmony with large buildings.

The design retained 25 trees and opened up the boundaries of development so that trees which were previously enclosed behind walls, were freed into the public realm and celebrated.

A collaborative approach included specifying tree surgery which reduced trees sufficiently to enable construction. It also ensured that trees and buildings were positioned harmoniously.



Ten trees were removed and timber from these was used for public art that is now located in the development and also to facilitate public carving workshops.

**Outcomes:**

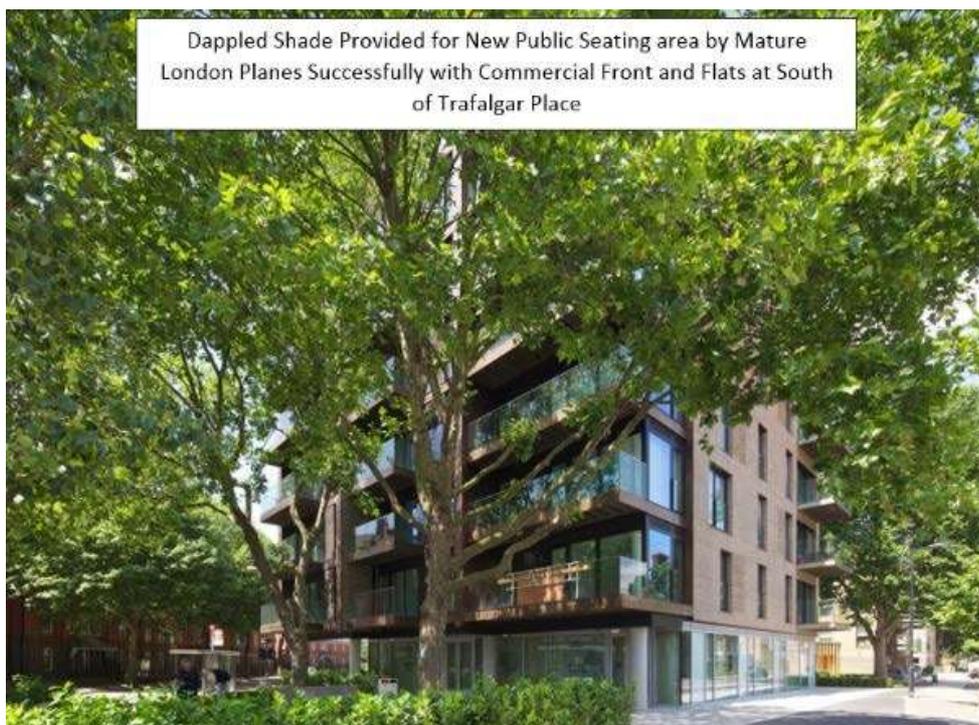
Trafalgar Place’s success in the awards recognises the importance the scheme placed on integrating trees into developments and understanding of the variety of roles they can play, from providing new habitats for wildlife to relieving pressure on London’s sewer network through



rainwater interception, slowing stormwater runoff. The project also demonstrated commitment to preserving mature trees and planting new ones.

High standards of tree care were put in place, including the adoption of tree valuation method CAVAT (Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees) to set future public benefit targets. Since completion in 2015, a tree management strategy has been followed, including annual inspections by an arboricultural consultant.

Entrants for the award had to demonstrate their commitment to tree planting or management, evidence of long-term involvement, commitment or ambition, and examples of innovation or good practice that could be taken up by other businesses. At Trafalgar Place, both planted (on and off-site) and retained trees are thriving, with vigorous incremental growth of stems and branch extension. The vision is living and growing.



The project's success in the 2018 awards was not the first time the site had been recognised by the Forestry Commission. In 2013, [the local community was rewarded for its campaign](#) to ensure the trees at Trafalgar Place were retained

The judging panel for the 2018 awards was chaired by Tony Kirkham, head of the arboretum at the Royal Botanic Gardens who commented Trafalgar Place had made 'a key contribution to London's urban forest'.

For further information on Trafalgar Place: go to [www.elephantpark.co.uk](http://www.elephantpark.co.uk)



## 2018 Awards Ceremony:

The London Tree and Woodland Awards were presented at a ceremony hosted at City Hall on 10 July by Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy and Sir Harry Studholme, Chair of the Forestry Commission.



The photo shows (left to right) Luke Fay, Treework Environmental Practice; Ewan Oliver, Lendlease; Darren Pilbeam, Lendlease; Sir Harry Studholme; Shirley Rodrigues; Tom Branton, Lendlease; Liam Bullen, London Borough of Southwark, Chris Baines, Environmental Adviser. The award was sponsored by Derwent London.

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Further photos from the evening are available on the Forestry Commission [Flickr](#) page.

## 2018 Award Sponsors:

The awards were kindly sponsored by the following organisations:



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For information on the 2019 London Tree and Woodland Awards go to: [www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/london-tree-and-woodland-awards](http://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/london-tree-and-woodland-awards) #TreeOscars

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