

**From:** Irene Fletcher <Irene.Fletcher@midsussex.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 12 March 2026 17:12:35 UTC+00:00  
**To:** "Steven King" <Steven.King@midsussex.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** DM/26/0310 Land at Imberhorne Lane

Hi Steve,

I note that a grade A oak is to be removed, as well as other partial groups. This was accepted at the time of the outline application and is required to facilitate the access. Perimeter trees are mainly retained.

Whilst I note the wishes of the DRP to future proof future planting , in terms of climate change, and am happy to accept some ornamentals, particularly within front gardens, some species are not acceptable and have no advantage over native species.

Most of the plant specifications are appropriate, however Norway maples should be removed from the scheme and replaced with British natives .It is a particular risk in storms. Gleditsias do not thrive in the district and, whilst tolerant of drought are frequently seen with large areas of crown die back within recently planted developments. Malus ' Everste' is not a suitable landscaping plant . It is a short lived, grafted specimen. There is a preponderance of birches and Betula nigra has little advantage over native birches in terms of longevity; it is more draught tolerant; however, I would request a greater variety of trees, which will also provide greater resistance to climate change. Other, smaller trees, such as Arbutus unedo could be considered and, whilst not endemic to the area, are considered to be natives and tolerant of mediterranean conditions. Greater variety could contribute more to the scheme and would address the dominance of short lived birches.

The problem of trees in front gardens being retained has been highlighted; however, tree selection is also important. Acer griseum and other, larger trees have been indicated. These are likely to become more of a nuisance than a careful selection of smaller trees, which are more likely to be retained.

With the exception of laurel, scrub mix, native hedge mixes etc are acceptable . Could I request that laurel be replaced with a single species native or something of more biodiversity value.

Please condition adherence to AIA, AMS and all tree protection plans.

Thanks,

Irene

Irene Fletcher  
Tree Officer  
Development Management  
Mid Sussex District Council  
(Mon – Thurs)  
[www.midsussex.gov.uk](http://www.midsussex.gov.uk)