Sedgefield Tree Survey Notes

The Site

Sedgefield is within the Edgerton Conservation area. There is an area of the front garden designated as a Tree Protection Order Area (TPO). The TPO area is a 6m strip (approximately) where the property meets Queens Road. To the South is Queens Road green (a triangular area of parkland). Queens Road green has impressive mature trees, as does the nearby former Blacker woods, both areas are protected TPO areas. To the North are Clayton fields, currently being developed for housing and beyond Clayton Dike which also has mature trees.

The neighbours have neat gardens with trimmed hedges and mature trees in landscaped gardens.

Sedgefield is a Grade 2 listed building. All boundary walls, and constructions within them, are therefore Grade 2 curtilage listed.

The site slopes downhill to the East and North from the highpoint at the South-West corner.

The front garden of Sedgefield is laid mostly to asphalt driveway. However, alongside Queen's road, to the East of the driveway and along the border with 10 Queen's road there are flower beds, trees and hedges. Whilst some of this is outside the TPO area, for this survey it has been assumed the entire front garden vegetation is included. All the trees at the front have therefore been surveyed.

There is no limit on tree size for tree work in a TPO area, so many self seeded and small saplings are included in this part of the site plan.

The front garden contains mostly Holly, Pussy Willow, Birch, Ash, Rhododendron and Laurel.

The back garden is not part of a TPO area, but it is within a conservation area. As a result, any trees below 1.3m in height have not been surveyed.

The back garden comprises an upper lawned area close to the house. Then to the north is a steep banking with steps leading to the lower garden. The banking area is dominated by Spruce trees, but enjoys a pair of mature Pussy Willow. In the lower garden at the northernmost border are a range of mature Ash and Hornbeams. Otherwise, the lower garden has a series of neglected semi mature fruit and cherry trees.

The site has been neglected for many years. The front garden privet hedges are over 4m tall. Self seeded trees have been allowed to grow alongside and in one case into the curtilage listed walls.

The Conservation Area

Edgerton extends to the West and encompasses at least 80 grand properties, many listed. The area is important as, despite much modern development, and the now very busy Halifax road, it is certainly still possible to see the Victorian upper-class neighbourhood very much as it was. Given it's extent it has to be regarded as a rare and perhaps unique location. Key characteristics are large houses sitting in large plots with landscaped gardens utilising much tree planting in a parkland style.

Survey Notes

Neighbours' trees are shown in the diagram to provide a more complete picture of the trees in the area. But where precise measurements would have required permission from the owner, an educated guess has been made instead.

The size of the trees shown in the site plan shows an estimate of the Root Protection Area (RPA). This is only an estimate, in reality the RPA can change based on proximity to walls, building and roads – all of which are restriction that apply on this site.

The RPA radius is calculated as 12 times the diameter of the tree at 1.5m. Where the tree has multiple stems at 1.5m then a nominal diameter is calculated as the square root of the sum of each stem's diameter squared. The nominal diameter is then multiplied by 12 to give the RPA radius.

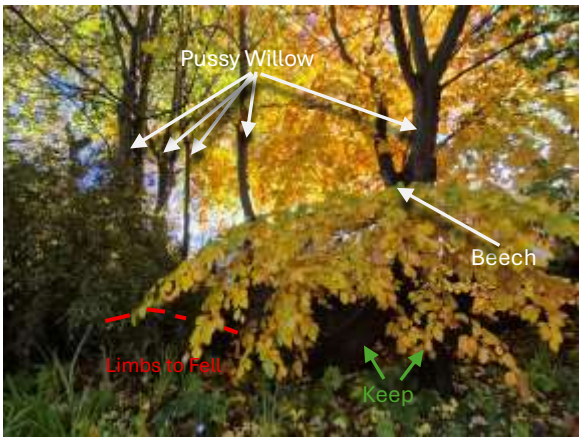
Proposed Tree Work and Rational In Detail

<u>Front Garden (TPO Area)</u>

The front garden includes a semi mature Crab Apple and a Pussy Willow that I suspect must have been deliberately planted a long time ago, and I propose to keep. There are also privet hedges, and honeysuckle hedging which somebody has planted. Otherwise, the rest of the trees seem to have self-seeded and developed in some cases into semi mature trees. Of these there is a Beech and Birch tree which happen to be in good locations and in good condition, and which I propose to keep. My rational is to retain the mentioned Birch, Beech, Pussy Willow and Crab Apple and clear space for them to mature. To make space I propose to fell all Holly, Rhodedendron, Laurel, Honeysuckle Hedging, keep the best Birch and Beech tree, fell a semi mature Birch and Ash, and remove all the saplings.



The privet hedge has grown very tall and has large gaps at the base. In order to restore it to a neat thick hedge I propose to cut it radically to about 20cm from the base. Then in subsequent years trim it as a hedge at least twice a year, gradually raising it to the desired height of about 1m. In the unlikely event that a privet dies then a new one will be planted in Its place.



The largest tree is the Pussy Willow. The whole tree has been felled over 20 years ago. Subsequently it has formed five separate trunks and dominates that part of the site. One of the trunks has grown horizontally to the West and now curves around a Beech in a most attractive embrace. There are no signs that either tree is damaging the other. I propose to keep this Pussy Willow trunk, and the associated Beech and to fell the other four limbs.

The Pussy Willow is positioned very close to the listed front wall and there are signs it is causing minor damage, I hope by retaining only one limb that this will slow any further damage to this wall.



Back Garden Banking Area (Conservation Area)

In the banking area, the rational is to remove the younger fast growing problematic trees – primarily Spruce, to allow the older trees to thrive.

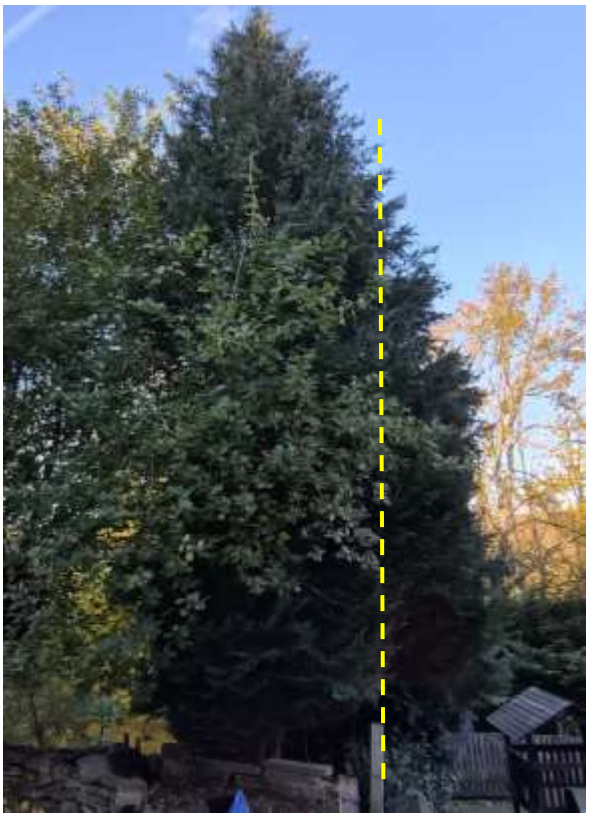


There are a pair of mature Pussy Willow trees on this banking, these I propose to keep.

Everything else I want to fell. This comprises all the Spruce (9 in total), one young Sycamore and one young Ash.







The spruce are likely to have been planted in the last 30 years. The neighbours advise that they have doubled in size in the last 10 years. They are likely to do the same in the next 10 years. To the East, there are three Spruce that are very large and encroach at least 1.5m into my neighbour Holly Bank Nursery. Please note, the felling of these trees will be done on a Saturday – when the Nursery is closed.

Finally in the banking area is a large but semi mature Ash (tree 82). This tree is growing directly into the listed boundary wall. So it is proposed to fell this tree.





<u>Back Garden Lower Garden (Conservation Area)</u>

In the lower garden the objective is to restore the fruit trees and prune trees that are encroaching on my neighbours.

The lower garden at Sedgefield enjoys several mature Ash and Hornbeams to it's Northernmost border – all of which are to be kept.

It is proposed to fell a young Ash right in the North-West corner of the site, and a young Hornbeam along this North border.





I propose to prune Ash trees bordering Bernieside to the West







I propose to prune Ash trees bordering 11 Queens Road to the East. Several branches are encroaching on those neighbours.

Otherwise, the lower garden has a number of neglected fruit trees. I propose to prune these hoping to achieve an open-centered top with limbs at a height allowing maintenance of the ground beneath whilst allowing easy collection of the fruit above. As some trees require radical pruning, it is probably best to prune over a series of winters. The cut marks in red indicate first year pruning, pink second year, blue subsequent years.



Tree 62 - Apple



Tree 63 - Apple



Tree 64 – Pear
The actual fruit tree in this case is highlighted. The rest of the growth from the base is actually the root stock of this grafted tree. This tree should probably be felled and a new one planted. But the fruit is delicious from it, so it is worthwhile trying the very hard prune proposed. In the first year all of the rootstock growth will be removed to as close to the trunk as possible. The second year cut is at the height I want new limbs to form.

Tree 65 – Cherry



Tree 66 – Pear



Tree 67 – Cherry



Tree 68 – Apple



Replanting

Front Garden

Magnolia Grandiflora – An almost pure white version of this garden favourite. Positioned to the East of the driveway outside of the TPO area, there is just enough space for this to develop - competing with Burnieside's mature Beech.

Chinese Dogwood – Positioned on the Eastern edge of the front garden, but outside the TPO area. This tree slowly matures to have layers of Spring white blossom, never getting too large.

I hope to establish colonies of snowdrops, bluebells, and cyclamen.