

Gwyn Davies
12 West Park Road
Cleadon
SR6 7RR

Vegetation Report - Horticultural / Arboricultural

We refer to your request to undertake an inspection of the trees and vegetation in the grounds of 12 West Park Road, Cleadon.

1. Site Description

12 West Park Road is a late Victorian property dating back to around the 1890's. The standard of maintenance to the shrubs and trees within this garden have been very poor over recent years. The neglect and poor pruning has resulted in more poor specimens than good ones.

All the major trees have been topped and the conifer population with their monopodial growth have all been topped in order to increase light to the garden.

This report just looks at the 3 shrub beds situated around the open lawn area to the front of the conservatory of this property.

Photo 1 - Location of shrub beds



Shrub bed 1

Shrub bed 2

Shrub bed 3

Both beds 1 and 2 could be removed to allow for better replanting when the new extension to the property has been built.

A new selection of more appropriate species of both trees and shrubs could be selected which will allow for better plant association and with good maintenance will enhance the remodelled building.

2. Shrub beds

Bed No.1 Adjacent to conservatory approx size 6m x 4m		
Tag No.	Name	Problems / Comments
657	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash tree)	Numerous small cavities, fungi present. Tree is situated 3m from house. Trunk 8" in diameter. Fell / Remove
658	Lawson cypress Conifer 'Golden'	Some 2.5m from house. 8" trunk. Top has been topped. Due to close proximity to building fell / remove.
659	Holly	Has been topped, very poor specimen. 4" diameter stem. Fell / remove.
660	Berberis	Very poor specimen, leggy. Dying back. Remove.
661	Yew	Some 3" diameter. Leggy for specimen. Has been topped in the past. Remove
662	Holly	3" diameter. Lopped at top branches, very poor specimen. Remove / Fell
663	Lawson Cypress Conifer	3-4" diameter. Very poor specimen. Remove
664	Juniper	Leaning badly. Tied in with ropes to hold it up. Very poor specimen / has been lopped previously. Remove
665	Yew	Multi-stemmed - fairly close to road. Remove / Fell
666	Cherry	Free standing close to house. Very poor specimen fungus present / decay rot in cavities and stem dysfunction. Mis-shapen lopped and topped. Remove tree - co-dominant leader has been removed due to decay. severe rot at 6' up trunk.

Shrub Bed 2.		
Tag No.	Name	Problems / Comments
667	Leylandii	Multi-stemmed at 15' has been topped / lopped. Very poor specimen. Remove. Cotoneaster shrub adjacent.
668	Lawson Cypress	8" trunk has been topped. Lonicera plant / shrub adjacent. Remove to replace with more suitable species of shrub or tree.
669	Holly	Self seeded specimen, poor too close to road to allow to developed. 1.5 - 2.5" diameter. Remove / Fell
670	Scots Pine	Very poor tree having been loped and topped. 18-20" diameter. Approximately 15-20' high. Ivy growing up trunk. Remove / fell and replace with suitable Tree spp.
671	Leylandii	1 foot from road, co-dominant stems 10" and 12" - tree has been topped. Some 15 - 20 ' high at present. Fell to replace with better tree spp. Covers a large area of garden.
672	Escallonia	This is an old bush - very poor specimen open aspect. Remove and replant with new specimen.
673	Malus	3 stems 4-6" diameter. Leaning badly - growing out of shrub bed. Remedial pruning is required if kept.
674	Malus	Extensive Apple canker. Hollow stem, cavities. Very poor specimen. Fell.
675	Malus	Fair, leave tree and retrain. Remedial pruning required.
676	Malus (Apple)	Fair - retrain remedial pruning.
677	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	Tree located at entrance to garden. Need some remedial pruning and crown lifting to allow good access for high vehicles.
Within this second shrub bed - numerous volunteer trees and shrub saplings are growing elder / Ash. These too should be removed before they become problems.		

Shrub bed 3 - This shrub border is well away from the building, but due to light and the southerly aspect. Previous occupiers have topped all the trees in this location also.		
Tag No.	Name	Problems / Comments
678	Lilac	Growing horizontal to get light. Very poor specimen. Cut back or remove.
679	Lawson Cypress conifer	Topped at 20' co-dominant stems. Diameter of trunk approximately 22"
680	Cherry	2-3" diameter trunk leaning remove - very poor specimen.
681	Lawson Cypress	2-3" diameter. Poor specimen, remove to allow in light to shrub bed.
682	Yew	Very poor specimen 2-3" diameter. Cut back or remove.

683	Lawson cypress	12-14" diameter trunk. Large specimen. Remove / fell to allow more light into garden.
684	Holly	5-6" diameter, very poor specimen. Remove / fell
685	Privet hedge	Yew also growing in the hedge. Maintenance required to improve important part of the peripheral planting to maintain privacy within the garden.
686	Euonymus shrub	This is a large shrub which now blocks entrance to the shrub bed / compost heap. Remedial pruning would help.
687	Cherry	10" diameter at 4' DBH. Very poor specimen. Remove / Fell.
688	Cherry	10" diameter at 4' DBH No leader / small crown. Very poor specimen. No crown as such. Remove / fell.
There are approximately 10 cherry laurels growing in and around this shrub bed which will need management. Reduce to formulate new crowns or fell and replant with a more suitable shrub / tree species.		
689	Hazel	The coppice hazel has been allowed to grow into a large specimen. Lots of fungal growth on dead branches. Lots of die-back. Coppice or remove.
690	Juniper	Bush situated outside of border growing adjacent to lawn, poor specimen. Needs removed or managed.
691	Acuba japonica 'Spotted laurel'	Numerous shrubs - could be brought back into service with remedial pruning.
692	Laurel (Cherry)	These are large shrubs which need some due care and attention - remedial pruning could bring them back to order.

Overall these trees and shrubs within the garden area appear to have a good appearance from a photographic point of view, but from a growing point both horticulturally and arboriculturally could all be removed due to their poor standard and to allow for development works to be undertaken. The replanting on completion of the proposed development works would give the garden and house a better landscape feature.

The peripheral trees and shrubs have not been included, but care has to be undertaken to prevent any damage to this valuable screen for both privacy and aesthetical reasons.

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