

Overview:

Trees are an integral part of the conservation area. Visitors (even council officers) often comment how beautiful it is to see so many major trees when they make their first and sometimes subsequent visit. There are over 3,000 trees in the area and are being lost at approximately 50 to 100 per year. **Therefore without appropriate sustainable, conservation in this area, things will look quite different in 30 years time and defeat the objective of the statutory protection.**

Unlike buildings the trees won't last too much longer even with 100% protection (which we don't recommend). We do recommend protection and replacement where appropriate so that someone visiting in 2050 would see approximately the same tree cover (or more than now). For this reason we have included relevant aspects of the trees within each character area for example the area to the north (and including) Redland Road has many major street and parks trees; Planes and Limes, whereas to the South is a preponderance of garden trees. The survey has also uncovered the rich history marked out by some of the Yew trees, Beeches (as boundaries), evergreen Oaks and Cedars. Churches all have highly treed grounds. **It is recognised that just S211 protection isn't adequate to maintain the integrity of the R & C conservation area and a sustainable strategy is required.**

The threats to trees include:

- claims by insurance companies that trees are causing subsidence where the house is built on clay and with poor foundations, if this is proved and the tree has to be felled then a smaller replacement should be planted.
- Secondly back garden development tends to remove trees if a house or garage are to be built,
- thirdly paving over (or concreting) front gardens for looks or car parking may entail the request to remove a garden tree or through lack of water penetration cause a nearby street tree to spread roots further and thus be implicated in subsidence a few years down the line.
- Street tree pollarding is also controversial where it has to be done severely (to minimise risk of subsidence), it is contested that in a conservation area more thought should be applied to each individual tree rather than a street approach.

We have identified four key criteria for selecting our “important trees or groups of trees”, those that have high amenity and are a landmark and/or historic, those of high visual amenity, community trees planted with community money/effort and groups of trees that provide a benefit to wildlife including the railway line and many mini woods comprising the boundaries of back gardens.

Specific tree qualities of each of the 10 defined character areas

1. Chandos Road Area:

Tree character – very few trees, mainly depends on the railway line (Sycamores and Buddleias) which provide an important visual amenity and recognised wildlife corridor, bringing Cotham Gardens in contact with Clifton and further. No street trees. One identified landmark tree the beech at #34 Chandos Rd.

2. Lower Cotham Area:

Tree character – The trees on the railway line provide an important wildlife corridor and a visual amenity . Few street trees (St Ronan's Ave) and relies on the major trees in gardens. Examples being # 30 Waverly (Leylandi – good specimen), #s 58 & 59 Ravenswood Rd (Landmark and amenity beeches), # 30 Rokeby Ave (double Plane), #s 21 and 58 Archfield Rd (Beech, landmarks and a small leafed Lime at 58), and fine Ash trees at the Tin Drum Nursery. From a habitat point of view there are mini-woodlands in the back gardens between Ravenswood Rd and both Meridian Rd and Trelawney Rd.

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