

Appendix I. Summary of reports on Rosmead Gardens

Note: LHH comments added 2014

1954 Tree Schedule and Map

Front Garden trees

T1	1 no. Weeping Ash	83 Ladbroke Grove
T2	1 no. Ailanthus	83, Elgin Crescent
T3	1 no. Beech	85, Elgin Crescent
T4	1 no. Sycamore	97, Elgin Crescent
T5	1 no. Lime	109, Elgin Crescent
T6	1 no. Lime	111, Elgin Crescent rear gdn
T7	1 no. Ailanthus	115, Elgin Crescent front gdn
T8	1 no. Horse Chestnut	115, Elgin Crescent rear gdn

Trees within Rosmead Gardens

8 no.	Lime
5 no.	Ash
11 no.	Elm
2 no.	Ailanthus
2 no.	Yew
1 no.	Box
1 no.	Thorn

Groups of trees in front gardens

3 no. Lime	101 - 105 Elgin Crescent
1 no. Robinia	101 - 105 Elgin Crescent
2 no. Sycamore	101 - 105 Elgin Crescent
7 no. Lime	71 - 79 Elgin Crescent
1 no. Gleditsia	71 - 79 Elgin Crescent

Interesting for record of front garden trees but there must have been more trees within Rosmead garden

1965 August RHS report

This report notes the following problems with the gardens:-

1. The large number of large trees - still true today
2. The poor quality of the soil which needs feeding with both humus and fertilisers, Blood, fish and bone is recommended which is still one of the best of the organic fertilisers - of limited use but it does stress the importance the use of humus and fertilisers to improve the soil quality
3. The children - !!!
4. A number of very poor trees - still true today

5. Great number of scruffy shrubs – still true today
6. Garden is lacking in colour - yes

The recommendation was to burn any waste material and mix the bonfire ash with soil and use as a soil dressing

Suggestions are given for new shrub plantings including Berberis, Cotoneaster, Buddlejias, Philadelphus, Weigela and Cytisus. - All perfectly good suggestions for 1965 but not very exciting, however probably the best that were available at the time. Shrub roses are also suggested for one of the beds with three flowering cherries which would be very colourful for much of the year.

1993

Extract from Borough Ecological Survey 1993

Ladbroke Estate Garden Complex

The gardens facilitate movement of animals between the gardens which effectively allows the gardens to be considered as one private park. They include mature trees dating back to mid nineteenth century. London Plane and Lime are dominant but there is a great variety of other species notably ash and turkey oak. No turkey oak in Rosmead Garden and only two plane trees

Dense planted shrubberies of mostly exotic species but holly is common and there are frequent large hawthorn bushes. – largely true

The gardens have a good variety of breeding birds. Species infrequent in inner London which probably breed here include;-

Spotted Flycatcher

Tawny Owl

Long-tailed Tit

Great spotted Woodpecker.

Pipistrelle bats have been seen and regular mammals include fox and hedgehog. Holly Blue butterflies probably breed in the garden.

All very interesting but urban foxes can become a problem

An attached Paper on the Scheduled Sites of Nature Conservation Importance includes:-

Ladbroke Estate Gardens

Suggestion - Increase planting of native tree species particularly oaks, ash and willows and native shrubbery. Leave some grassland uncut during June to allow seed set of (wild) flowers. Install bat and bird boxes. Retain leaf piles for hibernation sites to encourage hedgehogs to return. *Create ponds if there is an interest, wherever open waters would not be a risk to children.*

Yes to more Oak and installing bat and bird boxes if not already present, leaf piles fine and already there are log piles. Encourage wild life until/unless reduces enjoyment of the gardens

1995 October Planning Report

Includes a useful plan showing location of most of the trees and the report has suggestions for future management of the gardens including a plan to show potential planted areas.

A very useful record of the trees and large shrubs acting as trees from 20 years ago. The trees are listed and numbered using the common names of trees alphabetically which makes finding the trees on the plan quite difficult. Where possible the numbers of the trees in this report have been added to our tree survey.

1997 July Les Moore

This report covers the areas of shrub planting and potential replanting. Main points:-

- Regular pruning of shrubs needed to retain shape and encourage new growth – very important particularly with deciduous shrubs
- Planting of cheap shrubs to fill beds – poor idea and the result can be seen in the beds today
- Recommended taking cuttings – impractical
- Recommended rebuilding steps at the entrance gates – I need to look at this
- Recommended more Camellias and Hydrangeas – agree
- Recommended planting ferns – agree
- Recommended adding more interesting trees including Medlar – Medlar planted and doing well, agree with adding more interesting trees

Undated Trees, shrubs and climbers for replanting east and west ends of Lansdowne/Elgin Gardens

This consists of lists of plants to be planted in these areas including numbers to be planted

Lists include:-

- Forest trees - Horse Chestnut and Robinia – neither of which I would recommend
- Small trees - some ok but need extra attention and includes Laburnum which is poisonous and Magnolia campbellii which needs acid soil and grows into a large tree
- Hedging plants – Beech - Ok but not as good screen in winter as evergreen shrubs - possibly why beech hedge along Rosmead Road boundary
- Climbing plants – includes Russian Vine which is highly invasive, Vitis coignetiae and Ivy hardly a great list
- Large evergreen shrubs – very dull list with some glaring oddities e.g. Senecio greyii
- Large deciduous shrubs - very mixed selection and at least one (Pieris) is evergreen

- Small shrubs – again very mixed, some needing sun, some shade, some acid soil and almost all incorrectly spelled which perhaps indicates a lack of plant knowledge

Conclusion - ignore

1998 January

David Brown

Tree Condition Survey

This report looks at the condition of the larger trees in the garden, 44 in total using the tree numbers given in the 1995 planning report

He categorises the trees into 4 classes adapted from BS5837: 1991 Class 1 being a vigorous healthy tree and class 4 dead or structurally dangerous.

As a result of this report Ash tree no.13 and a small ash seedling have been removed as have several Prunus otherwise his report is very similar to the planning report of 1995

2000 November

David Brown

Landscape Management Plan

David Brown's second report outlines a management plan for the gardens with 5 objectives

- To restore the spatial structure of the garden
- To generate a strong vegetational character
- To enhance the user potential
- To simplify the long term maintenance
- To ensure that public safety is maintained

All very laudable

Short Term Action

10 year planting plan – 3 positions given for new large trees to be planted - I do not agree with any of these.

Phased removal of false acacias – trees nos. 2, 3, and 4 – agree and cherries nos. 45,46 and 47 – this has been done

Consider planting small flowering trees – some of this has been done but not necessarily in the best places

Medium Term Action

Remove ashes nos. 12 and 14 – Ash no. 13 has been removed instead

Review replacement of existing Limes and Horse Chestnut – agree replacement trees needed for the future but not necessarily the same species and replacements also needed for Ash

Various suggestions on seats, pavilion, re-surfacing paths and lawn aeration

Long Term Action

Remove Limes and Horse Chestnuts when replacement trees established – agree

Replacement planting and rejuvenation pruning of shrubs – agree

Replace overmature small flowering trees – agree

Plant Palette

List of possible plants to use but no indication of where to be planted and needs more details to be useful

Conclusion - A report that needed far more detail to be of real value

2002 RBKC Habitat Survey 2002

Planning Status: Conservation area, Site of Archaeological Importance, Site of Nature Conservation Importance.

Major Habitats: Planted shrubbery, amenity grassland, scattered trees.

Justification for Designation: A large area of relatively undisturbed open space which is particularly important for mammals

Above is essential information to be aware of in any future plans for the garden. Otherwise the report repeats much of the information in the 1993 survey with the addition of a record of some of the plant species found on site but poorly recorded and of not much value

2010 October Bartlett Consulting Tree Health and Structural Integrity Report

This is a very detailed report on the Horse Chestnut next to the climbing Frame

2013 May ACS Consulting Tree Survey

This is a detailed report on the current status and condition of 108 tree and large shrubs acting as trees. It includes a detailed Tree Survey Schedule and a plan TS1 RG with approximate positions of the trees listed. There are also notes on work recommended to be carried out immediately.

This useful plan and report have provided the basis for our plan no. 1405/1A and tree survey using the same tree numbers as in the ACS survey and on their plan. Although 108 tree numbers are included, several numbers are used for a group of trees and over 120 trees are included. Several larger trees were omitted from the report and have now been added to our plan. It would appear that several smaller trees growing in the No man's Land were omitted, some have been added to our plan and the others need surveying and adding for a more complete record.

Appendix II. Native trees of England

- Notes:** 1. Our native trees support a great variety of our wildlife and grow well in our soils and climate
 2. Those native to southern England should grow vigorously in Rosmead Gardens
 3. Some native trees are not 'gardenworthy' and are not worth growing in Rosmead Gardens

Trees with existing number already in the garden in brackets

Latin Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple (0)	rather untidy in habit until mature
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Common Alder (0)	could make an attractive group
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch (9)	probably enough already, not really suitable for London clay soils
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam (1)	excellent tree for London Gardens, plant more
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	Midland Hawthorn (1)	plant more ornamental cultivars
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn (12)	good for low screening but enough already in the garden for the moment
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Common Beech (0)	grows well in London, could plant as large tree replacement for Ash
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Common Ash (6)	not a very attractive tree - no need to plant more
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly (7)	does well but plenty in garden
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple (0)	rare native use ornamental Malus cultivars
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry (1)	Good ornamental tree, more needed
<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bird Cherry (0)	Good ornamental tree, plant 1 or 2
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Common Pear (0)	rare as native use more ornamental cultivars
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak (1)	important tree, plant 1 or 2 more

<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam (0)	should do well, might add
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Mountain Ash (1)	could plant more but not always successful in London gardens, prefer acid moorlands
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Service Tree (0)	interesting native tree, plant 1 or 2
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small leaved Lime (1)	should plant in place of <i>T.x europaea</i>
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Broad leaved Lime (0)	could plant instead of <i>Tilia x europaea</i>
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm (4)	still a problem with Dutch elm disease
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English Elm (0)	not at the moment due to problem with Dutch elm disease
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew (7)	could plant more as background

Native trees which are not 'gardenworthy' for London gardens

<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Downy Birch (0)	native of northern counties
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine (0)	only found as native in northern areas
<i>Populus x canescens</i>	Grey Poplar (0)	not suitable for communal gardens
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar (0)	not suitable for communal gardens
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen (0)	not suitable for communal gardens
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn (0)	not suitable for communal gardens
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak (0)	native to more westerly counties, but might be used
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow (0)	not suitable for communal gardens
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow (0)	not suitable for communal gardens