



Cedar Chase Gardens

‘Span sites are developed rationally and aesthetically, believing that trees belong’

Span - Living with New Ideas



The estate was built around three magnificent cedar trees– one in the centre of the main car park, one just below house number 9 and one opposite houses 16 and 17.

Sadly, over the years, they all succumbed to disease or old age, but two have been replaced, upholding the policy of retaining the ethos and general style of the original planting.

In keeping with the Span philosophy, the gardens and houses were designed as an integrated whole.

The gardens were created by Preben Jakobsen, who worked for Span from 1961 to 1969. He later received the fourth gold medal to be awarded by the Landscape Institute.

Each house has its own private garden, but all areas outside the front door or the back garden gate are communally owned and managed.

During our garden refresh project in 2015, there were 66 varieties of trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials.





In common with what we hear from other Span estates our trees are under considerable stress from climate change. Consequently we expect our tree maintenance budget to be an increasingly large part of our annual expenditure.

The grounds are divided into two parts. The upper grounds, around the houses, are kept semi-formal, largely following Jakobsen's original design with sympathetic replanting where needed.

The lower grounds, known to generations of children as 'the woods', are deliberately left largely natural, including log piles and some fallen tree trunks, to provide habitats for various forms of wildlife.

Trees have always been a vital feature of the estate and are regularly inspected and maintained by tree surgeons.

In June this year we completed our own audit of the Cedar Chase trees in the upper and lower grounds. We have tagged and mapped over 150 trees.



Because Cedar Chase forms part of the Taplow conservation area, all our trees are protected, which means they cannot be felled or even pruned without permission from Bucks County Council.

Some trees, notably the five huge wingnut trees below number 8 (and said to be some of the finest examples in the country) are covered by specific preservation orders.

