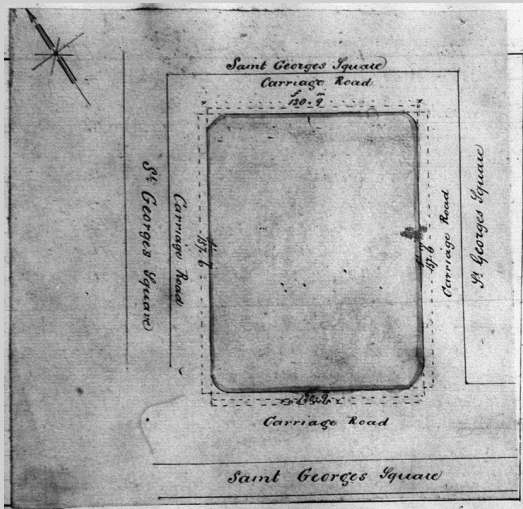


Chalcot Square through time

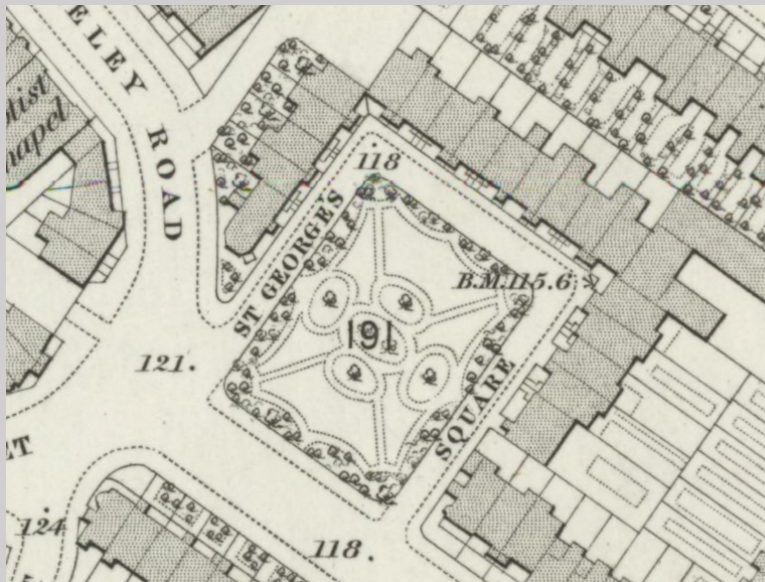
A proposal to reinstate the hedging

FoCSG
December 2022



The first record we have of the St. George's Square Gardens is from an 1857 sale by William Broder to the Very Reverend James O'Neal. The gardens are described as 'fenced in with iron rails or fences'

fenced in with iron rails or fences and which said piece is



The first Ordnance Survey map of 1870 shows a perimeter hedge, and four entrances.

Ordnance Survey
Surveyed: 1870, Published: 1875



The Ordnance Survey map of 1894 shows the hedge still present

Ordnance Survey
Revised: 1894, Published: 1895



REPORT
OF THE
ROYAL COMMISSION
ON
LONDON SQUARES.

Presented by the Secretary of State for the Home
Department to Parliament by Command of His Majesty
September, 1928.



LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Admiral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 116, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
11, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any bookseller.

1928
Price 3s. 6d. net.
Cmd. 3196.

And the Royal Commission on London Squares of 1928 states that the square is 'surrounded by a sparse hedge'

378. ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE (0.43); St. George's Road.

- (1) Trustees of the Broder Estate.
- (4) The Trustees and their agents only.
- (5) The Trustees maintain, employing a gardener to keep the garden and timber on the same in good order and condition.
- (6) Strongly of opinion that the enclosure should be kept in its present condition for the amenity of the present and future tenants of the Square.
- (7) An enclosure, almost square in shape, surrounded by a sparse hedge. Maintained as a grass plot, with some well-grown trees. Overlooked by dwelling-houses.

Royal Commission on London
Squares 1928



By 1968 there is
no hedge (and
no railings
either!)

London Picture
Archive 1968

But by 1977, the
iron railings had
been restored



London Picture Archive 1977



Charterhouse Square – May 2022



Charterhouse Square – May 2022





A sketch by Todd Longstaffe Gowan of how the square might look with hedges



Some arguments *in favour*

- The hedges will increase biodiversity, especially if they are of mixed planting (e.g. hawthorn & hazel)
- The hedging will hide the cars that we see so much, especially from within the square (compare Charterhouse Square)
- Planting behind the benches will make them more comfortable to sit on
- Hedges *may* discourage football playing
- Older people have been seen less in the square as it has been dominated by children. Hedges might make the square a more comfortable place for older people to use

Some arguments *against*

- There may be issues with maintenance
- The hedges might provide more opportunities for nefarious activities in the square
- The planting may not survive (in particular physical damage and lack of rain might cause that) or might become messy
- Some people prefer the aesthetic of an open space