## **Martin Redston Associates**

Consulting Civil & Structural Engineers

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Dear Mr Feiereisen,

## 72 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 5LS

Further to your telephone instructions we visited the property on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2010. Our brief was to create a new opening in the existing garden retaining wall between an existing and a newly formed brick pier.

The retaining wall is a traditional brick construction with added restraint of the large brick piers at approximately 3 metre centres.

The new brick pier is to be constructed off a new mass concrete foundation and tied into the cut-end section of the existing wall and a new path retaining wall.

The new construction will provide further lateral stability to the existing wall, effectively reducing the actual length of the retaining wall and increasing the overall strength of the structure.

From our inspection we noted a large crack between the final pier and the front retaining wall revealing that brick wall is not keyed into the corner pier. We would advise against an opening in this section as this may lead to a further movement of the pier and the flank wall. To provide lateral stability we recommend that this junction should be strengthened by tying the front wall to the brick pier with stainless steel reinforcement bars.

Additionally, from a visual inspection it would appear that the new brick pier can be constructed from most of the reclaimed bricks of the demolished section of wall. Additional care should be imposed during demolition to maximise the use of the available bricks. Furthermore the quality of the bricks should be confirmed during the demolition process.

We trust the above information is to your satisfaction, if you require any further information or any clarification of the points above please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Kowalczyk

On behalf of Martin Redston Associates

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