

Karen Clayton  
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2 February 2015

Dear Karen

**Arboricultural advice regarding the mature mulberry (*Morus nigra*) within central grounds of  
Lincolns Inn, Holborn. Ref: T38 (tag: 0972)**

Thank you for contacting us for further arboricultural advice regarding the expected future contribution and the affect crown pruning may have on the mature mulberry (*Morus nigra*) within the central grounds of Lincolns Inn. Concerns have been raised due to the fact this tree has a general main stem lean causing encroachment to the adjacent area of hard standing.

This tree certainly provides amenity value within its current setting, although has evidence of wire cable bracing restraints previously installed between 2no co-dominant stems due to a general main stem lean and a closed basal cavity at ground level on the north western stem. Crown reduction work has been carried out (most recently 2012) in order to further reduce branch end weight and minimise the encroachment to the adjacent hard standing parking areas.

The tree has developed good extension growth and presents an adequate amount of bud and foliage following each pruning cycle, it is therefore presumed the tree is in generally satisfactory overall physiological health and is expected to tolerate slightly harder pruning work in order to create a more compact canopy size with a smaller framework for future re-growth.

The outlined work specification provides suggested amounts of canopy reduction, and the annotated photos in Appendix 1 are also provided as a general guide to these reduction points, although the exact extent of pruning will be dictated by the internal secondary growth points which all cuts are to be made to.

**Works Specification**

- 1.) Using the smaller diameter upright stem nearest to lawn as a guide to create the new top canopy area, reduce all growth from the 2no main dominant stems by approx. 1.5-2m past previous reduction points to suitable secondary growth points
- 2.) Reduce remaining crown to form a rounded and shapely framework for future re-growth

- 3.) All cuts to be made to secondary growth points
- 4.) Supply and install 1no. non-invasive 2 ton Static Cabling System (Boa) using specialised polypropylene hollow braided cable with expansion inserts and anti-abrasion hose (WITHOUT shock absorbers) to allow some upper crown flexibility in light winds. Install between main stems at approx. two-thirds the height from the main union to act as a backup for the historical wire cable already in place.

Although such work will initially produce a tree with a fairly stark appearance, this will create a more balanced and rounded framework and minimise the potential risk of branch or stem failure. All pruning work should be scheduled for late summer 2015 to reduce excessive 'bleed' from pruning wounds.

Damage or unsympathetic pruning to a tree's branches and crown can also lead to serious health and condition issues for the tree and, therefore, should be carried out by a competent and qualified professional arboricultural company that adhere to BS3998:2010 – *Recommendations for Tree Work*.

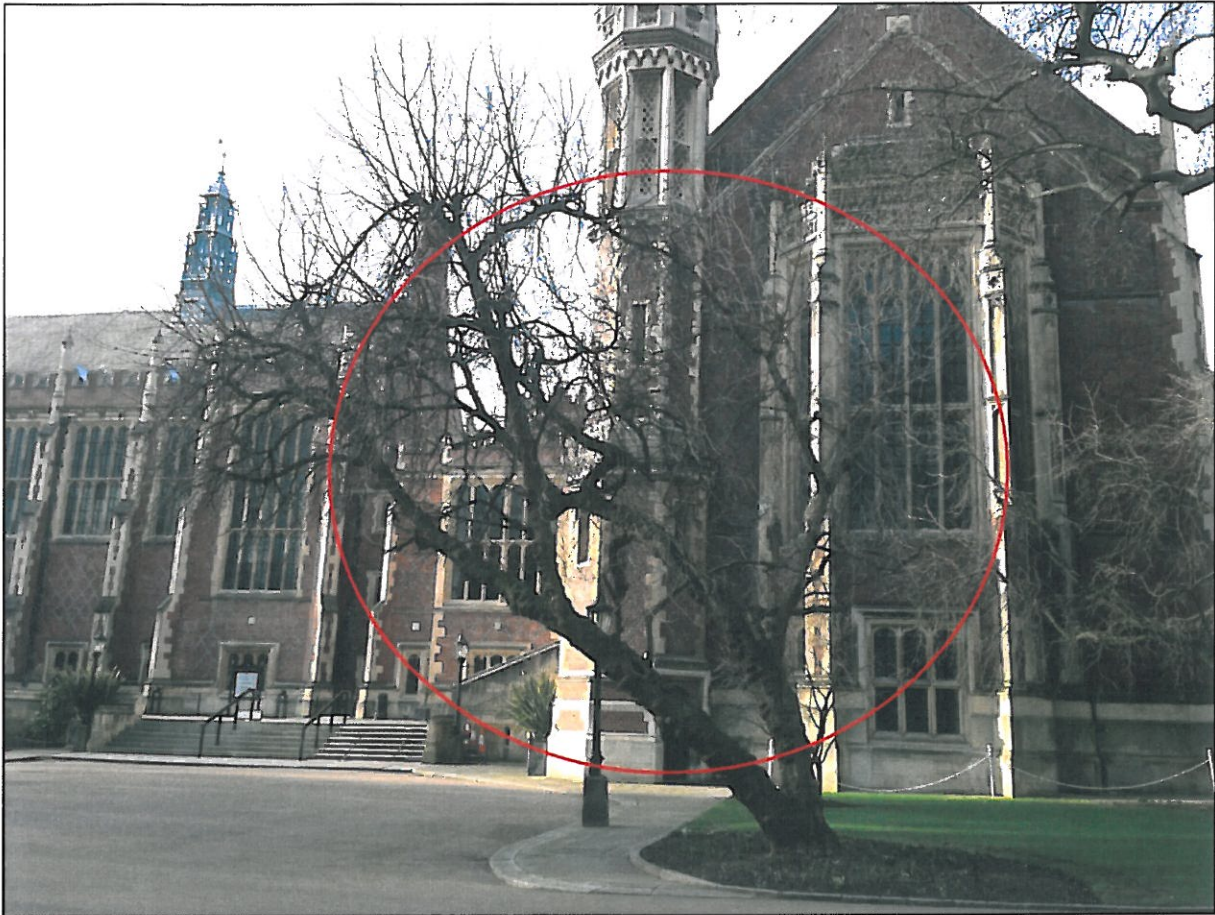
I hope this information is useful, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a central vertical stroke, resembling a stylized 'J' or 'R'.

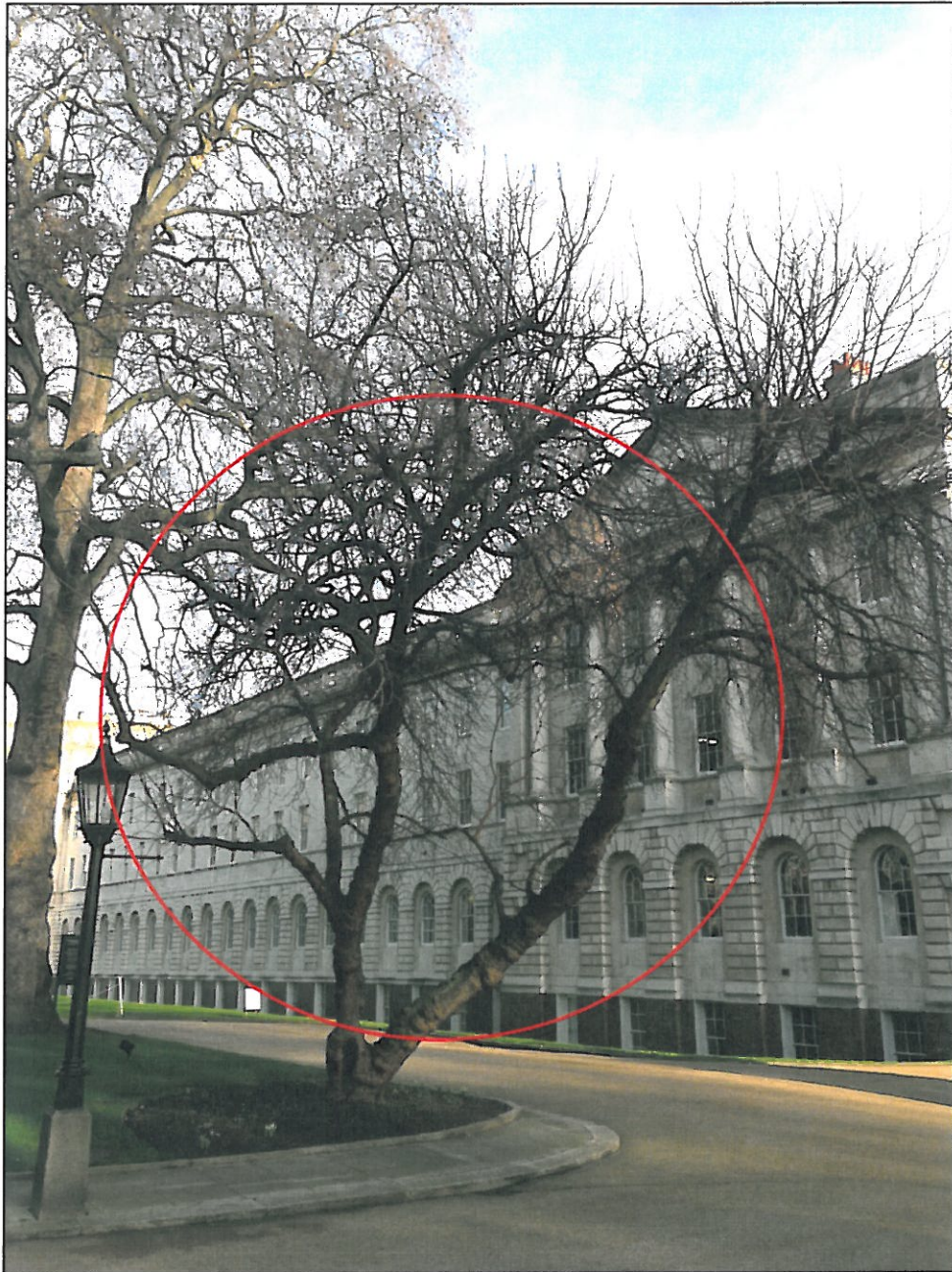
**John Robinson** Cert Arb (RFS) – Tech Cert (Arbor A)  
Tree Consultant and Surveyor

**Appendix A – Pictures to accompany report**



**Approximate extent of crown reduction (looking west)**

**Appendix A – Pictures to accompany report**



**Approximate extent of crown reduction (looking east)**