TREECARE
(arboricultural specialists)

Dear Duncan

**Re: University of London, Senate House, Malet Street London WC1E 7HU**

Further to our recent meeting please find below a resume of our discussion on site with regard to the 13 London Plane trees (Platanus x hispanica) close to the front boundary railings of the above site.

11 of these very large mature and widespreading trees are within the grounds of Senate House while 2 are in the pavement outside (see attached sketch plan)

There is a proposed project to refurbish/repair these front boundary railings and their stone beds.

The purpose of this resume is to:

i) Establish and identify which trees are causing actual mechanical damage to these railings/beds.
ii) Suggest remedial measures to allow optimum repairs to be undertaken.
iii) Suggest measures which can be taken to alleviate ongoing existing and future potential problem areas vis a vis root and trunk expansion and the railings.
iv) Propose remedial crown pruning works to retard future root activity and trunk expansion and also to maintain tree health and safety, pre-empting potential for limb shedding and to contain spread and improve light, space and clearance all round.

The Trees:

London Plane x 13

1. Of the above trees T1, T2, T5 and T6 are causing varying degrees of displacement of railing sections and stone bed sections. T1 and T2 are the least damaging and it is likely that, on lifting out the sections of stone beds and railing affected, surface roots causing damage can be identified, chased out, severed and removed, allowing level replacement which should solve the problems.
2. T5 and T6: Damage is more severe, large structural roots may be found on excavation which may in turn need to be bridged over with some form of lintel rather than severed and removed. Happy to some and inspect and advise at time of excavation.
   T6 is leaning and the trunk is actually resting on the railing. Suggest: Cut out a section of the trunk to give up to 10cm clearance. This will not be detrimental to the structural stability of the tree and should give 5-10 years grace before any further action is needed. (Pare wound cleanly to allow optimum callusing.)
3. The remaining trees do not appear to be causing any immediate structural damage to the railings and beds.

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General comments:

1. There is no hard and fast answer to the problem of the proximity and expansion of these trees. The problems we are attempting to address here are likely to start recurring within a few years despite best efforts. London Plane as a species has, historically, up to now, not reached a finite growing age. They continue to grow and expand.
2. During excavation works for railing repairs any roots found in the vicinity of the stone beds that are 6cm or less can be severed and removed without detriment to the health and safety of these trees.
3. If there are secondary/tertiary bed stones beneath the surface ones, it may be possible to remove them to accommodate buttress root and trunk expansion, backfilling the void with some form of ballast into which roots will subsequently not venture (pea shingle/scaplings). Then support the top stones with perhaps some sort of steel strip running at their bases along their whole lengths/or in sections?..
4. In addition, after excavation, a membrane (Terram 4000) could be inserted between tree base and railing to a depth of up to 1m, (below which the likely presence of clay sub-soil will preclude root spread), if there is access/space to do so. This will prevent further root encroachment.
5. Internal raised retaining coping stones could be moved 1m further in towards the front elevation of the building to accommodate future buttress and root spread.
6. In order to retard root activity and buttress root and trunk expansion, countering to a fair degree the present problems: Reduce and reshape all crowns by 25-30% all round to suitable new growing points. These trees are severely in need of remedial works not just for the above reasons but also to lessen weight on the very heavy lateral branch ends all round, pre-empting potential for limb-shedding. A more detailed specification and quotation for suggested works is attached. (If these works are subsequently agreed and addressed then we can waive the £480.00 consultancy fee for this resume).
7. X 2 council trees: The same applies as above. If Camden Council were contacted with a view to having these two trees equally crown reduced, I am sure they would accommodate the request.
8. On-site inspection of trees and roots during excavation and repair works would be charged at £260.00 +VAT to include travel time, site time and any subsequent reports and comments accordingly.

I think that covers everything that we discussed on site and hope its of help, although rather vague, given the many unknowns below ground!

Regards

Edward Radziwillowicz

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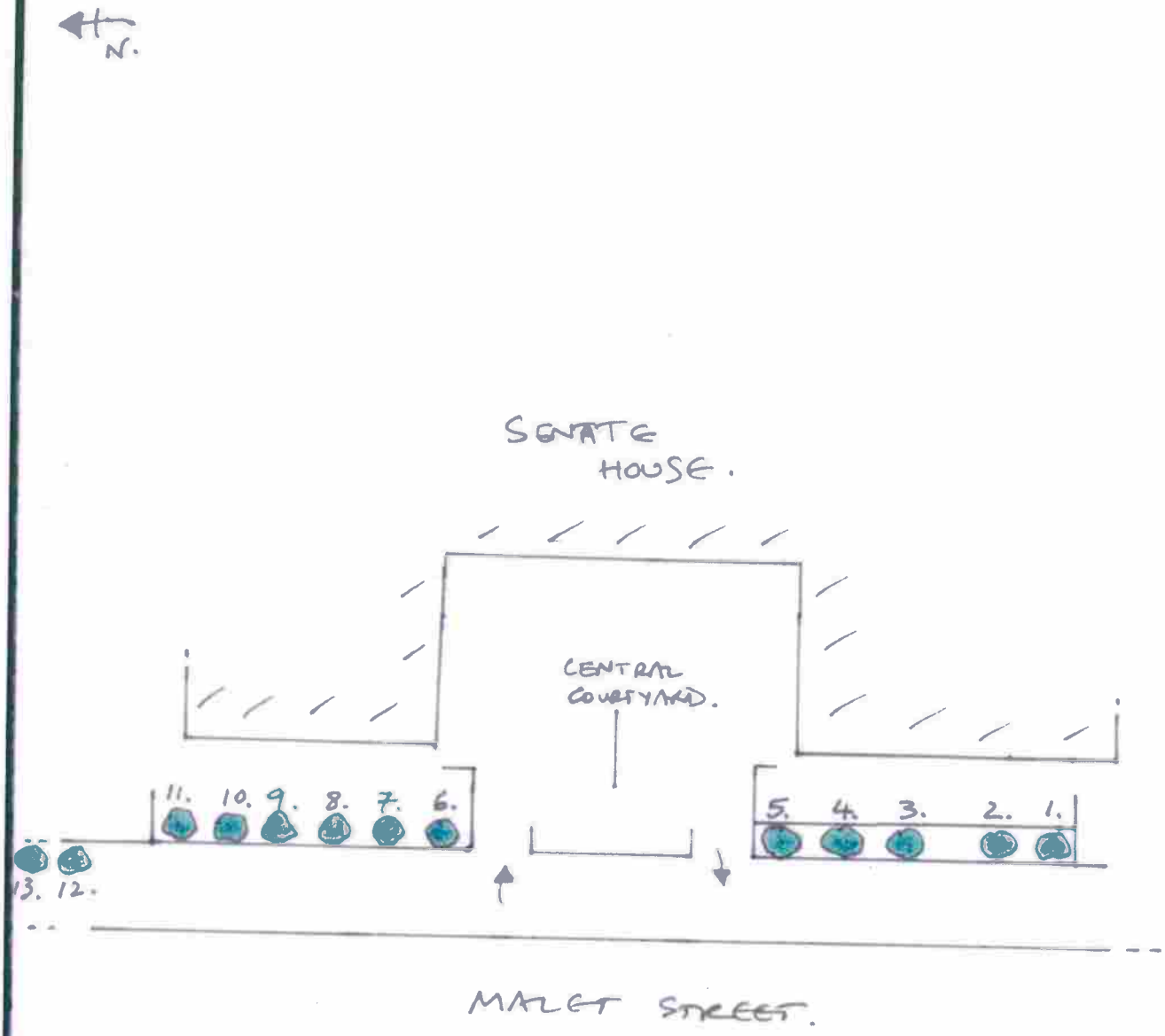


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| Site: UNIVERSITY OF LONDON SENATE HOUSE MALET STREET LONDON WC1E 7HU | Scale: SKETCH PLAN<br>Drawn: [redacted]. NOV '14.<br>Ref: CR/GT/1114/99. | TREECARE<br>Oak Tree House, Rosebank Works<br>Rosebank Way, London W3 6TT<br>Tel: 020 8993 1443 Fax: 020 8993 2828<br>Mobile: 07768 222 256<br>email: office@treecare.co.uk<br>VAT Reg No 341 5779 44 |
| Client: | TREE LOCATION PLAN. | |