

Dear Sarah,

As requested, I confirm having made a visual inspection of the rear boundary wall this morning [28 May 2019]. As discussed:

- The wall is built in 1 1/2-brick thickness, with a high proportion of broken and half-bricks in the centre third. It has lime mortar, which has deteriorated to a degree, and it poorly bonded to the bricks, and has become friable. Un-usually, the wall has been laid to follow the general slope of the hill such that the bed-joints are not horizontal. It has shallow buttresses at approximately 6m centres, but one buttress was noted to have lost its 1/2-brick projection, and appears to have been poorly bonded.
- The ground level on your side of the wall is significantly higher than that of the garden beyond. These levels appear to be original, so the wall was intended to act as a retaining wall.
- A sycamore tree had self-seeded into the top of the wall, and become established over a very long period of time, such that the trunk was approximately 20+cm in diameter, with roots within the brickwork of the wall up to approximately 8cm in diameter. This is located between two buttresses.
- The roots within the wall have expanded, making the overall wall thickness over 40cm, compared with 33-34cm original size. This has split the wall and forced one side to be significantly out of plumb, and the two halves of the wall to loose 'bond', rendering them unstable.
- As discussed previously, the zone of the wall where it has split needs to be taken down, to below where the roots have damaged the bonded brickwork, and be re-built in bonded, salvaged bricks, laid in lime Mortar, with the bond to match the remainder of the wall. If there are insufficient whole bricks to establish a good bond, then additional replacement London Stock bricks of Imperial size should be incorporated such that they are within the core of the wall and not visible on the faces.

It is understood that you will make an application for Listed Building consent prior to progressing the repairs. Attached for your use with this submission, are the following:

- Location Plan at 1 : 1250 scale
- Sections and plans 'as existing, recording the wall as originally built, and recording the defects.
- Section and plan 'as proposed' defining the proposed repairs.
- Sequence of works.

I trust that these summary notes and Sketch drawings are sufficient for your immediate needs, but do please call if you require anything further. You may need to include some of your record photos of the tree and wall, with your application. Should you or the Planning Officer require anything further, please call.

Regards,

Bruce

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