



SJ Stephens Associates

ARBORICULTURAL, LANDSCAPE & MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Howard Turner
32 Denning Road
London
NW3 1SU

23rd May 2019

Dear Howard,

Re: Lime tree at rear of garden of 32 Denning Road.

I inspected the lime tree, shown in the photos attached, on 16th May 2019. The tree is approximately 14.5m in height with a stem diameter of 540mm and crown spread of 12m. In the past, it was pollarded at 5m, but the crown has now grown out. The crown shows good vigour, however there is extensive basal decay, with an opening to the west from 0.2m-0.5m and to the east at 0.3-1.3m. The base is therefore almost entirely hollow, with a residual wall thickness of only 100-200mm. There is abundant basal growth, particular between the main stem and the 1.3m brick boundary wall, which has collapsed.

Although the basal growth prevents detailed inspection, it appears that there is approximately 250mm clearance between the main stem and the wall. It is, therefore, this basal growth, rather than expansion of the trunk, that has caused the wall to collapse. If the basal growth is removed, it should be possible to rebuild the wall on the existing footings. Basal regrowth should then be removed on an annual basis. This close to the tree, there may be roots growing under the foundations of the wall that could result in some movement. Your surveyor will be able to advise the best technique for rebuilding – possibly using lime mortar and incorporating an expansion gap.

Because of the extensive basal decay, re-pollarding the tree, to the previous pollard points at approximately 5m, is recommend. This will significantly reduce the stress on the hollow stem and so allow the tree to be safely retained. Re-pollarding should then be repeated every 3 years and ongoing decay monitored. Since the tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order, permission will be required from the Local Planning Authority. An application can be made online, attaching a copy of this letter.

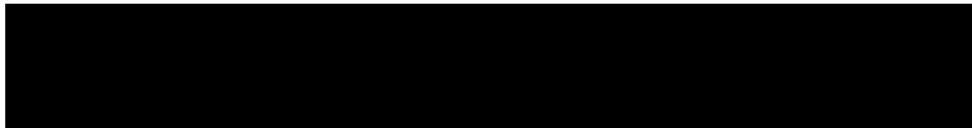
All works must be carried out to the standards set out in BS 3998:2010 Tree work – Recommendations and undertaken by a skilled arborist - preferably one approved by the Arboricultural Association (www.trees.org.co.uk).

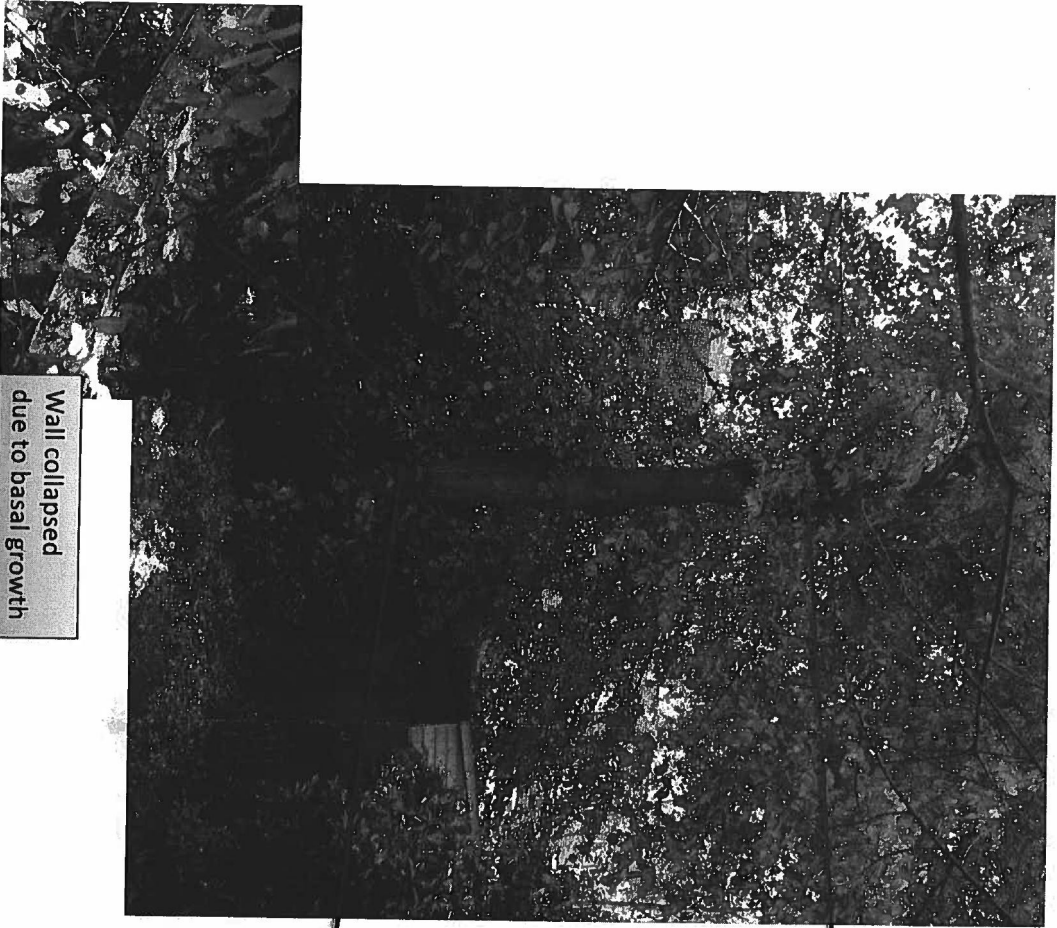
If you require any further information, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Stephens
Arboricultural Association Registered Consultant
MA Oxon, Dip Arb(RFS), MArborA, CEnv, MICF





Wall collapsed
due to basal growth



Pollard point



Basal cavity