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ARBORICULTURE
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20th December 2022

07862245496

Biba Dow
Dow Jones Architects
Units 1-5,
11 Sancroft Street,
London,
SE11 5UG

Dear Biba,

Catalpa and Malus trees on frontage of St Mary's Church

I refer to the enquiry you forwarded from Nick Bell (London Borough of Camden Tree Officer) regarding quantifying the amount of pruning required on these two trees to accommodate the proposed ground floor extension.

Nick Bell said:

I am getting in touch in relation to the above planning application. I agree with your assessment in that the below-ground impact on trees to be retained will likely be of an acceptable level provided suitable foundations are used. Your report makes reference to pruning the Catalpa (T5) and Apple (T6) but does not give a pruning specification:

"5.5 The proposed extension will affect 14.5m² (9%) of the adjusted root protection area (RPA) of the Indian Bean Tree (T5) and the crown will be pruned to accommodate the building (and where it overhangs the road to clear traffic). The crown overlaps the proposed 2 story extension by 2.4 m and the road by 2.4 south and 3m east. The 2-storey extension is between 5 and 7.7m high adjacent T5 as it is a pitched roof. It is normal to provide at least 2m working space for a new building but the tree is approximately 2m from the front elevation so the building's front elevation should be constructed with minimal working space to preserve as much of the branch structure as possible.

5.6 The proposed extension will affect 3m² (4%) of the RPA of the Apple (T6). The extension affects the southwest corner of the crown which will be pruned. The building should be constructed with minimal working space so that as much crown is retained as possible."

Please reply with quantified pruning proposals for all affected trees and proposed post-pruning crown spreads inc. allowance for working room to allow me to fully assess the impact of the scheme. I note your reference to removing the Catalpa,



however its retention is preferable given its contribution to the streetscene and the conservation area (as referred to in the DAS).

The assessment of crown size in BS5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations'. is based on a 2D projection of the three-dimensional crown on the ground and so it is too crude in this instance. Trees are three dimensional and it is difficult to assess the pruning required as the tree is taller than the extension elevations and the crown radii vary at different heights and in various locations.

I visited the site again on December 16th, 2022, and I used a 5m ranging pole to assess the proposed roof apices, valleys and eaves in relation to the tree crowns. The minimum platform width for a scaffold is 500mm but because of scaffold poles and other obstructions this is usually 625mm (three boards) wide, but this limits the storage of materials on the scaffold. Any scaffolding on the front elevation should be no more than the minimum 625mm platform width to minimise the pruning required for working space. Any branches of 50mm diameter or more where they meet the scaffold should be protected and retained within the scaffold particularly the retained part of the large lower branch on the southwest side of the Catalpa which has a large dog-leg branch supporting a reasonable proportion of the tree crown. There will need to be 1m space above the extension for the metal-seamed roof to be constructed.

The crown is three dimensional so I have tried to indicate the estimated pruning points and the parts of the tree that will be removed in the following photographs. The pruning position of the branch is marked in red or shown with a red arrow when the pruning point is obscured by another branch. The main parts of the branch removed are highlighted in yellow. I think this is too complicated to describe in sentences with any degree of accuracy. Please note that I have not marked the smallest twigs only the main branches although the parts of the Malus affected are smaller than the Catalpa.





1. Photo of existing East elevation



2. Photo of East Elevation with estimated roof line





3. Catalpa Left and Malus right Viewed from the East



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4. Catalpa pruning estimated the remains of the lower branch (large dogleg on the lower left) must be retained within any scaffolding.



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5. Catalpa viewed from south side.



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6. Catalpa estimated Pruning (Same branches as Photo 4)

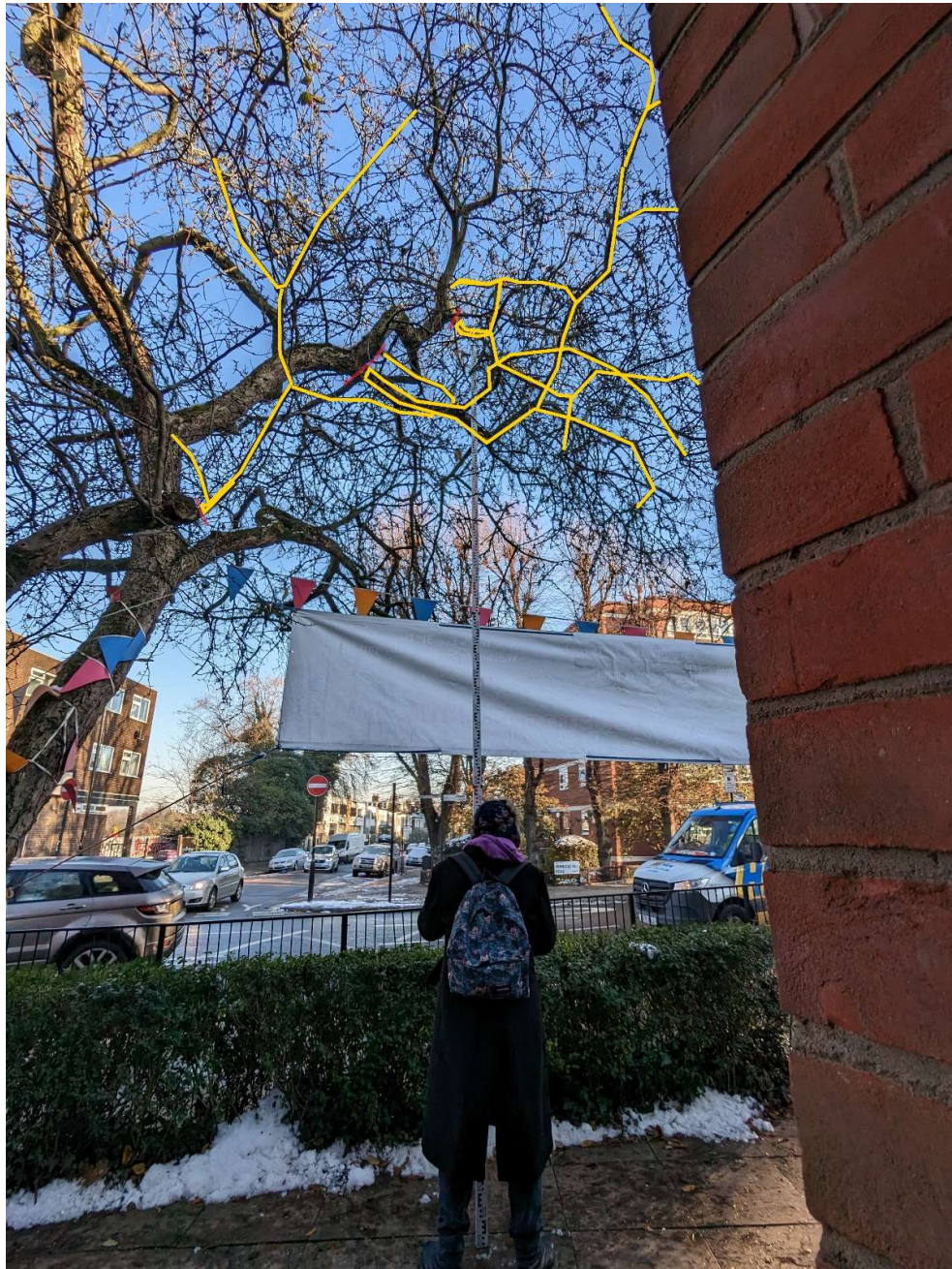


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7. Ranging pole at 5m shows the north-east corner of the extension. The eaves are approximately 6m high here.





8. Estimated pruning of Malus tree.





9. Northeast corner of extension marked with ranging pole - viewed from south
(eaves are 6m high here)





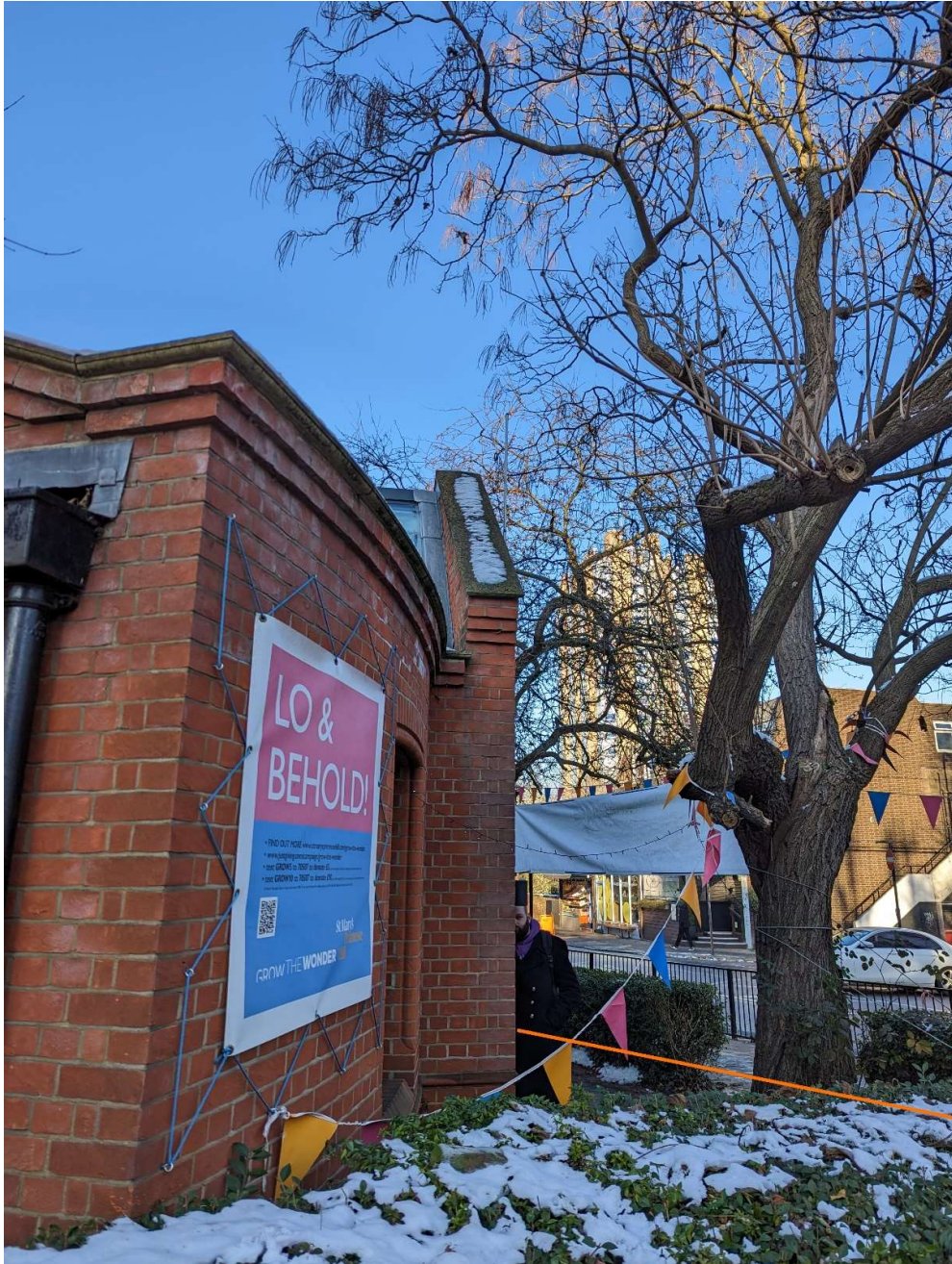
10. Southeast corner of extension marked with ranging pole – view from south (eaves are 7m here)





11. Ranging pole showing height of roof valley by Catalpa (5.6m pole base at 0.6m)





12. View of Catalpa with approximate building line of front elevation (orange)



There will be some additional pruning that is too small to show in the photographs, consisting of small branches and twigs. Wherever possible branches will be tied and pulled away to provide working space. The basic pruning indicated in the photographs can take place prior to scaffold erection. Further minor pruning of small branches and twigs may be necessary once scaffold is erected but a tree surgeon should be on hand to prune or tie back limbs to minimise damage and pruning.

The amount of pruning envisaged will change the shape of the tree minimally and I think I have demonstrated that it will not have a significant impact on public visual amenity, especially because the parts of the tree crowns affected are on the building side and not the public side.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Holloway', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Holloway CEnv, BSc (Hons), FArborA.

