

## Second Option – A Wall That Does Not Require Cutting the Three Lime Trees

### Background:

The Second Option allows for the three Lime trees which are in the closest proximity to the wall (see markings on Diagram 1) to be preserved and not removed.

The wall is essentially the same as that in the First Option (the one involving the removal of trees) only differing in that its thickness is narrowed to about half for a short length around the three tree trunks for the creation of expansion gaps. (See Diagram 2 below).

### Benefits of the Second Option:

A. The wall can be built with a minor change in design from the First Option (namely narrowing in three places around the limes), thereby allowing residents of this conservation area to continue to enjoy the environmental and aesthetic benefits of the 3 established lime trees. The very old, tall and elegant lime trees are an integral part of the character of our conservation area. The Council's informal view is whitebeams have a globular appearance which is out of context with tall elegant buildings and grand, wide carriageways.

The construction pricing is also similar to the First Option but also saves on the cost of removing and replanting three large trees.

B. The implementation of this design will be relatively faster than the First Option which will involve possibly lengthy discussions with the council (and the local community) in order to convince them of the rationale for removing the 3 established healthy trees and then this would need to be part of an overall tree replacement programme which could take many years to implement.

C. The council is unlikely to agree to the removal of the Lime Trees for purposes of erecting the wall based on informal written guidance previously received from the tree planning department when enquiries were made for the removal and replacement of the remaining 6 Lime trees.

The planning department indicated that :

- The removal of the Limes is not necessary for modifications to the wall to take place.
- The argument of nuisance from honeydew drops falling from the Limes is not likely to be afforded great weight as that would set an unfortunate precedent which may cause the loss of a large number of trees throughout London.
- Apart from the above any tree replacement programme would need to take into account their concerns that the replacement Whitebeams are the wrong species of trees for this location as their canopies are too low and the wrong shape, also the council will require a phased removal programme of only one Lime tree every 2-3 years, and the White beams may need to be replaced as well as part of the programme, possibly before the Limes.

Details of this plan are shown below.

Diagram 1

**Street Elevation as Seen from Clifton Gardens**

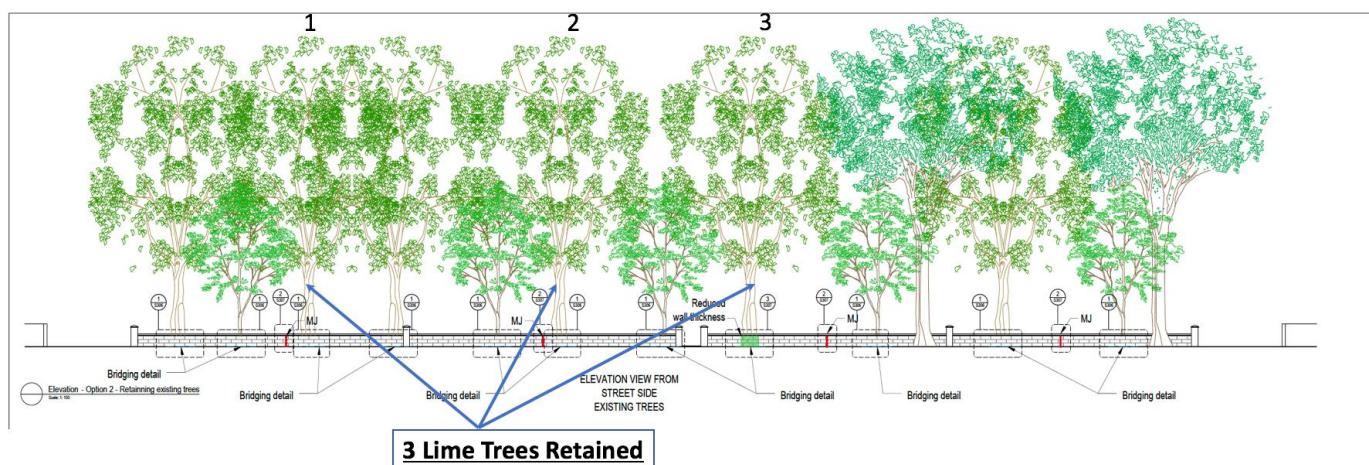
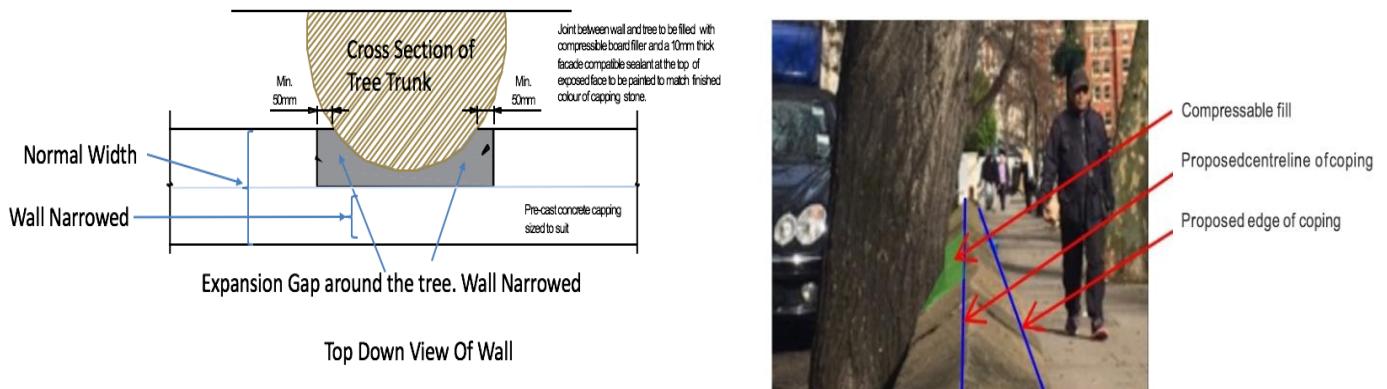


Diagram 2 – Wall Thickness Narrowed around the Trees



Apart from this aspect the wall visually looks the same and it's construction involves the same level of bridging over all the tree roots. This bridging involves adding standard concrete lintels over the roots to support the wall whilst allowing roots to freely grow underneath and is necessary to minimise the possibility of future cracking given that the wall is close to all of the trees. (See Appendix B for a Diagram on bridging of the roots. ).

#### Details of bridging of Roots and Narrowing of wall Around 3 Lime Trees

