

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Francis Mabbett.....

**APPLICATION
REFERENCE**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
DEVELOPMENT**

APPLICATION SITE

26/00658/HN

Removal of 8.5m front hedgerow

174 Wilbury Road

Letchworth Garden City

Hertfordshire

SG6 4JA

Submitted Plan Nos

1.0 Policies

2.0 **Site History**

11/02147/1TCA - Reduction of 3 Sycamore Trees by approximately 30%.

No objection

21/02993/TCA - Thuja - Reduce height by 1.5m and re-shape top, trim back lightly above adjacent garden. Eucalyptus - Reduce height by 5m down to previous points. Reduce spread on all sides by 1.5m to shape. 2x Sycamore - Reduce height by 5-5.5m down to 2m above previous points. Reduce spread by 2.5m to shape.

No objection

26/00110/TCA - Conifer – Remove

No objection

3.0 **Representations**

None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

Ref 1 Hedge (applicant's plan) subject of this application is located at the front of the property on the southern boundary close to the pavement of Wilbury Road. The site is within the Letchworth Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

Removal of 8.5m front hedgerow

4.3 **Key Issues**

The main considerations relating to this application is whether or not the hedgerow meets the criteria of length, location and importance to be subject to the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (as updated by 2024 management rules).

4.3.1 Length - The subject hedge is less than 20m long and only meets another hedge at one end.

Location- The hedgerow marks the south boundary of a private front garden.

Importance - The size and maturity of the vegetation suggests the hedgerow is less than 30 years old.

4.3.2 The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 Government Guidance States:

'A hedgerow is protected if it's:

- *more than 20m long with gaps of 20m or less in its length*

- *less than 20m long, but meets another hedge at each end'*
 - 'A hedgerow is not protected if it's in, or marks the boundary of, a private garden.'*
 - 'A hedgerow is important, and is protected, if it's at least 30 years old'*
- (and meets certain criteria).

Conclusion

4.4.1 The subject hedgerow does not meet the requirements in any criteria within the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 and is therefore exempt.

4.5 Alternative Options

4.5.1 None applicable

4.6 Pre-Commencement Conditions

4.6.1 None applicable

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 No objection.

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1. I refer to the hedgerow removal notice received on 12 March 2026 relating to '174 Wilbury Road, Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4JA'

I can confirm the subject hedgerow does not meet the necessary criteria required for consideration within the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 and is therefore exempt. The Local Planning Authority will not be issuing a hedgerow retention notice in this case. In the circumstances, I hereby give formal notice that the section of hedgerow may be removed.

However, the removal of the hedgerow is subject to the following informatives:

1. Removal of the hedgerow should not take place between 1st March and 30th August in order to protect breeding birds, their nests, eggs and young. All British Birds, their nests and eggs (with certain limited expectations) are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This makes it an offence to:-
Kill, injure or take a wild bird take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built take or destroy the egg of any wild bird possess or control any live or dead wild bird or any part of, or anything derived from a wild bird, or an egg or any part of the same.

Signed  Shaun Greaves Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 17 April 2026	