

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Vicki Wood.....

**APPLICATION
REFERENCE**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
DEVELOPMENT**

APPLICATION SITE

24/02441/TCA

T380: Holm Oak - Cut back branch over
hanging the roof of 4 Swan Street.

St Marys Church

Mill Street

Ashwell

Hertfordshire

SG7 5LY

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plan Photos

1.0 Policies

1.0 **Planning Practice Guidance**

- 1.1 Tree Preservation Orders and Trees in Conservation Areas 2014
- 1.2 Hertfordshire County Council Tree and Woodland Strategy 2022–2030
- 1.3 North Hertfordshire Council Tree Strategy 2017

2.0 **Relevant Site History**

- 2.1 Various applications, full case history on file.

3.0 **Representations**

- 3.1 **Ashwell Parish Council** – No objection.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 St. Mary's Church is a Grade I listed building located within the Ashwell Conservation Area. The position of the church means that it is located north of the High Street with access points from Church Lane/Swan Street to the south and Mill Street to the west. The church is set within extensive grounds having several mature trees within the churchyard.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:

T380: Holm Oak - Cut back branch over hanging the roof of 4 Swan Street.

4.3 **Key Issues**

- 4.3.1 The key issues in determining this application are; the amenity value of the tree; the impact of the proposed work on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area; any justification for the proposed work and; whether, taking full account of the above, it would be expedient and in the public interest to make a Tree Preservation Order.
- 4.3.2 The tree is identified as T380 on the submitted location plan and is sited within the churchyard attached to St. Mary's Church and immediately to the rear party boundary with no.4 Swan Street, a two-storey residential dwelling.
- 4.3.3 The Holm Oak is a mature tree reaching above the height of the rooves of dwellings, no.4 Swan Street in particular. Removal of the branch which is overhanging the roof of the property would be advisable given the significant weight of the branch should it fail and the potential implications associated with this. The tree appears visually healthy

with the proposed works ensuring its longer-term management. The works would not harm the amenity value of the tree to any great extent.

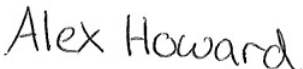
- 4.3.4 There would appear not to be any immediate threat to the tree and therefore there is no evidence to suggest further protection is needed by way of a Tree Preservation Order.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed works to the tree would not harm its amenity value to a significant degree. As such, the work would not cause such harm to the character and appearance of the Ashwell Conservation Area as to overcome the justification for the work.

5.0 **Recommendation**

- 5.1 **NO OBJECTION** to the proposed work.

Signed  Alex Howard Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 26 November 2024	