

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Melissa Tyler.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
25/01437/TCA	T1: Yew - Trim topiary to retain shape of egg and two bowls . T2: Gleditsia - Remove lowest branches overhanging drive and pedestrian access <5%. T3: Gleditsia - Remove branches touching neighbouring Amelanchier and encroaching on overheard telephone and internet cable <15%. T4: Holly - Trim to retain topiary shape umbrella . T5, T6: Sycamore - Remove watershoots to keep lower trunk clear - less than 10%. T7: Ash - Remove water shoots to keep lower trunk clear - less than 5%. T8, T9 - Trim two holly bushes to retain topiary shape - rounded cone. T10: Holly - Trim variegated to retain topiary shape - rounded cone. T11: Hawthorn - Trim to retain rounded shape - approx 15%	28 Hodwell Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5QQ

Submitted Plan Nos

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 19/00271/TCA - 1 Sycamore - Fell. T2 Elder - Fell. T3 Yew - Reduce height and width by approx 15-20%. T4 2 x Holly - Reduce height and width approx 15-20%. T5 Holly - Reduce height and width by approx 15-20%. – no objection
- 2.2 05/00085/1TCA – Removal of 3 Conifer trees – No objection 22/02/2005
- 2.3 16/01684/1TCA - Item 1: One Honey Locust tree: Trim small lower branches by approximately 10% overhanging drive. Item 2: One Walnut tree: trim by approximately 10% and remove two lower branches overhanging drive Item 3: One Hazel tree: pollard about 2m in height Item 4: One Ash tree (1): remove large branch growing at right angles to trunk and raise crown by approximately 20% Item 8: One Ash tree (2): slightly raise crown by approximately 10% Item 11. One Ash tree (3): Remove tree overhanging boundary Item 12: One Ash tree (4): remove lower branches overhanging boundary Item 5: One Acer tree (1): remove lower branches overhanging boundary and over shadowing plum tree. Item 6 and Item 7: Two Acer trees (2 and 3): remove branches overhanging drive Item 9: One Acer tree (4) : remove lower branches of large tree to lift them off roof of playhouse. Item 10: Remove 6 approximately Acer, Ash and Elder Saplings on boundary hedge Item 13: One Willow tree: Raise crown by approximately 15% Item 14: Thorny ornamental tree (unknown, pyracanthus family): Prune to reduce canopy width **by a third – No objection 05/08/2016**
- 2.4 **22/00081/TCA Various Tree works No objection 17/02/2022**

3.0 Representations

- 3.1 Ashwell Parish Council – None received.

4.0 Planning Considerations

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The site lies within a Conservation Area and hosts a Grade II Listed Building. The site lies within a corner plot off Hodwell. The plot is irregularly shaped, in a broad segment with the narrow corner facing Hodwell, with the site widening away from the street.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Consent is for the following works

- T1 - Trim Yew topiary to retain shape of egg and two bowls
- T2 - Gleditsia 1 - remove lowest branches overhanging drive and pedestrian access - <5%
- T3 - Gleditsia 2 - Remove branches touching neighbouring Amelanchier and encroaching on overhead telephone and internet cable – <15%
- T4 - Holly - trim to retain topiary shape – umbrella
- T5 and T6 - two sycamores - remove watershoots to keep lower trunk clear - less than 10%
- T7 - Ash Tree - remove water shoots to keep lower trunk clear - less than 5%
- T8 and T9 - Trim two holly bushes to retain topiary shape - rounded cone
- T10 - Trim variegated holly to retain topiary shape - rounded cone
- T11 - Hawthorn - trim to retain rounded shape - about 15%

4.3 **Key Issues**

- 4.3.1 The key issues in determining this application are; the amenity value of the trees; the impact of the proposed works on the on the character and appearance Conservation Area; any justification for the proposed works; and whether, taking full account of the above, it would be expedient and just to cover the trees with a Tree Preservation Order.
- 4.3.2 There are no concerns regarding the works given their limited scale and nature. Overall, the works are considered to be good management which would not harm the value of the specimens.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed work to the trees 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  Ben Glover	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 24 June 2025	