

5 Day Notice Review

Officer: Francis Mabbett – Tre and Landscape Officer

Date: 21.09.2026

App. No. 26/02372/5DN

Address: Kiln Wood School Lane Preston Hertfordshire

Proposal: Ash - reduce by 50% Oak (dead) - Fell

Reason provided:

“This is an application for consent to reduce by up to 50% a TPO'd tree situated in Kiln Wood, Ladygrove Farm, School Lane Preston, Herts SG4 7SA.

The tree in question is a mature Ash some 80 -100 feet high, in the centre of the photo attached.

There is extensive decay in the lower stem and major roots and significant cavities higher on the stem where large limbs have been removed.

There is also evidence of inontus hispidus.

If the tree were to fall there could be extensive damage including to an electricity substation (behind the hedge on the left of the drive in the right hand side of the photo).

I understand that the substation serves about 20 residential properties in the Ladygrove area. Whilst some of these properties are Listed, the tree itself is not on a listed site.”

Location plan:

Not provided by applicant but provided by officer site visit.

Photos:

Provided by applicant

Provided by Officer site visit

Officer comments:

Following site visit on 25.09.2026 the tree was observed to be over-mature with a full crown above a long, straight, single stem. Fruiting body *Inonotus hispidus* was found below the tree and the main stem showed clear signs of extensive decay in branch wounds, old pruning cuts and woodpecker activity associated with this fungus. The main stem is potentially hollow for its entire length. Signs of loosening soil around the buttress roots that were clearly decayed was also evident. A high chance of windthrow exists and a 50% reduction would reduce this risk considerably.