

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

**APPLICATION
REFERENCE**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
DEVELOPMENT**

APPLICATION SITE

25/02438/TPO

T1: Purple Beech - Crown reduction by approx 2m from branch tips, back to previous reduction points.

Land Adj To 9 Dower Court
London Road
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG4 9EX

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plan

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 **Site History**

2.1 Full history on case file.

3.0 **Representations**

3.1 N/A

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 The site is located at the junction of Stevenage Road and London Road and to the east of Hitchin Hill and to the northwest of Butchers Lane. The Purple Beech tree is positioned to the southeast boundary with Butchers Lane. There are three trees covered by TPO/063 North Hertfordshire District Council (The Dower House (Now Known as Dower Court), London Road, Hitchin) 1983 confirmed on 5th July 1983.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 T1: Purple Beech - Crown reduction by approximately 2m from branch tips, back to previous reduction points.

4.2.1 The application has been amended as the original submission referred to the tree being a Copper Beech and not a Purple Beech as stated in the TPO and confirmed on site.

4.3 **Key Issues**

4.3.1 The issues associated with this proposal centre upon the appropriateness of the works in relation to the Tree Preservation Order.

4.3.2 The tree is identified as T1 on the submitted plan and is the easternmost tree out of the three covered by TPO/063. The proposed works would be remedial and would not harm the amenity value of the tree or undermine the purpose of the Tree Preservation Order.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 I am satisfied that the proposed works are reasonable and justified in order to ensure the longer-term management of the tree.

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 That permission be **GRANTED** for the proposed works subject to conditions:

1. The works shall be undertaken only by a competent and suitably qualified arboricultural contractor or tree surgeon as capable of carrying them out to an acceptable standard.

Reason: In order that the works are undertaken by a suitably qualified contractor.

2. The works shall be carried out to conform to British Standard 3998 - Recommendations for Tree Work and in a manner so as to ensure that the natural and aesthetic appearance of the trees are maintained to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to ensure that the works are undertaken to an acceptable standard which will not harm the health of the tree(s).

Signed  Tom Rea	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer	
Date: 4 November 2025	