

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...William Thompson.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
25/01260/TCA	T01: Cherry - Crown lift of lowest branches overhanging the footpath and road along with a light re-shape of crown.	Land At Alms Houses Wratten Road East Hitchin
	T04: Tamarisk - Thin out multi-stems to allow more light into the area. T05: Mulberry - Reshape of the crown and remove dead limbs at top. T06: Hawthorn - Remove largest limb towards the house and lightly prune to rebalance. T07: Apple - Remove the low limbs over the driveway entrance. T08: Silver Birch - Crown lift and re-shape from over the entrance driveway, road and footpath	Hertfordshire SG5 2AS
	T09: Blackthorn - Remove front two minor stems along with crossing limbs at 3-4m to create air within the crown. T10: Forsythia - Light prune of the top growth and re-shape. T13: Willow - Light re-shape of the top of the crown. T14: Hazel - Removal of limbs rubbing on the fence from the neighbours tree. T17: Plum leaf Crabapple - Crown reduction to 4m and prune back largest	

stem

T20: Common Dogwood - Dismantle of tree as severely rubbing on wall. T23: Common Dogwood - Thin out number of stems.

T24: Spindle - Cut back low limbs from rubbing on the wall. T26: Juneberry - Reshape by cutting back the outer stems.

T28: Berberis - Trim back away from the neighbouring lilac and thin.

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plan Tree works

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 None relevant

3.0 Representations

3.1 N/a

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The application site is located on Wratten Road East, Hitchin and is within the Hitchin Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 T01: Cherry - Crown lift of lowest branches overhanging the footpath and road along with a light re-shape of crown. T04: Tamarisk - Thin out multi-stems to allow more light into the area. T05: Mulberry - Reshape of the crown and remove dead limbs at top. T06: Hawthorn - Remove largest limb towards the house and lightly prune to rebalance. T07: Apple - Remove the low limbs over the driveway entrance. T08: Silver Birch - Crown lift and re-shape from over the entrance driveway, road and footpath T09: Blackthorn - Remove front two minor stems along with crossing limbs at 3-4m to create air within the crown. T10: Forsythia - Light prune of the top growth and re-shape. T13: Willow - Light re-shape of the top of the crown. T14: Hazel - Removal of limbs rubbing on the fence from the neighbours tree. T17: Plum leaf Crabapple - Crown reduction to 4m and prune back largest stem T20: Common Dogwood - Dismantle of tree as severely rubbing on wall. T23: Common Dogwood - Thin out number of stems. T24: Spindle - Cut back low limbs from rubbing on the wall. T26: Juneberry - Reshape by cutting back the outer stems. T28: Berberis - Trim back away from the neighbouring lilac and thin.

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 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 trees are identified on the submitted location plan and are located around Almshouses.
- 4.3.3 The trees are visible from the streetscene, so hold amenity value. The works to T20 are to fell as the tree is rubbing on the wall; it would not be considered a worthy enough specimen for a TPO. The remaining works are remedial and are not considered to cause unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
- 4.3.4 Due to the above reasons, I do not consider there a need to issue a Tree Preservation Order.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed work to the trees would not cause such harm to the character and appearance of the Hitchin Conservation Area as to overcome the justification for the work.

5.0 **Recommendation**

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

Signed <i>Andrew Hunter</i> Andrew Hunter	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 3 June 2025	