

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
25/03074/TPO	Walnut - Reduce by 20% across the whole canopy and reduce lower limb to clear of shed.	104 Layston Park Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9DY

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 97/00393/1TPO – Pruning of Walnut tree. Consent Granted.

3.0 **Representations**

- 3.1 N/A

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The Walnut tree lies within Group TPO/007 Urban District of Royston Tree Preservation (No 1) 1970 confirmed on 03/11/1970.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Reduce Walnut tree by 20% across the whole canopy and reduce lower limb to clear of shed.

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 location of the tree, in the rear garden of the property is identified on the submitted plan. It is evident that the Walnut tree is a mature specimen with substantial crown spread with a lower limb that extends over a garden shed. A 20% reduction to the crown is generally considered the maximum reduction to avoid harm to the health of this type of tree. Removal of a section of the lower limb which extends over a garden shed would ensure the majority of this major limb remains.
- 4.3.3 The position of the tree means that there is a degree of public amenity value from its presence within the estate and the contribution it makes towards the Group TPO.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 I consider the proposed works to be reasonable and justified 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).

Informative/s:

1. The optimal time for significant pruning of a Walnut tree is in late summer/early autumn (mid-August to the end of September). Pruning at this time reduces excessive sap flow which can attract pests and diseases. Pruning during the dormant season (late winter/early spring) is also an option, but the sap flow is higher, though the risk of fungal infection may be lower.

Signed  Paul Chaston Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 8 January 2026	