

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
24/01872/TCA	Horse chestnut - Cut back 1 branch overhanging cemetery.	1 Green Lane Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5LW

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 **Relevant Site History**

- 2.1 Various tree works, full details on case file.

3.0 **Representations**

- 3.1 **Ashwell Parish Council** – No objection given they are the applicant.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The application site is located to the east of the cemetery on Green Lane where the part boundary between the property and the cemetery is lined with mature trees.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works: Horse chestnut - Cut back 1 branch overhanging cemetery.

4.3 **Key Issues**

- 4.3.1 The key issues in determining this application are; the amenity value of the tree; the impact of the proposed works on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area; any justification for the proposed works 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 tree is identified on the submitted location plan by a blue circle.
- 4.3.3 The position of the tree means that it has a number of large branches which overhang the cemetery. The branch which is to be cut back is positioned directly over existing graves and its use by wildlife is causing damage to the gravestones. The proposal to cut back the branch would provide some clearance in the cemetery and would prevent continued damage to the gravestones. Whilst the tree is a mature specimen which offers a significant contribution to public amenity value, it is accepted that the branch requires some reduction.
Notwithstanding this, the works to the tree is considered justified in order to maintain its longer-term management and the continued contribution it makes to the character and appearance of the Ashwell Conservation Area. There would appear not to be any

immediate threat to the tree and therefore there is no evidence to suggest further protection is needed by way of a Tree Preservation Order.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed works to the tree would not harm its amenity value to a significant degree. As such, the works would not cause such harm to the character and appearance of the Ashwell Conservation Area as to overcome the justification for the works.

5.0 **Recommendation**

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

- 5.2 Informative added re: Landowners consent prior to undertaking works to the tree.

Informative/s:

1. Please note that if you are planning to undertake works to trees outside of the boundary of your curtilage then you **MUST** obtain the consent of the landowner(s) prior to undertaking any works to the trees. It is advised that any consent be obtained in writing and retained for future reference should any dispute arise between the relevant parties in the future.

Signed  Naomi Reynard	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 26 September 2024	