

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Francis Mabbett.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/00711/TCA	Norway Maple - Pollard reduction works to previous pruning points where appropriate. Reduce the crown by approx 3/4m. Selectively prune back elongated regrowth to suitable secondary growth points. Remove dead, dying, crossing and congested branches to improve crown structure. Retain the existing pollard framework and avoid cutting below established knuckles. Shape and balance the crown to reduce mechanical loading, particularly over adjacent structures and the watercourse.	Land Rear Of 31-32 Bridge Street Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2DF

Submitted Plan Nos

2.0 **Site History**

None relevant.

3.0 **Representations**

None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

Norway Maple (applicant's plan) subject of this application is located to the rear of the property on SE of the site. The tree is barely visible to the public realm. The site is within the Hitchin Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

Norway Maple - Pollard reduction works to previous pruning points where appropriate. Reduce the crown by approx 3/4m. Selectively prune back elongated regrowth to suitable secondary growth points. Remove dead, dying, crossing and congested branches to improve crown structure. Retain the existing pollard framework and avoid cutting below established knuckles. Shape and balance the crown to reduce mechanical loading, particularly over adjacent structures and the watercourse.

4.3 **Key Issues**

The key issue for consideration is the impact that the proposed works would have on the character, appearance and amenity of the Conservation Area.

4.3.1 The tree is barely visible to the public realm.

4.3.2 The Norway Maple is a mature tree located in close proximity to the SE corner of the building. The tree has been pruned previously with good regrowth of up to 2m present indicating normal vigour. The tree's location in a small garden and close to buildings means that without regular pruning it could outgrow its context and become a nuisance. The proposed work will have a negative effect on the amenity of the tree, but this is expected to be short-term and pollarding before regrowth becomes too large minimises the area of dysfunctional wood and is good arboricultural practice.

Conclusion

4.4.1 The proposed works would not result in any unacceptable adverse impact upon the character, appearance and amenity of the Hitchin Conservation Area.

4.5 **Alternative Options**

4.5.1 None applicable

4.6 **Pre-Commencement Conditions**

4.6.1 None applicable

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 No objection.

Signed  Sarah Kasparian	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 16 April 2026	