

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Kayleigh Abery.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/01797/TCA	T1: Ash - Re-pollarded to previous points. T2: Mulberry - Reduce by approx 25-30% to suitable lateral growth points. T3: Apple - Remove dead stem to the lowest fork and remaining canopy reduced to shape. T4: Plum - Reduce height by approx 30%. T5: Plum - Shorten longer limbs to balance the canopy. T6: Greengage - Reduce by approx 30% to suitable growth points. T7-T11: 5 x Beech - Reduce height by approx 40-50%. T12: Apple - Crown thin by approx 25%. T13: Cherry - Remove to ground level.	Old Thatch Ashwell Road Newnham Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5JX

Submitted Plan Nos

1.0 Policies

2.0 Relevant Site History

- 2.1 03/01685/1TCA: Removal of overhanging lateral branches from 1 Ash Tree and crown reduction by approx 30%. Crown reduction of 1 Cherry Tree by 30% and 1 mulberry Tree by 25% and shaping to balance. 28.11.2003 – **No objection**
- 2.2 09/00065/1TCA: Crown reduce one Ash tree by approximately 25%. 02.03.2009 – **No objection**
- 2.3 21/03479/TCA: T1 Ash - Pollard back to previous pruning points. T2 Mulberry - Crown reduce by approximately 30%. T3 Cherry - Crown reduce by approximately 25%. T4 Apple - Fell. 24.01.2022 – **No objection**

3.0 Representations

3.1 N/A

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 The site is located at Old Thatch, Ashwell Road, Newnham and is with the Newnham Conservation Area. There is one tree located in the front garden in the public realm and the remaining trees are within the rear garden that may be overlooked by neighbouring properties. There are multiple trees in the vicinity varying in size.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:

T1: Ash - Re-pollarded to previous points.

T2: Mulberry - Reduce by approx 25-30% to suitable lateral growth points.

T3: Apple - Remove dead stem to the lowest fork and remaining canopy reduced to shape.

T4: Plum - Reduce height by approx 30%.

T5: Plum - Shorten longer limbs to balance the canopy.

T6: Greengage - Reduce by approx 30% to suitable growth points.

T7-T11: 5 x Beech - Reduce height by approx 40-50%.

T12: Apple - Crown thin by approx 25%.

T13: Cherry - Remove to ground level.

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.

4.3.3 The proposal enables remedial works to be undertaken to trees T1-T12, which are considered reasonable and would help secure their longer-term management and retain the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. T3 requires a hard cut back to remove decay and prevent further spreading.

The proposal seeks to fell T13 (Cherry) to the ground. This tree is located in the front garden and is within the public realm; the Cherry is of close proximity to the thatched roof, which raises concern for potential impact to the roof from the branches making contact and pests accessing the thatch. The tree is young and is not considered to

make a significant contribution to the local amenity, it is therefore not expedient to seek Tree Preservation Orders for the tree, and the felling is deemed acceptable

- 4.3.4 There is no threat to the trees, with the exception of T13, therefore I do not consider a Tree Preservation Order to be appropriate in this instance.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed works would not result in the loss of trees T1-T12 and the felling of T13 would not cause unacceptable harm to the visual amenity of the Newnham Conservation Area. It is therefore considered that the works would not result in any unacceptable harm to the amenity value of the trees, nor to the character and appearance of the Newnham Conservation Area that would outweigh the justification for the works.

5.0 **Recommendation**

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

Signed  Melissa Tyler Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
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Date: 21 August 2026	
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