

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Henry Thomas.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/00138/TPO	G1: Conifer hedge - Reduce height by 4m and trim sides. T1: Hornbeam - Crown reduce by 3m (approx. 30%). T2: Lime - Reduce the height by approx 1.5m below the previous pruning level. T4, T5: Lime - Reduce the height by approx 1.5m below the previous pruning level. T3: Lime - Fell and remove stump.	12 Palace Gardens Royston Hertfordshire SG8 5AD

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plans Photos

1.0 Policies

2.0 **Site History**

- 2.1 21/03112/TPO - T1 Lime - Reduce height 3m lower than previous pollard cuts. T2 Lime - Reduce back to previous pollard cuts; T3 Lime - Reduce height 3m lower than previous pollard cuts. T4 Lime - Reduce height 3m lower than previous pollard cuts. T5 Sycamore x2 - Reduce by 2.5m (as amended by email of 1 December 2021).

3.0 **Representations**

- 3.1 N/A.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The site consists of a detached dwelling on the north side of Palace Gardens within a residential part of Royston. The site is covered by the Royston Conservation Area and group TPO/025.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 G1: Conifer hedge - Reduce height by 4m and trim sides.
T1: Hornbeam - Crown reduce by 3m (approx. 30%).
T2: Lime - Reduce the height by approx 1.5m below the previous pruning level.
T4, T5: Lime - Reduce the height by approx 1.5m below the previous pruning level.
T3: Lime – Fell and remove stump.

4.3 **Key Issues**

- 4.3.1 The issues associated with this proposal centre upon the appropriateness of the works given that the tree is protected by a Tree Protection Order.
- The trees are located in the front and rear garden and have some visibility from the public realm (Palace Gardens and Mallard Road).
 - The proposed works to the trees excluding T3 are remedial and would not harm the significance or the health of the trees. The proposed scale of the works would be appropriate in maintaining the trees.
 - The application form states that T3 has outgrown its position within a residential garden causing loss of sunlight and harm to soil. In my view, given its proximity to the dwelling I am minded to agree with the agent that a crown reduction may no longer be viable as a management solution.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 In this instance, due to the above I find no objection to the works that have been proposed here.

4.5 **Alternative Options**

4.5.1 None.

4.6 **Pre-Commencement Conditions**

4.6.1 None applicable.

5.0 **Recommendation**

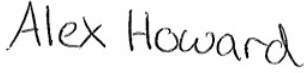
5.1 That consent be **GRANTED** subject to the following conditions:

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).

Signed  Alex Howard Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 11 February 2026	