

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/00506/TPO	T1: Yew - Crown reduction by up to 2-2.5m in height and lateral spread to suitable growth points, maintaining natural form.	37 Walnut Avenue
		Baldock
		Hertfordshire
	Crown thinning by up to 15-20% to reduce density. Selective removal of lower branches where appropriate.	SG7 6BU
	T2: Yew - Crown reduction by up to 2-3m in height and lateral spread to suitable growth points, maintaining natural form.	
	Crown thinning by up to 15-20% to reduce density. Selective removal of lower branches where appropriate.	

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plan Photos

1.0 Policies

2.0 Site History

Various tree works applications at the site. Most relevant 15/02027/1TPO.

3.0 Representations

None

4.0 Planning Considerations

4.1 Site and Surroundings

T1-T2 Yew (applicant's plan) subject of this application are located in the side garden to the south of the property. The trees are visible to the public realm and neighbouring properties. The site is not within a Conservation Area, but the trees are T8-T9 of TPO/101.

4.2 Proposal & Reason

T1: Yew - Crown reduction by up to 2-2.5m in height and lateral spread to suitable growth points, maintaining natural form.

Crown thinning by up to 15-20% to reduce density. Selective removal of lower branches where appropriate.

T2: Yew - Crown reduction by up to 2-3m in height and lateral spread to suitable growth points, maintaining natural form.

Crown thinning by up to 15-20% to reduce density. Selective removal of lower branches where appropriate.

To Maintain the tree at an appropriate scale in relation to the house • Improve light levels to the dwelling • Reduce seasonal pollen and shading impact • Retain the tree's amenity value and natural form

4.3 Key Issues

The key issue for consideration is whether the reason provided justifies proposed works and the appropriateness of these given that the tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

- 4.3.1 Both trees appeared to be in fair condition with good regrowth present and offering good amenity value to the surroundings. T1 is located very close to the property with the crown almost in contact with the building and both trees now occupy a significant area of the garden. The proposed works will have a negative impact on the amenity of the trees, but will mitigate the potential direct damage caused by branches coming into contact with the building and would also reduce shading of the property and garden. The reductions to the Yew trees are considered to be reasonable given their location and previous consented works. The works are unlikely to be detrimental to the health of the trees as Yew has a high resistance to decay. The trees should respond well to pruning and the impact on the amenity should be short-term.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed works does not exceed previous consented works and refusal would be hard to justify.

4.5 **Alternative Options**

- 4.5.1 None applicable

4.6 **Pre-Commencement Conditions**

- 4.6.1 None applicable

5.0 **Recommendation**

- 5.1 That planning permission be **GRANTED** subject to the following conditions:-

1. 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).

2. 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.

Signed  Paul Chaston Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 10 April 2026	