

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/02302/TCA	T1: Spruce - Remove to ground level and grind.	The Old Rectory Hodwell Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5QQ

Submitted Plan Nos

1.0 Policies

2.0 Relevant Site History

- 2.1 93/01333/1TCA: Crown reduction by approximately 20% and removal of dead wood and weak limbs. 06.12.1993 – **No objection**
- 2.2 06/01803/1TCA: Remove 1 Horse Chestnut tree; remove one Lawson Cypress tree; remove one Purple Plum tree; remove group of Lawson Cypress trees; prune one Horse Chestnut tree to clear 5m over the road and remove dead wood; remove lower branch to one Sycamore tree; reduce height of one Damson tree to 4 metres. 04.10.2006 – **No objection**
- 2.3 12/02152/1TCA: Remove two Sycamore Trees (T1 and T2 on plan). Crown reduce Elm Tree by 25% (T3 on plan). Raise crown of Lime Tree to 5 metres and dead wood (T4 on plan). Raise crown of one Sycamore Tree to 3 metres (T5 on plan). 25.10.2012 – **No objection**
- 2.4 14/01511/1TCA: Pollard Lime tree (T1) back to original pollard points, fell Beech tree (T2), reduce Sycamore tree (T3) by 30% and fell Ash tree (T4). 24.07.2014 – **No objection**
- 2.5 15/00551/1TCA: Pollard to approximately 10meters 1 Lime Tree. 09.03.2015 – **No objection**

- 2.6 17/04029/TCA: T1 Elm - Fell to ground level, T2 Cedar - Reduce lateral branches by up to 4m, T3 Sycamore - Lift up to 3.5m. 21.12.2017 – **No objection**
- 2.7 20/01279/TCA: T1 Sycamore - Crown lift to approx 2.5m. Reduce larger limbs back by 2-3m. T2 Fir - Fell to ground level. T3 Cedar - Reduce to improve appearance. T4 Lime - Crown lift to 3m. 27.07.2020 – **No objection**
- 2.8 23/02785/TCA: T2. Lime - Reduce up to 4m shape and balance cutting to viable growth and remove deadwood. T3. Beech - Reduce up to 4m shape and balance cutting to viable growth. T4. Lime - Re-pollard back to historical points. T5. Prunus – Fell. 14.12.2023 – **No objection**
- 2.9 24/02144/TCA: T1: Horse Chestnut - Crown reduce by 2m. 3m reduction on Southern side. T2: Sycamore - Crown lift by 2m and reduce lower canopy by 2m. T3: Lime - Repollard and reshape canopy structure. No growth to be left on and reshape unbalanced knuckles. T4: Group Plum - Reduce in height by 2m to suitable growth points. 22.10.2024 – **No objection**

3.0 **Representations**

- 3.1 Ashwell Parish Council have been consulted but due to the decline of the tree I am considering this application within the consultation timeframe.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The Spruce is located in the rear garden of The Old Rectory and is within the Ashwell Conservation Area. The tree is a reasonable height but is failing to thrive and has various issues including fungus at the base and significantly reduced needle growth. The tree is not particularly visible to the public realm due to its location. The site has a reasonable quantity of trees with the wider area well populated by a variety of species.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:

T1: Spruce - Remove to ground level and grind.

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 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 tree is identified on the submitted location plan.
- 4.3.3 The proposal, made reluctantly after a survey identified the tree is beyond the scope of saving, allows the felling of the Spruce which is rapidly declining. Whilst there will be an impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area with the loss of this tree, its retention is no longer feasible.
- 4.3.4 There is a loss of the tree due to its felling, however, I do not consider a Tree Preservation Order to be appropriate.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed works would result in the loss of the tree. However, taking into account the information available, the works, whilst causing impact to the amenity value and the character and appearance of the Ashwell Conservation Area, are justified on this occasion.

5.0 **Recommendation**

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

Signed  Naomi Reynard	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 25 September 2026	