

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Vicki Wood.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
24/02065/TCA	T15: Plum - Remove dead stem. T21: Ash - Remove. T36: Ash - Reduce crown by 5 - 6m. T46, T47: Ash - Remove deadwood.	Ashwell Springs Springhead Ashwell Hertfordshire SG7 5LL

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plan

1.0 **Planning Practice Guidance**

1.1 Tree Preservation Orders and Trees in Conservation Areas 2014

1.2 Hertfordshire County Council Tree and Woodland Strategy 2022–2030

1.3 North Hertfordshire Council Tree Strategy 2017

2.0 **Relevant Site History**

2.1 Various applications, full case history on file.

3.0 **Representations**

3.1 **Ashwell Parish Council** – None received as Ashwell Parish Council is the applicant.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 The application site consists of a series of freshwater springs surrounded by woodland. Access to the Springs is from the High Street with numerous footpaths leading through the land. The site is a SSSI and is within the Ashwell Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works: T15: Plum - Remove dead stem. T21: Ash - Remove. T36: Ash - Reduce crown by 5 - 6m. T46, T47: Ash - Remove deadwood.

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 by number on the submitted location plan.

4.3.3 T15 lies to the northern section of the site within the wooded area and comprises of a dead Plum stem, its removal is acceptable. T21 is an Ash tree which is located close to the boundary with the highway to the eastern side of the site and is showing significant signs of Ash dieback hence its proposed removal, is acceptable. T36 is deep within the site and in close proximity to the Spring and would benefit from a crown reduction. Whilst a reduction of 5-6m seems excessive, a visual assessment on behalf of the applicant indicates that the tree has some decay to the trunk and in order to try and prevent felling such a reduction appears justified in this case. The remaining trees, T46 and T47 both Ash would be to remove deadwood which is acceptable.

4.3.4 All of the trees are mature and important in terms of public amenity value. Notwithstanding this, the works to fell trees T15 and T21 is considered justified. The proposed works to T36, T46 and T47 are also justified in order to maintain their longer-

term management and continued contribution to the character and appearance of the Ashwell Conservation Area. There would appear not to be any immediate threat to the remaining trees and therefore there is no evidence to suggest further protection is needed by way of a Tree Preservation Order.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed works would not cause such harm to the character and appearance of the Ashwell Conservation Area as to overcome the justification for the work.

5.0 **Recommendation**

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

Informative/s:

1. In an effort to combat climate change, North Hertfordshire Council advises that two native trees be planted within the grounds of Ashwell Springs following removal of the Plum and Ash trees. Please make sure you are familiar with the planting season which runs from 1st November until 31st March, this will give the trees the best chance of survival.

Signed  Tom Rea	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 14 October 2024	