

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

**APPLICATION
REFERENCE**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
DEVELOPMENT**

APPLICATION SITE

24/02351/TCA

Sycamore - Fell to ground level and eco
plug

Land Rear 102
Ridge Road
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire

Submitted Plan Nos

Tree report

1.0 Policies

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**

14/02821/1TCA - General woodland tree maintenance works to varied mixed woodland species of trees comprising removing self-sets, crown reductions and thinning, cutting back of crowns especially of trees located on the boundaries and other works as required. No objection.

10/00247/1TCA - Crown clean three Sycamore Trees and one Corsican Pine Tree. No objection.

3.0 **Representations**

- 3.1 N/A as LGCHF are the applicant.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The site where the tree works are proposed comprises of a tree belt located in part, to the rear of no.102 Ridge Road and is within the Letchworth Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:

Sycamore - Fell to ground level and eco plug.

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 as number 0812 on the submitted site plan and the application is accompanied by a Tree Report dated 18th October 2024.
- 4.3.3 The Tree Report provides evidence to show that the tree has a wet cavity to its trunk and although there is no significant change to its physical and structural condition since a previous inspection in 2023, the tree is stated to be 9m in height and within relatively

close proximity to property should it fail. The Tree Report contains a photograph of the tree, and although the wider group has significant amenity value, the tree subject to this application is not of significant visual quality or in such good health as to warrant further protection by way of a Tree Preservation Order and it is on this basis I can see no reason to prevent felling.

4.4 **Conclusion**

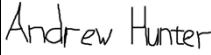
- 4.4.1 The proposed felling of tree 0812 would not harm the wider amenity value of this group of trees to a significant degree. As such, the work would not cause such harm to the character and appearance of the Letchworth Conservation Area as to overcome the justification for the work.

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 a native tree be planted within close proximity to the Sycamore tree (0812) following its removal. Please make sure you are familiar with the planting season which runs from 1st November until 31st March, this will give the tree the best chance of survival.

Signed  Andrew Hunter	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 23 October 2024	