

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
25/03092/TCA	G1: 9x Sycamore - Fell to ground level. Fell all the smaller trees/shrubs beneath for access and allow them to regenerate. Elderberry - Remove. G2: Sycamores - Fell and eco plug.	Ashwell Springs Springhead Ashwell Hertfordshire SG7 5LL

Submitted Plan Nos

1.0 Policies

2.0 **Site History**

None relevant.

3.0 **Representations**

None

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

The Sycamores subject of this application are located within boundaries of the site known as Ashwell springs with the G1 (applicant's plan) located to the north of the site and G2 to the south. The site is within the Ashwell Conservation Area. The trees are partly visible to the public realm and surrounding properties.

4.2 **Proposal**

G1. Fell to ground level the 9 multi-stem sycamores in this area and eco plug. We will fell all the smaller trees/shrubs beneath for access and allow them to regenerate. We will also need to remove the Elderberry behind the gate so we can enter with vehicles to remove all debris. G2. Fell and eco plug all, self-set Sycamores in the area adjacent to the steps on the bank in front of the springs.

4.3 **Key Issues**

The key issue for consideration is the impact that the proposed works would have on the character, appearance and amenity of the Conservation Area.

4.3.1 The trees are visible to the public realm.

4.3.2 G1 a group of mature and semi mature self-set trees of reasonable height. Some trees are co-dominant or multi-stemmed and many show signs of having ivy growing up them which has been severed. Some trees also appear to have had previous crown reduction works carried out. The trees provide moderate amenity but are a non-native species and add little in the way of biodiversity to the SSSI. Their removal will have a negative impact

on the amenity of the immediate area but there is sufficient other tree cover in the area to minimise this.

- 4.3.3 G2 further smaller self-set Sycamore saplings contribute limited amenity to the area and their removal is also acceptable.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed works would not result in any unacceptable adverse impact upon the character, appearance and amenity of the Ashwell Conservation Area.

4.5 **Alternative Options**

- 4.5.1 None applicable

4.6 **Pre-Commencement Conditions**

- 4.6.1 None applicable

5.0 **Recommendation**

- 5.1 No objection.

Signed  Anne McDonald	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 23 December 2025	