

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/00332/TCA	3x Silver Birch - Heavy pruning by approx 25%	Heathcote High Street Hinxworth Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5HQ

Submitted Plan Nos

1.0 Policies

2.0 Site History

89/01761/1TCA, 01/00333/1TCA, 10/00265/1TCA, 16/02636/1TCA, 19/00835/TCA,

3.0 Representations

None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

3x Silver Birch (applicant's plan) subject of this application are located in the front garden of the property on the East boundary. The trees are highly visible to the public realm and surrounding properties. The site is within the Hinxworth Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

3x Silver Birch - Heavy pruning by approx 25%

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 The 3x Birch are mature trees and have been subjected to crown reductions of various degrees over the years. Birch generally have a poor ability to form barriers against decay and there is evidence of this in these trees as a result of the previous tree surgery works. The present regrowth that has grown since the previous pruning works is good indicating the trees still have reasonable vigour. The regrowth is now of a size where there is potential for branches to fail as they have grown from already decayed points and as they increase in the weight and length an increased leverage is applied to these weak attachments. The proposed works will have a negative impact on these trees, but will reduce the potential of limb failure and is necessary to ensure the trees retention.

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 Hinxworth 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  Naomi Reynard	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 27 February 2026	