

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/01124/TCA	T1: Silver Birch - Remove left hand limb, reduce by 33% and crown lift over neighbours.	35a High Street Whitwell Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8AJ

Submitted Plan Nos

1.0 Policies

2.0 **Site History**

14/00118/1TCA - Reduce 1 Laburnum tree by 15% (T1), reduce and reshape 1 Silver Birch tree by 30% (T2) – No objection

18/00848/TCA - 9 x Leylandii – Remove - No objection

3.0 **Representations**

None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site**

T1 Silver Birch (applicant's plan) is located in the rear garden of the site on the NW boundary close to the SW corner of the property. The tree is partly visible to the public realm and is visible to neighbouring properties. The site is within the Whitwell Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

T1: Silver Birch - Remove left hand limb, reduce by 33% and crown lift over neighbours.

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 tree is partly visible to the public realm.

4.3.2 The Birch is mature twin stemmed (co-dominant) tree setback from the main road in the rear garden, but is partly visible between properties. Birch generally have an exceptionally poor ability to form barriers against development of dysfunction and decay in the xylem and pruning wounds should ideally not exceed 40mm. Silver birch are relatively short lived and although the works could potentially be detrimental to the health of the tree, they are unlikely to significantly affect the amenity of the surrounding area.

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 Whitwell Conservation Area.

4.5 **Alternative Options**

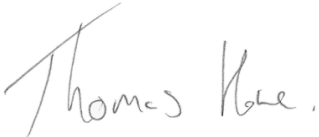
4.5.1 None applicable

4.6 **Pre-Commencement Conditions**

4.6.1 None applicable

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 No objection.

Signed  Thomas Howe	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 22 May 2026	