

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Henry Thomas.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
24/02896/TCA	T1, T2: Silver Birch - Fell to ground level.	The Wolery The Close Hinxworth Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5HS

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plan Photo

1.0 Policies

2.0 **Site History**

- 2.1 16/00694/1TCA - Reduce by 20% 2 Silver Birch Trees (T1 & T2), Fell 1 Conifer Tree (T3)
- 2.2 24/00943/TCA - 2x Silver Birch - Crown reduction of up to 2m to suitable growth points. Crown lift to 5m. A total of 25% Crown Reduction & lift.

3.0 **Representations**

- 3.1 None.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The site is a detached two storey dwelling on the north side of the Hinxworth High Street. The site is within the Hinxworth Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 T1, T2: Silver Birch - Fell to ground level.

4.3 **Key Issues**

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

- ☐ The trees are located to the front of the property and are highly visible from the public realm.
- ☐ The agent has provided the following justification in the application form:

"Tree(s) seem to be in acceptable health in general, previous pruning points have began to decay leaving top of canopy growing on weaker points. Due to previous pruning, branches have over extended limbs with large gaps with no suitable growth points. Which

would suggest a crown reduction would be 4metres in some places, which would include large pruning wounds. Trees are mature and towards end of life span, which asks the question how will these trees respond? Will they die back and cause large amounts of deadwood in canopy over 3 drive ways and road. Client wishes to remove instead of have heavy pruning. Client happy to plant suitable native tree in return."

- ☐ In my view, the trees are large in size and make a moderate contribution to the Conservation Area and the visual amenity of the street scene. In my view, although the loss of the trees would have a noticeable impact on the street scene, I am minded to agree with the agent justification, given the irregular growth pattern and overextension from pruning points, I consider that the trees would be unlikely to respond positively to a heavy prune. If the council were to object to an application for tree works, we would have to consider whether the trees are suitable for a Tree

Preservation Order. In my view, I am minded to agree with the agent in that the trees would not have the longevity required to be suitable for the further protection granted by a Tree Preservation Order.

- ☐ I welcome the client to replant a suitable native tree in return. However, this is something that cannot be conditioned under a section 211 notice.

4.4 **Conclusion**

The proposed works would not result in any unacceptable adverse impact upon the character and appearance 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  Ben Glover	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 14 January 2025	