

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
25/02258/TCA	Scots Pine - Fell. Privet bush - Two stems to be clear felled.	Church Of St Mary Magdalene Church Lane Barkway Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8EJ

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plan

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**

2.1 Full history on case file.

3.0 **Representations**

3.1 N/A

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 Church Lane is accessed from the High Street and the church is sited to the north side of Church Lane and is within the Barkway Conservation Area.

4.1.2 The Scots Pine is located to the northeast of the church and the Privet bush is located to the northwest side of the church.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:

- Scots Pine – Fell.
- Privet bush – Two stems to be clear felled.

4.3 **Key Issues**

4.3.1 The key issues in determining this application are; the amenity value of the trees; 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 trees are identified on the submitted plan and photographs have been provided in support of the application.

4.3.3 The Scots Pine is a large, mature specimen which displays signs of being dead. The Privet hedge has a clear split where both branches would benefit from being removed. The loss of the Scots Pine would have an impact on the churchyard and the general setting of the church, however, there are a number of mature trees in the same vicinity

which would minimise the impact of its loss. Given the condition of the Scots Pine, it would not be appropriate to consider a Tree Preservation Order.

4.4 **Conclusion**

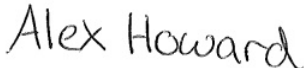
- 4.4.1 I am satisfied that the proposed works would not result in any unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the Barkway Conservation Area

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 the churchyard following removal of the Scots Pine tree. 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  Alex Howard Determining Officer Date: 12 September 2025	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF