

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/00780/TCA	T1, G1: Lilac, T2 Spruce, T5, T7: Apple, T6: Sycamore - Fell. T3: Sorbus - Reduce height by up to 5m, lateral reduction of up to 3m (1.5m each side) and lift canopy to achieve up to a 3m clearance from the ground. T4: Holly - Reduce height by up to 3m, lateral reduction of up to 2m (1m each side) and lift canopy to achieve up to 3m clearance from the ground.	17 Hodwell Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5QQ

Submitted Plan Nos

1.0 Policies

2.0 Site History

07/02397/1TCA- Reduce overhanging branches to Sycamore and Ash trees by approx 15% to 20% - No objection

21/02287/TCA - T1 Sycamore - Crown reduce by up to 3m back to good viable growth points. T2 Ash - Reduce the limb with cavity at 13m back to a suitable growth point. Approx 4m to be removed. T3 Sycamore - Crown reduce by up to 3m back to good viable growth points. - No objection

24/00463/TCA - T376 Lime - Remove the branches back to the trunk from floor level, up until the height of the neighbouring cottage. - No objection

24/01726/TCA - T1. Sycamore - Cut back to boundary of property fence line to suitable growth and collar cuts. Approx 1-2m. T2. Ash - Cut back to boundary of property fence line to suitable growth points and correct collar cuts. Remove dead wood over Hodwell Barn. Approx 1-2m.

T3. Sycamore - Cut back to boundary of property fence line. To suitable growth points. - No objection

24/02798/5DN - Sycamore and Ash - Remove- No objection

3.0 **Representations**

None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

T1, G1: Lilac, T2 Spruce, T5, T7: Apple, T6: Sycamore, T3: Sorbus, T4: Holly (applicant's plan) subject of this application are located in the garden to the North and West of the property. The trees are visible to the public realm. The site is within the Ashwell Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

T1, G1: Lilac, T2 Spruce, T5, T7: Apple, T6: Sycamore - Fell. T3: Sorbus - Reduce height by up to 5m, lateral reduction of up to 3m (1.5m each side) and lift canopy to achieve up to a 3m clearance from the ground. T4: Holly - Reduce height by up to 3m, lateral reduction of up to 2m (1m each side) and lift canopy to achieve up to 3m clearance from the ground.

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 T1, G1 Lilac, T2 Spruce and T5 Apple are small trees of little significance and make minimal amenity contribution to the area. The proposed works to these trees will have a low impact and are acceptable. T3 Sorbus is a multi-stemmed tree that has grown with poor form and a reduction by 5m, although regarded as heavy, may serve to improve the shape of the tree. The works proposed to T4 Holly will again aid in shaping the tree, Holly has a highly dense heartwood that is reasonably resistant to decay and usually responds well to pruning works. T4 Sycamore is a semi-mature – mature tree situated in a prominent position. It is twin stemmed from approx. 4m and exhibits a tight union at this point. The tree has been cut back to the boundary on the East side and minor deadwood is visible throughout the crown. The tree's physical imperfections and unbalanced crown from past management are considered to negatively impact its amenity value and it does not merit protection by a Tree Preservations Order (TPO).

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  Naomi Reynard	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 30 April 2026	