

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...William Thompson.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
25/02020/TPO	Conifer Hedge - Remove. Birch, Cypress - Fell. 2x Yew - Up to a 30% reduction. Laurel Hedge, Laurel - Up to 1m reduction.	9 Ransom Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9AX

Submitted Plan Nos

Photos Location plan

1.0 Policies

2.0 **Site History**

2.1 None relevant

3.0 **Representations**

3.1 N/a

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 The trees subject to the application are located in the rear garden of 9 Ransom Close, Hitchin. This group TPO extends to a variety of trees in the area. TPO number TPO/001.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 Conifer Hedge - Remove. Birch, Cypress - Fell. 2x Yew - Up to a 30% reduction. Laurel Hedge, Laurel - Up to 1m reduction.

4.3 **Key Issues**

4.3.1 The key issues relevant to this proposal are the appropriateness of the works given that the trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

4.3.2 The proposed works are to fell the Birch and Cypress trees, remove the Conifer Hedge and remedial works to the Yew tree, Laurel hedge and Laurel.

4.3.3 The proposed works are considered acceptable because the Birch and Cypress trees are dead, the removal of the Conifer hedge would expose the Laurel hedge behind and the remaining works are remedial.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposed works are acceptable.

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 **NO OBJECTION** to the proposed works.

1. The works shall be undertaken only by a competent and suitably qualified arboricultural contractor or tree surgeon as capable of carrying them out to an acceptable standard.

Reason: In order that the works are undertaken by a suitably qualified contractor.

2. The works shall be carried out to conform to British Standard 3998 - Recommendations for Tree Work and in a manner so as to ensure that the natural and aesthetic appearance of the trees are maintained to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to ensure that the works are undertaken to an acceptable standard which will not harm the health of the tree(s).

Informative/s:

1. The season for nesting birds is 1st March to 31st August, please ensure between these dates the trees are checked for any nests or other wildlife prior to undertaking the works. Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence, within certain exceptions, to: intentionally destroy a wild bird's nest while it is being used or built. There are other exemptions, this one being the most likely situation relevant to this case. For further details please refer to the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wild-birds-protection-surveys-and-licences>

2. You are also advised that where tree works are to be undertaken it is the legal responsibility of the contractor to check for bats. If bats are found during the course of any work to trees where not previously anticipated, then works should immediately stop and Natural England notified for appropriate advice. For further details please refer to the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bats-protection-surveys-and-licences>

Signed  Paul Chaston Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 28 August 2025	