

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
25/02151/TCA	T1: Nordmann Fir - Remove to ground level.	105 High Street Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5NT

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plan Photo

1.0 Policies

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 Ashwell Parish Council – None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The site lies on the south side of the High Street and is within the Ashwell Conservation Area.
- 4.1.2 The tree is positioned in the rear garden of the property and within close proximity to the party boundary with the neighbouring property to the west no.109 High Street.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:
 - T1 Nordmann Fir – Remove to ground level.

4.3 **Key Issues**

- 4.3.1 The key issues in determining this application is the amenity value of the tree; 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 tree is identified on the submitted plan, and the application is accompanied by a photograph of the tree.
- 4.3.3 The submitted photograph shows part of the upper section of the canopy to be absent of foliage. However, absence of foliage does not always indicate that a tree is dead or dying and in the case of a Nordmann Fir there are numerous reasons for a brown top section to appear on a tree. No further evidence has been submitted to show that the tree is dead or dying. That aside, the tree is located in the rear garden of the property where its amenity value is limited. In my view there is no reasonable and justified

reason to prevent felling, and the tree would not warrant further protection by way of a Tree Preservation Order.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The loss of the tree would not result in any unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the Ashwell 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 rear garden of the property following removal of the Nordmann Fir. 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  Naomi Reynard	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 24 September 2025	