

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
25/03222/TCA	T1: Walnut - Crown reduce by 30% (approx. 2.5M). T2: Purple plum - Crown reduce by 30% (approx. 2.5M). T3: Cherry - Fell to ground level. T4: Weeping Willow - Create new pollard at 50%.	Langham Church Lane Barkway Hertfordshire SG8 8EJ

Submitted Plan Nos

1.0 Policies

2.0 **Site History**

None relevant.

3.0 **Representations**

None

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

T1 Walnut, T2 Purple Plum and T3 Cherry are located along the East side of the entrance driveway to the property. T4 Willow (applicants plan) is located in the garden near the centre of the site. The site is within the Barkway Conservation Area. The trees are not highly visible to the public realm or surrounding properties.

4.2 **Proposal**

T1: Walnut - Crown reduce by 30% (approx. 2.5M). T2: Purple plum - Crown reduce by 30% (approx. 2.5M). T3: Cherry - Fell to ground level. T4: Weeping Willow - Create new pollard at 50%.

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 trees are not highly visible to the public realm.

4.3.2 T1 Walnut and T2 Purple Plum are medium sized trees with spreading unruly crowns. The trees are close to the boundary hedge and overhang the driveway, neither has particularly good form. The proposed works will aid in reshaping these trees as well as allowing more light to the area and should have minimal impact on the amenity of the surroundings.

4.3.3 T3 Cherry is dead and should be removed.

4.3.4 T4 is a large Weeping Willow located on the edge of a pond. The tree leans to the NW with mounding present at the base on the SE side suggesting past movement of the root plate. Significant weight is present in NW side of the crown which naturally overextends in this direction increasing the 'Lever arm' effect considerably. A large amount of weight needs to be removed on this side of the crown to mitigate risk of windthrow, and although 50% appears excessive and detrimental to the health of the tree, any heavy reduction would result in large cross sections of dysfunctional wood and is therefore necessary in order to retain this tree.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposed works would not result in any unacceptable adverse impact upon the character, appearance and amenity of the Barkway 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 January 2026	