

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/02306/TCA	T001: Multi Stemmed Ash - Fell to ground level. T002: Ash - Pollard stem.	Land North Of Mount House The Mount Barley Hertfordshire SG8 8JH

Submitted Plan Nos

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 None.

3.0 **Representations**

3.1 N/A

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 The site is located northwest of The Mount and north of Stock Lane and is within the Barley Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:

- ☐ T001: Multi stemmed Ash – Fell to ground level
- ☐ T002: Ash – Pollard stem

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 of the trees have been provided in support of the application.

4.3.3 The application states that the felling of T001 is required due to the presence of fungal decay and canker throughout the tree, and that T002 should be pollarded to an appropriate extent due to the presence of fungal decay and symptoms associated with Ash Dieback. Whilst the loss of T001 appears unavoidable, the pollarding of T002 represents a reasonable management approach which seeks to mitigate risk whilst retaining the tree and its associated amenity value in the longer-term.

4.3.4 The trees form part of the boundary where the Conservation Area adjoins an agricultural field to the north where the trees present a degree of visual amenity. As a result, the trees are considered to have some amenity value in terms of their contribution to the character and appearance of the area.

4.3.5 Given the condition of the trees, I do not consider a Tree Preservation Order to be appropriate.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposed works are considered reasonable and justified and would not cause such harm to the character and appearance of the Barley Conservation Area as to outweigh the justification for the proposed works.

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 **NO OBJECTION** to the proposed work subject to Informative advising of re-planting following the loss of T001 Ash tree.

Informative/s:

1. In an effort to combat climate change, North Hertfordshire Council advises that a native tree be planted within the same area following removal of T001 Ash 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  Paul Chaston Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 29 September 2026	