

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/02414/TCA	T001: Ash - Reduced to a standing monolith of approx 5m.	Smith End Farm Smiths End Lane Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8LL

Submitted Plan Nos

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 N/A

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The site is located on the east side of Smiths End Land and to the rear of Smith End Farm and is within the Barley Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:

- T001 Ash – Reduced to a standing monolith of approximately 5 metres.

4.3 **Key Issues**

- 4.3.1 The key issues in determining this application are 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 an Arboricultural Appraisal (AA) undertaken by EverTree with an inspection date of 25th September 2026.
- 4.3.3 The AA confirms that the Ash tree is a mature three-stemmed specimen of approximately 11 metres in height. Based on this, and the angle of the highway on the approach to Smith End Farm from a northerly direction, the tree offers a degree of amenity value. However, the condition of the tree as set out in the AA, confirms that the tree is in significant health decline resulting in significant structural deterioration. Should the tree fail, it is within close proximity to a number of buildings which are listed.

4.3.5 The condition of the tree means it would not be appropriate to serve a Tree Preservation Order.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 Whilst there would be some harm to the Barley Conservation Area as a result of the proposed works, the AA confirms that such works are deemed necessary.

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 **GRANTED**

Informative/s:

1. In an effort to combat climate change, North Hertfordshire Council advises that a native tree be planted within close proximity to the Ash tree following the proposed works. 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	