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| <b>DELEGATED FILE NOTE</b> |
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**CASE OFFICER:** ...Francis Mabbett.....

| <b>APPLICATION<br/>REFERENCE</b> | <b>BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF<br/>DEVELOPMENT</b>                                                                                            | <b>APPLICATION SITE</b>                                             |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 26/02132/TCA                     | T1: Willow: Re-pollard back to previous pollard points. T2: Willow: Re-pollard back to previous pollard points. Sever ivy at the base. | 4 Walnut Tree Road<br>Pirton<br>Hitchin<br>Hertfordshire<br>SG5 3PX |

**Submitted Plan Nos**

**1.0    Policies**

## 2.0 **Site History**

Various tree works at the site the most recent:

18/03022/TCA - T1 Willow - Pollard ·& reduce by 2m. T2 Willow - Re-pollard - No objection

21/00880/TCA- T1 Willow - Reduce by approx 50%- No objection

## 3.0 **Representations**

None received.

## 4.0 **Planning Considerations**

### 4.1 **Site**

2x Willows (applicant's plan) are located to the North and South of the entrance driveway to the garage block at the front of the property. The trees are highly visible to general public and to neighbouring properties. The site is within the Pirton Conservation Area.

### 4.2 **Proposal**

T1: Willow: Re-pollard back to previous pollard points. T2: Willow: Re-pollard back to previous pollard points. Sever ivy at the base.

### 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 visible to the public realm.

4.3.2 The Weeping Willows are mature and appear to have been managed as pollards for some time. They are highly visible from the High Street and Walnut Road. One tree is located appropriately at the edge of the pond and both trees contribute to the natural village setting.

4.3.3 Re-growth from previous pollarding operations is extensive showing the tree has good vigour and has coped well with previous works as is normally expected with this species. This regrowth is now of a size that pollarding is an appropriate course of action, as larger stems are prone to failure, which could result in irreversible damage to the bole of the trees and pose significant risk to public and property.

4.3.4 The works will have short-term negative impact on the amenity of the trees, but cyclical pollarding of this species, which has considerable ability to regenerate new shoots, minimises the size of dysfunctional wood resulting from delayed pruning operations and is in-line with previous management. Regular pollarding often increases the life expectancy of trees as their reduced size makes them less prone to storm damage and is a good arboricultural management practice.

4.3.5 Climbing plants are exempt from TPO regulations and provided no damage to host trees occurs this work can be completed without further reference to the council.

#### 4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposed works would not result in any adverse impact upon the character, appearance and amenity of the Pirton 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.

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| <div>Signed</div> <div></div> <div>Paul Chaston</div> <div>Determining Officer</div> | <div>Development Management</div> <div>North Hertfordshire District Council</div> <div>Council Offices</div> <div>Gernon Road</div> <div>Letchworth</div> <div>Herts</div> <div>SG6 3JF</div> |
| <div>Date: 2 October 2026</div>                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                               |

