

**PLANNING & BUILDING CONTROL**  
Tracy Harvey Head of Planning & Building Control

Mr B Walpole  
6 Sycamore Close  
Long Crendon  
Bucks  
HP18 9BN

Our Ref: HRN01  
Contact: Andrew Branch  
Tel: 01727 866100  
Email: [treesandwoodlands@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:treesandwoodlands@stalbans.gov.uk)  
Date: 19 January 2016

Dear Sirs,

**RE: Hedgerow Removal Notice received:** 16 December 2015

**Application Address:** Grove Farm, Pipers Lane Harpenden

**Application:** Removal of 3m length of hedgerow. Reason: To allow small tractor access to cut grass and bale hay in the Summer.

**Report and Decision:** I refer to your application dated 16 December 2015.

I confirm this Council **grants permission** for the above works the impact of which will require the removal of 1 clump of Hawthorn coppice. The majority of the proposed opening contains no woody plant species.

The following advice was received from Hertfordshire Ecology, an organization that provides advice to the County's local authorities and communities:

Ecology

This hedgerow is part of the green lane that runs from Pipers Lane to Grove Farm, a length of about 340m. The lane and hedgerows were surveyed in 1986 as part of the South Herts Hedge & Verge Survey and again in 2001 as part of the St Albans Urban Survey. As such, it is an 'Ecosite' in our database (ref: 56/050) and is described as:

*a Green Lane with old hedge of mixed species. Most of the standard trees are on the east side. Standards include oak, ash, hawthorn. There is an understorey of hawthorn, hazel, holly, elder, field maple, blackthorn and field rose. It, or at least parts, has been laid in the past; and there has been some clearance work. The ground flora includes bluebell and Dog's mercury, which are both ancient woodland indicators.*

Historic context:

The lane and hedgerow is present on the 1766 map of Hertfordshire.

Herts Ecology recommendations:

Whilst, in ecological terms, there is no evidence to suggest that the hedgerow is of any more than local significance, it is still a valuable feature and the species diversity reflects the (probable) continuous 'wooded' cover for at least 250 years. However, the proposed hedgerow removal appears to reflect an existing gap in the hedgerow

so reducing the scale of impact. Consequently I would recommend that the following Informatives be added to any permission granted:

1. Any hedgerow loss as a result of introducing access points should be compensated for elsewhere by planting within the hedgerow to re-create a solid boundary (where it may have gaps or be in poor condition). This would help maintain the feature's role as an existing local wildlife corridor. Native species should be used to mirror the original composition.
2. Any trees / shrubs being removed should be done so outside of the bird breeding season (recognised as March – September, but can include February and October) to protect breeding birds, their nests, eggs and young. If this is not possible then a pre-development (same day) search of the area affected should be made by a suitably experienced ecologist for breeding birds and their nests. If active nests are found, then clearance work must be delayed until the juvenile birds have left the nest and are fully independent.
3. Bats and their roosts remain protected at all times under National and European law. If bats or evidence for them is discovered during the course of site clearance, work must stop immediately and advice sought on how to proceed lawfully from Natural England (tel: 0300 060 3900) or a licensed bat consultant.

Please can you ensure the above informatives from Hertfordshire Ecology are noted before the approved works commence.

The decisions and contents within this letter will remain valid for two years from the above date.

Please note it is your responsibility to obtain permission from the hedge owner if this is required for the works, including permission to enter land not in your ownership or that of your client. This permission is only valid for the works applied for and any works carried out in excess of this permission may result in prosecution.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TH', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line extending to the right.

Tracy Harvey

**Head of Planning & Building Control**

On behalf of St Albans City and District Council