

66 Copt Elm Road

23/00502/CACN

Remove one single-stem sycamore, one Lawson cypress, and
one twin-stem sycamore

Recommendation: No Objections

Google earth image



Red dots indicating approximate position of tree stems:

T1 – single stem sycamore

T2 – Lawson cypress

T3 – twin-stemmed sycamore

Site photos



T3 – twin-stemmed sycamore

T1 – single stem sycamore

T2 – Lawson cypress

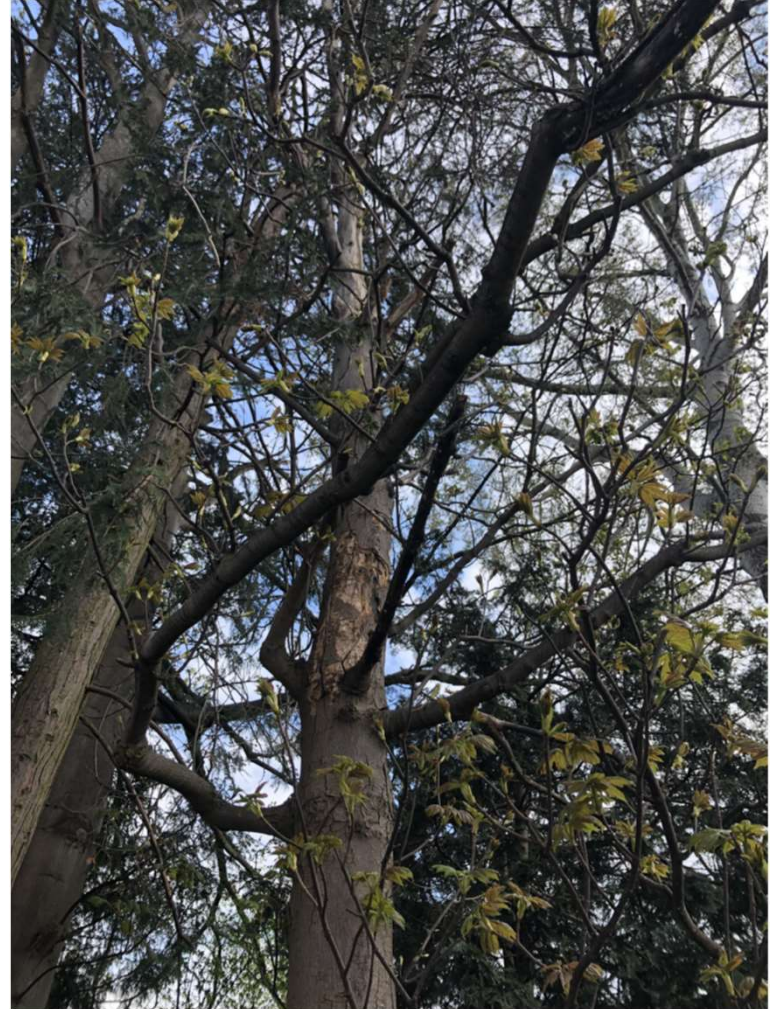
T3 – twin-stemmed sycamore

Site photos

T1 sycamore with T2 cypress behind (and partial view of T3 sycamore behind).

T1 shows extensive dieback, top-down decay to about 3m. Stem is largely dead.

T2 shows very thin crown and sparse branches.



Site photos

View from neighbour's driveway



Site photos

T2 and T3 share structural rooting space

(photo does not show co-dominant stem union of sycamore)



Site photos



T3 co-dominant stem bifurcation (east side)



T3 co-dominant stem bifurcation (west side)

Site photos

T3 sycamore has co-dominant stem, bifurcating at near ground level (approx. 40cm height). Crown is suppressed on east and west sides by other trees. Lateral branches grow mainly to north and south. Some dieback / deadwood in crown, most likely caused by squirrels ring-barking branches.



Key matters:

- Conservation Area
 - Response by LA can only be:
 - TPO one or more trees
 - No Objections
 - No conditions can be made against decision of No Objections
 - No response within six weeks = assumption is No Objections
- Amenity value of trees
 - T1 very poor physiological and structural condition
 - T2 very thin crown, competing for water
 - T3 suppressed growth
- Life expectancy of trees
 - T1 and T2 may not have 10 years ahead of them
- Safety concerns
 - T1 may drop large amount of dead
 - T3 appears to periodically drop (minor – up to c.75mm diameter) deadwood and co-dominant stem at base is a potential failure point (although species tends to be relatively wind-firm)

Summary of recommendation

- Policy GI2 states:

“The Borough Council will resist the unnecessary (Note 1) felling of trees on private land, and will make Tree Preservation Orders in appropriate cases.”

- Whilst the trees collectively have value for wildlife and amenity, T1 should be removed for safety reasons as it is adjacent to the footway and within striking distance of the highway. T2 is competing for water and light and is sparsely foliated as a result. Neither tree has a long life expectancy or high amenity value so are unsuitable for TPO
- T3 has a suppressed crown, growing largely north-south. This in itself is not a physiological or structural concern but its unusual form would become apparent should any trees around it be removed, and this may be seen to be affecting its amenity value. The union at the base is a potential cause for concern. Were it retained, its form and appearance could be improved with pruning
- The resident has committed to replanting with a strawberry tree (already planted) and to transplant a cedar to the corner. This planting scheme cannot be legally enforced but is encouraged by the Council wherever practical.