

You might agree that it is somewhat unusual to have a TPO on a small Cypress. The tree has been causing issues over the years and replacing it with an open crowned standard deciduous tree might be of greater benefit to the street.

Our client has asked us to include her notes below:

The tree is a Lawson Cypress and the tree protection order was applied in October 2014 by the council, not by my request. This is a non-native tree, with the capacity to grow to 25-45 metres tall and is a species with a medium/fast growth rate. Although I have been keeping it regularly pruned every 18-24 months, it continues to grow ever taller and wider and I feel it will outgrow its space very soon. I have attached photos of the tree in March 2025 and March 2026, so you can see that pruning it by 20% is not containing its size.

In 2020, I had a subsidence claim and it was recommended that this tree was removed. In 2020 the measurements were 6.5 metres high, 3 metres wide, distance from the house 8m. Although my insurance claim has now been settled, I would like to remove this tree and replace with a UK native tree, which would be naturally smaller, and would not be pose as much subsidence risk to the house.

The density of the current tree is limiting the natural light that comes into the house, especially during the winter when the sun is low, as this is south-facing. This impacts both myself in the ground floor flat and my neighbours above, both of us having our living rooms at the front of the house.

As an employee of WWF (World Wildlife Fund) UK for over 5 years, I understand the importance of mature trees for the environments. However, as this is not a UK native tree, I think that in the long term, it would be better for the biodiversity of the space to replace it, especially with a tree that provides flowers in the springs for the pollinators and fruit in the autumn for the birds. I've referred to the Woodland trust website and I would like to replace the tree with a Malus tree (crab apple). The average height for this tree is 10m and I think will still provide a focal point for the road and will provide more interest through the different seasons than the current tree.