

## Sycamore

There are many examples throughout the park, this one is near Stanmore Chase.

**Latin/Botanical Name:** *Acer pseudoplatanus*

**Range:** Originally native to south-east Europe it is now naturalised throughout the UK.

**Height:** up to 35m.

**Uses:** Widely planted as an ornamental in parks and large gardens. Being tolerant of wind and pollution they are often planted near the coast as wind breaks and in towns & cities.

**Description:** A large domed tree, widely spreading, bark greyish-brown, flaking in to rectangles with age. Twigs are pink-brown and hairless. Leaves are palmate, 5 lobed and large, as broad as long, to 15cm, leaf stalks often red particularly in younger trees. Flowers appear in April-May, in long cylindrical spikes or racemes, pendulous and greenish-yellow. Fruits (samaras) are winged, occurring in pairs about 6cm across, diverging at right angles. Sycamore timber is hard and strong, pale cream and with a fine grain.

**Interesting Facts:** It is used for making furniture, but also kitchenware as the wood does not taint or stain the food. The sycamore is used in the traditional craft of making 'love spoons'.



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