***Acer pseudoplatanus***, the **sycamore** or **sycamore maple**

I have a Norwegian sycamore tree in my front garden. It was planted by my husband and me about forty-two years ago soon after we moved into Windmill Hill House. Our neighbours Mr. and Mrs.Spice of in Bolton House had two Dutch Elm trees which was cut down because of Dutch Elm disease. To replace them it was decided that we would each plant a sycamore maple in our front gardens. At that time there were no trees or shrubs in the triangular green in front of our houses. Now there are 7 or 8 trees, the last one planted quite recently. This decision was reached because both my husband and I are tree lovers and because we wanted to give ourselves some protection from views of streets and parked cars.

Some years ago my neighbours in Bolton House, Mr. and Mrs. Acheson, were granted permission by Camden to cut down the sycamore maple in their front garden. So my tree has been standing alone.

Mrs. John Willett (Anne) who lived in Volta House and was the doyenne of Windmill Hill, told me many years ago that my sycamore maple is sitting on top of a disused air shelter. This was the reason why a smaller tree and various large shrubs we planted in this area all died. The only plant that survived is the sycamore tree. Mrs. Willett knew the history of the three terraced houses since the triangular green opposite, as well as the site of my sycamore tree used to belong to Mr. Willett’s family.

A few months ago I noticed that the railings have detached from the front door brick pillar and the bricks plus mortar are damaged and pulled away. There is a thick sycamore root of about two inches growing between the pillar and railing. I suppose the roots of the tree is pushing and pulling them out.

I looked up Wikipaedia to learn more about my tree and I include the paragraph below which does not reassure me.

Invasive species

*Acer pseudoplatanus* is considered an environmental weed in some parts of Australia (Yarra Ranges, Victoria),[16] and also Mount Macedon, near Daylesford, parts of the Dandenongs and Tasmania where it is naturalised in the eucalypt forests.[17]

It is also considered to be invasive in New Zealand,[18] Norway,[19] and environmentally sensitive locations in the UK.[20]

The [United States Department of Agriculture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Agriculture) considers it invasive,[21] as does the [State of New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_of_New_York).[22]