





Prefers damp, cool areas; moist ground near rivers. Found in drier areas on forest edges.



Provides food for: birds e.g. goldfinch, siskin and redpoll moth caterpillars E.g. pebble hook-tip.



Pebble hook-tip moth



DID YOU KNOW?

Alder wood is traditionally used to smoke meats and fish.

IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Green/brown cones present year-round
- Leathery heart-shaped leaves

Common Alder can grow well in nutrient poor soils, as it supports a bacteria that produces extra nutrients by converting nitrogen into nitrates



The roots have nitrogen-fixing nodules, improving soil fertility on former brownfield sites. Alders are also used in flood mitigation.



Its knotted roots also provide homes for otters along river banks.

COMMON ALDER

Alnus glutinosa

The rippling leaves make this tree shimmer beautifully in the breeze.



Aspen is a preferred species for beavers, which are native to the UK, and recently reintroduced to Yorkshire.



Deadwood cavities provide nesting opportunities for birds, such as the woodpecker.



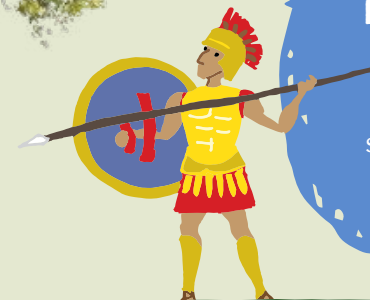
IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Leaves that seem to 'flash' in the wind (dark green on top, light green underneath)
- Bark is grey with diamond-shaped pores



DID YOU KNOW?

Traditionally, aspen wood was used to make shields. In Greek, aspen or aspis means 'shield'.



COMMON ASPEN

Populus tremula

 **Leeds**
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Apple tree bark

DID YOU KNOW?

It takes 4-5 years for an apple tree to produce its first fruit.



The buds of apple trees are appealing to Bullfinches.



Male



Female

There are over 2,500 species of apple trees in the UK.



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Leaves that are woollier underneath than on top
- Five-petalled white flowers, with hints of pink
- Red, pink and green apples



Thrushes, wasps and other pollinators can be found gorging on fallen fruits.



Especially bushy apple trees can provide the perfect nesting environment for blackbirds.



APPLE TREE

Malus domestica





The edible nuts, or masts, were once fed to pigs, and in France the nuts are still sometimes roasted and used as a coffee substitute.

DID YOU KNOW?

Beech is seen as the queen of the forest, alongside the king of British woodland – the oak tree.



Bearded tooth fungi (thought to reduce dementia) can sometimes be found growing on the side of beech trees in the south of England.



© Henk Monster



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Leaves have wavy, hairy edges as opposed to serrated edges
- Leaves are covered with silky hairs when young, but darken in colour and lose the majority of their hairs
- Beech nuts (autumn)
- They often hold onto their leaves throughout the winter



The seeds provide forage for mice, voles (bank vole pictured) and squirrels.



The dense canopy of beech woodlands allows the growth of rarer plant species such as orchids.



Beech foliage is eaten by the caterpillars of moths, including the barred hook-tip, clay triple-lines and olive crescent (pictured).

BEECH

Fagus sylvatica





IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Black-purple thorny twigs
- Small, narrow leaves
- Flowers of blackthorn appear before the leaves



Blackthorn are amazing contributors to wildlife. Their dense canopies are ideal nesting sites for blue tits and blackbirds.



They also provide ideal forage for gin-lovers. As the sloes are used to infuse gin.



Harvest mouse

The fruits (sloes) provide autumnal forage for birds and small mammals such as harvest mice (shown).



Caterpillars of moths such as magpie (pictured), swallow-tailed and yellow-tailed.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the past, it was thought that witches' wands were made from blackthorn.



BLACKTHORN

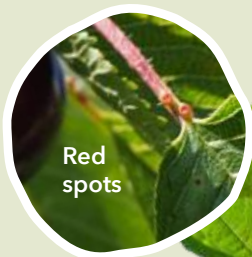
Prunus
Spinosa





IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Most easily identified by the leaf stems (petioles) which have two red spots at the top
- Leaves are oval and hairless edges have fine, sharp serrations, unlike wild cherry
- Cherry tree flowers are in small clusters, along short stalks from the branch.



Red spots



Wood mice

Cherries provide food for birds and mammals alike e.g. blue tits and wood mice (below).



DID YOU KNOW?

The flowers of bird cherries smell like almonds.



Whilst leaves are valuable to moth caterpillars like brimstone and are poisonous to livestock.



BIRD CHERRY

Prunus padus



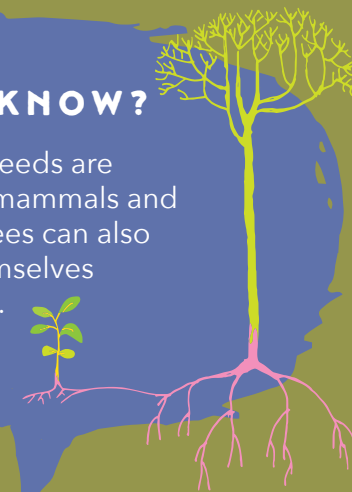
IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Long, oval leaves with pointed tips, and two red glands at the top
- five petal cup-shaped flowers



DID YOU KNOW?

Although the seeds are distributed by mammals and birds, cherry trees can also propagate themselves by root suckers.



Red glands



Flowers clustered in bunches along branches



Cherry bark moth



The foliage of wild cherry supports caterpillars of many moth species, including the aptly named cherry bark moth.

Its fruits provide food for all forms of wildlife, from thrushes to badgers.



SWEET CHERRY

Prunus Avium

Also known as 'wild cherry'

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IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Seeds (conkers) encased in green, spiky shells
- Large, 5-7 pointed leaves
- Vertically blooming pink and white flowers



DID YOU KNOW?

The first recorded game of conkers took place in the Isle of Wight in 1848.



Conkers are eaten by mammals such as grey squirrels and roe deer.



This ugly blight often found on its leaves is caused by this leaf miner moth. Luckily, their caterpillars are excellent food for birds.



Leaf Miner Moth

© Patrick Clement

HORSE CHESTNUT

Aesculus hippocastanum





IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Long, wide and glossy leaves with heavily serrated edges
- Long, thin, upright catkins that resemble starfish
- Once pollinated, catkins develop into spiky, green fruit – smaller and less glossy than conkers



A haven for micromoths, the flowers provide a key source of nectar for bees and pollinators.

DID YOU KNOW?

Despite their names, the sweet and horse chestnut trees belong to different families – horse chestnuts are in the same family as lychees, whilst sweet chestnut is more related to oak and beech trees.



Unlike conkers, sweet chestnuts are edible to humans and rich in vitamin C.



SWEET CHESTNUT

Castanea sativa





Usually found in hilly or rocky woodlands, or beside streams and ditches, preferring well drained but moist soils.

In decline due to dutch elm disease, along with the white-letter hairstreak butterfly, whose caterpillars are reliant on its leaves.



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Bark covered in small orange hairs in winter
- Long, oval leaves with rough tops
- Small winged fruits (samaras)



Bullfinch



Also known as 'Scotch elm'

DID YOU KNOW?

As it's water resistant, in the past, elm wood has been used to make wooden water pipes – some 200 year-old pipes were unearthed in Edinburgh in 2018.



Popular with most birds and caterpillars.

WYCH ELM

*Ulmus
glabra*





Supports hundreds of different types of insect, including the caterpillar of the lappet moth.



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- white or occasionally pink five petalled flowers develop into berries known as haws after pollination
- Deeply lobed leaves
- Thorns on branches



DID YOU KNOW?

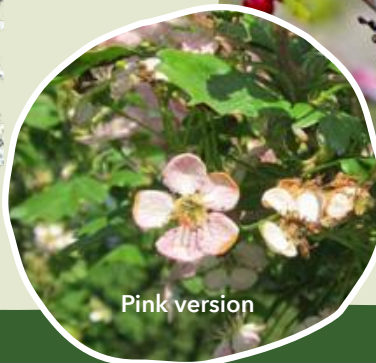
The leaves of hawthorn can be used to make a special tea, that has a deep nutty flavour and antioxidant properties.

Lappet moth



Dense foliage ideal for small nesting birds such as wrens and warblers.

Sedge warbler



Pink version

HAWTHORN

Crataegus monogyna





Catkins provide a spring pollen source for early hatching pollinators.



Yellowhammer



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Leaves that feel soft and fuzzy
- Lamb tail catkins that develop into hazelnuts after pollination



Sometimes fungi, such as the fiery milk-cap can be found growing in nearby soil.



Jays (pictured), woodpeckers and nuthatches enjoy feeding on hazelnuts.

DID YOU KNOW?

A branch of hazel is thought to provide protection against evil spirits.



Dense branches provides shelter for ground-nesting birds e.g. yellowhammer.



Fritillary

Leaves provide food for caterpillars of many butterfly species, especially fritillaries.

HAZEL

Corylus avellana





A hornbeam hedge will keep its leaves all year round.

Hornbeam is the hardest wood of any in Europe.



Before pollination by wind



After pollination by wind



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Grey, hairy bark
- Papery seed pods - that resemble a bunch of curled bananas
- Oval leaves, with ragged edges



DID YOU KNOW?

Romans used to make their chariots of hornbeam due to the strength of the wood.



Nut-tree tussock moth

Provides food for nut-tree tussock moth, finches and tits.



Greenfinch

HORNBEAM

Carpinus betulus





DID YOU KNOW?

The large round growths found on the trunks of oak trees, were used to make ink up until the 20th century.



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Distinctive 'lobed' leaves
- Acorns - turning from green to brown as they ripen



Buff-tip moth



Loose bark provides growth areas for oakbug milkcap mushrooms, as well as roosting opportunities for bats. The dense canopy holds lots of insects for bats to forage on.



Oakbug milkcap

Oak trees support more wildlife than any other native tree species.



Lots of mammals feed on acorns, including deer.



The easy break-down of fallen leaves in autumn provides ideal habitats for many invertebrates e.g. stag beetle (shown).

ENGLISH OAK

Quercus robur

 **Leeds**
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Straighter
branches



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Sessile oak has stalkless (sessile) acorns
- Shallow leaf lobes
- Straighter branches than English oak, with leaves on longer stalks.



Grows commonly
in hilly areas



Also known as
'durmast oak'

DID YOU KNOW?

Oak is one the toughest and most hard-wearing timbers, and was used for many years to build ships.



Deadwood
cavities provide
homes for birds
and roosting bats.

Barn owl



Grey
squirrel

They support
hundreds of species of
insect, which are the
food source for birds
and other predators.



Purple
hairstreak

A favoured food source for
the caterpillars of purple
hairstreak butterflies.

SESSILE OAK

*Quercus
petraea*

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The flowers of pear trees are very popular with bees.

DID YOU KNOW?



Pears are seen as a symbol as immortality. Pear trees can live for around 250 years.

IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Light green, small, oval, waxy leaves
- White five petalled white flowers
- Light grey bark broken into squares
- Green, yellow and blush pears



Grow well in hedges, edges of woodlands, and in bright light and deep soils.



Raven



Pears are very popular with many birds such as thrushes, blackbirds and corvids such as ravens.

PEAR

Pyrus communis



Also known as
'mountain ash'

IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Very distinctive 'feathered' leaves
- Bunches of small, scarlet berries
- Smooth, silvery grey bark

The berries are loved by birds such as fieldfares. In winter months, they sometimes attract the beautiful winter visitor waxwings.



Waxwing



Fieldfare

Humans can eat the berries, although they are very sour. Most frequently they are used to make tart jam.

DID YOU KNOW?

Rowan was thought to protect against witches, so many people would plant rowan trees in their gardens.



ROWAN

*Sorbus
aucuparia*

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IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Fluffy white catkins (appear before leaves)
- Red-brown bark
- Leaves are bright green on top, and light grey/green and fluffy underneath

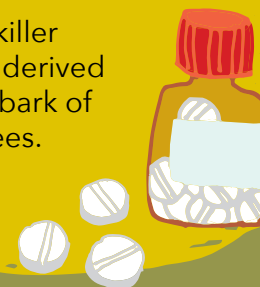


Also known as 'pussy willow'

Male and female flowers grow on separate trees. Male catkins becoming yellow when pollen develops; the female catkins longer and green.

DID YOU KNOW?

The painkiller aspirin is derived from the bark of willow trees.



Male catkin



The leaves of goat willow provide excellent forage for many butterfly caterpillar species. It is the main food source of the purple emperor butterfly caterpillar.



Female catkin



GOAT WILLOW

Salix caprea



DID YOU KNOW?

Scots pine can live for up to 700 years.



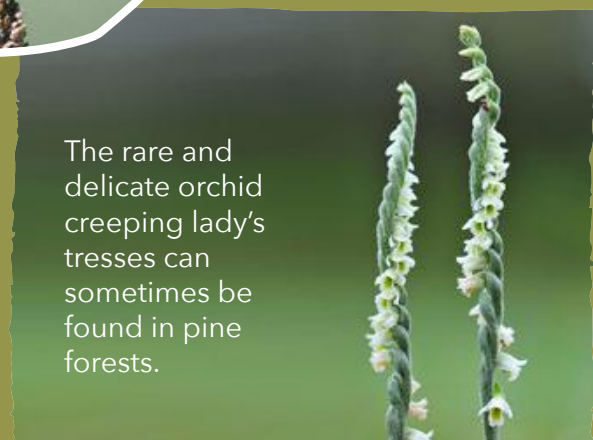
Crossbill

In Scotland, Scots pine forests are often protected due to their value to wildlife. Supporting mammals such as red squirrels, and birds like crossbills.



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Its blue-green needles grow in pairs on short side shoots
- Bark becomes redder with height
- Pinecones are grey-brown with a raised bump at the centre of each segment



The rare and delicate orchid creeping lady's tresses can sometimes be found in pine forests.

SCOTS PINE

Pinus sylvestris





IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Silver-white bark
- Small, triangular leaves
- Thrives in drier areas



Birch woods have an open canopy, allowing sun to reach the woodland floor, so plants like wood anemone can grow.



Silver birch provides food and habitat for hundreds of insect species.

Elephant hawkmoth



Elephant hawkmoth caterpillar

DID YOU KNOW?

Silver birch can be used to improve soil quality, as it has long, deep roots that bring nutrients to the tree from different areas of the soil.



Woodpeckers often nest in the trunk.



SILVER BIRCH

Betula pendula

 **Leeds**
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DID YOU KNOW?

Green alder is commonly found in mountainous areas; even as far north as Alaska!



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Simple, alternate leaves with slightly toothed edges
- Long, green catkins and small green soft cones, rather than brown catkins as seen in native alder trees
- Smooth, grey bark

One of the most shade-tolerant of alder tree species, but prefers moist and open areas



Green alder can be used for soil enrichment, providing a host for various fungi in the surrounding soil

GREEN ALDER

Alnus viridis
Alnus alnobetula





Buds

DID YOU KNOW?

The leaves and seed kernels contain cyanide, which is toxic if eaten.



An evergreen species of cherry



Cherry laurels can tolerate pollution, dry soil and shade - so grow well where other trees may not!



Bumble bee



The flowers of cherry laurel provide valuable forage for pollinators



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Long glossy dark green leaves
- Small white flowers, which grow in upright stems



CHERRY LAUREL

Prunus laurocerasus





IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Small, yellow pea-like flowers with a coconut aroma
- Long, thin spiky needles
- Grows taller (up to 2.5m) than other gorse species



Stonechat

Its dense foliage provides good shelter for birds during harsh weather, e.g. stonechat and linnet.

Linnet



Gorse also provides an early nectar source for pollinators in the spring.



Rabbits also use gorse bushes as shelter from predators and bad weather.



DID YOU KNOW?

Gorse flowers can be picked to make a coconut flavouring for cakes!



COMMON GORSE

Ulex
europaeus





IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Triangular leaves, more rounded at the base than silver birch
- Hairy leaf stalks (not present on silver birch)



Bark



Hairy leaf stalk



Its seeds are eaten by winter bird visitors such as Redpoll.



Wood sorrel



Blue bells



Redpoll



Birch trees are associated with many fungi, including fly agaric mushrooms

DID YOU KNOW?

The sap of Birch trees can be made into wine (if mixed with lots of honey!)



Birch trees have a canopy that allows light to reach the woodland floor, encouraging the growth of bluebells and wood sorrel.

DOWNY BIRCH

Betula pubescens



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- Long, thin leaves on brown bark, with white bumps along the branches
- Produce small black berries in autumn
- Bushy shrub with unpleasantly scented small white flowers



Thrush



Provides food source for larvae of moths and butterflies e.g. privet hawk moth – the UK's largest hawk moth species.



Privet hawk moth caterpillar



Birds such as thrushes feed on the berries and nest in its dense branches.

DID YOU KNOW?

It is thought that people started to cultivate privet hedges to protect their cereal crops during the Neolithic age.



Privet bushes are evergreen, keeping their leaves all year round.

EUROPEAN PRIVET

Ligustrum vulgare

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