

Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme

Winter Tree Spotter Sheet



Ash

Fraxinus excelsior

Velvet matt black buds in opposite pairs, twigs often pointing upwards, stem flattened below buds, bark smooth when young, fissured when older, look out for bunches of keys.



Common Oak

Quercus robur

Terminal buds in a cluster, buds plump orangy-brown, twigs grey-brown with pale warts, thin silvery peeling layer of bark, acorns have stalks (compare with *Q. petraea* where acorns are sessile/stalkless).



Field Maple

Acer campestre

Opposite reddish-brown buds with hairy edges, light brown twigs, ridged when older, branchlets occasionally with corky wings, vertical bark fissures more evident with age, keys may be present.



Beech

Fagus sylvatica

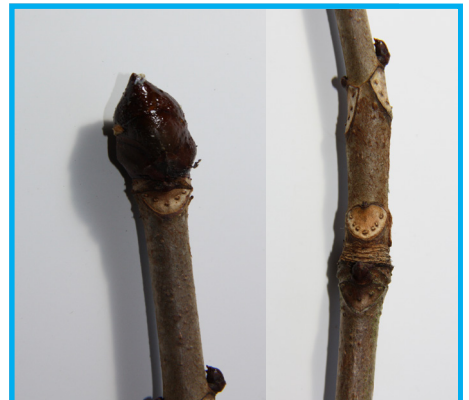
Alternate long pointed buds, spreading at 60 degrees, overlapping scales, twigs slender, grey and zig-zagged, bark silver-grey with slight horizontal etchings.



Alder

Alnus glutinosa

Reddish-brown boxing glove shaped buds on short stalks, twigs ridged when young with orange lenticels, bark fissures over time cracking into plates, look for small cones, favours damp places.



Horse chestnut

Aesculus hippocastanum

Deep red-brown opposite buds, very sticky, terminal bud larger than lateral buds, stout grey twigs, horse-shoe-shaped leaf scars with 7 'nail holes', bark smooth when young, coarsely scaly when older, look for conkers.

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Common Hawthorn

Crataegus monogyna

Red hairless alternate buds often at base of thorn, twigs glossy green or red-brown, 1-2cm thorns, bark brown with shallow, spiralled ridges, look for evidence of remnants of red berries.



Blackthorn

Prunus spinosa

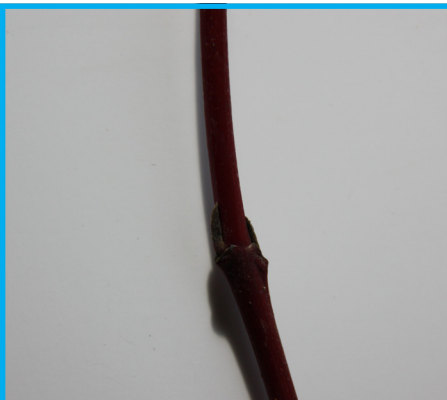
Alternate buds, 1-2mm, on long spines, twigs with many side shoots, end in vicious spines, purple-black slightly rough bark, look for evidence of remnants of purple sloes.



Sycamore

Acer pseudoplatanus

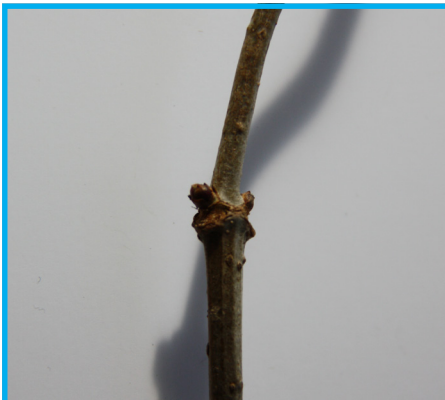
Pale green opposite buds, scales with purple edges, twigs grey-brown with small lenticels, bark smooth when young, rectangular flakes when older, wide leaf scar.



Dogwood

Cornus sanguinea

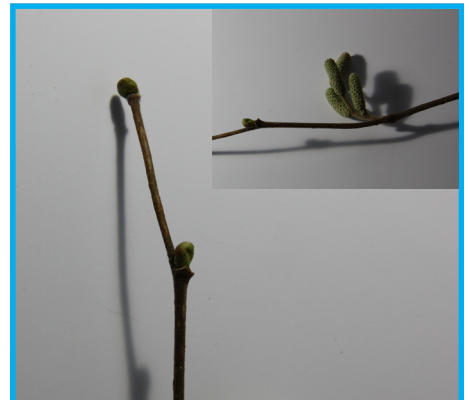
Dark brown opposite buds, adpressed (lying along stem), red twigs (green in shade), smooth bark with pale lenticels, ridged bark when mature, red twigs visible at a distance.



Elder

Sambucus nigra

Opposite purple buds like miniature pineapples, twigs brittle, hollow or with white pith, prominent lenticels, pale brown bark, corky and grooved, look for evidence of remnants of small black berries.



Hazel

Corylus avellana

Flattened, oval buds, green to reddish brown, large scales with thin brown edge, twigs pale brown, hairy when young, smooth shiny bark with horizontal lenticels, look for catkins in late winter.