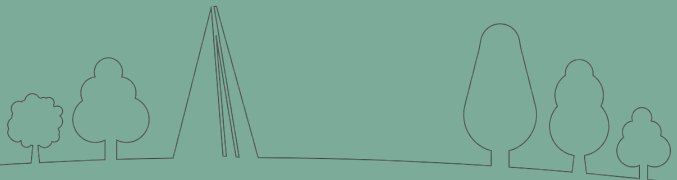




The **Parks** Trust  
MILTON KEYNES

# Tree ID Guide

Discover the trees that make  
Milton Keynes so green!



We are the charity caring for your parks, woodlands and lakes forever.



Great Linford  
Manor Park





# The Wonder of Trees

In addition to providing oxygen, storing CO<sub>2</sub>, stabilising the soil, and providing habitats for wildlife, trees also make our city beautiful and have a positive effect on our mental health.

Milton Keynes has millions of trees. The Parks Trust, the charity that cares for 6,000 acres of local green spaces, looks after many of them, including those in our three ancient woodlands.

We have produced this ID guide to encourage you to get out and explore the trees in our parks. The trees on the following pages are the most common species but you are likely to find many more when you start looking!

## Caring For Your Woodlands and Plantations

To help the woodlands and plantations stay healthy and safe, The Parks Trust's Operations Team and our contractors must manage millions of trees. This sometimes involves thinning (removing some trees to create enough space and light for others to thrive), removing diseased or weakened trees (such as those affected by Ash Dieback), and coppicing (cutting shrubs to their base for them to rejuvenate to create understorey). We also remove some trees to retain site lines for the safety of the public.

To replace those removed and add to the landscape, we plant on average 40,000 new trees and shrubs each year. This is set to increase in the coming years as Milton Keynes grows.

To find out more about our tree work visit: [theparkstrust.com/landscapemanagement](https://theparkstrust.com/landscapemanagement)



# Tree ID: Leaves

Look carefully at the shape, edge, colour and pattern of the leaves. The texture will also help guide you. The sizes below give you a rough idea of the length of mature leaves.

## ALDER

10cm



## SILVER BIRCH

6cm



## ASH

30cm



## BLACKTHORN

4cm



## ASPEN

8cm



## WILD CHERRY

15cm





## HORSE CHESTNUT

30cm



## HORNBEAM

10cm



## DOGWOOD

9cm



## HOLLY

10cm



## HAWTHORN

5cm



## SMALL LEAVED LIME

7.5cm



## HAZEL

10cm



## WILD SERVICE TREE

12cm



**FIELD MAPLE**

10cm



**LONDON PLANE**

20cm



**NORWAY MAPLE**

17cm



**BLACK POPLAR**

10cm



**ENGLISH OAK**

12cm



**WHITE POPLAR**

10cm



**SESSILE OAK**

12cm



**GREY POPLAR**

7.5cm





## ROWAN

20cm



## GOAT WILLOW

10cm



## SYCAMORE

15cm



## WEeping WILLOW

12cm



## WHITEBEAM

12cm



## YEW

3cm



## CRACK WILLOW

15cm





*Tree Cathedral*



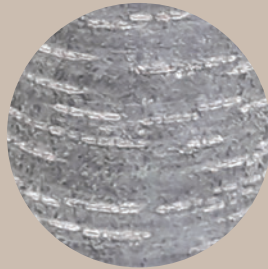
# Tree ID: Bark

Identifying trees by their bark can be difficult because it can change dramatically as a tree matures. Below are some of the most common and easily identifiable barks in our parks.

**ALDER**



**WILD CHERRY**



**ASH**



**HORSE CHESTNUT**



**SILVER BIRCH**



**HAWTHORN**



**SMALL LEAVED LIME**



**NORWAY MAPLE**



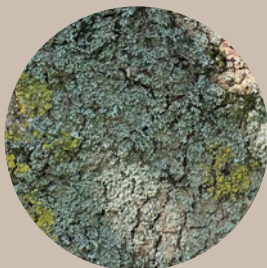
**WILD SERVICE TREE**



**OAK**



**FIELD MAPLE**



**LONDON PLANE**





**BLACK POPLAR**



**CRACK WILLOW**



**SYCAMORE**



**WEeping WILLOW**



**WHITEBEAM**



*Did you know?*

Oak trees support more life than any other native tree. Oaks provide food for many species of birds, minibeasts, mammals and fungi.







Howe Park Wood



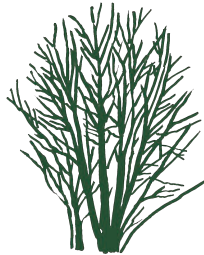
# Tree ID: Silhouettes

Stand back from the tree and have a look at its shape. Remember, trees that have been managed can look very different. For example, we usually coppice hazel which means it will often be lower to the ground and bushier (have multiple stems) to create an understorey.

**ALDER**



**CRACK WILLOW**



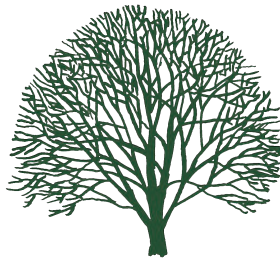
**FIR**



**APPLE**



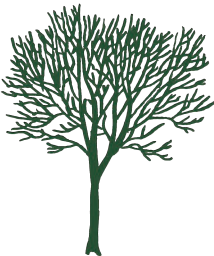
**ELM**



**HAWTHORN**



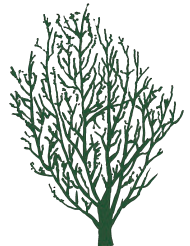
**ASH**



**ENGLISH OAK**



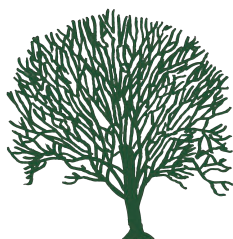
**HAZEL**



# Did you know?

Shapes of trees can be deceptive. An oak that grows in an open field will be a very different shape from one that is in a wood due to less competition for light and space.

**HORNBEAM**



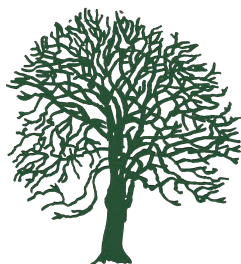
**LARCH**



**LOMBARDY POPLAR**



**HORSE CHESTNUT**



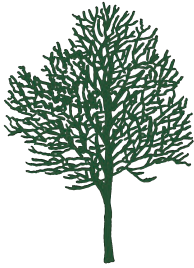
**LIME**



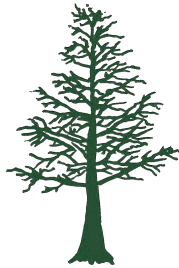
**PLANE**



**ROWAN**



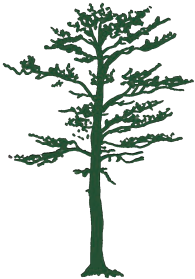
**SPRUCE**



**WEeping WILLOW**



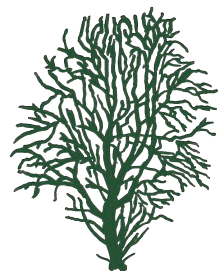
**SCOTS PINE**



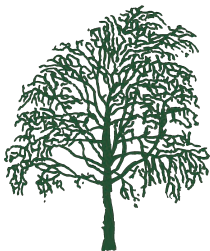
**SYCAMORE**



**WHITE WILLOW**



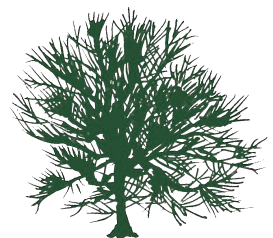
**SILVER BIRCH**



**WALNUT**



**YEW**





# Tree ID: Buds

We have included a few of the more easily-identifiable buds to get you started.  
Buds develop into shoots, flowers or leaves during spring.

**ALDER**



**BLACKTHORN**



**ASH**



**DOGWOOD**



**SILVER BIRCH**



**ELDER**



**HAWTHORN**



**FIELD MAPLE**



**HAZEL**



**NORWAY MAPLE**



**HORNBEAM**



**ENGLISH OAK**



**LIME**



**SYCAMORE**







*Campbell Park*



# Activities

Why not try some of the activities below to help you learn more about trees?

- Visit the same tree in each season and see how it has changed
- Take a photo of your favourite tree and tag us @theparkstrust
- Take a bark and leaf rubbing
- Close your eyes and listen to the sound of the tree
- Record a tree on Treezilla – the OU tree recording system: [treezilla.org/about](https://treezilla.org/about)
- Record the different wildlife that lives on a tree
- Estimate the height of the tree - see our website for hints about how to do this!

We have created free resources to help you explore the parks cared for by The Parks Trust: [theparkstrust.com/resources](https://theparkstrust.com/resources)

To find out more about our work with trees across Milton Keynes, visit our website: [theparkstrust.com/landscapemanagement](https://theparkstrust.com/landscapemanagement)



20cm

19cm

18cm

17cm

16cm

15cm

14cm

13cm

12cm

11cm

10cm

9cm

8cm

7cm

6cm

5cm

4cm

3cm

2cm

1cm

0



## About The Parks Trust

We are the charity providing beautiful parks, lakes, woodlands, and landscapes that will be loved by the people of Milton Keynes, forever.

Self-funded by income from our property portfolio and investments, our teams expertly care for over 6,000 acres of green space, helping local wildlife and biodiversity to thrive, and engaging MK's communities with parkland events, activities, and outdoor learning.



[theparkstrust.com](https://theparkstrust.com)