

Wild Service Tree - *Sorbus torminalis*



The leaves of the Wild service Tree are very distinctive but the few specimens in our wood are hard to spot as they are buried within the Jubilee Plantation and coppice areas.

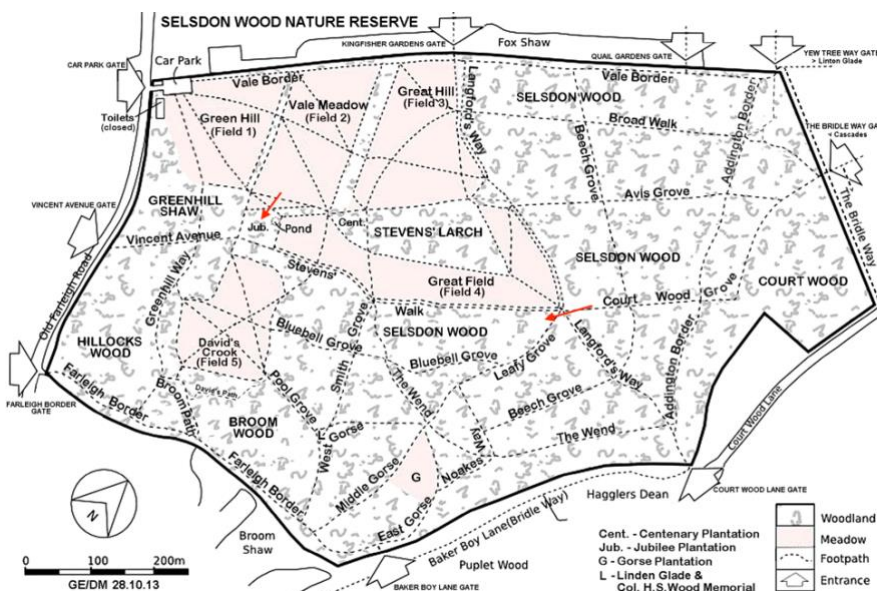
The Wild Service Tree is a native species although uncommon.

To our knowledge there were no Wild Service Trees in Selsdon Wood until they were planted by the FSW. We were supplied with 250 whips for the Jubilee Plantation which we planted in March 2011. These included at least one Wild Service Tree which has survived and established and by October 2018 was about 10 feet tall. The photographs to the right are of this tree showing the leaves are beginning to turn gold but not yet to the distinctive autumnal red. In 2011 and 2016 a few Wild Service whips were also planted in the FSW coppice areas at the top of Linden Glade.

The leaves are very distinctive in shape - closer to Maple than any other English tree. The buds are small and round like peas and the bark is grey-brown with oblong plates.

Although our trees are, as yet, too young to bear flowers or berries in future years we will look out for the creamy heads of flowers in late spring and the brown berries in the autumn.

Wild Service is also known as Chequer tree and lends its name to the Prime Minister's country seat. A drink made can be made from, or sweetened by, the Chequers berries and there are many pubs called Chequers, presumably after the drink.



It is likely to be a few years before the Wild service Trees have grown to a size that will make them easy to find. Watch this space!!!