

Turkey Oak - *quercus cerris*



Spot the Turkey Oak in late summer or autumn when it can be differentiated from the more common English Oak by the shape of the leaves and the hairy acorn cups.

There are three species of Oak in Selsdon Wood. The English Oak (or Pedunculate Oak) is the predominant species and can be found throughout the wood. However there are two other Oaks that are less common and fun to spot - the Turkey Oak and the Sessile Oak. There are a couple of Turkey Oaks in Steven's Larch on the edge of Great Hill (Field 3), one near the end of the dog- leg of the Great Field looking NE (below 8/4/12) and a number of others in positions shown on the map. The Turkey Oak is distinguished from its more common cousin by four key features. In the examples below the Turkey Oak is the one on the left.

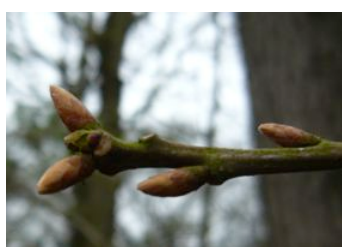
The leaves of the Turkey Oak are more jagged.



The bark of the Turkey Oak has red fissures.



The buds of the Turkey Oak have long twisting whiskers.



The acorns of the Turkey Oak have hairy cups.



The flowers of the Turkey Oak are dangling catkins very similar to those of the Pedunculate Oak. The red, hairy structures amongst the catkins (above 5/5/12) seem to be Knopper Galls. These are caused by a minute wasp that lays its eggs in the buds.

The Sessile Oak is differentiated from the Pedunculate Oak by stalks. The Sessile has leaves on long stalks and acorns with no stalks: the Pedunculate is the other way round - the acorns have stalks but the leaves do not.

Take a walk in late summer or early autumn and look out for oaks.

Find the Turkey Oaks in Steven's Larch on the edge of Great Hill (Field 3), those in the dog-leg of the Great Field and the small one on the northern border of David's Crook.

Can you find any Sessile Oaks?

