

## Cherry (Gean) - *prunus avium*



The best time to spot the Cherry is in late spring when the tree is in blossom.

Visitors to the Selsdon Wood car park are greeted by a collection of young trees including several Cherries (right 9/4/11). There are single Cherry trees dotted throughout the wood. Identifying features are a characteristic glossy bark with horizontal dashed pattern and white blossom with flowers in clusters of 2-6, each flower having five petals and long stamens. Leaves are toothed and oval. When new they may have a bronze tinge and are downy underneath.



In dense woodland older trees may be tall with blossom on high branches, which is easy to miss. Spot the telltale confetti of fallen petals beneath, locate the shiny bark and look up to see the tree in flower (bottom left 6/4/12).



The largest and most dramatic Cherry is to be found in the southerly corner of David's Crook (above centre + bottom right 30/4/12). This is so old and gnarled that the bark does not show the typical smoothness.



In April and May, when they are in flower, Cherries may be easily spotted in many of the field borders, such as this one on the northern edge of the Great Field behind the bench (above centre 30/4/12).



The fruit of the Cherry appears in June-July, yellow at first then turning red. Although not as large as cultivated cherries the fruits of some of the older trees are a good size. They are hard to spot as they are borne on high branches but you can find them beneath the trees after a gale, if your dog does not eat them first!

Take a spring walk and look out for the pretty blossom throughout the wood. Visit the great Cherry in David's Crook. In the autumn look for fruit on the ground beneath.



Cherry is widespread throughout the wood. The map shows a few significant specimens.

