What's That Tree?

You might think that every tree looks the same in the winter when they have no leaves on, so how can you tell them apart? By looking closely at their twigs you can see that they are all slightly different in shape, colour or maybe they just feel different.

To help you identify them use the key and the drawings below.

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A winter twig key.	
1) Buds opposite	go to 2
Buds on alternate sides of the twig	go to 5
2) Buds sticky	
Buds not sticky	go to 3
3) Buds are black	ASH
Buds are not black	go to 4
4) Buds fat and green	SYCAMORE
Buds small, flattened, not green	FIELD MAPLE
5) Twig has thorns.	go to 6
Twig does not have thoms.	go to 7
6) Twig reddish brown in colour	HAWTHORN
Twig is greyish black in colour	BLACKTHORN
7) Twig is hairy	go to 8
Twig is not hairy	go to 9
8) Buds are green in colour.	HAZEL
Buds are dark brown in colour	ELM

9) Buds thin and pointed	go to 10
Buds are not thin and pointed	go to 11
10) Buds are sticking out from the twig.	>ВЕЕСН
Buds are lying along the twig	HORNBEAM
11) Twig is zig-zagged in shape	,LIME
Twig is not zig-zagged but has ridges	SWEET CHESTNUT
Neither of the above but the twig has one bud at the end.	wıllow
None of the above but the twig has several buds clustered at the end	OAK

Check how well you have used the key by looking at the diagrams of the winter tree twigs below:

