



## Pine - Scots Pine - *pinus sylvestris* & Corsican Pine *pinus nigra*



The best time to spot the Pine is in winter when surrounding trees are not in leaf. There are two species of Pine in Selsdon Wood, Scots Pine and Corsican Pine

Most of the Scots Pine, *pinus sylvestris*, in Selsdon Wood is in Stevens Larch with another group at the northern end of David's Crook. The trees in this group have the very characteristic Scots Pine shape with a long bare trunk and a flattened, rounded top with clumped foliage (below - 27/3/12). The Scots Pine is the only native British pine.



Pine is one of three types of conifer in Selsdon Wood (the others being Norway Spruce and Larch). It is an evergreen with distinctive, scaly bark and long thin needles, borne in pairs. The Scots Pine has orange coloured bark which distinguishes it from other Pine species.



The cones are egg shaped, tapering to a point. They are famous weather indicators, opening when dry and closing up tightly when wet. All the scales from one cone in the picture below have been eaten away by squirrels leaving only the woody core.



The conifers in Linden Grove (above and left silhouetted against the sky 27/3/12) are also Pines. However, although the needles and cones appear identical, the shape of the trees (more like the classic Christmas Tree) shows that these are not Scots Pine but Corsican Pine *pinus nigra*, which is not a native species but is widely used for commercial forestry in the South East of England and East Anglia.

Take a winter walk in Steven's Larch and spot all the Scots Pine. Look for cones around the base of the trees and take one home to use as a weather indicator. Can you find any that have been nibbled by squirrels? Visit Linden Grove and look at the Corsican Pines there.

