



## Poplar (White) - *populus alba*



The best time to spot the Poplar is in spring or summer when the white leaves stand out against the surrounding green.

Additionally, the distinctive bark makes it easily identifiable all year round.

There is just a single White Poplar in Selsdon Wood in the eastern corner of David's Crook (see below 24/4/12).

The bark is silvery grey with distinctive diamond shaped markings known as rhomboid lenticels (see right).

The small leaves are shiny on the upper side but covered with white felt on the underside so that they show white when in bud or when blown by the wind. From a distance the buds look like blossom but close inspection shows they are leaves.



The catkins appear before the leaves in March and April. The Poplar is dioecious - which means that male and female catkins are borne on different plants. These grey green catkins are female but with no male trees in the area they are unlikely to be pollinated and bear seed. Fortunately the tree also propagates by means of root suckers, which can spread to form colonies. To help these establish, the Friends have protected them from grazing animals with plastic sheaths.

Visit David's Crook at any time of year and spot the White Poplar in the eastern corner. Look closely at the distinctive markings on the bark and in the summer note the white undersides of the leaves.

