

Tree

Identification Guide

This guide can be used for the OPAL Tree Health Survey and OPAL Air Survey



Oak

Quercus species



Ash

Fraxinus excelsior



Horse chestnut

Aesculus hippocastanum



Sycamore

Acer pseudoplatanus



Rowan

Sorbus aucuparia



Elder

Sambucus nigra



Maple

Acer species



Hawthorn

Crataegus monogyna



London Plane

Platanus x acerifolia



Sweet chestnut

Castanea sativa



Beech

Fagus sylvatica



Whitebeam

Sorbus aria



Cherry

Prunus species



Willow

Salix species



Hornbeam

Carpinus betulus



Crab apple

Malus sylvatica



Birch

Betula species



Poplar

Populus species



Hazel

Corylus avellana



Lime

Tilia species



Elm

Ulmus species



Alder

Alnus species



Start here ↓

Does the tree have needles or scale-like leaves?

Yes



Conifers

If you have found a conifer, choose another tree for your OPAL survey

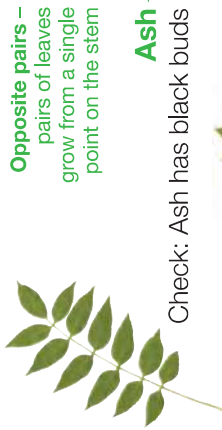
Horse chestnut



Elder



Check: Elder leaves release a pungent smell when you rub them



Ash

Check: Ash has black buds

Rowan



Check: Rowan never has black buds like Ash. Rowan leaflets are deeper toothed than Ash. Look out for red berries on Rowan in autumn

Does the tree have simple leaves?

No



a **compound leaf** – made up of several leaflets

Do all the leaflets grow from the end of the stalk?

Yes

Horse chestnut

No

Does the leaf have two or three pairs of leaflets?

Yes

Does the leaf have two or three pairs of leaflets?

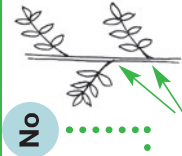
No

Do the leaves grow in opposite pairs on the twig? (Make sure that you are looking at the leaves and not just the leaflets)

Yes

Ash

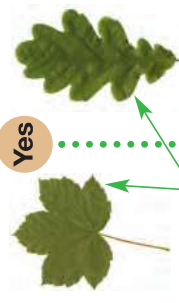
Check: Ash has black buds



Alternate pairs – each leaf grows from a different place on the stem

Do the leaves have lobes?

Yes



Lobes are large projections at the edge of the leaf

Do the veins spread out from a single point?

Yes



veins spread out from a single point at the top of the leaf stalk – a palmate leaf

No



veins spread from several places along the leaf stalk – a pinnate leaf

London Plane

No

Do the leaves grow in opposite pairs?

Yes



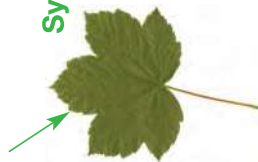
Maple

Check: Maple leaves have more rounded lobes, while London Plane and Sycamore have more pointed lobes

Yes

Does the leaf have a toothed edge?

Teeth are small projections on the edge of the leaf



Sycamore

Hawthorn

Yes



Are the twigs thorny?

No

Oak



