



Planting in the bunds at Bull Meadow

Young trees (whips) of various native species have been planted in small groups within the bunds, the idea being that the ones which fail and those which prove weaker will be removed and relocated, giving the stronger ones the best chance of surviving and maturing. Many echo the planting in the tiny forest and they include but are not limited to the varieties listed below

Varieties
planted
in 2024
& 2025



English Oak (*Quercus Robur*)

Also known as common oak, this deciduous species grows up to 20 – 40m tall. Its leaves have four to five lobes with smooth edges, almost no stem and grow in bunches. Its long catkins distribute pollen into the air. The acorns are on stalks and in cupules, turning brown as they ripen then fall.



Hazel (*Corylus Avellana*)

Hazel grows as a stout shrub or small tree with stems coming from the base. In winter it has long, yellow catkins; in spring and summer green leaves and in autumn nuts and yellow leaves.



White Willow (*Salix Alba*)

The largest of the willows is named for the covering of silky silvery-white hairs on the underside of its slender leaves, which feed the caterpillars of a number of moths. Its catkins provide early nectar and pollen.



Guelder Rose (*Viburnum Opulus*)

Guelder rose is not a rose at all. White flowers give way to bright red berries which hang on well into winter, ignored by the seed dispersers until they have eaten all the tastier fruit! This plant has special significance for the people of Ukraine.



Crack Willow (*Salix Fragilis*)

This tree is named for its habit of splitting with cracks and fissures and how noisy its branches are when they break. Willows were trees of celebration in Biblical times but today more associated with sadness and mourning.



Silver Birch (*Betula Pendula*)

With white bark year round, this tree is easily identified. Other distinguishing features are its rough twigs and hairless triangular leaves with a toothed edge that turn yellow in autumn.



Alder (*Alnus Glutinosa*)

Young twigs are sticky to the touch and alders have both male and female flowers. The male catkins are up to 6cm long and the female catkins are in groups of 3- 8 on each stalk, starting out as red cones before turning green then brown after pollination.



Goat Willow (*Salix Caprea*)

Pussy willow trees can live for 300 years! The bark is grey-brown and develops diamond-shaped fissures with age. Unlike most willows, the leaves are oval rather than long and thin.



Downy Birch (*Betula Pubescens*)

More upright than silver birch, this spindly tree has downy leaf stalks, softly fuzzy to the touch, and its seeds are a favourite food for visiting and resident siskins and lesser redpolls.



Blackthorn (*Prunus Spinosa*)

Notable for its early spring white blossoms and its late autumn sloes, this horny shrub is exceptionally hardy and can form dense hedges providing nectar for pollinators and food for wildlife. Its durable wood was traditionally used for tools, no doubt one reason why it is so abundant in rural hedgerows.



Grey Willow (*Salix Cinerea*)

Bees and other pollinators rely on its catkins during early spring for food. Its leaves are a food source for moth caterpillars and the grey willow plays a small but significant part contributing to carbon sequestration.



Aspen (*Populus Tremula*)

Not strictly a poplar but a close relative, the aspen (or quaking aspen) gets its name from the way its small, serrated leaves tremble and rustle in a breeze.



Hawthorn (*Crataegus Monogyna*)

Famed for its pale pink, highly-scented blossom which appears in May, mature trees can reach a height of 15 metres and are characterised by spiny twigs emerging from the same point as the buds in winter, distinguishing them from blackthorn which have buds on the spines.



Wild Cherry (*Prunus Avium*)

This ancestor of cultivated cherries is conspicuous in spring with its white blossom, followed by shiny red berries in June and good autumn leaf colour. The wood is very popular in the furniture industry and much used as veneer for music instruments and different tools.



Field Maple (*Acer Campestre*)

Young leaves are tinged with red, turning to green then gold in autumn. It has small, yellow-green cupped flowers which turn to large fruits when pollinated. Its hard, white wood was traditionally used to make musical instruments, such as harps.



Bird Cherry (*Prunus Padus*)

Nectar-loving creatures flock to this scented show-stopper in spring for its almond scented blossom.



Common Lime (*Tilia x Europaea*)

The sweet smelling summer flowers of this natural hybrid with heart-shaped leaves attract a huge number of insects, especially bees, aphids and their predators. The presence of the aphids is often revealed by the sticky 'dew' that drops. The lime tree produces large-winged, nut-like fruits that disperse its seeds by the wind.



Rowan (*Sorbus Aucuparia*)

The elegant rowan tree was once widely planted as a protection against witches. In Ireland near houses, in Wales in churchyards and in Scotland it was taboo to cut one down. Its berries are a rich source of food for birds and some caterpillars, and the leaves are eaten by some moth caterpillars. The wood was used to stir milk to prevent it curdling, as a pocket charm against rheumatism and to make divining rods. You can also make jam from the berries!



Crab Apple (*Malus Sylvestris*)

Mature trees can be up to 10m high and live for a century! They have long been associated with love and marriage. It was said that if you throw the pips into the fire while saying the name of your love, the love is true if the pips explode.