

## CRAFTSMAN'S TREES INFORMATION SHEET.

Before the introduction of synthetic materials, different types of timber were widely used for their individual qualities. Our **Craftsman's Trees** area contains 21 species that have had important uses in the past

The trees in this area were planted into rough pasture in 1985/86, each one being sponsored by an HDRA member. Many of the specimens will take a hundred years or more to reach their full height.

### **Different Uses for Timber**

There are over a thousand different types of tree Britain, but only around 40 are 'native'. The others have found their way here over time, or been brought back by our forebears who scavenged distant corners of the world for new species to adorn their gardens.

### **Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)**

Clogs and broom handles, charcoal for gunpowder. Red dye from bark. Tanning agent. Fencing

### **Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)**

Oars/paddles, tool shafts and handles, walking sticks, aeroplanes, cart and carriage wheels, veneer. Arrow shafts

### **Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)**

Turned furniture. Mallets. Yokes. Nuts for swine, and also source of lamp oil

### **Birch (*Betula pendula*)**

Charcoal. Pitch. Sap used in wine-making

### **Box (*Buxus communis*)**

Turnery, drawing & musical instruments

### **Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*)**

Mallet heads, stairs, banisters

### **Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)**

Wooden spoons and toys.  
Bark & flowers used in herbalism. Dyes.



**Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)**

Tool handles, stakes & small kitchen items

**English or Common Oak (*Quercus robur*)**

Numerous: from furniture to building to ships to casks. Tannin from bark. Acorns for pig fodder. Yokes. Five-bar gates.

**Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)**

Manufacture of mathematical instruments, engraving and walking sticks.

**Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)**

Mallet heads, chopping blocks, yokes, wheel spokes, cogwheels and 'threaded' items, charcoal

**Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)**

Joinery, cabinet work, toys, dairy & kitchen utensils, chestnut paling fencing

**Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*)**

Furniture, carving, turnery and small household items

**Rowan or Mountain Ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*)**

Tool handles and carving.

**Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)**

Small articles for household use like spindles, pegs, knitting needles and toothpicks

**Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)**

Timber, beer cask hoops, coppiced [for hop poles and fencing stakes]. Tannin from bark.

**Walnut (*Juglans regia*)**

Furniture manufacturing

**Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*)**

Tobacco pipes, furniture, veneers.

**Yew (*Taxus baccata*)**

Bow making.

**PLEASE RETURN THE SHEET TO THE HOLDER ONCE YOU HAVE FINISHED WITH IT FOR OTHERS TO USE – THANK YOU**